



**Sermon Title** - Don't Go Back- A Better Priest, Part 1

**Main Point** - In superseding the levitical priesthood, Jesus brings the salvation we needed all along, beckoning us to draw near rather than go back to life under the law.

*How can Jesus be our Great High Priest if He's not from the tribe of Levi  
& the direct line of Aaron?*

**Hebrews 7:1**

*For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him,*

**Genesis 14:18-20**

*And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. (He was priest of God Most High.) And he blessed him and said,*

*"Blessed be Abram by God Most High,  
Possessor of heaven and earth;  
and blessed be God Most High,  
who has delivered your enemies into your hand!*

## FIRSTS:

#1 - Priest

#2 - God Most High

## RARE COMBOS

#1 - King + Priest

#2 - Bread + Wine

**TYPE - something that is a representation or pre-figuring of something that is to come in full later (like foreshadowing)**

### **Hebrews 7:2**

*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.*

### **Romans 5:1**

*Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

### **Hebrews 7:3**

*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.*

Melchizedek a **TYPE** of Jesus:

- Priest + King
- Global scope to priesthood, not just for Jews (God Most High)
- King of Righteousness + Peace
- Without age or time limit / known beginning or end to priesthood - Forever
- Divinely Appointed by God, not hereditary based on tribal family line

### **Hebrews 7:4-5**

*See how great this man was to whom Abraham the patriarch gave a tenth of the spoils! 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,<sup>[a]</sup> though these also are descended from Abraham.*

**Hebrews 7:6-7**

*But this man who does not have his descent from them received tithes from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises. It is beyond dispute that the inferior is blessed by the superior.*

**Hebrews 7:8-10**

*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. One might even say that Levi himself, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, for he was still in the loins of his ancestor when Melchizedek met him.*

**Hebrews 7:11**

*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?*

**Hebrews 7:12-14**

*For when there is a change in the priesthood, there is necessarily a change in the law as well. For the one of whom these things are spoken belonged to another tribe, from which no one has ever served at the altar. For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, and in connection with that tribe Moses said nothing about priests.*

Christianity doesn't snap on to Judaism... it **replaces** it.

This is not Judaism expanded, it's Judaism exchanged. We have a priest of a different kind - Jesus replaces the law & levitical priesthood because He's fulfilled it!

**Hebrews 7:15-16**

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

Jesus' rights to priesthood are not race and relatives, but his **resurrection!**

**Hebrews 7:17**

*For it is witnessed of him,*

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

**Psalm 110:1-4**

*The LORD says to my Lord:*

*“Sit at my right hand,  
until I make your enemies your footstool.”*

*The LORD sends forth from Zion  
your mighty scepter.  
Rule in the midst of your enemies!*

*Your people will offer themselves freely  
on the day of your power,<sup>[a]</sup>  
in holy garments;<sup>[b]</sup>  
from the womb of the morning,  
the dew of your youth will be yours.<sup>[c]</sup>*

*The LORD has sworn  
and will not change his mind,  
“You are a priest forever  
after the order of Melchizedek.”*

Why would you ever want to go back to the levitical priesthood??

**Hebrews 7:18-19**

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

*#1 - Don't Go back to your former life!*

**Galatians 3:1-3**

*O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified. Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith? Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by<sup>[a]</sup> the flesh?*

**Galatians 5:1**

*For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.*

**Galatians 1:13-14**

*For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it. And I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers.*

*#2 - Draw Near to Jesus instead!*

**Ephesians 2:13**

*But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.*

**Luke 15:1**

*Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him.*

**Colossians 2:16-23**

*Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, <sup>and</sup> puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind, and not holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God.*

*If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations— “Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch” (referring to things that all perish as they are used)—according to human precepts and teachings? These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.*

**We've come to know Jesus... why would we want to go back to anything else?!**