

THIS WEEK'S STUDY: 1/30-31/2023 *Hebrews 7*

PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE STUDY!

MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN CLASSROOM HS107, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!

MEETING ID# - 87858644763 Passcode: 087484

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Meeting ID: 878 5864 4763 - Passcode: 087484

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TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada).

THE TUESDAY MORNING STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN THE FAMILY ROOM, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!

MEETING ID# - 85309150746 - Passcode: 715340

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OPENING PRAYER

CHAPTER 7 – Christ Our High Priest after Order of Melchizedek! (11X in Bible –1-Gen, Psa; 9-Heb)

- **Who was Melchizedek? (Heb 7:3-4)** without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but **made like the Son of God**, remains a priest continually. [4] Now consider **how great this man was**, to whom even the patriarch Abraham gave a tenth of the spoils.
- **What does the Old Testament say about Him? Abram; Was Blessed by Melchizedek; Gave a tithe to him.** – (**Gen 14:17-20**) And the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley), after his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the (three) kings who were with him. [18] Then **Melchizedek** king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High. [19] And **he** (Melchizedek) **blessed him** (Abraham) and said: "Blessed be Abram

of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; [20] And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand." And **he** (Abraham) **gave him a tithe of all.**

- **The Holy Spirit wrote through David a thousand years later--Sit at My Right Hand (Psa 110:1,4)** The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool." [4] The LORD has sworn And will not relent, "You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek." Now that is all that we have in the Old Testament concerning this interesting priest, Melchizekek.
- **Much more is said in the Book of Hebrews! Jesus Having Become High Priest Forever According to the Order of Melchizedek - In (Heb 6:20) where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek,** (quoting Psa 110:4).

Chapter 7 – The King of Righteousness – vs. 1-10; Need for a New Priesthood – vs. 11-19; God’s Infallible Purpose in Christ – vs. 20-28.

Review from end of Chapters 5&6: (Heb 5:9-11) And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him, [10] called by God as High Priest "ACCORDING TO THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK," [11] of whom we have much to say, and hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. (6:19-20) This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, [20] where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

The Priestly Order of Melchizedek

Heb 7:1 For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God (El-Elyon), who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him,

- **He was the king of Salem, which means peace, so the king of peace.** He was the priest of the Most High God. His name, Melchizekek, means King of Righteousness. Melech is the Hebrew for king. Melchizekek, the king of righteousness. Jeremiah tells us that in the day of the Lord, that He will be known in that day as Jehovah-Tsidkenu (Zedek), which means Jehovah our Righteousness.

Heb 7:2 to whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all, first being translated "king of righteousness," and then also king of Salem, meaning "king of peace,"

- **Melchizedek blessed Abraham, that we are told.** Basic facts in the Book of Genesis concerning Abraham’s encounter with Melchizedek. He was the king of peace and the priest of the Most High God. His name means King of Righteousness. He blessed Abraham. He gave him bread and wine and Abraham paid tithes to him.
- **First, “king of righteousness, then, “king of peace.”** These two titles so combined proved how he was destined of God to be the figure of His Son. Righteousness as the only foundation of peace! Peace as its sure and blessed result! The kingdom of God is righteousness and peace.

Heb 7:3 without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like (ἀφομοιόω - to assimilate closely; make like). the Son of God, remains a priest continually (forever).

- **The Book of Genesis is a book of genealogies.** It’s all of the “begots” that you have in Genesis. We follow the genealogy from Adam to Abraham; then from Abraham on through to Joseph and to the twelve sons of Jacob, in the Book of Genesis. It was very important in the Book of Genesis to list the genealogies, their births, as well as the death of those important characters in the Book of Genesis.
- **Suddenly, here we have a man that comes on the scene.** His name means the king of righteousness. He is called the king of peace. Abraham received a blessing from him. Abraham pays tithes to him. And yet no genealogy. We are not told who his parents were. We’re not told when he was born. We’re not told when he died.
- **But made like the Son of God, remains a priest continually!** It is the glory of Christ as the Priest-King that Hebrews specially unfolds. The silence as to his genealogy, his birth and death, is then interpreted as proof of how different his priesthood is from that of Aaron, where descent was everything! God had prepared in him a wondrous prophecy of His Son, whose right to the priesthood lay in no earthly birth, but in His being the Son of God from eternity to eternity!

