

Passage: Hebrews 7:1-28

Title: Christ and His Everlasting Priesthood

Summary: Jesus and His Priesthood is so often overlooked and missed on how significant this truth and declaration is to us as believers. In our passage we will see 4 things that Jesus is superior to as compared to things man trusts in on earth, and “therefore” Our God can meet and fulfill those things far superior to anything we or another person can. The resultant... is living the “Victorious Christian Life”. Join us as we look at another wonderful passage about Our Wonderful God.

We ended our last study in the close of chapter 6:

Hebrews 6:19–20 (NKJV) ¹⁹ *This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil,* ²⁰ *where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.*

Our anchor, Jesus Christ, ripping the veil so that we may enter into the Presence of the Father.

Matthew 27:50–52 (NKJV) ⁵⁰ *And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit.* ⁵¹ *Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split,* ⁵² *and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised;*

The Veil / Radical for Jewish Reader / Come into His Presence

Jesus brings us into the presence of the Father by tearing the Veil, and we are told it is because He is a High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek. It was written in Hebrew writings that the veil was 60 feet by 30 feet, and 10 inches thick. They say it took 100 priests to handle it and hang it. God is saying to the reader come into my presence, come just as you are, the veil, the door has been opened unto you to come into my presence. To the Jewish reader this was radical for their whole life God was separated from them by this veil, only the High Priest could come before Him, and that was only once a year. For many today this is still a radical statement, for they can believe or accept that they can come before God.

We Can / He is our Forerunner

But they could, and we can, because we have a High Priest who makes a way for us, Jesus Christ. He is the “forerunner”, the first in and the rest of us can follow. The idea here is of a Team Captain leading his team out of the locker room unto the field in front of the cheering fans. That is our Jesus, He is our Captain, the Captain of Our Salvation, and He leads us out of the grave, He is leading the charge and we are all following behind our Team Captain. The NFL hasn’t a clue of what it means to be led out by a leader.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ *Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need*

Jesus is our anchor, our peg (see last week’s study, He is our Rock!

The Rock

I’m reminded of a story of a man who was kayaking in the ocean and got tossed from his craft when high waves came up. He managed to swim over to a rock and grab on to it. He dug his hands into some clefts in the rock and hung on. The waves would hit him and pound him up and down, throw him all around the rock, but he never let go. Finally the seas calmed, and he made it to shore. People rant o him saying you are lucky to be alive, you are lucky you didn’t drown. Man you were tossed all over that rock from the waves, and he answered and said yea, but did you notice the rock never moved.

Jesus is our rock, our anchor, and in our study today we will see 4 solid rocks we can stand on, hang on to, because He is our High Priest. Jesus is our anchor, our peg (see last week’s study, He is our Rock! And in our passage today He gives us 4 things we can dig into, grab hold of, and when the waves come and the doubts arise, we can hold onto and be reminded of these 4 truths that He desires us to know His superiority in and over!

Chapter 7 – Christ and His Everlasting Priesthood: According to the Order of Melchizedek

- Jesus – Greater than Abraham – 7:1-10
 - Therefore, Our God Shall Supply All Our Needs

- Jesus – Greater than the Levitical Priesthood – 7:11-17
 - Therefore, Our God Shall Cover All Our Sins
- Jesus – Greater than the Law – 7:18-19
 - Therefore, Our God Shall Lead Us into Victorious Christian Living
- Jesus – Greater than the Old Covenant – 7:20-28
 - Therefore, Our God Shall Fulfill the New Covenant in Our Lives Perfectly

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

Mentioned Twice OT / Expected to Know about Him

Melchizedek, the mysterious man that met Abraham after a battle, the man only mentioned in two places in the Old Testament, but gets a whole chapter here in the Book of Hebrews. Although he is only mentioned two times in the Old Testament, the author of this book had expected these readers to know all about him, thus, so then should we, and we will in this study.

Hebrews 5:10–11 (NKJV) ¹⁰ called by God as High Priest "according to the order of Melchizedek," ¹¹ of whom we have much to say, and hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.

1.) Jesus – Greater than Abraham – 7:1-10

Therefore, Our God Shall Supply All Our Needs

As we study the story of Melchizedek, the author will point out along the way that Jesus is superior to Abraham, another radical statement to the Jew. Abraham was the father of their faith, and we will see that Jesus is superior, because His priesthood is according to the order of Melchizedek.

