



Jesus the Eternal Perfecting Priest

Lesson Twenty-Three • Hebrews 7:20-25

What Did We Learn from Hebrews 7:11-19?

Question: Why was another priesthood necessary? (7:11-19)

"Now if perfection was through the Levitical priesthood (for on the basis of it the people received the Law), what further need was there for another priest to arise according to the order of Melchizedek, and not be designated according to the order of Aaron?" (7:11)

Answer: The Levitical priesthood could not **"perfect"** anyone or anything else.

Question: What does it mean to be "perfected"? (7:11, 19, 28)

Answer: To **purify** someone or something so completely they are qualified to **enter** the Holy of holies in heaven.

In Hebrews it refers to: **Personal** Purity – Moral Transformation to be in God's holy presence...

Priestly Purity – Ceremonial Qualification to worship in God's holy presence...

Purposeful Purity – Personal interaction with God in His holy presence...

that is able to draw near to God in the Holy of holies with bold confidence! (7:11, 19; 10:1)

Summary: God **perfects** Jesus the God-Man as a Son (2:10-11; 5:8-9; 7:28; 12:2) who is **perfected** to be our **eternal High Priest** according to the order of Melchizedek (2:10; cf. 2:17-18; 5:9-10; 7:11, 19, 28; 9:9, 11; 10:1, 14) and, thereby, **perfect God's people** to enter (7:19; cf. 6:19-20; 9:9; 10:1; 12:22-24) where **Jesus** has **already entered** as our **Trailblazer** (2:10; 12:2) and **Forerunner** (6:19-20) to be the **Source** of eternal salvation (5:9), the **Guarantee** of a better covenant (7:22), and the **Author** and **Perfecter** of our faith (12:2)!

Question: Why couldn't the Levitical priesthood perfect anyone or anything?

Answer: It was an external command in the Law of Moses (which can't perfect anything because it is powerless and useless to do so) and this command was tied to the physical tribe of Levi and line of Aaron who all die deservedly as sinners.

*So another priest according to the order of Melchizedek needs to **ARISE/APPEAR** who is Himself perfected and able to perfect anyone and anything! (vv. 11, 15-17; Psalm 110:4)*

Blessings of the New Perfecting Priest Like Melchizedek

Requires a **new covenant law** (7:12-14), brings a **new resurrection life** (7:15-17) and offers a **new better hope** (7:18-19)!

But is this new priesthood is going to be permanent? What if God changes His mind and replaces it like the old one?

Why Is the Perfecting Priesthood of Jesus Eternal and Never-Ending?

1. Because It Establishes the Better HOPE. (7:18-19)

What Is the "Better Hope"?

*Entering into God's holy presence **THROUGH** Jesus as our High Priest who is already there for us!*

The **"better hope"** is **Jesus** who has been **resurrected, ascended, exalted**, and **seated** at the right hand of God and **declared** to be a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek!

This Jesus is our better hope of **actually being perfected** to draw near to God by entering in to enjoy His presence in the heavenly Holy of holies!

2. Because It Is Based on a Better OATH. (7:20-21)

What's the big deal about God swearing an oath to do something?

When God swears an oath, He swears by Himself since there is no one greater to swear by, so that by two unchangeable things what He says will happen and never change: His character and His word!

3:11; 4:3; 6:13-18; 7:20-21

1. God has sworn that **NO ONE** will enter His rest who fails to have persevering faith in following Him obediently. (3:11; 4:3)
2. God has sworn that those who **TAKE REFUGE** in God's promises for salvation like Abraham have a secure and sure hope of entering God's presence for final salvation. (6:13-18)
3. God has sworn to His Son, Jesus, that He is a priest **FOREVER**. Period! (7:20-21)

WHERE do we find this oath? *Psalm 110:4*

TO WHOM does God swear it? *Hebrews 5:5-6; Psalm 110:1, 4*

WHERE does God swear it? *In heaven.*

WHEN does God swear it? *After Jesus' incarnation, crucifixion, resurrection, ascension, exaltation, and session as the King who sits at God's right hand as the Son of God and Son of Man!*

3. Because It Guarantees a Better **COVENANT**. (7:22-24)

- Jesus as our eternal high priest is the **LIVING PROOF** that our sin debt has been paid in full. (v. 22)

A "**guarantee**" is ***the payment*** that is promised if someone defaults on what they owe.

A "**guarantor**" is ***the person*** who proves trustworthy to make good on another's person's debt if they default.

- Jesus is our eternal guarantee that the better covenant will **NEVER** be broken or set aside! (vv. 23-24)

In Hebrews the new covenant is closely associated with Christ. He is its "mediator" (8:6; 9:15; 12:24), as well as the "guarantor, surety" of this new covenant prophesied in Jeremiah 31, which is described in Hebrews as "**second**" (8:7), "**new**" (8:8; 9:15; 12:24), "**better**" (7:22; 8:6), and "**eternal**" (13:20). The pastor-teacher may have deliberately held back this theme until now because he is going to make much of it in the chapters to come and final section of Hebrews. – Peter O'Brien (adapted)

1. Old covenant had **MANY** priests due the never-ending cycle of **DEATH** as sinners. (v. 23)
2. New covenant is better because it has **ONE** priest who lived without sin and died for sinners but was raised to **LIVE** forever as our High Priest! (v. 24)

4. Because It Fulfills a Better **SALVATION**. (7:25)

"He is also able to save forever" (NAS) or "to the uttermost" (ESV, NKJV) or "completely" (CSB) or "at all times"

Jesus Is Our Eternal High Priest Who Was Morally Necessary: *The Son Who Became a Son Made Perfect Forever!*

Hebrews 7:26-28

What Better Priest and Priesthood Could You Ever Need or Ever Want?

1. Don't **SETTLE** for anyone or anything lesser than what is better!
2. Hold **FAST** to this confession for it is morally necessary ("*fitting*") for salvation.
3. Draw **NEAR** to God through Jesus for salvation and to preserve with an obedient faith until our final salvation.

*"Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God **THROUGH HIM**, since He always lives to make intercession for them." (v. 25)*