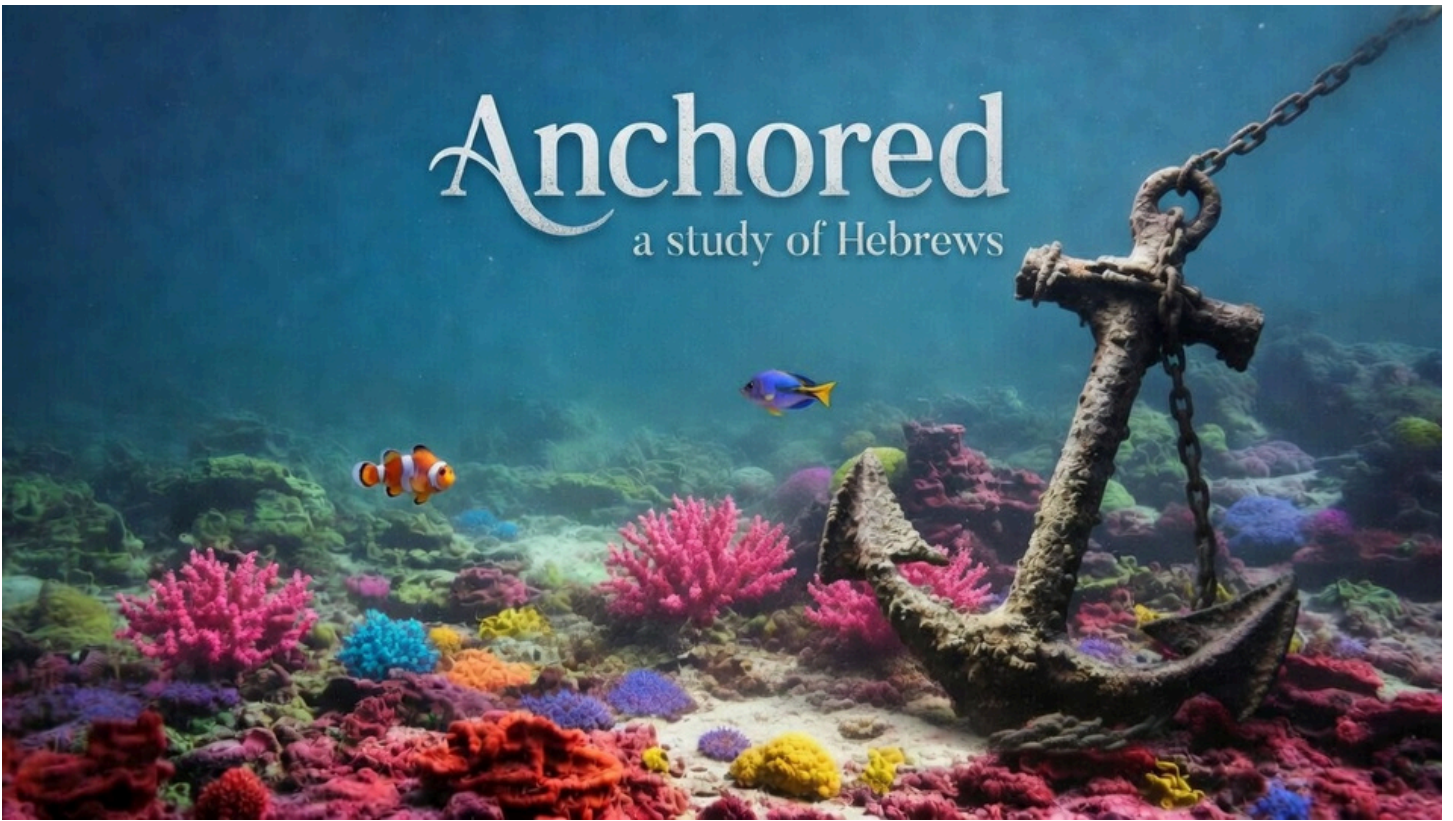


Anchored

a study of Hebrews



May 24, 2026

Anchored in Perfection

Hebrews 7:15–28 (ESV)

15 This becomes even more evident when another priest arises in the likeness of Melchizedek, **16** who has become a priest, not on the basis of a legal requirement concerning bodily descent, but by the power of an indestructible life. **17** For it is witnessed of him, “You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek.” **18** For on the one hand, a former commandment is set aside because of its weakness and uselessness **19** (for the law made nothing perfect); but on the other hand, a better hope is introduced, through which we draw near to God. **20** And it was not without an oath. For those who formerly became priests were made such without an oath, **21** but this one was made a priest with an oath by the one who said to him: “The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind, ‘You are a priest forever.’” **22** This makes Jesus the guarantor of a better covenant. **23** The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office, **24** but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. **25** Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them. **26** For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. **27** He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself. **28** For the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.

Who in God's blue heaven is this guy Melchizedek?