(Hebrews 7:1 NKJV) For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him,
(Hebrews 7:2 NKJV) to whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all, first being translated "king of righteousness," and then also king of Salem, meaning "king of peace,"
(Hebrews 7:3 NKJV) without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, remains a priest continually.

Great Covert Ops

Abraham met Melchizedek on the way home from a battle. Israel has had a long line of battles and special operations. Maybe you recall the story of 1976, what many military strategists call the greatest commando raid ever, the greatest "special ops" ever in the history of man, carried out by the Israeli special Ops Forces in 1976.

The Entebbe Rescue Mission

On June 27, 1976, four terrorists forced an Air France Airbus to land in Uganda, in the heart of distant Africa. They quickly demanded that Israel release 53 convicted terrorists (PLO). The hijackers freed the French crew and non-Jewish passengers, while retaining 105 Jewish and Israeli hostages. A 48-hour deadline was set before executions would begin.

Faced with little choice, the Israeli government announced that it would enter into negotiations. This bought the precious time needed to consolidate a seemingly impossible military option. A new ultimatum was issued for 13:00 on Sunday, July 4.

The only airplane capable of a rescue operation was the C-130 Hercules. On July 1, the mission's overall commander, Brig. General Dan Shomron (later to become the IDF Chief-of-Staff), presented his plan to the IDF Commander and Israel's Defense Minister. The next day they all witnessed a full-scale dress rehearsal. The incredible was deemed possible.

Shomron's plan was based on several advantages that the Israelis had over the terrorists. The Entebbe airport at which the hostages were being held was built by an Israeli construction firm, which was able to provide Shomron with blueprints. Moreover, the released, non-Jewish hostages were able to describe the terrorists, their arms, and their positioning. As a result, the IDF decided to send in an overwhelmingly powerful force: over 200 of the best soldiers the army had to offer participated in the raid, all of them heavily armed.

Finally, the element of surprise was probably the biggest edge that Israel held. According to Shomron: "You had more than 100 people sitting in a small room, surrounded by terrorists with their fingers on the trigger. They could fire in a fraction of a second. We had to fly seven hours, land safely, drive to the terminal area where the hostages were being held, get inside, and eliminate all the terrorists before any of them could fire." The fact that no one expected the Israelis to take such risks was precisely the reason that they took them.

The aircraft took off at 13:20 on July 3 and headed south. Only then was the plan revealed to the Israeli Cabinet, which decided to let the operation continue. The lead Hercules carried the rescue force, led by Lt. Col. Yonatan Netanyahu. It also held two jeeps and the now famous black Mercedes, a perfect copy of dictator Idi Amin's personal car. Two additional Hercules carried reinforcements and troops assigned to carry out special missions, such as destroying the Migs parked nearby. A fourth Hercules was sent to evacuate the hostages.

The air package also included two Boeing 707's. One acted as a forward command post. The second, outfitted as an airborne hospital, landed in nearby Nairobi, Kenya. The Hercules was escorted by F4 Phantoms as far as possible—about one-third the distance.

Skirting thunderstorms over Lake Victoria, the Hercules transports neared the end of the 7-hour, 40-minute flight. A surprise awaited them: the runway lights were on! Despite this, they landed undetected at 23:01 (local time), only one minute past their planned arrival time.

The soldiers freed the hostages in a lightning attack, killing all eight terrorists in the process. Tragically, force commander Yoni Netanyahu was killed as he led the hostages toward the safety of the aircraft; additionally, two hostages were killed in the crossfire inside the airport. The other squads accomplished their missions in virtually the same time as during the "dry-run." By 23:59 the planes were on their way home. The operation, which was predicted to last one hour, in fact took only 58 minutes.

The mission struck a blow at international terrorism. "It resonated far and wide," Shomron later commented. "It showed that you could counter terrorism, and that it was worth cooperating to do so." As America celebrated its Bicentennial, the world was reminded that freedom is a value which must be fought for in every generation.

Abraham Father of Covert Ops

It was a great covert special operations, but it wasn't the greatest, there was one greater, and we read about it in Genesis chapter 14. Two kings overcame 5 kings in a fierce battle, and they carried away Abraham's nephew Lot in the midst of the battle. Lot was now a hostage. When Abraham heard he took 318 of his servants, divided them into two, and brought to the enemy two attack positions in the night, he rescued Lot and all the others and their goods. Abraham was the first Israeli to be a Special Ops Warrior, and execute a covert plan in what seems like an impossible situation.