- ***But made like the Son of God, remains a priest continually***, which not only signifies without end, but infinitely more! God is the Eternal One, that which is divine, in which there is no change or decay, but everlasting youth and strength, because God is in it. The everlasting priesthood of Christ means that He will do His work in us, in the power of the eternal life, as that is lived in God and heaven. He lives forever, therefore He can save completely!
- **Who was Melchizedek? Just a man.** Literally, *made like the Son of God!* It is very striking to note that it is not the Son of God who was "assimilated to Melchizedek," but vice versa. In the order of time Christ subsisted before Melchizedek; in the order of nature, Melchizedek was a priest before Christ was. The priesthood of the Son of God, ordained and appointed by the Eternal Three, was the original, and Melchizedek's priesthood furnished the copy, and a copy given in advance is the same thing as the type, that being *the priest hood according to the order of Melchizedek!*
- **Melchizedek was made like the Son of God as a type;** as priest of the most high God; as being a royal priest, possessing personal majesty and authority; as being the king of righteousness; as king of peace; as the one who "blessed Abraham"; as the one who received the grateful gifts of God's people represented by Abraham; as not owing his priesthood to natural genealogy; as abiding a priest beyond the bounds of the Levitical limitations.

Heb 7:4 Now consider (ponder intensely) **how great this man** (royal priest) **was** (must have been), **to whom even the patriarch Abraham gave a tenth of the spoils.**

Heb 7:5 And indeed those who are of the sons of Levi, who receive the priesthood, have a commandment to receive tithes from the people according to the law, that is, from their brethren, though they have come from the loins of Abraham;

- **Consider the greatness of this man.** If we correctly and rightly understand the greatness of Melchizedek, it will help us understand the greatness of Christ, our great High Priest. In all respects the superiority of Melchizedek is proven. He is more than Abraham (vs. 4-10), more than Aaron (vs. 11-14), more than the law (vs. 11-19).
- **Melchizedek is more than Abraham, of this a double proof is given.** First of all, Abraham paid tithes to him. Later on, the sons of Levi, who took the office of the priesthood are commanded to receive the tithes from the people. The sons of Levi came out of the loins of Abraham. But this man who was not a descendant of Abraham, received tithes from Abraham.
- **We then are told that he blessed Abraham.** The writer points out that the lesser is always blessed by the greater! The inference is that this Melchizekek was even greater than their father Abraham, because he blessed Abraham and the lesser is blessed by the greater!
- **Not forever! The priests who come from the tribe of Levi, all died.** They receive the tithes of the people, but yet death is the destiny for each of them. But Melchizekek who received the tithes from Abraham, it is recorded of him, in (Psa 110:4) *The LORD has sworn And will not relent, "You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek."*
- **It is pointed out that Levi, the tribe of Levi, the Levitical priesthood, actually paid tithes to Melchizekek**, in that the Levi genes were in Abraham in the time that he paid the tithes.
- **When the children of Israel returned from the Babylonian captivity**, seeking to re-institute the priesthood, that they required the men who take the office of the priesthood, show their genealogy record, if not, they were rejected because they would only allow those with genuine Levi genes to serve in the priesthood.
- **Potentially, Levi was in the loins of Abraham when Abraham paid tithes**, so in that manner, the Levitical priesthood paid the tithes to the Melchizekek order of priesthood.
- **So the conclusion is drawn that if the Levitical priesthood had been complete**, there would not have been a necessity for another priesthood to arise, such as that of the order of Melchizekek.

Heb 7:6 but he whose genealogy is not derived from them received tithes from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises.

Heb 7:7 Now beyond all contradiction the lesser is blessed by the better.

- **But this blessing was a symbol of greater authority.** For example, Isaac blessed his son Jacob, and Jacob himself blessed his grandsons (Gen 27:30; 48:15). This was not done mutually, for the son could not do like the father; but a higher authority was required for such a blessing as this.

