

Eternal Change

Text: Hebrews 7:11-19

Date: 8-11-24

Jesus Christ being after the order of Melchisedec is more than good news and another Biblical truth. Jesus Christ has opened a permanent way for us to have access to the Almighty God of this universe.

I. The old system fell short (Heb. 7:11a-12)

The law was holy and good (Rom. 7:12), but it could not declare anyone righteous (Rom. 3:20). The OT law could only demonstrate that man was and is a sinner.

What was the goal of the OT law? To convey God's rules for His people because of His love for them and desire for them to live the way He wanted them to live, to reveal where they missed the mark, to provide a way for atonement, and to restore their relationship to God. That was the goal. But, here the writer says it never was completed. It was never brought to fruition. A personal relationship with God was not attainable under the Levitical priesthood.

Melchisedec's line replaced the Aaronic line. Christ is not another person in the Aaronic line; He replaced the Aaronic line. He is both different and better.

II. Jesus Christ: A new and better priest (Heb. 7:11b-16)

The only way man can come to God is through Jesus Christ! He opened the way to God and now all who believe have permanent access to Him!

Quote: "Permanent forgiveness, and therefore permanent access to God, can come only through Jesus Christ—in the New Covenant and through the new priesthood".¹

The law was usurped by Jesus Christ. Aaron's line was replaced by Melchisedec's line. We have a new Priesthood!

****Jesus Christ: A new and better priestly heritage**

The fact that Jesus was from Judah yet called a priest shows a great change. Jesus Christ's priestly line change is further proof that the Mosaic covenant has been done away with. The picture is very clear: the temporary, imperfect line was replaced with the line of Melchisedec who is real, eternal, and perfect.

Jesus' own character allowed God to declare His priesthood and Jesus Christ is a priest on account of who He is. He is different because of His virgin birth, His different heritage, and His resurrection.

III. The new system fully saves (Heb. 7:15-19).

****Jesus Christ: A new and better life**

The difference is clear: One priesthood came to an end. Its priests died. Everything about it was physical. But Jesus Christ's priesthood is based on His resurrection. He is the High Priest who will last and stand forever. He became a permanent High Priest at His ascension (Heb. 1:3). He is not able to be dissolved. He is forever, not subject to destruction or death. His life will never decay. He is imperishable.

Jesus Christ's priesthood is based on His own inherent power. He can do something that no other priest could do for us. Jesus can bring us to fellowship with God.

¹ MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (1983). *Hebrews* (p. 186). Moody Press.

****Jesus Christ: A permanent change**

The writer makes two grand conclusions:

- **The old law has been disannulled (7:18-19a).** The word *disannulled* (Greek: *athetesis*) means *to set aside, the act of officially or legally cancelling something*. Christ has replaced Aaron. The new replaced the old. The old system has been completely set aside and done away with.
- **The new way has been opened for the believer (7:19b-c).** A better hope has come.

Through Jesus Christ we now have the opportunity to draw near to God.