Genesis 14:13–16 (NKJV) ¹³ Then one who had escaped came and told Abram the Hebrew, for he dwelt by the terebinth trees of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol and brother of Aner; and they were allies with Abram. ¹⁴ Now when Abram heard that his brother was taken captive, he armed his three hundred and eighteen trained servants who were born in his own house, and went in pursuit as far as Dan. ¹⁵ He divided his forces against them by night, and he and his servants attacked them and pursued them as far as Hobah, which is north of Damascus. ¹⁶ So he brought back all the goods, and also brought back his brother Lot and his goods, as well as the women and the people.

Abraham meets Melchizedek

So back in Genesis fourteen, we read that as Abraham was returning from the victory over the five kings, that had taken his nephew, Lot as a hostage, he had conquered over the five kings, chasing them all of the way to the gates of Damascus. He had defeated them and taken much spoil. And as he came back the king of Sodom met him to show his appreciation. But then in Genesis 14:18 he is met by the King of Salem, whose name we are told is "Melchizedek.

Genesis 14:18–20 (NKJV) ¹⁸ Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High. ¹⁹ And he blessed him and said: "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; ²⁰ And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand." And he gave him a tithe of all.

Salem – Peace / Righteousness / Melech - King

Breakdown:

- The word, Salem (this is another name for Jerusalem), means “peace”, so He is the “king of peace”.
- He was the priest of the Most High God. This is the first mention of a priest in the Bible, and it is used in reference to this mysterious man, Melchizedek.
- Melchizedek, means King of Righteousness.
 - *Melech* - Hebrew for “king”
 - *tsadîq*, - Hebrew for “righteousness”
 - thus the King of Righteousness

No Genealogy

But this mysterious Melchizedek has a unique genealogy. We follow the genealogy from Abraham on through to Joseph and to the twelve sons of Jacob, in the Book of Genesis. And over and over again we have the genealogies. It was very important in the Book of Genesis to list the genealogies, to list their births and of course we read, and he begat sons and daughters and he died. And he begat sons and daughters and he died. So it records the birth as well as the death of those important characters in the Book of Genesis.

But suddenly, here we have a man that comes on the scene. He is called the king of peace. His name means the king of righteousness. And Abraham received a blessing from him. And Abraham pays tithes to him. And yet no genealogy. We are not told who his parents were. We're not told when he was born. We're not told when he died. So from this, the writer of Hebrews draws out the fact that he is without the genealogy, without any background, he suddenly comes on the scene. He is without generation. He is without descent. That is, we hear nothing of the descendants of Melchizedek. Nothing is told of his birth or of His death.

Theophany / Bread & Wine

Why I believe there is no genealogy is because this is one of the manifestations of God in the Old Testament. I believe that Melchizedek was Jesus Christ Himself. A theophany is what the Theologians call this. I find it ever so interesting in that Melchizedek shows up with what when He meets Abraham, “bread and wine”, the elements of the Lord's Supper, the elements that represent Christ's broken body and poured out blood.

John 8 / Abraham saw my Day

In the eighth of chapter of John, when Jesus is disputing with the Jews, Jesus said to them, your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day and he saw it and he was glad. Then the Jews said to Him, You are not fifty years old. And have You seen Abraham. And Jesus said unto them, verily, verily I say unto you, before Abraham was, I am!

John 8:56–58 (NKJV) ⁵⁶ *Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad.* ⁵⁷ *Then the Jews said to Him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?”* ⁵⁸ *Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.”*

(Hebrews 7:4 NKJV) Now consider how great this man was, to whom even the patriarch Abraham gave a tenth of the spoils.

(Hebrews 7:5 NKJV) And indeed those who are of the sons of Levi, who receive the priesthood, have a commandment to receive tithes from the people according to the law, that is, from their brethren, though they have come from the loins of Abraham;

V5 – from the loins of Levi - By the way, the scripture is confirming here the DNA (linage) that is passed on in “every” life. And, the determination whether male or female. Church, we have been praying week after week for the sanctity of life, and praise the Lord many victories have been won, but still a long-long way to go. Don't let up now. God is calling Special-Ops, to come rescue and save the babies in the womb. God

gives a special calling, and honor, for those who stand up for the widows and orphans, and truly these children are being orphaned.