Heb 7:8 *Here mortal men receive tithes, but there he receives them, of whom it is witnessed that he lives.*

- It was not absolutely and personally that Melchizedek still lived, but typically and as a representation of Christ. The point is that the Levitical order of office was but temporary, not so of that forever priest who blessed Abraham.

Heb 7:9 *Even Levi, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, so to speak,*

Heb 7:10 *for he was still in the loins of his father when Melchizedek met him.*

- In these two verses the apostle meets the last objection which a fault-finding Jew, against what the apostle had been saying, that Abraham himself paid tithes, it does not necessarily follow that Melchizedek was superior to all Abraham's descendants.
- The important, blessed truth for us to lay hold of is that in verses 9 and 10 we, have an illustration of the most soul-satisfying truth. Just as Levi was "in Abraham", not only metaphorically in his seed, but representatively, so every one of God's children was "in Christ" when He wrought out that glorious work which honored and pleased God high above everything else. When the death-sentence of the law fell upon Christ, it fell upon the believer, so that he can unhesitatingly say, "I was crucified with Christ" (Gal 2:20). So too when Christ arose in triumph from the tomb, all His people shared His victory (Eph 4:8) *Therefore He says: "WHEN HE ASCENDED ON HIGH, HE LED CAPTIVITY CAPTIVE, AND GAVE GIFTS TO MEN."* When He ascended on high, they ascended too. May all believers pray earnestly that God may be pleased to reveal to them the meaning, blessedness, and fullness of those words "In Christ."

Need for a New Priesthood

Heb 7:11 *Therefore, if perfection were through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need was there that another priest should rise according to the order of Melchizedek, and not be called according to the order of Aaron?*

- *Perfection, which means the bringing of a thing to that completeness of condition* designed for it, here doctrinally refers to the producing of a satisfactory and final relationship between God and men! It speaks of that unchangeable standing in the favor and blessing of God, which Christ has secured for His people! To be a real Christian is to have a personal and vital interest in and be an actual participant of those blessings, which the "perfection" of Christ has brought in. Multitudes, calling themselves Christians, make an outward profession of the same; few have an experimental acquaintance with them.
- *Therefore, if perfection were through the Levitical priesthood....., what further need was there that another priest should rise according to the order of Melchizedek, and not be called according to the order of Aaron?* So it is evident that the priesthood of the Levites was not perfect. For under them they received the law. But the law could never make anyone perfect, so there needed to be another priesthood. So Melchizedek, no ministry at the altar, but a priest forever before the Lord. Not after carnal commandments, it was necessary that the new priest come after the likeness of Melchizedek.

Heb 7:12 *For the priesthood being changed, of necessity there is also a change of the law*

- This means that the old commandment was annulled because it was weak and unprofitable.
- The second consequence, drawn from verses 1-10. First, the Levitical priesthood was inadequate, incapable of producing *perfection*. Second, therefore it was but a temporary institution, and the whole economy connected with it must be set aside. In other words, Judaism as such, was now defunct. Thus *a change of the law* means a change of dispensation, a change of Divine administration.
- The *change of the law or setting aside of the Mosaic system* was that to which the Jews were so strenuously opposed. They stoned Stephen and vented their rage upon Paul, on this very charge. It was this same contention which caused so much trouble in the early churches, The law and the Gospel could not mix. Far from being the losers, God's people are immeasurably the gainers by His bringing in a *better hope*.

Heb 7:13 *For He of whom these things are spoken belongs to another tribe, from which no man has officiated at the altar.*

Heb 7:14 For (continuing his proof) **it is evident that our Lord arose from Judah, of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood.**

- **For** - continuing his proof that the Levitical priesthood was now a thing of the past as far as God's recognition of it was concerned. His words here contain a double assertion: Our Lord, according to His humanity, belonged to the tribe of Judah; of that tribe Moses revealed nothing concerning priesthood. All that was needed to complete his argument was that Christ was a Priest.
- **First, that our Lord arose from Judah.** (*Isa 11:1*) *There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots.* This was included in the faith of believers that the Messiah was to come out of the royal tribe. Also prophecies as (*Mic 5:2*) *"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting."* (*Mat 1:1*) *The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham:* established the same fact.
- **Second, about Judah, Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood.**

Heb 7:15 And it is yet far more evident if, in the likeness of Melchizedek, there arises another (*heteros* – of a different kind) **priest,**

Heb 7:16 who has come, not according to the law of a fleshly commandment, but according to the power of an endless life.

