

# THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

MARCH 8TH–9TH, 2025 // HEBREWS

## THE CASE FOR CHRIST (HEBREWS 7:11–14) SOMETHING HAS TO CHANGE

If the Mosaic Law took care of the sins of the people through the ministry of the Aaronic priesthood, there would be no need for a new priest through another line.

- This thought is part of the writer's case that Christ is the better priest. **The old covenant could not save, it could only point out sin and push the penalty down the road.**

## THE LAW WAS NOT BAD, THE PEOPLE WERE

The priests were the caretakers and explainers of the Law, especially the 10 Commandments and the sacrifices. The 10 C's exposed sin and the sacrifices temporarily covered those sins.

- The Law had a specific purpose of exposing sin. The sacrifices had a specific purpose of showing the severity of sin. **But neither could change a heart.**

## IF THE LAW WORKED, WE WOULDN'T NEED JESUS

If changed hearts was the goal, and the Law did not change hearts, and a new heart was needed to be right with God, then a new way was needed.

- The Law's limitations were seen by the people. Jesus had no limitations to change hearts. **Why would they go back to limited religion instead of limitless Jesus?**

## BOTH KING AND HIGH PRIEST?

The writer of Hebrews finds it easier to support that Jesus is our King in the line of David since Jesus was from the tribe of Judah, David's tribe. But how could Jesus be our High Priest, too, if the High Priest had to come from the tribe of Levi and the lineage of Abraham? There had to be a change of the Law if this was to happen.

- **Jesus didn't offer but became the sacrifice.**

## JESUS IS BETTER THAN ABRAHAM AND AARON

In 7:1–10, the writer has proven the uniqueness of Melchizedek as a priest and king. Levi, through whom Aaron came, was in Abraham when Abe gave a tenth to Mel. If Jesus is of the order of Mel, then that makes Him superior to both Abe and Aaron.

- Why would one leave the superior to go back to the inferior? **Why leave Jesus?**

## ACCORDING TO PLAN

If there is going to be a change in the priesthood, there has to be a change in the law, the covenant, that set it up. Priests come from Levi, kings come from Judah.

- The writer brilliantly uses the OT to prove that Jesus is both Priest and King. Moses no longer has the final word, **Jesus does. And everyone should rejoice!**

## BETTER OATH BETTER COVENANT (HEBREWS 7:15–22) MYSTERIOUS MELCHIZEDEK A ONE-OFF?

The OT tells us about this priest/king of Salem who was called a priest and king before the Mosaic Law. Jesus is the "priest like Melchizedek" who has now appeared. Because Mel could be a priest, Jesus can now be a priest in that order.

- **God gave us Mel so that one day God's Son could be our sin-removing Priest.**

## THE POWER BELONGS TO JESUS

Where the Levitical line of priests were born, served, and died, the Melchizedekian priest is a "priest forever" (Psalm 110:4). And Jesus is this priest, not because of physical descent according to the Law, but by the power of an indestructible life as God's Son.

- **Only Jesus, the eternal Son, is worthy to stand as our true High Priest.**

## DAVID DECLARES THIS NEW PRIESTHOOD

In Psalm 110, which the writer quotes, King David speaks of another King who would come and be a priesthood forever in the order of Mel. So, a new priestly line is announced, not by physical descent according to the old covenant but by an oath made by God through David. This oath annuls the old covenant which was "weak and unprofitable."

## GOD'S WORD NEVER CONTRADICTS ITSELF

Is the writer saying the Mosaic Law had no point or purpose? Not at all. He tells us what the whole OT is all about:

**Jesus!** The Law was weak and unprofitable because its purpose wasn't to save sinners but to point out the need for a Savior who is the better hope!

- **Now that the Promise has come by God's oath, so, too, has the better covenant.**

## THIS IS A BETTER HOPE DRAWING US TO GOD

The Mosaic Law with its civil, ceremonial, and sacrificial laws showed us how holy God is and how unattainable a relationship with Him is because of our sin.

- **Jesus, our High Priest, calls us to approach the throne of God with boldness because we always find limitless mercy and grace in our time of need.**

## ONLY HE CAN (HEBREWS 7:23–28) A REVOLVING DOOR OF PRIESTS

Priests could age out or die, thus ending their priesthood. But since Jesus is a "priest forever," His priesthood will never end. His priesthood is eternal with no successor needed. His is a permanent priesthood and only He can hold it.

- **Why hope in priests who die instead of a Priest who lives forever?**

## TOTAL ACCESS GIVEN

Because Jesus holds a permanent priesthood, He always intercedes for those who want to come to God through Him. No other priest can guarantee access to God, only Jesus can.

- **Never stop calling out to Jesus. Never stop coming to the Father. Never stop asking, seeking, and knocking.**

## JESUS OUR SPOTLESS LAMB

The work of a human priest is first to make daily sacrifices for his own sins so that he can make atonement for others by the blood of daily sacrifices for them. Because Jesus was "**holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens,**" He did not have to offer sacrifices for His own sins. **Jesus is the Lamb of God for us.**

## ONCE FOR ALL TIME

The only true sinless sacrifice that could be offered for the atonement of sin (how our penalty for sin is satisfied so that we are reconciled to God) is Jesus. Because He is sinless and did not need to be reconciled to God, His **once-for-all-time sacrifice of Himself fully satisfied the wrath of God so that we could be reconciled to God by grace through faith.**

## BOTH HIGH PRIEST AND SON OF GOD

Not only is Jesus the true sinless High Priest, He is also God the Son. In Chapter 3, the writer speaks of Jesus being better than Moses because while Moses was a servant of God, Jesus is the eternal Son of God.

- **Only God could satisfy the wrath of God. God the Son took on flesh to be our substitute so we can be forgiven.**

## LOOKING EVERYWHERE BUT TO JESUS

- Our culture bows down to many things and many people. Why not Jesus?
- **We pridefully want to boast in our own pursuits as the means by which we are saved.**
- **If we, or others, are our savior, then we can dismiss the need for Jesus.**
- But do other pursuits really save?

## A FALSE HOPE

- Our culture offers many false saviors: **distraction, affirmation, notoriety, self-determination, religious legalism, and empty human connection,** to name a few.
- All offer temporary satisfaction but no permanent solution to our restless hearts.
- **We were all created in the image of God and can only find rest in Him.**

## THE LAW'S LIMITATIONS

- The Law exposes sin but can't remove it.
- The Law can change behavior but can't change the heart.
- Obedience to the Law, apart from grace and mercy, leads to legalism and pride.
- **Obedience to the Law rooted in the grace, mercy, and love of Jesus leads to peace with Him, with others, and with ourselves.**

## WE NEED JESUS

- The Law points to Jesus who fulfilled it.
- The Priesthood points to Jesus who intercedes for us.
- The sacrifices point to Jesus who died for us and satisfied God's wrath forever.
- **The good news of the gospel is God loves us as seen in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Jesus is our only hope.**