

Better

A Study of the Book of Hebrews

ROMAN
PERSECTUION

BACKSLIDING,
DULL-OF-HEARING
CHURCH MEMBERS

NAME ONLY
CHRISTIANS



JEWISH
PERSECTUION

RETURN
TO JEWISH
COMMUNITY

RETURN TO
SACRIFICES



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**The
Levitical
Priesthood**



**Temporary
Imperfect
Bridge**

**The
Priesthood of
Melchizedek**



**Permanent
Perfect
Bridge**

¹⁷ So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, ¹⁸ so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us. ¹⁹ **We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, ²⁰ where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.**

Hebrews 6:17-20

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Textual Commentary:

WHO IS THIS PRIEST KING MELCHIZEDEK?

Hebrews 7:1-3

For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and **blessed him,** ² and to him **Abraham apportioned a tenth part of everything.** He is first, by translation of his name, **king of righteousness,** and then he is also king of Salem, that is, **king of peace.** ³ He is **without father or mother or genealogy,** having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but resembling the **Son of God** he continues a priest forever.

Textual Commentary:

MELCHIZEDEK IS SUPERIOR TO ABRAHAM.

Hebrews 7:4-10

⁴ See how great this man was to whom Abraham the patriarch gave a tenth of the spoils! ⁵ And those descendants of Levi who receive the priestly office have a commandment in the law to take tithes from the people, that is, from their brothers, though these also are descended from Abraham. ⁶ **But this man who does not have his descent from them received tithes from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises.** ⁷ **It is beyond dispute that the inferior is blessed by the superior.** ⁸ In the one case tithes are received by mortal men, but in the other case, by one of whom it is testified that he lives. ⁹ One might even say that Levi himself, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, ¹⁰ for he was still in the loins of his ancestor when Melchizedek met him.

Textual Commentary:

**THE MESSIAH WILL
BE THE HIGH
PRIEST BUT WILL
HE COME FROM
THE LEVITES?**

Hebrews 7:11-14

¹¹ Now if perfection had been attainable through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need would there have been for another priest to arise after the order of Melchizedek, rather than one named after the order of Aaron? ¹² For when there is a change in the priesthood, there is necessarily a change in the law as well.¹³ For the one of whom these things are spoken belonged to another tribe, from which no one has ever served at the altar. ¹⁴ **For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah,** and in connection with that tribe Moses said nothing about priests.

Textual Commentary:

PSALM 110:4
SPEAKS OF THE
FUTURE MESSIAH
BEING LIKE
MELCHIZEDEK.

Hebrews 7:15-17

¹⁵ This becomes even more evident when another priest arises in the likeness of Melchizedek, ¹⁶ who has become a priest, not on the basis of a legal requirement concerning bodily descent, but by the power of an indestructible life. ¹⁷ **For it is witnessed of him,**

“You are a priest forever,
after the order of Melchizedek.”

Textual Commentary:

**A better priest
yields a
better covenant.**

Hebrews 7:18-22


¹⁸ For on the one hand, a former commandment is set aside because of its weakness and uselessness ¹⁹ (for the law made nothing perfect); but on the other hand, **a better hope is introduced**, through which we draw near to God.

²⁰ And it was not without an oath. For those who formerly became priests were made such without an oath, ²¹ but this one was made a priest with an oath by the one who said to him:

“The Lord has sworn
and will not change his mind,
‘You are a priest forever.’”

²² **This makes Jesus the guarantor of a better covenant.**

⁶ Jesus said to him, “**I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.**”



John 14:6

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Textual Commentary:

Better priest

Better sacrifice

Better covenant

Hebrews 7:23-28

²³ The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office, ²⁴ **but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever.** ²⁵

Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since **he always lives** to make intercession for them.

²⁶ For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. ²⁷ He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, **since he did this once for all** when he offered up himself. ²⁸ For the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.

**LIVE
THE
TEXT**





HEAR & RESPOND TO THE GOSPEL WITH FAITH: JESUS IS OUR BRIDGE

- All humanity is separated from God (John 3:17-21, 36; Rom. 3:23, 6:23; Hey. 9:27).
- Jesus is the one and only solution to this separation from God (John 5:24).
- Humans try and fail to build their own brides to God (John 1:12-23) even though Jesus is the only way (John 14:6; Eph. 2:8-9)
- Jesus succeeds where we fail because he is God and man (John 1:14); he is the perfect sacrifice as the Lamb of God (John 1:36); he died (John 6:51); and he rose from the dead (Luke 24:5-7; John 11:25).
- Jesus calls us to hear this message and respond with faith (John 5:24). When we do this, we are born again by God's Spirit (John 3:3) and whoever believes in him will be saved (John 3:16).

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