- **He now insists that the priesthood of Christ must be radically different from** and be immeasurably superior to the Levitical order.
- **And it is yet far more evident.** Not that Christ had sprung from the tribe of Judah, nor that He fulfilled the Melchizedek type, but that the Levitical priesthood and economy was now obsolete. That proof may be expressed in that the priesthood of Christ, was not temporary, but permanent, brought in only to supply the deficiency of the Levitical order. Therefore as God would not own two separate and different priesthoods, the former and inferior must give place to the latter.
- **In the likeness of Melchizedek, there arises another priest!** The fact that God had caused our great "High Priest" to spring from the tribe of Judah rather than from that of Levi, made it obvious that the Aaronic order could no longer continue. But the further fact that He had been made *in the likeness of Melchizedek*, rendered this still more obvious! The apostle is but adding argument to argument, in order to show how wrong it was for the Hebrews to still cling to Judaism.
- **According to the power of an endless life!** We now come to what is implied in its being said., *You are a priest forever.* The words *forever* (11X); *eternal* (5X); and *ever* (4X) are each used more in the Book of Hebrews than in any other Bible book! These words contain all that distinguishes the New Testament from the Old! That is healthy Christian life *of the perfect*, from the stunted, sickly growth of *the babes*. To understand what it means, it must be connected with God, the eternal One. Eternity is an attribute of Deity and of the divine life, and has its true existence only in the fellowship of that life!

Heb 7:17 For He (God) **testifies: "YOU** (Jesus Christ) **ARE A PRIEST FOREVER** **ACCORDING TO THE ORDER OF MELCHIZ EDEK."**

- **You are a priest forever;** it means that the priesthood will never cease. With and in God there is no change, or aging, or fading. (*Mal 3:6*) *"For I am the LORD, I do not change; Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.* He lives ever in the freshness of the eternal strength that knows no past. The eternal life always remains the same because it is always in God! When God speaks to His Son, *You are a priest forever*, it means that the priesthood will never cease! But it points to what is the root and cause of this. It is rooted in the life and strength of God! Christ is become a Priest *according to the power of an endless life.* Unceasingly, without any broken continuity, He lives and works in the power of the divine life! The contrast will make the meaning clearer. He is made priest, not after the law of a fleshly commandment, as Aaron, but *after the power of an endless life.*
- **Not according to the law of a fleshly commandment, but according to the power of an endless life.** The contrasts of *law* and *life* will make the meaning clear. He is made Priest, *not after the law of a fleshly commandment*, a law that made nothing perfect, and was annulled as Aaron was, but of the forever, order of Melchizedek, who remains a priest continually? Christ, after the power of an *endless*

life. Every act of His holy and blessed priesthood, every application of the fruits of His eternal redemption, is brought about in *the power of an endless life*.

- **These two principles mark two systems of religion, two ways of worshipping God**, two experiences of the inner life. A legal relationship versus a loving relationship! The one is that law, with atonement and acceptance with God as typified in Aaron. The other is trusting in Christ as his Redeemer, seeking by the motive of gratitude, to compel himself to love and obedience.
- **The New Testament offers a better life!** Through many Christians know little of it, here it is, opened up by the Holy Spirit, as the mystery of Melchizedek. *Jesus Christ is become a Priest after the power of an endless life!* These precious words are the key to the higher life. Jesus lives in heaven as high priest in *the power of an endless life*. As He lives, so He works in that power. This is the meaning of His being a priest forever! His work does not consist, like that of Aaron, in a series of successive acts, that never cease, and ever need to be renewed. No, each work he does for us, He is able to do in the power of an endless life! There is not a more significant or important expression in the whole Epistle! It is life we need, and a strong life and a life that never gives way! Here we have it, the life that is more abundant! Wow! Hallelujah!
- **He remains a Priest continually.** The continuity of His priesthood is never interrupted or broken. Everything Christ does as my High Priest in heaven, He does for me. He does in *the power of an endless life*, as *a priest who remains continually!* What He works can remain continually too! Oh for faith to consider and know and trust Christ Jesus, my High Priest forever, my High Priest after the power of the endless life!
- **We are so accustomed to think of a priest as a man who does certain things on behalf** of other men, separate from himself. Christ is no outward Savior, nor can He give us any salvation as an outward thing. All He does for us and to us **is inwardly!** He puts into our heart, makes it our life! We need to know that all He does as High Priest for us in heaven, He also does within us as a life He gives. He is a Priest, and can save in no other way, then after *the power of an endless life*. It is only as a life within us that His priesthood can attain its objective!
- **Jesus was crucified in weakness, but raised in the power of God.** He won the power through the weakness, the sacrifices of all unto the death. That all who would know Him in *the power of the endless life* enter into the fellowship of His death, walking in deep humility, meekness and dependence upon God in the path in which He trod to reach the throne!

