

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

MARCH 9TH, 2025 // HEBREWS

PERFECTION (HEBREWS 7:11-19) SOME CONTEXT

The writer has introduced to the Hebrew audience something radically different than what they had depended on for centuries. The Levitical priesthood is being called imperfect and temporary.

- These priests were the backbone of Jewish society. Because of who they were and what they did, the people saw them as **THE** connection to God.

IF PERFECTION

This simple statement declares that perfection did not and could not come through the works of the Levitical priests. Some were better than others, but none were perfect.

- **We are reminded that our works will not perfect us either. We can be faithful, but we must have faith in someone other than ourselves.**

THE LAW

Under the priesthood, and based upon it, the nation received the law, and the law demanded perfection. Even with all the ceremonies, rituals, ordinances, and offerings connected to the priesthood, they could not bring the people to perfection.

- **The law (and trying to keep it) does not remove sin; it reveals, and reminds us of sin.**

THE NEED

There was a need for another priest, one like Melchizedek; a priest who was also a king; one who was not of the Levitical line; one who had no end.

- **Are we putting our faith in things (and people) that are temporary and less than perfect? It may be time for a change.**

CHANGE

If the law was based in the priesthood and the priesthood had to be changed, then the law had to change too. If the priesthood was temporary, so too was the law. They would stand or fall together.

- **Is it conceivable that our way is not THE WAY? Our goal could be noble but finding THE WAY is essential.**

THE TRIBE OF JUDAH

Jesus is the one being spoken about; specifically that He was not from the line (tribe) of Judah. Judah was the line of royalty and kings, not priests. Melchizedek was the only "God ordained" priest who was not a Levite.

- **Mel was above the Levites and Jesus is above them all. Jesus was not just "another priest." He is THE WAY.**

AN INDESTRUCTIBLE LIFE

Again, we are reminded that the Levitical priest may have met the requirement of the law, and did what they could to serve God and man, but they were temporary.

- **Jesus, because of His resurrection, is the only "forever" priest. Are we still looking for material answers to spiritual needs—temporary solutions to eternal problems?**

ANNULLED

The writer drops the hammer. If they hadn't understood so far, this makes it clear. The law was weak and unprofitable when it came to salvation. No one was ever saved by keeping the law, even the high priest.

- The old priesthood is finished. Golden altars, sacrifices, temple buildings, veils and curtains are gone. They were only meant to be shadows.

A BETTER HOPE

With the old system annulled, people still looked for hope. The better hope was found in Christ; His life, sacrifice, and resurrection. They would no longer stand on the outside of the veil. They could now "draw near to God."

- **Drawing near to God means we can go to Him because He came to us.**

GUARANTEE (HEBREWS 7:20-22) WITHOUT OR WITH AN OATH

When OT priests were chosen, they were not required to make an oath. They inherited their position. God did make an oath to establish Christ as the High Priest.

- **The old priesthood was rooted in the law and tradition. The priesthood of Christ is rooted in the unshakable promises of God.**

THE GUARANTEE OF A BETTER COVENANT

This is the first reference to the new covenant in the epistle (letter), and Jesus guarantees that it will never fail.

- **We know that we can be saved because of what Jesus did. We know that we can be close to Him because He draws us to Him. This is the Truth and it is better than all the lies, plans, and misplaced hopes we have ever had.**

PERMANENT (HEBREWS 7:23-28) NO MORE REPLACEMENTS

Because the priests were regularly replaced, there were thousands of them through the years; even as many as 83 high priests since the time of Aaron. Each priest had to die. His role was then transferred to the next priest.

- **Jesus is forever. He has no replacement and nothing can replace Jesus in our lives.**

SAVED COMPLETELY

Because Jesus is forever and is never replaced, He alone can carry us all the way into eternity. He holds the priesthood permanently and intercedes for us always.

- We are not just saved from the penalty of sin; it's an ongoing, continuing, daily walk with us as we live for Him and with Him.
- **Do we realize just how much He is with us now?**

THE HIGH PRIEST WE NEED

The list in verse 26 describes Jesus; His character and attributes. It doesn't describe OT high priests. They had to sacrifice for their own sins before they could even try to sacrifice for others.

- **We do not need a high priest like us. Our High Priest is different. We need the relationship that Jesus offers to those who follow Him.**

A SON, PERFECTED FOREVER

In the past, the only ones available for the role of high priest were mortal, failing men. But God provided a perfect Son.

- **All that He forever was, all He has become, all He has done, all He has suffered, and all He is now assures that He is our perfect savior.**

MOTIVE

- Most of the OT priests were faithful.
- **They had responsibilities and many followed their job descriptions well.**
- **If their motive was to be obedient to God, they did well. If they believed they could save souls by their actions, they may have had good motives but misplaced faith. The system was incomplete.**

CHANGE

- Change is not always easy.
- **The Levitical system was turned upside down and practically eliminated.**
- **When we read God's Word and listen to His Spirit, we may find that change is what we need. Will we change ourselves (again) or surrender to the change God is offering?**

HONESTY

- We like honesty.
- **We know that we sin and should be honest about that with ourselves, others, and God.**
- **Honestly, we love that Christ gave Himself for us, and we should know that we are forgiven as we follow Him. Do we know that He still speaks our name to the Father? Honestly, do we WANT to grow? Honestly, what is our next step?**