- In humans, each cell normally contains 23 pairs of chromosomes, for a total of 46. Twenty-two of these pairs, called autosomes, look the same in both males and females. The 23rd pair, the sex chromosomes, differ between males and females. Females have two copies of the X chromosome, while males have one X and one Y chromosome.
- **James 1:27 (NKJV)** ²⁷ Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.
- **Psalm 68:5 (NKJV)** ⁵ A father of the fatherless, a defender of widows, Is God in His holy habitation.

(Hebrews 7:6 NKJV) but he whose genealogy is not derived from them received tithes from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises.

(Hebrews 7:7 NKJV) Now beyond all contradiction the lesser is blessed by the better.

(Hebrews 7:8 NKJV) Here mortal men receive tithes, but there he receives them, of whom it is witnessed that he lives.

(Hebrews 7:9 NKJV) Even Levi, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, so to speak,

(Hebrews 7:10 NKJV) for he was still in the loins of his father when Melchizedek met him.

Melchizedek was greater than Abraham because Abraham paid tithes to Him:

The Lesser is Blessed by the Greater

The sons of Levi, who took the office of the priesthood, are commanded to receive the tithes from the people. And the sons of Levi came out of the loins of Abraham. But this man who was not a descendant of Abraham, received tithes from Abraham. We then are told that he blessed Abraham. The writer points out that the lesser is always blessed by the greater. So the inference is that this Melchizedek was even greater than their father Abraham because he blessed Abraham and the lesser is blessed by the greater.

Levi Tithed Melchizedek – Because in the Lion of Abraham

And then it is pointed out that the priests who come from the tribe of Levi, die. They receive the tithes of the people, but yet death is the destiny for each of them. But Melchizedek who received the tithes from Abraham, it is recorded of him, that he lived for God said, in Psalm 110, thou art a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek. He points out that Levi, the tribe of Levi, the Levitical priesthood, actually paid tithes to Melchizedek, in that the Levi genes were in Abraham in the time that he paid the tithes. The Levitical priesthood came through the line of Levi, who came from Jacob, who came from Isaac, who came from Abraham.

Psalm 110:4 (NKJV) ⁴ The LORD has sworn And will not relent, "You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek."

Tithe 500 years Before the Law / Jesus Confirms Tithing

Abraham tithed to God way before the Law came, some 500 years before the Law. So some people will say that tithing is not applicable to the Christian because tithing was established with the Law, but that is not true, Abraham tithed 500 years before the Law. Well where is tithing in the New Testament, people say you won't find it in the New Testament, therefore it is not applicable, they are wrong again:

(Matthew 23:23 NKJV) "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. **These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.**

Jesus confirms they should be tithing.

Paul Hits the Mark

And Paul brings the whole issue together by simply saying, its all about the heart:

2 Corinthians 9:5–7 (NKJV) ⁵ Therefore I thought it necessary to exhort the brethren to go to you ahead of time, and prepare your generous gift beforehand, which you had previously promised, that it may be ready as a matter of generosity and not as a grudging obligation. ⁶ But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷ So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.

The Tithe Honored Who Brought the Victory

What God is confirming here "as being greater than Abraham" is that He brings the victories in our lives, and Abraham is confirming that by tithing to Melchizedek. Abraham is saying, this victory was brought by you, and so I give honor due unto You. It is a little seen subtly, until we piece all the pieces together.

Fear Not – I Have You Covered

Then chapter 15 of Genesis, God says Abraham, Fear Not:

Genesis 15:1 (NKJV) ¹ After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward."

God spoke these words, "fear not", because obviously Abraham was in fear. He feared no doubt that maybe the 2-kings, (or 5-kings) would mount a counter-strike against him. But God is saying, I have you covered Abraham.

God Shall Supply All Our Needs & Every Battle Belongs to the Lord

What does all this mean, that Jesus is Superior to Abraham, because Abraham paid tithes to Him.

Melchizedek, Jesus Himself is confirming all victories are through God and all your future victories will be through God. Everything that we have comes from above. Everything that we have has been supplied by Him. Our God supplies all of our needs in Christ Jesus. And this is what the picture is being painted here. Abraham, your victory has come through me and hence why Abraham will recognize that and tithe Melchizedek who is Jesus in the flesh called Melchizedek. That he, Abraham will recognize that the battle belonged to the Lord and the victory was because of him.