Heb 7:18 *For on the one hand there is an annulling of the former commandment because of its weakness and unprofitableness,*

Heb 7:19 *for the law made nothing perfect; on the other hand, there is the bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God.*

- **The Levitical priesthood was weak and unprofitable.** It made nothing perfect; the latter brought in a **better hope**, by which we **draw near to God!** Under the law the person was still distant from God; could not bring you nearer; could not make you righteous, nor give you the power to keep the law; nor put away your sins. So, the law was weak and annulled because it was unprofitable. It was just there to show you that you were guilty before God!
- **The Levitical priesthood brought nothing to perfection.** It could not justify men's persons from guilt! It could not sanctify them from inward pollution! It could not cleanse the consciences of the worshippers from dead works; all it could do was to lead them to Christ, *(Gal 3:24) Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.*
- **But the priesthood of Christ carries in it, and brings along with it, a better hope!** It shows us the true foundation of all the hope we have towards God for pardon and salvation! It more clearly discovers the great objects of our hope. It tends to work in us a stronger and more lively hope of acceptance with God.
- **But the Lord has made a better covenant with us through Jesus Christ!** It is not after the old commandment but after the power of the eternal life in Jesus! For the law made nothing perfect, that the bringing in of a **better hope** did!
- **Here are several of the twelve "better" verses in Hebrews; (Heb 1:4) having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.** That's good for Jehovah Witnesses who would say that Jesus was an angel, Michael, the archangel. But He was made so much better than the angels.
- **(Heb 7:7,19,22) Now beyond all contradiction the lesser is blessed by the better.** [19] *for the law*

made nothing perfect; on the other hand, there is the bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God. [22] by so much more Jesus has become a surety of a better covenant.

- **(Heb 10:34) for you had compassion on me in my chains, and joyfully accepted the plundering of your goods, knowing that you have a better and an enduring possession for yourselves in heaven.**
- **(Heb 12:24) to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.** So all the way through, through Jesus Christ, we have a better promise, a better hope, a better covenant!
- **By this hope we are encouraged to draw near to God,** to enter into a covenant-union with Him, to live a life of conversation and communion with Him. We may now *draw near* with a true heart, and with the full assurance of faith, having our minds sprinkled from an evil conscience.

God's Infallible Purpose in Christ – Greatness of the New Priest

Heb 7:20 And inasmuch as He was not made priest without an oath

Heb 7:21 (for they have become priests without an oath, but He with an oath by Him who said to Him: "THE LORD HAS SWORN AND WILL NOT RELENT, 'YOU ARE A PRIEST

FOREVER ACCORDING TO THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK' "),

Heb 7:22 by so much more Jesus has become a surety (guarantor) of a better covenant.

