

Hebrews

Chapter 7:4-28

Jesus' priesthood is of a higher order than
Aaron's

How Melchizedek was greater than Abraham

- Abraham paid tithes to Melchizedek, much like the Aaronic priest were paid tithes by the Hebrews
- Levitical priests and layman Hebrews were both descended from Abraham, but priests were given an inherent superiority.
- Melchizedek's superiority rested not on the law of Moses but on some other law given by God.

How Melchizedek was greater than Abraham

- Abraham had the messianic promises, but still recognized Melchizedek as superior
- The act of blessing implies superiority (i.e. God blessed Abram)
- Melchizedek's priesthood was never recorded ended where Levitical priest's deaths were accounted in detail.
- Melchizedek's death not recorded, scripture is silent

How Melchizedek was greater than Abraham

- The Levitical priesthood came after that of Melchizedek, but was inferior since:
 - Even Levi who received tithes, paid tithes to Melchizedek through Abraham
 - The Aaronic priests, descended from Abraham paid tithes to Melchizedek through Abraham as well.
 - Jews claim the blessings given their ancestor so it is reasonable that they should also claim the debt paid by their ancestor.

How Melchizedek was greater than the Levitical priesthood

- The Levitical priesthood was not “perfect” because it could not serve the function man needed -- to make people acceptable to God -- the blood of bulls and goats could not take away sin.
- A study of the old testament shows God chose Moses and Aaron before the law was given.
- The prediction God made that another priesthood after the order of Melchizedek would come implies God required a better priesthood to make men acceptable (Psalm 110:4)

Jesus' priesthood means the Law of Moses has been replaced by something better

- “For when the priesthood is *metatithemi*”
 - *Metatithemi* – changed – better yet abrogated in this instance – to change or replace with something better
- “of necessity there take place a change of law also”
 - The writing here in Hebrews harmonizes with the rest of the New Testament writings on law – that the law of Moses was never meant to be permanent, but temporary until the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus made it obsolete.

Jesus' priesthood means the Law of Moses has been replaced by something better

- Jesus was not of the priestly tribe and could never be a priest under The Law.
 - Judah had NOTHING to do with the priesthood
- Melchizedek's priesthood is, likewise, nowhere in The Law.
- Jesus' priesthood is not based on the physical (ancestry, marriage, health, diet, ceremony) but on His indestructibility – He cannot be destroyed from without or within. (Psalm 110:4 – forever)

Jesus' priesthood means the Law of Moses has been replaced by something better

- "For, on the one hand, there is *athetesis*"
 - A stronger word than *metathesis*, *athetesis* means nullified, expunged or declared void
- The **weaker** Law of Moses rested on the Levitical priesthood and they ceased to be valid when the **stronger** priesthood of Jesus became reality. The Law served God's purpose of it – to prepare men for the more perfect plan – Jesus priesthood

Jesus' priesthood means the Law of Moses has been replaced by something better

- The problems with the Levitical priesthood:
 - It made nothing perfect
 - It could not remove sin
 - It was based in the physical
 - It was a type, a shadow of the true substance
 - It was limited in time
- It was designed to prepare men for the true priesthood which allows men to draw near to God due to *ATONEMENT FOR SIN* by *Jesus in Heaven*

The priesthood of Jesus was so important it was announced with an oath

- The writer continues to show that Psalm 110:4 defined the character of Jesus' priesthood
 - God used no oath to inaugurate Levitical priests
 - God did use an oath to announce Jesus' priesthood
 - That oath was on Himself, an unbreakable oath.
 - That oath states that Jesus' priesthood is FOREVER – there is no plan to replace Him, unlike the Levitical priesthood.
- Jesus' priesthood is better – He stands as the guarantee of this new and **better** covenant.

Jesus' priesthood is permanent

- Jesus will never retire from His priesthood – it is forever
 - The Levitical priests died – not so with Jesus
- Jesus as a permanent priest can guarantee the the salvation of those who come to God through Him
- He will ALWAYS be there to make intercession for those who seek Him out

Jesus is PERFECTLY qualified for this priesthood

- Jesus IS:

- Holy – loyal to covenant obligations, acts out of regard for God's requirements
- Innocent – no malice, or evil of any sort
- undefiled – morally unstained
- Separated from sinners – lived among sinners but never sinned
- Exalted above the heavens – Seated at the right hand of God

Jesus is PERFECTLY qualified for this priesthood

- Jesus offered up HIMSELF – ONE time
 - Levitical priests had to make offerings for themselves before they could make offerings for the people because of their own sin
 - Jesus had no such need – He is sinless and His initial offering was final and perfect
 - Weakness of men recognized by God in the beginning and taken into account by The Law
 - The oath (Psa 110:4) came after the law (400 yrs) and it appoints **Jesus** the perfect and eternal.

Next week

- 8:1-10:31
- The superiority of Jesus' priestly ministry exhorts us to commit to a new and better covenant.