Philippians 4:19 (NKJV) ¹⁹ And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Jesus says, "Fear not, Abraham. I delivered you this victory today, and I will deliver you the victories tomorrow. And that's why you can rest in me." You can anchor in me, I am your rock.

2.) Jesus – Greater than the Levitical Priesthood – 7:11-17

Therefore, Our God Shall Cover All Our Sins

(Hebrews 7:11 NKJV) Therefore, if perfection were through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need was there that another priest should rise according to the order of Melchizedek, and not be called according to the order of Aaron?

A Need for a New Priesthood

So he draws the conclusion then, that if the Levitical priesthood had been complete (perfection), there would not have been a necessity for another priesthood to arise, which was after the order of Melchizedek. Why not a priest after the order of Aaron? So as we go through this, we see these are the points that are being made as he is making inferences from things that are not said.

The sacrifices made by the priests through the Levitical priesthood could only cover sin, they could never take sin away – they could only cover until you sinned again, and thus needed to go and sacrifice again to cover again.

(Hebrews 7:12 NKJV) For the priesthood being changed, of necessity there is also a change of the law.

(Hebrews 7:13 NKJV) For He of whom these things are spoken belongs to another tribe, from which no man has officiated at the altar.

(Hebrews 7:14 NKJV) For it is evident that our Lord arose from Judah, of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood.

(Hebrews 7:15 NKJV) And it is yet far more evident if, in the likeness of Melchizedek, there arises another priest

Psalm 110 says a new priest would arise after Melchizedek. The Father was speaking of the Son, Jesus Christ, and the writer quotes Psalm 110 here in verse 17:

(Hebrews 7:16 NKJV) who has come, not according to the law of a fleshly commandment, but according to the power of an endless life.

(Hebrews 7:17 NKJV) For He testifies:

"You are a priest forever

According to the order of Melchizedek."

Now if the priesthood of the tribe of Levi were perfect, it wouldn't be necessary that God create His Son a priest from a different order, because He was from the Judah.

Both Priest and King (Through Melchizedek & David)

It is interesting that Melchizedek was both priest and King. Our Jesus is both King and Priest, and the Scriptures clearly shows that He has claim to both.

- First He is High Priest because He is from the order of Melchizedek which is greater than the Levitical priesthood.
- And He can be King, because He was born through the Lineage of David.

Jeremiah prophecies about Jesus coming through the line of David, and notice what else, He will be called "THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS", Melchizedek means "King of Righteousness".

Jeremiah 23:5-6 (NKJV) ⁵ "Behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, "That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; A King shall reign and prosper, And execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. ⁶ In His days Judah will be saved, And Israel will dwell safely; Now this is His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS

The angel confirms it to Mary, and we read the genealogy in Matthew 1 that Jesus came through the line of David, how marvelous how the Scriptures weave together:

Luke 1:30-33 (NKJV) ³⁰ Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. ³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. ³³ And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

Matthew 1:1-6 (NKJV) ¹ The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham: ² Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers. ³ Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram. ⁴ Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon. ⁵ Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, ⁶ and Jesse begot David the king. David the king begot Solomon by her who had been the wife of Uriah.

Jesus' Priesthood: Peace & Righteousness

So through Melchizedek, we see the high priesthood of Jesus Christ has a very clear role and purpose,

- righteousness and peace.

And it's a solid rock. It's an anchor and it's a peg that we can hold onto that. Through His righteousness, we may have peace (King of Salem, King of Righteousness). My righteousness is secured through my relationship with Him of His righteousness that he Hobes me in. Righteousness means right standing.

And that's where we can be secure that we have right standing with Him.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV) ²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

But let it be known, there is no peace apart from righteousness. We must be robed appropriately to come into His presence, and that dress attire is the "robe of righteousness".

Romans 5:1-2 (NKJV) ¹ Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Romans 5:10-11 (NKJV) ¹⁰ For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. ¹¹ And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

Isaiah 61:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, My soul shall be joyful in my God; For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, As a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, And as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

Confession Still Required

We always quote Hebrews 4:16, "Boldly come to the throne of grace to find help in time of need." And we make the point that we'll find mercy and grace, that there won't be judgment, but let not that be confused with prior verses there in verse 12, that all things are naked before him. There's still a place that we need to be dressed appropriate to come to the throne of grace. And that is to be robed in righteousness. For he who knew no sin became sin for us, that he might become the righteousness of God. And there's a place that we need to continually come back to. 1 John, 1:9, that, "If we confess our sins, he's faithful and just to forgive us of our sins and cleanse us from all in righteousness." We need to be robed in righteousness

and there's a place positionally as sons and daughters that that was sealed on the cross. But there's the place that we come relationally, that we have to come and confess our sin and our offense before him, because it's still an offense before him. And therefore, it must be covered with confession.