- **In Chapter 6, the deep meaning of God's oath was set before us.** On His side, it is a proof of His unchangeable purpose concerning something which He is bound to faithfully perform. On our side, it points to something in which there is special need of faith, and calls us to the exercise of total confidence as to the certainty of God's fulfillment of the promise. There is a fourth one we are now to notice.
- **THE LORD HAS SWORN AND WILL NOT RELENT.** This oath of God is a new proof of the glory of Christ's priesthood and its superiority to the old. God confirmed His blessing to Abraham with an oath. That blessing is eternal and unchangeable! Aaron was made a priest without an oath. His priesthood was only temporary, a shadow of what was to come.
- **A better covenant.** The Old covenant which God made with Israel had proved a failure. They had promised what they could not perform, because the vow and the purpose accomplished nothing without the strength. God promised to establish a New Covenant, providing for what had been wanting, for the power to obey, and so to keep the covenant. It would be a covenant of life, giving that new life into the heart, out of which obedience would naturally spring!
- **The surety of a better covenant.** It is this, Jesus has come to do, to give the covenant its security, ensuring that its engagements shall indeed be fulfilled! He is a *surety* of the Covenant on both sides. Surety to us that God will keep His promise, giving us His life and law and spirit in our heart. Surety to God for us, ensuring our obedience and our keeping the covenant.
- **Become a Priest with an oath.** It is in the priesthood of Jesus that the covenant and the suretyship have their power. It is the Priest forever, who deals with sin, taking it away *in the power of an endless life.* It is the Priest, the Son of God, perfected forevermore, who has opened a new and living way, a new state of life, and works all in the power of an endless life, in whom we have a divine surety, that every promise and every obligation of the better covenant will be fulfilled by God and by us!
- **God swears by Himself.** He points to Himself and His honor as God, to Himself as the eternal and Almighty God, and charges us to believe that this *Priest forever* He has given us, does indeed save with an everlasting salvation, with the salvation in which the power of eternity works!
- **When God confirmed by oath to Abraham His promise of blessing,** Abraham, though he knew little of what that blessing would yet be, believed God. He was strong in faith, giving glory to God.
- **We, who know the Son in whom God has now revealed Himself,** having efficacy and eternal life-power. Of whose work for us God has now sworn His oath to us, should never doubt or hesitate? God forbid! Oh, that our hearts were open to understand! *The one thing God asks of us, is the faith that sees what He has promised to do, and that sinks down before Him to let Him work what He has undertaken.* We must be sure that our faith stands not in the wisdom of men, or in our own thoughts of the way, but only and entirely in the power of God!
- **We must hold fast these two things- Faith to see God's promises; then allowing Him to fulfill them in us!** Faith must see what God promises and then we must allow God to fulfill the promises in us! We need to pray for the enlightening and leading of the Holy Spirit, to accomplish all what our High Priest can work in us, waiting and yielding upon God. **Lord, give us faith to see Your promises and to allow You to fulfill them in us!**

Heb 7:23 *Also there were many priests, because they were prevented by death from continuing.*

- ***There were many priests because of death.*** A man would serve as the office of the High Priest until death and then a new one would be appointed to take his place. The whole system bore the mark of change, weakness and death. The whole inner life of the worshipper was what the system was, subject to change and decay. It is claimed that there were eighty-four high priests who served from Aaron until the destruction of the temple by the Romans in A.D. 70.
- ***Men Die Once – were prevented by death from continuing*** - First, this passage offers a direct answer to those tempted to flirt with any form of reincarnation. Second, it states the general rule for all humankind, with very rare and only partial exceptions. Lazarus and the multitudes who were resuscitated at Christ's resurrection had to die again. Those, like Lazarus, who were raised from the dead by a miraculous act of our Lord were not resurrected to a glorified body and unending life. They only experienced resuscitation. Another exception will be those who don't die even once, but who will be "*caught up ... to meet the Lord in the air*" (1Th 4:17). Enoch and Elijah are also part of this last group. The general rule for all human beings includes another shared event—judgment. The judgment noted here refers to the judgment of all people, believers (2Co 5:10) and unbelievers alike (Rev 20:11-15).

Heb 7:24 *But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood.*

- ***But Jesus, because He lives forever***, has an unchanging priesthood. He Himself is the Eternal One who *remains a priest forever*. The life, in the power of which He ministers, is a life that abides unchangeable too. His priesthood is an everlasting one, ever living, ever active. It was this perpetuity of office that was principally typed out in Melchizedek.
- ***The abiding of Christ as Priest manifests the continuance of His care for His people.*** The same love which caused Him, as Priest, to lay down His life for them, remains unchanged within Him. Therefore each one may, with the same confidence, go unto Him with all their concerns, as poor and afflicted people went to Him while He was here upon earth! Blessed be His name! (**Heb 13:8**) *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.* Hallelujah, what a Savior! What a Surety! What a Priest!

