

# THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

MARCH 9TH, 2025 // HEBREWS

## A NEW WAY (HEBREWS 7:11-14) THE NEED FOR SOMETHING GREATER

The Levitical priesthood (descendants of Aaron in the tribe of Levi) could not produce godly character in others, so there was a need for a greater priest.

- God communicated these inadequacies of the Levitical priesthood and his plan to establish another priesthood in Psalm 110:4.

## TIPPING THE SCALE

The Levitical priesthood was good for a time because it taught the law, but it only provided a scale of morality.

- The law pointed to our inability to adhere to the law perfectly and our need for a high priest who not only pointed to the law but **fulfilled the law perfectly** (Matthew 5:17), giving us **victory over sin** and a **right relationship with God**.

## A PRIEST NOT OF THE ORDER OF THIS WORLD

A different priesthood required a different law. The law of Moses stated that the priesthood would be based on being a descendant of Aaron.

- A priest under the order of Melchizedek would be established by a different law with different qualifications than a priest who is set under the law of Moses.
- Galatians 3:24-25

## REPLACING THE ORDER OF MEN

In verses 14-15 the author anticipates the reader's issue with Jesus being a High Priest. Jesus was from the tribe of Judah and no one from David's lineage had "served at the altar" as a priest.

- If Jesus is to be our High Priest, it must be under a new law and not the law of Moses as was expected.

## A BETTER HOPE (HEBREWS 7:15-22) A PRIESTHOOD NOT BASED ON LAW OR LINEAGE

Previous priests were established because of a "legal regulation (law) about physical descent," but a new priest had come based "on the power of an indestructible life."

- The priests according to the order of Aaron were limited by their lifespan, but the Messiah, a priest according to the order of Melchizedek, lives forever.

## A BETTER METRIC

Lineage established the priesthood and could not guarantee morality. The Levites, who enforced the law, were not chosen for their heart and morality.

- The priesthood, according to the order of Aaron, was comprised of men who were corruptible and mortal, but Jesus, a priest according to the order of Melchizedek, is incorruptible and eternal.

## THE LAW MADE NOTHING PERFECT

The law is set aside ("annulled") because of its weakness and unprofitability.

- The law accomplished its purpose in setting God's perfect standard but does not give the power to keep that standard. The law is essential in pointing out our problem with sin but does not provide the cure for our sin problem. Only Jesus can remedy our sin problem.

## "A BETTER HOPE IS INTRODUCED"

The law is unable to save us. It is unable to produce a relationship with God. The law does not give us a better hope.

- God's grace through Jesus is able to save us, draw us in to a relationship with God, and give us a hope that the law cannot offer. Yet still, many of us try to earn these things through keeping a list of rules.

## "KNOWLEDGE OF SIN COMES THROUGH THE LAW"

The law served its purpose in revealing sin (Romans 3:20) but could not free those under it from the penalty of sin.

- Without the law given through Moses, we would not know what is expected of us from God. We do not ignore the law, but following a list of rules will not transform us and give us an authentic relationship with God.

## JESUS, CO-SIGNER OF A BETTER COVENANT

The previous priesthood was established by a command of God through the Law of Moses, but Jesus' priesthood was superior in that it came with an oath from God.

- Jesus himself is the "guarantee" of a better covenant; a covenant that is fully dependent on what Jesus has already done and not on what we do.

## A LASTING SACRIFICE (HEBREWS 7:23-28) A REVOLVING DOOR

The position of priest could not be held by the same individual forever and had to be passed down through their descendants because they would eventually die.

- The priesthood was constantly changing throughout generations because of death, but Jesus, our eternal High Priest, provides constant stability for all generations.

## "HE IS ABLE TO SAVE COMPLETELY"

Because of the permanency of Jesus' priesthood, we have confidence in the permanency of the salvation he offers.

- The verb "to save" is communicating an absolute. Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection is complete in that it can save us from everything that we need to be saved from.

## "SALVATION FOR ALL WHO OBEY" (HEBREWS 5:9)

V. 25 tells us exactly who Jesus is able to save: "He is able to save completely those who come to God through Him."

- Some have claimed that it is unloving for God to send people to Hell, but it is the individual's choice to reject the path of salvation (John 14:6) that was so lovingly provided for us (Romans 5:8).

## "HE ALWAYS LIVES TO INTERCEDE"

A common theme throughout Hebrews has been Jesus' superiority, and again in verse 25, the author reminds us of Jesus' intercession on our behalf.

- Jesus' intercession is not placating to a vengeful Father who wants to destroy us, but a continual representation before the Father. Jesus defends us against Satan's accusations and attacks.
- Romans 8:33-34

## "FOR THIS IS THE KIND OF HIGH PRIEST WE NEED..."

Jesus is superior to the priests under the Law of Moses because He alone is "holy, innocent [of deception], undefiled, separated from sinners [in the sense that He doesn't share in their sins], and exalted above the heavens."

- Jesus' perfect character is shown in his exaltation in heaven and that sacrifices were not needed for his own sins like previous priests.

## "HE OFFERED HIMSELF"

Priests under the Law of Moses would offer sacrifices daily for their own sins and the sins of the people, but Jesus is both the priest and sacrifice.

- Animals were bound and dragged to the altar as a sacrifice, but Jesus willingly offered Himself. No one took Jesus' life, but he laid it down voluntarily with the right to take it up again (John 10:18).

## PERFECTED FOREVER

Under the law of Moses, men with an inherent weakness were appointed as high priests.

- Under a new order, established by an oath, God appointed His Son as a perfect sacrifice for our sins. The idea of Jesus having been perfected forever speaks to the sufficiency of the completed work of the cross. Jesus is qualified to be our perfect High Priest.

## THE LAW'S INEFFECTIVENESS

- The law was intended to expose the problem with sin but was never intended to be the solution. It simply points to the need of something greater than the law.
- We must be completely reliant on the sacrifice of Christ to rectify the chasm that our sin has caused between us and the Creator.
- We are not saved by our adherence to the law. We rely on the Spirit and the grace of God to help us obey the commands of God. Following rules is not a relationship with God but seeking Him first should lead us into honoring His commands.
- Are we in love with Jesus, our High Priest, and His instruction?