
The order of Melchizedek:
the believer's hope

Hebrews 6:9 thru 7:28

Week 7

Rapid Review

What is the *spiritual purpose* of the letter?

What is the *doctrinal purpose* of the letter?

What are some of the key points so far?

Rapid Review

Therefore . . . let us go on to maturity . . . and this we will do if God permits.

For/because it is impossible to restore again to repentance **those who don't go on to maturity** even though they once were . . .

since they are crucifying once again the Son of God . . .

Hebrews 6:1 – 6 (UAV)

Rapid Review

For land that has drunk the rain that often falls on it, and produces a crop useful to those for whose sake it is cultivated, receives a blessing from God.

⁸ But if it bears thorns and thistles, it is worthless and near to being cursed, and its end is to be burned.

Hebrews 6:7–8 (ESV)

Encouragement: *in your case*

Though we speak in this way, yet in your case, beloved, we feel sure of better things—things that belong to salvation.

¹⁰ For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for his name in serving the saints, as you still do.

Hebrews 6:9–10 (ESV)

Observations: *be imitators*

And we desire each one of you to show the **same earnestness** to have the full assurance of hope until the end,

¹² so that you may not be **sluggish**, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

Hebrews 6:11–12 (ESV)

Recall the former days

But recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, ³³ sometimes being publicly exposed to reproach and affliction, and sometimes being partners with those so treated.

³⁴ For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one.

Hebrews 10:32–34 (ESV)

The Certainty of God's Promise

For when God made a promise to Abraham, since He had no one greater by whom to swear, He swore by himself,¹⁴ saying, “Surely I will bless you and multiply you.”¹⁵ And thus Abraham, having patiently waited, obtained the promise.¹⁶ For people swear by something greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation.

Hebrews 6:13–16 (ESV)

Forerunner on our behalf

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 (ESV)

Genesis 15:7-21

Priesthood of Believers

First: believers (*now priests*) have access to God through Jesus Christ, the high priest, in both private and public prayer and worship.

Second: believers **know** that God communicates directly with them through His Word, through His Spirit, and through people and circumstances

“a holy priesthood” 1 Peter 2:9

The Priestly Order of Melchizedek

What do we know so far about Jesus?

- He is the Son of God
- Above the angels BUT, for a time . . .
- “He had to be made like His brethren in all things . . .”
- He was appointed to become a merciful and faithful high priest
- He is able to sympathize with our weaknesses
- He is *qualified* to be our high priest

Hebrews 7:1 thru 7:28

7:1 – 6

7:7 – 14

7:15 – 21

7:22 – 28

The superior priesthood

Logic Flow of Chapter 7

- Melchizedek was superior to Abraham.
- The Levitical priests were “genetically in Abraham.”
- The need for perfection required ordination of a new priesthood
- Melchizedek is greater than the Levitical priests.
- So – Melchizedek’s priesthood is greater than the Levitical priesthood
- **If** the Messiah’s priesthood is of the “order of Melchizedek” **then** the Messiah’s priesthood is greater than the priesthood of the Levites
- Finally, Jesus is the “guarantor of a better covenant”.

The Priestly Order of Melchizedek

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.

Heb. 7:1 – 3 (ESV)

The Priestly Order of Melchizedek

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.

Heb. 7:4 - 6

The Priestly Order of Melchizedek

It is beyond dispute that the inferior is blessed by the superior. ⁸In the one case tithes are received by mortal men, but in the other case, by one of whom it is **testified** that he lives. ⁹One 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.

Heb. 7: 7 - 10

a change to the law

Now **if** perfection had been attainable through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), **[then]** 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.

Hebrews 7:11–14 (ESV)

through which we draw near to God

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.”

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**.

Hebrews 7:15–19 (ESV)

a better covenant

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.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.

Hebrews 7:20–25 (ESV)

word of the oath

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.

Hebrews 7:26–28 (ESV)

Where are we at?

- Are we dull of hearing?
- Do we sometimes battle with unbelief?
- Are our “powers of discernment trained by constant practice”?
- Are we moving on to maturity?
- Do we know that *our high priest* intervenes on our behalf?
- Are we willing to exercise faith and patience in the face of challenges?

day after day

Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that *falls away* from the living God.

¹³ But **encourage one another** day after day, as long as it is *still* called “Today,” so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

Hebrews 3:12–13 (NASB 95)