Hebrews 4:14–16 (NKJV) ¹⁴ Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 4:11–13 (NKJV) ¹¹ Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience. ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart. ¹³ And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

1 John 1:9 (NKJV) ⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

That confession must be coupled with repentance. Repentance means (to change direction, to change your mind), and that is specifically to change one's mind about sinning before the Holy God, and changing direction away from it.

Which leads us to the next point.

3.) Jesus – Greater than the Law – 7:18-19

Therefore, Our God Shall Lead Us into Victorious Christian Living

We will study this area more in depth in chapters 8,9 and 10, but here are a few key points:

(Hebrews 7:18 NKJV) For on the one hand there is an annulling of the former commandment because of its weakness and unprofitableness,

(Hebrews 7:19 NKJV) for the law made nothing perfect; on the other hand, there is the bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God.

The Law is Good

The Law is good, first for revealing the need for a Savior as it reveals our guilt before The Holy God, and secondly it is good as it shows us good and a godly way to live. Live out the Law of God, and you will be living a prescribed by God, and find life and that more abundant.

John 10:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

The Law says you shall not steal, and let me give you a word-play, don't rob yourself by disregarding the Law of God, for it is good for godly living.

Law Only Revealed Sin – Couldn't make you Righteous

The law could not make a person righteous. Keeping the law would not make a person righteous. The law could only reveal to you your sin and condemn you because of your sin. There was no provision within the law for you to be righteous or for you to even keep the law. It was just there to show you were guilty before God.

A Covering

And that it was necessary that you then offer a sacrifice for your sins to bring to God a sin offering. The law itself could make nothing perfect. The sacrifices could not take away your sin. The sacrifices could only cover your sin. The word, atonement, in the Old Testament comes from the Hebrew word, *kophar*, which means a covering. But they could not put away your sins as we will read a little further in Hebrews, it was impossible that the blood of bulls and goats could put away sin.

Priest Had to Approach for You

Under the law the person was still distant from God. The priest would approach God for you. The law could not bring you near to God. So the weaknesses of the law, in that it could not make you righteous. It could

not give you the power to keep the law. Nor could it put away your sins nor could it draw you near to God. So the law was weak and disannulled because it was unprofitable.

Jesus is the Better Covenant

But the Lord has made a better covenant with us through Jesus Christ. And so it's not after the old commandment but after the power of the eternal life in Jesus. For He testified Thou are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

For the law made nothing perfect, bringing in of a better hope did. Now this idea of Jesus, being better. The New Covenant in Jesus, being better. A better covenant, a better hope. As you go through the Book of Hebrews, you find this brought throughout the whole Book. There is pointing to Jesus as the better way.

Jesus our anchor, our full assurance.

Biology Test

It reminds me of the Biology final. It was a tough class, and the final exam promised to be very difficult. The professor decided to give the students a break. He told the class they could bring to the exam as much information as would fit on a piece of notebook paper. Most students wrote in tiny print cramming as much as possible on an 8.5 by 11 inch sheet of paper. Except for one student. He came to class, laid a sheet of notebook paper on the floor, and had his friend - a graduate student in biology - stand on the paper. His expert friend told him all he needed to know. And he was the only student in the Biology class that day to get an "A." Proving conclusively, it's not as much what you know as it is who you know that counts.

And this is very true in religion! No one can enter the presence of a perfect, holy God on his or her own. You can only go as far as your priest is able to take you.

People talk about wanting power in their lives to do great and mighty things, such as preaching to the multitudes, healings, raising the dead, handling snakes and the likes. These things that would be so powerful, so we say, but many Christians live in an impotent life because sin continually robs them. Without repentance, there is no forgiveness of sin.

People want power, but sin makes us impotent. There is the joy that there is a way, even if it's just one way. We praise God that there is a way that our sin can be forgiven and that our sin can be overcome, that I don't have to be a slave and live under its oppression for a life. And that I have someone who can do something about it, that I can run to and say save now. Save me from this sin. Not just from punishment, but save me from sin and the power of it because God's law is good and God's law brings power into our lives.