Heb 7:25 *Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost (forever, beyond eternity!) those who come to God through Him, since He always (at all times, ever more) lives to make intercession for them.*

- ***Therefore***, that is *because He continues, forever*, because there is never a single moment in which His priestly action, His watchful care of us, His loving sympathy and help, His working in us in the power of our endless life, is not in full operation.
- ***Therefore He can save completely, that is, there never need be a moment*** in which the experience of His saving power is intermitted, in which the salvation He has wrought does not save.
- ***To confirm this, it is added, seeing He ever lives to make intercession for them.*** Without ceasing, prayers are being sent forth from Him to the Father of the prayer of His love for everyone and every need of those that belong to Him. Also, without ceasing there streams forth to Him from the Father the answer of His good pleasure, and the power of the Holy Spirit, bearing that answer! Additionally, there comes forth from Him to each member of His body, the grace for timely help! Because ***He ever lives to make intercession***, without one moments intermission, therefore ***He is able to save completely.***
- ***Therefore He is also able to save*** (completely) - ***to the uttermost.*** The connection of the promise with the character and work of Christ shows us what it means. The great complaint of Christians is that their experience is so changeful. Could what all that Christ does for them, be maintained continuously? Could it, that their joy would be full, their salvation complete?
- ***We have here the very promise such Christians needs***, because ***He remains forever***, because He ever lives to make intercession, because He is ***a priest forever***, who exercises every function of His office in *an endless life power* that *never* for a moment intermits its action, ***He is able to save completely.***
- ***In Himself***, He has been ***perfected for evermore!*** He has ***perfected forever*** them that are sanctified.

The salvation He has wrought out is a life in the opened sanctuary of God's presence in the power of God's Spirit. All that is needed is that the believer be kept abiding forever, ever living in this salvation life, which Jesus has opened up. And this, the believer can do, once he has learned to trust to Jesus for it, because he understands that *Jesus ever lives to make intercession*. Because His work of intercession never pauses or ceases, our faith and our experience of the power of that intercession need never fail! *He is able to save completely—to the uttermost!*

- **Those who come to God, that draw near to God through Him.** In verse nineteen we saw that to enable us to *draw near to God* is the better hope the gospel brings--the one aim of Christ's priesthood. Here we have it again. One reason why so many have no conception of Christ as able to save completely is simply that they have never fully understood what salvation is.
- **To come to God through Christ, to draw near to God** means nothing less than an entering into the Holiest of All, dwelling there, spending our life there, and abiding there continually. It is only those who believe it is possible, who forsake all, giving themselves up to it. But for all *who come to God* through Him the promise is sure! *He remains forever! He is able to save to the uttermost!*
- **Oh, let us fix our eyes and hearts on Jesus in heaven, our Melchizedek, our Priest-King on the throne** of power and on His unceasing intercession. Let our one desire be to believe that the God who is who has sworn by Himself, by His own life as God, means to do for us something above all we can ask or think!

Heb 7:26 For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens;

(Heb 2:10) For it was fitting for Him (at Calvary), for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

- **For such a high priest was fitting for us** -- was suited to us, as being what we needed. **He is holy! He is harmless! He is undefiled! He is separate from sinners and He has become higher than the heavens!** This could not be said concerning the high priest of the Levitical order. Many of them were not holy, abusing their office. They took advantage of the people. Many of them were very defiled, sinners, terrible sinners!
- **But not Jesus! Our High Priest, who represents us, is forever completely perfect!** Now exalted in the glory of God, to communicate to us the life and the blessings of the heavenly world, exalted above every order of created things. It makes known how immeasurably superior that our High Priest is over Aaron.
- **Let us take to heart and heed its searching practical application.** The perfections of our High Priest are those, to which we are conformed. If we give up ourselves to the conduct of this High Priest, if by Him alone, we want to approach God, being conformed to Him in holiness of nature and life, according as He allows and enables us.

Heb 7:27 who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.

