

JESUS, OUR GREAT HIGH PRIEST

I. THE SACRIFICIAL SYSTEM OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

A. This was an elaborate set of sacrifices whereby peoples' sins were temporarily dealt with and covered. The Levite priests offered the sacrifices. Exodus 28-29

B. These imperfect Levitical priests were sacrificing animals for the sins of the Jews, but then comes Jesus Christ, the perfect priest, who offers Himself. The book of Hebrews explains this transition from the Levitical priesthood to Jesus Christ. Hebrews 7-8

II. MELCHIZEDEK, A PICTURE OF CHRIST - Hebrews 7:1-10

A. He was a priest of the Most High God, one who was a universal priest.

B. He was a priest and king in Salem, that is, in Jerusalem. He was a picture of Christ to come who would forever reign in Jerusalem, as priest and king. Psalm 110:4

C. He was a king of righteousness and of peace. Psalm 85:10.
He was made like the Son of God.

III. THE LEVITICAL PRIESTHOOD - Hebrews 7:12-25

A. The priesthood was good while it lasted, but it was temporary, inferior and ineffective. The old way of doing things was inadequate - Jesus was all they needed. Hebrews 9:8-9

B. The new priesthood, from the tribe of Judah, replaced the old priesthood, which was from the tribe of Levi. The ceremonial law was no longer necessary.

C. The requirement for the old priests was that they were Levites. 1 Samuel 2:12-17

D. The old system of sacrifices couldn't make anyone perfect, but the new hope, that is Jesus, can save us, and enable us to draw near to God.

E. The old priests were mortal, but Jesus, the new priest, would be immortal.

F. God made a promise, making it clear that what He said about Jesus being a priest was true, and that He would never change His mind. This is God's guarantee to us.

G. Jesus is an eternal priest and therefore an eternal Savior.
Jesus, as God and man, lives forever and serves us forever.

IV. THE WORK OF JESUS CHRIST, THE PRIEST – Hebrews 7:25

A. Jesus is able to save us. John 14:6, Acts 4:12, John 19:31

B. Jesus is able to save us completely and eternally.

C. Jesus saves us so we can draw near to God. This is the essence of salvation, of knowing God, of having this close relationship with Him. This relationship with God is called eternal life 1 John 1:5-6, John 17:3, Ephesians 3:11-12, Philippians 3:7-10

D. Jesus always lives to make intercession for us. He keeps us saved forever, interceding on our behalf before the Father. This should give you confidence and assurance about your salvation. 1 John 2:1-2, Romans 8:31-34, Jude 24-25

V. JESUS CHRIST, THE PRIEST WHO IS PERFECTLY HOLY – Hebrews 7:26

A. Jesus Christ is holy, and is always holy. Because Jesus is holy and is God, then He can make us holy.

B. Jesus Christ is innocent. No one can or will be able to rightfully charge or accuse Him of any sin. Therefore, He could offer Himself as an unblemished sacrifice.

C. Jesus Christ is undefiled by the world. He has always remained unaffected, untainted and unstained by sin.

D. Jesus Christ has always remained separated and undefiled by sinners. Therefore, He is exalted above the heavens, and is to be worshiped by all. Jesus didn't need to offer up a sacrifice for Himself, and therefore could offer Himself up as a sacrifice for sinners. Isaiah 53:6; Hebrews 9:11-12, 9:24-26, 10:11-14

THE MAIN POINT IN WHAT HAS BEEN SAID IS THIS:
WE HAVE SUCH A HIGH PRIEST, WHO HAS TAKEN HIS SEAT
AT THE RIGHT HAND OF THE THRONE OF THE MAJESTY IN THE HEAVENS.
Hebrews 8:1

SOME QUESTIONS TO ANSWER:

1. What is the main thing that you believe God wants you to learn from this lesson?
2. Why is the book of Hebrews written?
3. Who was Melchizedek, and what was his purpose?
4. What are some of the differences between the Levitical priests and Jesus?
5. Why does Jesus have to be an eternal priest? How does His priesthood relate to you today?
6. What does it mean to draw near to God?
7. Why did Jesus have to be a holy, pure, undefiled and innocent priest?