His Works

Psalm 145, verse 10, "All your works will praise you and saints shall bless you." We read Psalm 138, verse eight that says, "Your works and the perfection of them, and will praise you for your works. And God's works were two nails in his hands, and now God's work, I am his works, I praise him for that." Psalm 145, verse 11, "My life redeemed speaks of his glory and talk of your power that you could and would do a mighty work in me."

[Psalm 145:10–11 \(NKJV\)](#) ¹⁰ All Your works shall praise You, O LORD, And Your saints shall bless You. ¹¹ They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom, And talk of Your power,

[Psalm 138:8 \(NKJV\)](#) ⁸ The LORD will perfect *that which* concerns me; Your mercy, O LORD, *endures* forever; Do not forsake the works of Your hands.

4.) Jesus – Greater than the Old Covenant – 7:20-28

- **Therefore, Our God Shall Fulfill the New Covenant in Our Lives Perfectly**

Summation up front of this point is that the Old Covenant we have been looking at in this chapter is based on "man" and his ability to perform "perfectly to God's standard; but the New Covenant is based on God's ability to perform and accomplish the perfection – and He does!

Thus the way to live the abundant and victorious Christian life. Do you want to have that today, you can through Jesus Christ and not your works and efforts.

John 10:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

We will study this area more in depth in chapters 8,9 and 10 also.

**(Hebrews 7:20 NKJV) And inasmuch as He was not made priest without an oath
(Hebrews 7:21 NKJV) (for they have become priests without an oath, but He with an oath by Him who said to Him:**

***"The LORD has sworn
And will not relent, 'You are a priest forever
According to the order of Melchizedek'"***),

Quoted from Psalm 110.

Inherited Priesthood / Some Bad – Some Good

The priests of the Old Testament were made priests just because of their being of the tribe of Levi. There was no oath taken by God, that they should be priests. They were just priests because they came in the genealogical order. Some of the priests were very bad. Some of the high priests were wicked men.

At the time that Jesus came into the world, the high priesthood was really corrupt. They were of the sects of the Sadducees. They were humanists. They were materialists. They were corrupt. And yet it was only because they were descendants of Levi and of Aaron, that they had the position of the High Priest, but not really declared by God to their office, but they received it just as the result of birth from the tribe of Levi.

Psalm 110 is a swearing in ceremony of the Father swearing in the Son into the High Priesthood forever. The Levitical priest became priest by inheritance, but Psalm 110, God is swearing His Son into the priesthood for life.

Verse 21, "We hold firm to this because God has sworn an oath and a promise to us that he can't lie and that he shall keep. Our God will never leave us nor forsake us. Our God will supply all of our needs in Christ Jesus. He'll cover our sin. He is our Victor. The battle belongs to the Lord. He gives us the power to overcome and be victorious in the Christian life. This is the power that comes through him. Praise the Lord."

(Hebrews 7:22 NKJV) by so much more Jesus has become a surety of a better covenant.

(Hebrews 7:23 NKJV) Also there were many priests, because they were prevented by death from continuing.

(Hebrews 7:24 NKJV) But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood.

All This – Compare Old Covenant to New Covenant

All the pictures here are comparison of the old covenant to the new covenant, and that Jesus is greater than the old covenant.

The Old Priest Would Die – But not Jesus

The priest they looked up to would eventually die, therefore the priesthood would constantly change. Jesus' priesthood was eternal, would never change, we could always be sure of it, therefore it was better.

Unchangeable – Non-Transferable

Jesus' priesthood never ends for He never dies. The word "unchangeable means, non-transferable:

1 Timothy 2:5 (NKJV) ⁵ For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,

No man in a collar, or booth can take the role of the High Priest. The Old System had many priests, but in the new system there is only one priest.

(Hebrews 7:25 NKJV) Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

Verse 25, "The priesthood that Jesus is over, the priest would receive the sacrifice and the offering. And then, he would make the offering on behalf of man."

Saves to Uttermost / Intercession

This is why He is able to save to the uttermost, all who come unto God by Him, because He ever lives to make intercession for them. The uttermost, meaning people of nations. No longer is salvation something exclusively for the Jew. But through Jesus Christ, God has thrown the door open wide and invited all men to come in. Whosoever will, let him come and drink of the water of life freely!

