

Commentary on Hebrews CH 7

Review

Hebrews Chapter 5

1. Introduction to Jesus' priesthood
2. Qualifications of high priest met in Christ
3. Superior priesthood to Aaron
4. Third admonishment begins

Hebrews Chapter 6

1. Exhortation to be taken forward to maturity
 - a. Six fundamentals of Christianity
 - b. The death of Calvinism
 - c. The Five Confirmations of authentic Christianity
2. Certainty of God's promise

Hebrews Chapter 7

1. The Priestly Order of Melchizedek
2. Change in Priesthood – Change in Covenant
 - a. Levitical Order – Temporary
 - b. Melchizedek Order – Permanent
3. Jesus' Priesthood is Superior
 - a. As to Regulation
 - b. As to Oath
 - c. As to Permanency
 - d. As to Effectiveness

Continuation

Hebrews Chapter 7 – Christ's Priestly Order of Melchizedek

- I. The Priestly Order of Melchizedek (1-10)
 - A. Melchizedek. King of Salem and Priest of God Most High (1-2)
 - B. Resembling the Son of God, without Genealogy (3)
 - C. Tithes are Paid to the Greater (4-10)
 1. Melchizedek – Precursor of Jesus (4)
 2. Descendants of Levi collect a tenth from the people (5)
 3. Melchizedek not a descendant of Levi yet collected a tenth (6)
 4. The Lesser is blessed by the Greater (7)
 5. Tenth is collected by Him who is living (8)
 - a. Concerning Tithes
 - b. Levi Paid the Tithe through Abraham (9-10)
- II. Change in Priesthood – Change in Covenant

A. Temporary Priesthood – Levitical Order (11-12)

1. Perfection could not be attained. A need for another order to come (11)
 - a. The gospel was announced in advance to Abraham – Gal 3:8
 - b. Relying on faith is what brings blessing – Gal 3:9
 - c. The law is not based on faith – Gal 3:12
 - d. The law is a curse – Gal 3:13
 - e. We do not receive God’s divine inheritance through the law – Rom 4:13
 - f. If you depend on the law the promise is worthless – Rom 4:14
 - g. The law brings wrath – Rom 4:15
 - h. By faith God’s grace is guaranteed to all of Abraham’s offspring – Rom 4:16
2. Why was the Law given?
 - a. The law does not set aside the promise given to Abraham. It came 430 years later – Gal 3:17
 - b. The law came because of transgression – Gal 3:19
 - c. Until the Seed to whom the promise referred had come – Jesus – Gal 3:19
 - d. The law is not able to impart life nor righteousness – Gal 3:21
 - e. Only because people believed, God’s promises were unlocked – Gal 3:22-23
 - f. The law could not justify; it was only a guardian – Gal 3:24
 - g. Only when we come into Christ by baptism do we become children of God through faith, clothing ourselves with Christ – Gal 3:26-27
 - h. In Christ we are heirs according to the promise given to Abraham, we have bypassed the guardian, the Law – Gal 3:29
3. Law needed to be changed because the priesthood changed (12)

B. Permanent Priesthood – Melchizedek Order (13-17)

1. He... belonged to a different tribe (13)
2. The Lord descended from Judah – not the tribe of Levi (14)
3. The Lord is a priest like Melchizedek (15)
4. A priest not on basis of regulation by ancestry but on the basis of power and indestructibility! (16)
5. A priest by the oath of God Himself (17)

C. SUPERIORITY OF CHRIST’S PRIESTHOOD (18-28)

1. Superior as to Regulation

- a. Former regulation is weak and useless (18)
- b. The law made nothing perfect – a better hope was needed to draw near to God (19)
 - i. Drawing near to God

2. Superior as to Its Oath (20-22)

- a. Levites became priests without an oath (20)
- b. God swore and will not repent that Jesus is a priest forever! (21)
- c. Jesus is the Guarantor of a better covenant (22)

d. Review of Covenants

i. Under the Old Testament, the Law of Moses revealed the following:

- a. Sin separates us from God (Isa. 59:1-2)
- b. The Law of Moses makes us conscious of sin, and therefore, no one can be justified by it (Rom. 3:20)
- c. Death is the required penalty for those who break the Law (Rom. 6:23a)
- d. For this reason, in order to appease God's wrath, those under the Old Testament had to offer up animal sacrifices.

ii. Under the New Covenant:

- a. The redemptive mission of Christ is the only remedy for man's sin problem. (Matthew 26:28; 1Cor. 15:3)
- b. The wonderful plan of salvation is the result of God's grace and not by human merit (Ephesians 2:8-9)
- c. This grace is received by and through faith in Christ (Rom. 5:2; Eph. 2:8).

e. JESUS – THE GUARANTOR (UNDERWRITER)

Jesus, our Husband/High Priest

- i. Has made a promise – guarantees a better covenant (marriage) in which we partake of the divine nature (2 Peter 1:4)!
- ii. Has given an inheritance – a Permanent Priesthood – His promise never ends so it only gets better and better!
- iii. He saves completely – He spares no expense on His bride – He fully died so He is able to save completely.
- iv. He lives to intercede for His bride – always serving her, not Himself – He already has everything He needs.
- v. He truly meets our needs because He never runs out of anything! Never has to maintain Himself – He maintains us constantly!
- vi. He has offered Himself – the greatest and best sacrifice a husband can make for His bride!
- vii. He is Perfect! He is our Truth, Our Way, Our Life! We have no other want!

3. **Superior as to Its Permanency (23-24)**

- a. Death prevented priests from continuing in office. (23)
- b. Jesus lives forever! His priesthood is permanent. (24)
- c. *Forever* and *Eternal* are favorite words in this letter
 - i. You are a priest forever... (5:6)
 - ii. He has become a high priest forever... (6:20)

- iii. He remains a priest forever... (7:3)
- iv. You are a priest forever... (7:17)
- v. You are a priest forever... (7:21)
- vi. Jesus lives forever. (7:24)
- vii. He has been made perfect forever... (7:28)
- viii. He has made them perfect forever... (10:14)
- ix. Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever. (13:8)
- d. Eternal
 - i. Eternal salvation (5:9)
 - ii. Eternal judgment (6:2)
 - iii. Eternal redemption (9:12)
 - iv. Eternal Spirit (9:14)
 - v. Eternal inheritance (9:15)
 - vi. Eternal covenant (13:20)
- 4. Superior as to Its Effectiveness (25-28)**
 - a. He is able to save completely! (25)
 - i. The Ghost Effect
 - ii. Jesus destroyed the work of the devil – 1 John 3:8
 - iii. You are free indeed in Christ! – John 8:36
 - b. He lives to intercede for His people! (25)
 - c. He truly meets our needs! (26)
 - i. He is set apart from sinners
 - i. He is holy
 - ii. He is blameless
 - iii. He is pure
 - ii. He is exalted above the heavens
 - d. He sacrificed for our sins when He offered Himself! (27)
 - e. The oath appointed a perfect Son! (28)

Extra Notes:

Comparison of Priestly Orders (from verse 8)

Levitical Priesthood	Melchizedek's Priesthood
Temporary, dying (8)	Forever, permanent, living (8, 24, 25)
Lesser (7)	Greater (7)
Genealogical heritage (16)	Heritage of power and indestructibility (16)
Weaker, eventually useless (18)	Better covenant, better promises (19, 22)
No oath behind it (20)	God's oath behind it (21)
Imperfect (11)	Perfect (11)

Sources

The Word of God, Sunset in-depth commentary on Hebrews, James Burton Coffman Commentary on Hebrews, Wayne Jackson's "Notes from the Margin of my Bible", World Video Bible School Commentary, Halley's Bible Handbook and Pedro Gelabert's Commentary on Hebrews.