

THE BOOK OF
HEBREWS

THE SUPREMACY OF CHRIST

Part 3: A Superior Mediator



¹¹ If perfection could have been attained through the Levitical priesthood—and indeed the law given to the people established that priesthood—why was there still need for another priest to come, one in the order of Melchizedek, not in the order of Aaron? ¹² For when the priesthood is changed, the law must be changed also.

Hebrews 7:11-28

¹³ He of whom these things are said belonged to a different tribe, and no one from that tribe has ever served at the altar. ¹⁴ For it is clear that our Lord descended from Judah, and in regard to that tribe Moses said nothing about priests. ¹⁵ And what we have said is even more clear if another priest like Melchizedek appears,

Hebrews 7:11-28

¹⁶ one who has become a priest not on the basis of a regulation as to his ancestry but on the basis of the power of an indestructible life. ¹⁷ For it is declared: “You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.” ¹⁸ The former regulation is set aside because it was weak and useless ¹⁹ (for the law made nothing perfect), and a better hope is introduced, by which we draw near to God.

Hebrews 7:11-28

²⁰ And it was not without an oath! Others became priests without any oath, ²¹ but he became a priest with an oath when God said to him: “The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind: ‘You are a priest forever.’” ²² Because of this oath, Jesus has become the guarantor of a better covenant. ²³ Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office;

Hebrews 7:11-28

²⁴ but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. ²⁵ Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them. ²⁶ Such a high priest truly meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens.

Hebrews 7:11-28

²⁷ Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself. ²⁸ For the law appoints as high priests men in all their weakness; but the oath, which came after the law, appointed the Son, who has been made perfect forever.

Hebrews 7:11-28

From a biblical point of view, pastors are
nothing like priests



The priesthood is so Old Testament and so
New Testament!



Our salvation hinges on Jesus'
priestly mediation



1) A Temporary Priesthood

(vs. 11-14)



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Hebrews 7:11-14

**A) Aaron's priesthood is
sinful**



“Have Aaron your brother brought to you from among the Israelites, along with his sons Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar, so they may serve me as priests. ² Make sacred garments for your brother Aaron to give him dignity and honour. ³ Tell all the skilled workers to whom I have given wisdom in such matters that they are to make garments for Aaron, for his consecration, so he may serve me as priest.

Exodus 28:1-5

⁴ These are the garments they are to make: a breastpiece, an ephod, a robe, a woven tunic, a turban and a sash. They are to make these sacred garments for your brother Aaron and his sons, so they may serve me as priests. ⁵ Have them use gold, and blue, purple and scarlet yarn, and fine linen.

Exodus 28:1-5

Sin runs through Aaron's entire bloodline



**B) Aaron's priesthood is
subject to death**



²² The whole Israelite community set out from Kadesh and came to Mount Hor. ²³ At Mount Hor, near the border of Edom, the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, ²⁴ “Aaron will be gathered to his people. He will not enter the land I give the Israelites, because both of you rebelled against my command at the waters of Meribah.

Numbers 20:22-26

²⁵ Get Aaron and his son Eleazar and take them up Mount Hor. ²⁶ Remove Aaron's garments and put them on his son Eleazar, for Aaron will be gathered to his people; he will die there."

Numbers 20:22-26

Five major high priests that you should know:

i. Aaron during the ministry of Moses

ii. Eli during the ministry of Samuel

iii. Zadok during ministry of David and Solomon

iv. Joshua during ministry of Ezra, Haggai and Zechariah

v. Annas/Caiaphas during the ministry of Jesus



Aaron is like Jesus because He takes on the
role of a human mediator, but Jesus is
superior to Aaron



¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.

Hebrews 4:15

2) A Permanent Priesthood

(vs. 15-25)



¹⁵ And what we have said is even more clear if another priest like Melchizedek appears, ¹⁶ one who has become a priest not on the basis of a regulation as to his ancestry but on the basis of the power of an indestructible life. ¹⁷ For it is declared: “You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.”

Hebrews 7:11-28

¹⁸ The former regulation is set aside because it was weak and useless ¹⁹ (for the law made nothing perfect), and a better hope is introduced, by which we draw near to God.

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Hebrews 7:11-28

²² Because of this oath, Jesus has become the guarantor of a better covenant. ²³ Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office; ²⁴ but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. ²⁵ Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

Hebrews 7:11-28

¹⁷ After Abram returned from defeating Kedorlaomer and the kings allied with him, the king of Sodom came out to meet him in the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley).

¹⁸ Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine.

Genesis 14:17-20

He was priest of God Most High,¹⁹ and he blessed Abram, saying, “Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth.

²⁰ And praise be to God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand.” Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

Genesis 14:17-20

First, the name Melchizedek means “king of righteousness”; then also, “king of Salem” means “king of peace.”

Hebrews 7:2

**A) Melchizedek's
priesthood predates
Aaron's priesthood**



The King of Salem is superior to the
King of Sodom



²¹ The king of Sodom said to Abram, “Give me the people and keep the goods for yourself.”

²² But Abram said to the king of Sodom, “With raised hand I have sworn an oath to the LORD, God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth,
²³ that I will accept nothing belonging to you, not even a thread or the strap of a sandal, so that you will never be able to say, ‘I made Abram rich.’”

Genesis 14:21-23

**B) Jesus' priesthood is in
the order of Melchizedek**



⁴The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind: “You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.”

Psalm 110:4

“God is not human, that he should lie, not a human being, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?”

Numbers 23:19

Melchizedek is like Jesus because He takes on the role of a mysterious mediator, but Jesus is superior to Melchizedek



“Without father or mother, without genealogy,
without beginning of days or end of life,
resembling the Son of God, he remains a
priest forever.”

Hebrews 7:3

i. Christ saves forever (vs. 25a)

“Therefore he is able to save completely”

ii. We draw near to God through Christ (vs. 25b)

“Those who come to God through him”

iii. Christ intercedes for us (vs. 25c)

“He always lives to intercede for them”



If you miss *Melchizedek*,
you misunderstand Jesus



The Old Testament finds fulfillment in the
New Testament; we need both Testaments in
order to understand Jesus!

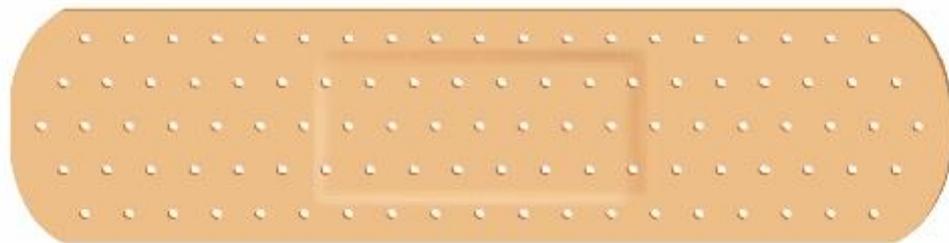


“Jesus is the perfect mediator between God and human beings because He is God and human being!”

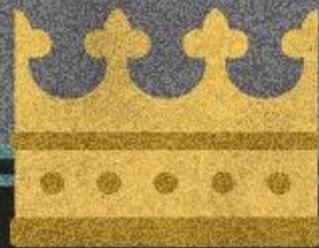
- D. A. Carson -



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