

Spiritual Growth Questions for August 23, 2020

(take one question each day and grow deeper in Bible study)

Opener: Describe a time when you had to replace something that was outdated with a greatly improved product. What was easy or hard about it?

1. **Read Hebrews 7:11-22 two times.** What verse stands out to you? What do you think this meant to the original hearers? List the various names in this passage.
2. **Read through the passage again.** What further contrasts are outlined in verses 11-19 between Jesus' priesthood and the priesthood of Levi and his descendant Aaron? What is significant about the tribe of Judah? **See Genesis 49:10, Matthew 1:2-3.**
3. **Read Hebrews 7:15-17.** How does the writer describe the life of Jesus? Why does this description make him a priest in the likeness of Melchizedek? How might his eternal ministry encourage us as Christians?
4. **Read Hebrews 7:18-19.** What is the writer saying that something new has arrived in and through Jesus which is even better than what went before? How was the Old Testament law profitable and strong? How was it unprofitable and weak?
5. **Read Hebrews 7:20-22.** How can you actively remind yourself of God's sovereign grace and redeeming love for you in the sufficient priest Christ? How does our salvation and new hope in Christ enable us to draw near to God?
6. List the benefits of the new covenant in the following verses: **Jeremiah 31:33-34, I Peter 2:24, John 11:25-26, Hebrews 9:14, John 14:6.** Which one of these benefits means the most to you?
7. Why do we need Christ to fulfill the offices of prophet, priest and king? In what ways does Christ fulfill these? How does this threefold office demonstrate Christ's perfection?

Prayer: Dear Sovereign Lord, You are my all in all. Root me in the sufficiency of Jesus. Help me to not look for sufficiency in any other person or thing. Thank you Jesus for guaranteeing your faithfulness no matter what may come my way. I am trusting you for my life. I am trusting you for my most troubling situation. You are sufficient. Amen!

Better with Jesus: A Study of the Book of Hebrews

Jesus: The Priest King

Hebrews 7:11-22. August 23, 2020

Pastor John Lloyd

The book of Hebrews presents the greatness of Christ like no other New Testament writing. The author knew that by remembering and lifting up Jesus, he would help the readers endure their difficult circumstances. As this book is read, it demands a response. Today, we will look at the priesthood of Jesus. The goal of the priesthood was to deal with the obstacle of sin and give access to a holy God. Jesus has achieved this goal on behalf of anyone who puts their trust in Him. It is by this access to God that we can draw the needed spiritual resources to walk with Him during these days!

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? 12 For when there is a change in the priesthood, there is necessarily a change in the law as well. 13 For the one of whom these things are spoken belonged to another tribe, from which no one has ever served at the altar. 14 For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, and in connection with that tribe Moses said nothing about priests. 15 This becomes even more evident when another priest arises in the likeness of Melchizedek, 16 who has become a priest, not on the basis of a legal requirement concerning bodily descent, but by the power of an indestructible life. 17 For it is witnessed of him, "You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek." 18 For on the one hand, a former commandment is set aside because of its weakness and uselessness 19 (for the law made nothing perfect); but on the other hand, a better hope is introduced, through which we draw near to God. 20 And it was not without an oath. For those who formerly became priests were made such without an oath, 21 but this one was made a priest with an oath by the one who said to him, "The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind, 'You are a priest forever.'" 22 This makes Jesus the guarantor of a better covenant.

Key Idea: Jesus the Priest King offers acceptance, unlimited access to God and genuine hope to all who come to Him as Lord!

Key questions: Why the need for a new priesthood? Why is Jesus' priesthood so much better? What can this mean to me?

I. The Aaronic priesthood was _____.

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?

The temporary nature of the Aaronic priesthood pointed to the need for a permanent priesthood. Two problems existed: God's radical holiness and man's radical sinfulness.

Perfection- is not used as comparative or superlative but as a statement of fact. It means completeness in our relationship with God. Kenneth Wuest

Our greatest need is to remove the obstacle of sin, which separates man from God and make a way of access for man to God. Our hope is to be able to put someone in a position in which he/she can stand before God. Kent Hughes

Hebrews 7:12 For when there is a change in the priesthood, there is necessarily a change in the law as well.

Change- to transpose, to put one thing in place of another.

Matthew 5:17 "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them."

Hebrews 7:18 For on the one hand, a former commandment is set aside because of its weakness and uselessness

The entire Old Testament law has been fulfilled in Jesus and has been taken out of the way. Jesus is Better!

II. The Melchizedek/Jesus priesthood is _____.

Hebrews 7:13 For the one of whom these things are spoken belonged to another tribe, from which no one has ever served at the altar. 14 For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, and in connection with that tribe Moses said nothing about priests.

Descended-

Hebrews 7:15 This becomes even more evident when another priest arises in the likeness of Melchizedek, 16 who has become a priest, not on the basis of a legal requirement concerning bodily descent, but by the power of an indestructible life. 17 For it is witnessed of him, "You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek."

Even more evident-

Power of an indestructible life- (Jesus conquered death and ascended)

The Levitical system was replaced by a new priest offering a new a sacrifice under a new covenant.

Hebrews 7:19 (for the law made nothing perfect); but on the other hand, a better hope is introduced, through which we draw near to God. (Hebrews 4:16)

We needed a new priesthood because the old didn't measure up for the purpose it was instituted-namely to offer a sacrifice that would pay for sin and make a way for the sinful to be saved. It is perfectly obvious that this is needed. Wierbe

Matthew 27:50 And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit. 51 And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split.

Jesus accomplished what the law or we could not do. He has made it possible for us to confidently draw near to God!

III. Jesus inaugurates a better _____. He guarantees us access to His indestructible life.

Hebrews 7:20 And it was not without an oath. For those who formerly became priests were made such without an oath, 21 but this one was made a priest with an oath by the one who said to him, "The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind, 'You are a priest forever.'" 22 This makes Jesus the guarantor of a better covenant.

Guarantor- One who guarantees that an agreement will be carried out. The better covenant is the basis for Christian's hope. Carson

Atonement for our sins that separated us from God. I Peter 2:24, Is.59:2

Resurrection life to overcome our greatest enemies. John 11:25-26

The indwelling Holy Spirit who is our guarantee of our inheritance. Eph.1:14

The power to live the Christian life through the Holy Spirit. Romans 8:3-4

The incredible cleansing of our consciences by the blood of Jesus. Heb.9:14

Unlimited access to throne of God through Jesus. John 14:6

Hebrews 7:16 who has become a priest, not on the basis of a legal requirement concerning bodily descent, but by the power of an indestructible life. 22 This makes Jesus the guarantor of a better covenant.

There is nothing more guaranteed than the better covenant Jesus gave us. We have access to the indestructible life of Jesus to face all earthly trials!