

# 12 – A SUPERIOR PRIESTHOOD (HEBREWS 7:11-28)

### I. The New Priesthood (Hebrews 7:11-19)

#### A. The Need (Hebrews 7:11-12)

##### 1. The Question (Hebrews 7:11)

- If perfection were found in the Mosaic system, why do we need another priest?
- The other priest is of the order of Melchizedek and not of Aaron.

##### 2. A Change of the System (Hebrews 7:12)

- It was necessary to change the priesthood which in turn changed the law.
- The entire system was changed with Jesus Christ as the new high priest.

#### B. The Tribe of Origin (Hebrews 7:13-14)

- This new High Priest comes from another tribe that has never served at the altar.
- Our Lord Jesus Christ arose from the tribe of Judah.
- Moses never spoke of Judah in relationship to the priesthood.

#### C. A New Priest Arises (Hebrews 7:15-17)

- This is evident if a priest like Melchizedek appears.
- This priest has not come because of the law, but rather because of the power of eternal life.
- The Lord declares Jesus to be a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

#### D. A Better Hope (Hebrews 7:18-19)

##### 1. The Weakness of the Former (Hebrews 7:18-19a)

- The former commandment was set aside because it was weak and useless.
- The law did not make anything perfect.

##### 2. Hope that Brings Near (Hebrews 7:19b)

- It is through the better hope, which is Jesus, that we can draw near to God.

### II. Jesus as Priest (Hebrews 7:20-28)

# Understanding Our Faith: The Letter to the Hebrews

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## A. By an Oath (Hebrews 7:20-22)

- The Levitical priests became priests without an oath.
- The Lord has sworn an oath concerning Jesus becoming a priest forever.
- Because of this oath, Jesus has become a guarantee of a better covenant or salvation.

## B. The Old Priesthood (Hebrews 7:23)

- The old priesthood was limited by death so that there were many priests.

## C. The Permanence of the New Priesthood (Hebrews 7:24)

- Jesus' priesthood lasts forever because he lives forever.

## D. The Functions of the Priest (Hebrews 7:25-27)

- As High Priest, he is able to completely save those who come to God through him.
- Jesus lives to make intercession for believers.
- He is a fitting High Priest for our needs, since he was holy and exalted.
- Unlike the Levitical priests, he does not need to offer daily sacrifices for sin.
- He died once for all our sins as he offered himself as a sacrifice.

## E. The Appointment of the Priest (Hebrews 7:28)

- The Mosaic Law appointed weak men as high priests.
- The oath of God appointed a perfected High Priest forever.