- **The high priest had to first of all, offer sacrifices for himself before** he could offer sacrifices for the people, because he also sinned. Not so, with our great High Priest, Jesus Christ, because He was separate from sinners! He was holy! He was harmless!
- **Once for all! Jesus did not have to offer daily or annually sacrifices.** It was not necessary that He offer a sacrifice for Himself, His sacrifice of Himself *was once for all! (Heb 9:28) so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation. (Heb 10:10) By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.*
- **He did once for all when He offered up Himself.** We saw that the glory of Christ's eternal priesthood, in contrast with that of the many who had by reason of death, could only serve for a limited time. Here we have the same truth from another side. In contrast with the daily ever repeated sacrifices, He accomplished all when **He offered himself once.** That which has to be repeated is imperfect. That which need be done only once is perfect and lasts forever!
- **He offered up himself.** We have here the first mention of the sacrifice of Christ. In chapter two, we had mention of His death. Here we see that it was death upon the altar. He is both Priest and Victim. His divine Priesthood, as it is exercised in heaven, is the application of the blood and the virtue of that sacrifice which he brought upon earth. The *once for all* of the sacrifice is the counterpart of the

henceforth forever of the throne of the heavens. Christ remains perpetually in His priestly office because of the validity of His perfect Sacrifice. Hallelujah.

Heb 7:28 For the law appoints as high priests men who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the law, appoints the Son who has been perfected forever.

- **Under the Levitical Law, the priests were always men with weaknesses.** But Jesus *the Son*, in complete contrast, who *has been perfected forever*. Because He is a perfect High Priest, He was able to *offer up Himself* as a perfect sacrifice for our sin. Jesus is perfectly qualified to be our perfect High Priest – *who has been perfected forever!*
- **How deeply thankful should every Christian be for such a Priest.** The eternal Word became flesh. The Lord of glory stooped to become man. As the God-man, He mediates between the completely holy God and sinful creatures. The Savior is none other than Immanuel! In His humanity, He suffered, bled and died. But in His Divine-human person, He Himself, that humanity become alive! We do not understand the mystery, but by grace, we believe what the Scriptures records concerning Him. The "life" that was given to Christ as the Mediator (unlike that of His humanity) was an indestructible, a forever, one! Therefore He is "*a Priest forever*", and therefore "*He ever lives to make intercession!*" Hallelujah! Oh, how He loves us!
- **For God so loved the world that He gave us His one and only Son to save us.** *Whoever believes in Him will live forever!*

CLOSING SONG: -

GOD SO LOVED – *We the Kingdom – (4:24)*

Ooh-ooh, ooh-ooh Ooh-ooh, ooh-ooh Ooh-ooh, ooh-ooh
Come all you weary, come all you thirsty Come to the well that never runs dry
Drink of the Water, come and thirst no more
Come all you sinners, come find His mercy Come to the table, He will satisfy
Taste of His goodness, find what you're looking for
For God so loved he world that He gave us His one and only Son to save us
Whoever believes in Him will live forever
Ooh-ooh, ooh-ooh Ooh-ooh, ooh-ooh Ooh-ooh, ooh-ooh
Bring all your failures, bring your addictions Come lay them down at the foot of the cross
Jesus is waiting there with open arms See His open arms
For God so loved the world that He gave us His one and only Son to save us
Whoever believes in Him will live forever The power of hell forever defeated
Now it is well, I'm walking in freedom For God so loved, God so loved the world
Praise God, praise God From whom all blessings flow Praise Him, praise Him
For the wonders of His love Praise God, praise God (Oh-oh-oh) From whom all blessings flow
Praise Him (Praise Him), praise Him (Praise Him) For the wonders of His love His amazing love
For God so loved the world that He gave us His one and only Son to save (His one and only Son)
For God so loved the world that He gave us His one and only Son to save us
Whoever believes in Him will live forever (He did it all for you, He did it all for you)
Oh, the power of hell forever defeated Now it is well, I'm walking in freedom
For God so loved, God so loved the world Bring all your failures, bring your addictions (Ooh-ooh, ooh-ooh)
Come lay them down at the foot of the cross (Ooh-ooh, ooh-ooh)
Jesus is waiting, God so loved the world

CLOSING PRAYER:

Read and meditate over Hebrews Chapter 8!