- Save to the uttermost means save from the most dire circumstances.
- Save to the uttermost means save from the deepest depths of sin and defilement.
- Save to the uttermost means to be saved for all eternity. It's ultimate.
The requirement—all who will come unto God by Him. Jesus said, I am the way, the truth, and the life. And no man comes to the Father, but by Me!

Sozo – Full Orb of Blessing

This word here, "save" (Sozo means full orb). It's the full orb of God's blessing. It's not just saved for something future, but it's a full orb and bounty of God's blessing right now here today to live that victorious Christian life. Praise the Lord.

John 10:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

(Hebrews 7:26 NKJV) For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens;

(Hebrews 7:27 NKJV) who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.

Jesus was Holy – No Need for Sacrifice

Now the high priest had to first of all, offer sacrifices for himself before he could offer sacrifices for the people, because he also sinned. So you see that the high priest under the Levitical order, sinned, just like everybody else. And it was necessary that he offer an offering for his own sin. Not so, our great High Priest, Jesus Christ, because He was separate from sinners! He was holy! He was harmless! He need not daily, as those high priests, who offer up the sacrifice for his own sins *and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself.* Jesus did not have to daily or annually offer sacrifices. His sacrifice of Himself was once and for all. It was not necessary that He offer a sacrifice for Himself, but once, a sacrifice for all.

Man May Sympathize – and Compromise / Still Need a Greater Priesthood

Verse 27, "Man can sympathize. This is true, but we still need a greater priesthood because even though man can sympathize, man will compromise. He will, in many ways, judge others to therefore make himself self-righteous or to give an excuse for his failing to make someone else's worse and therefore his lesser. But some men they want to take advantage to benefit from, to make their life something better and easier. Jesus is unmoved by those things. He's secure in himself and he is not in need of anything. He owns the cattle on 1,000 hills. He doesn't need offerings from us. What he wants from us is the releasing of the things that keep us on earth and bind us to this limitation. To release us into the heavenly, to see my God shall supply all of my needs."

Philippians 4:19 (NKJV) ¹⁹ And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Psalms 50:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ For every beast of the forest is Mine, And the cattle on a thousand hills.

(Hebrews 7:28 NKJV) For the law appoints as high priests men who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the law, appoints the Son who has been perfected forever.

So you have a high priest, who has gone into heaven, of which the earthly tabernacle and temple was only the model of the heavenly things, as we will be finding out in the subsequent chapters

Jesus lives to make intercessor for us forever, and it is a done deal. He is alive, Jesus is not some dead historical figure that we read about in an old dusty history book, He is alive, and making intercession for us. There is no charge for no sin that Satan can throw against us, for in all cases Jesus will say "they're mine" bought and paid in full on the Cross. No one can snatch you out of His hand because He is continually on guard looking after you.

Only the Melchizedek priesthood sits and rests not like the Aaron Levitical priesthood that never rested. We can rest in the Melchizedek priesthood for He lives to make intercession for us forever more.

After Abraham met Melchizedek

(Genesis 15:1 NKJV) After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward."

That sums up the everlasting priesthood of Jesus Christ which is after the order of Melchizedek!

What is Your Need Today

What is your need today? Is it to be made right with God, then go to your High Priest and He make intercessor for you, He is your sin sacrifice once and for all. Is your life in some type of turmoil, then go to your High Priest and He will bring you into the presence of the Father and he will counsel you. Your High Priest is entitled to the priesthood, He has been sworn in by God Himself, and His priesthood is eternal and unchanging. So what is your need today? Bring it to your High Priest.

Communion – The New Covenant:

1 Corinthians 11:23–26 (NKJV) ²³ For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; ²⁴ and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me."²⁵ In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.

Chapter 7 – Christ and His Everlasting Priesthood: According to the Order of Melchizedek

- Jesus – Greater than Abraham – 7:1-10
 - Therefore, Our God Shall Supply All Our Needs
- Jesus – Greater than the Levitical Priesthood – 7:11-17
 - Therefore, Our God Shall Cover All Our Sins
- Jesus – Greater than the Law – 7:18-19
 - Therefore, Our God Shall Lead Us into Victorious Christian Living
- Jesus – Greater than the Old Covenant – 7:20-28
 - Therefore, Our God Shall Fulfill the New Covenant in Our Lives Perfectly

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?

- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need