

Jesus is Better – Hebrews

Hebrews 7:1-28

“The Power of an Indestructible Life” – April 1, 2018



Introduction

Every major world religion offers their take on how we can draw near to God. Even the atheist (who denies the existence of a God who determines right and wrong), answers it by assuming *they* are god, free to determine right and wrong for themselves. What is *your* best hope of being right with God? What’s the plan you’re living by? Hebrews was written to a group of Christians who had come out of Judaism, but were tempted to leave Jesus and go back. Chapter 7 highlights why that would be a disastrous decision. To do so, would be to leave the *better* priesthood of Jesus – the only one that can make us right with God. The instruction about the Melchizedekian priesthood is the ‘solid food’ (Heb. 5:14) for the mature. It takes careful thought and God’s help – but it is well worth it.

Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response. To help, use [Psalm 119:33-40](#) as a prayer for God to open His word up to you.

Sermon Outline

- I. Remember the promise (7:1-10)
- II. Embrace the change (7:11-19)
- III. Trust in Christ (7:20-28)

Read & Discuss

- 1) Read [Hebrews 7:1-10](#)

These verses serve as preparatory, introducing us to Melchizedek so we can see how a priest in the order of Melchizedek is superior to a priest from the order of Levi. Who is Melchizedek? Hebrews takes us back to where he shows up in [Genesis 14](#). He was both priest *and* king. When Abraham came back from battle, he saw his superiority and gave him a tenth of his spoils and received a blessing from Melchizedek. Perhaps even more important, Hebrews notes how “resembling the Son of God he continues a priest forever.” He’s not suggesting Melchizedek *actually* was immortal, but in regards to his records (no birth/death certificate) he *was*. In that sense, he serves as a type, a picture pointing us to Jesus who fulfills that role of eternal priest. Where is the promise of an eternal priest? Tucked away in Psalm 110, God spoke through king David promising to one day raise up a forever king (Ps. 110:1) who would be a forever priest (Ps. 110:4)! In what ways does the author show Melchizedek as a superior priesthood to that of Levi? Why would it be challenging for a faithful Jew to accept a priest from a different tribe?

Additional reading: Numbers 18:7, Psalm 110:1-4

2) Read [Hebrews 7:11-19](#)

In this section, Hebrews shows the insufficiency of the Levitical Priesthood *and* the Law to make anyone perfect. Look again at v19; what does the author mean by 'perfect'? Why is the Levitical priesthood unable to make us perfect? What is the purpose of the Old Testament Law? Why can it not make us perfect either? One difference between Jesus and the Levitical Priesthood is the 'power of an indestructible life.' What is this and what difference does it make in the child of God? (See [Romans 6:5-11](#))

Additional Reading: Romans 3:20; Hebrews 9:9, 10:1-4; Philippians 3:10

3) Read [Hebrews 7:20-28](#)

To trust Jesus we must know Jesus. So, to help us, Hebrews lays out three truths showing the superiority of Jesus and His priesthood:

- i) It came with an oath (7:20-22) – The oath (found in Ps. 110:4) makes Jesus the guarantor of our covenantal relationship with God. What does it mean to be a guarantor? What hope does that offer us?
- ii) It is permanent (7:23-25) – Since Jesus lives forever, He can be our priest forever. Right now, his ministry is to pray for us, that our faith may not fail ([Lk. 22:32](#)).
- iii) It is Jesus [His superior character] (7:26-28) – The old priesthood was imperfect because the priests were imperfect. But not Jesus! He is 'holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens.' What difference does that make as we trust him today? What difference does that make for Christ's sacrifice for our redemption?

Additional Reading: Romans 8:31-39

Prayer of Response

1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?

2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand, believe, desire, or do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at <http://firstbaptistchurchuppermarlboro-preview.cloversites.com/sermons>