- Melchizedek pops up in the Old Testament in only 2 places. The main one is in the middle of a story about Abram (before he's even Abraham) in Genesis 14.
- Four kings win the battle over some territory that includes Sodom and Gomorrah, which happens to be where Abram's knuckle-headed nephew Lot is living. Lot is taken hostage by the four kings.
- When Abram heard this, he gathered up 318 of his own trained men and set off to get Lot back.
- They attack in the night, and they completely route the four kings, they rescue Lot,
- So Abram and his 318 trained men are arriving back home. And you can imagine the victory parade.
- And in the middle of the victory celebration, Melchizedek appears. Genesis says he is the King of Salem. It also says he was priest of God Most High (first time we find El Elyon as a name for God). It says he brings out bread and wine for Abram. It says that he blesses Abram. It says that he blesses El Elyon. And it says that Abram gives Melchizedek a tenth of all the plunder he had recovered.
- And that's it. There are more questions than answers.
- The Hebrews writer will tell about Melchizedek with no speculative material in his description. It's all from Genesis 14. Look at 7:1:
- He says Melchizedek is king of Salem.
- He notes the significance of his name. Melchizedek means king of righteousness. And his title, King of Salem can be understood as king of peace.
- Then, THW will point to Melchizedek's lack of genealogy. We have no idea who Melchizedek's people were.
- THW tells us that Melchizedek is not only priest of the Most High God, but a unique one in that he is a priest forever.
- He says Melchizedek blessed Abraham. And Abraham gave him a tenth of everything.
- Finally, even though Abraham was great, Melchizedek seems to be greater. The greater blesses the lesser. And so it is here. Melchizedek is giving the blessing to Abraham, so he's greater than Abraham.
- How did Abram respond? By further echoing his greatness and giving Melchizedek a tenth of all his plunder as a tribute.
- Melchizedek appears two times in the OT. The other is just a reference. It's in Psalm 110.
- Psalm 110 celebrates the power and magnificence of a conquering king.
- Here he is again. Just like it was with Abraham, Melchizedek shows up in the middle of the victory celebration of a conquering king.
- The important thing to know about Psalm 110 is that the writers of the NT...Peter, Paul, the writer of Hebrews...and even Jesus himself...all see...that Psalm 110 is ultimately about Jesus.
- What have we said is the main message of Hebrews? Keep going!
- And how does Hebrews make the case for perseverance? By saying **Jesus is better**.
- Now, he will show, with Melchizedek's help, that Jesus is better than any Levitical priest.

Let me show you two ways that Jesus is the better priest that we all need.

Jesus saves us completely.

- Everything about the high priest pointed to the fact that he served to represent God to the people, and the people to God. He was the boundary between human and heaven.
- The most important day for the high priest was the Day of Atonement. On this one day, and only on this one day, the high priest would dress in all his sacred vestments and go behind the curtain into the Most Holy place.
- Leviticus 16 tells us he would go in exactly three times.
- The first: to put a cloud of incense over Ark of the covenant to protect him from the overwhelming presence of God.
- The second: With the blood of a bull to atone for his own sins and the sins of his family.
- Then third: He took the blood of a goat into God's presence and sprinkled it on the mercy seat of the Ark in order to atone for all the sins of the people.
- All of this was important, awesome, sacred, spiritually meaningful, and necessary...but the uncomfortable truth is that all of it was also inadequate. It was all insufficient.
- This is the drum that THW will beat for a while. But Ch 7 is all about the insufficiency of the high priest himself.
- The high priest was limited in many ways. THW points out two main limitations:
- First: Levitical high priests were limited by their own death.
- Look at 7:23 (ESV) **23** *The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office,*
- Second: Levitical high priests were limited by their own sin.
- 7:27 says that all these other priests had to offer sacrifices on a daily basis...first for their own sin, and then for the sin of the people...
- Because of these limitations, this sacrificial system carried out by the priesthood...was unable to bring about perfection in God's people.
- Hebrews points us to Psalm 110 that promises us a new kind of priest. Jesus is this new priest.
- THW is the only one in the entire NT to make this connection BTW...that Jesus is way less like the Levitical priests and way more like Melchizedek.
- Jesus is the priest of promise. The priest who is totally sufficient.
- His priesthood is based on his indestructible life (7:16) Like Mel! He has a permanent priesthood. Like Mel!
- Jesus has no sin like normal priests. He is without sin. His sacrifice can be lasting and total...a once and for all sacrifice of sin (7:27).
- With this kind of perfect sacrifice, Jesus becomes the one high priest who is totally sufficient and perfect forever (Heb 7:28).
- Jesus becomes the one and only high priest who can save us...to the uttermost...it means completely.
- Jesus, a priest after the order of Melchizedek, is the only priest who can truly meet our need (7:26).

Jesus saves us with an infallible case.

- 7:27 says "He does not need to offer sacrifices daily..."

- Don't rush by that. What does that mean? He doesn't need to offer sacrifices? Now why?
- Look at the end of the verse for the answer: *Because Jesus offered himself as the sacrifice.* And this sacrifice was so great, that it was only necessary to do once.
- Because Jesus went to a cross as a perfect sacrifice, human blood sacrificed...it was able to cover human sin...and all of it...and for all time to come.
- And all of that, gives Jesus the perfect, infallible case on our behalf before God.
- The way you win in court is with a perfect case, and Jesus has it.
- What is it? Vs 27: *"He sacrificed for their sins once for all..."*
- The perfect case in the court of heaven is Jesus' sacrifice of himself. It's his own blood that has paid for sin. The blood of Jesus satisfies God's justice.
- Jesus doesn't just ask for mercy from God. He demands justice from God. He demands our acquittal. And he will win his case.
- None of this depends on what we've done.
- This case depends on what Jesus has done.
- And because of what he has done for us by his blood, he is able to save to the uttermost.
- The result? I don't need to worry. I don't need to pretend. I don't need to try harder so God will give me another chance. No. I just need Jesus.
- Jesus goes before the father with your name on his shoulders and on his heart, inscribed in beauty and glory. And now when God sees you, he doesn't see sin, he see's Jesus' perfection.
- That perfect case, presented by the perfect lawyer, the perfect high priest, Jesus.
- Jesus will defend you. You just need to let him, and say, *Jesus, save me to the uttermost.*

God, we want to be acceptable to you. But we can't be. Not on our own. But Jesus has made a way. Jesus is the only bridge we have so we can come to you fully and completely. Let us welcome him in, and make him our great high priest. In the name of the Son who has been made perfect forever...Jesus Christ, we pray, Amen.