

Series "Jesus Is Better"
"Superior Priesthood"
Hebrews 7:11-19
Study-15

Hebrews 7:18-19

The readers had already been urged to go on unto "perfection", Hebrews 6:1.

Hebrews 7:11

Hebrews 7-10 – A Superior Priesthood: Jesus Christ (4 Chapters)

Hebrews 7 – Christ's Better Priesthood

The Thought Of Our Passage: "The Law And Priesthood Could Not Bring One To Perfection, So God Has Given A Greater Hope."

1. Verses 11-14 – The Insufficient Priesthood

2. Verses 15-19 – The Sufficient Priesthood

1. Verses 11-14 – The Insufficient Priesthood:

Hebrews 7:11

"Now" – The thought from Hebrews 7:1-10 continues, Melchizedek was a picture of Jesus Christ.

He has shown the superiority of Melchizedek to the Levitical order. Now he shows why there is a need for this new priestly order!

Verses 11-12 – The Need Of A New Order: The author gives 4 Arguments For The Need To Change The Priesthood And Law:

1. God Never Intended Perfection From The Levitical Priesthood:

"Perfect" or "Perfection" is a key word in this epistle, Hebrews 2:10; 5:9; 6:1; 7:11, 19; 9:9; 10:1, 14; Perfect – "Perfect or complete is when something fulfills the purpose for which it was designed."

Context – Priesthood/Perfection: "to put someone in the position in which he can come, stand before God"; Access to God. Hebrews 7:19 – "(for the Law made nothing perfect)"

Hebrews 10: 1-4

Hebrews 9: 13-14

Romans 8: 3

Romans 8: 7-8

2. The Levitical Priesthood And The Mosaic Law Are Connected:

Exodus 19:8

The Law was given to support the priesthood! (Awaken people to their true condition).

The Priesthood was the way to make sinful persons acceptable to God!

3. Prediction Of Another Priest According To The Order Of Melchizedek:

Psalm 110:4

“another” – means “one of a different kind”.

4. Replacing The Levitical Priesthood Required A Change Of The Law: Hebrews 7:12

The Law was given to support the priesthood! (Awaken people to their true condition) Changing one, meant change the other!

Matthew 5:17

Matthew 27:50-53

Colossians 2:14-17

Apostle John put the change into stark contrast: John 1:17

“Free from the Law” does not mean “free to sin.” Rather, it means that we are free to do the will of God.

Acts 21:28

Verses 13-14 – New Priestly Order: Hebrews 7:13

Jesus is a physical member of the tribe of Judah.

When Saul, who was of the tribe of Benjamin, 1 Samuel 13:8-13.

When Uzziah, the king of Judah, 2 Chronicles 26:17-18.

Hebrews 7:14

"For it is evident" – "well known that Jesus was from Judah"; Genealogies, Matthew 1:1-17; Luke 3:23-38.

"that our Lord" – The title "our Lord"; Hebrews 2:3, "the Lord"; Hebrews 13:20, "even Jesus our Lord,"

"was descended" – "has arisen" from Judah, Jeremiah 23:5

Genesis 49:10

God gave this promise to David who was of Judah: 2 Samuel 7:16

Luke 1:30-33

Romans 1:3

Jesus Christ was born in the city of David, Bethlehem of Judah: Micah 5:2; Luke 2:4, 11.

The entire system of Old Testament Law has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ and has been taken out of the way, Colossians 2:14.

2. Verses 15-19 – The Sufficient Priesthood:

Hebrews 7:15

"another" – "another of a different kind"; Hebrews 7:1-10, Order of Melchizedek.

Psalms 110:4

Hebrews 7:16

"Power of an indestructible life" – "our priest died a death that could not hold Him – a death that was followed by resurrection."

Hebrews 7:17-18

“setting aside of a former commandment” – It means “to abolish or to render inoperative.”

There were 2 major problems with the Law:

- 1. Weakness Of The Commandment** – Could not make persons perfect; the atonement for sin was not complete but temporary. Could not eliminate the cause of man’s sinful position before God. It revealed to man, the holiness of God and the depravity of the human race. It could not produce justification because the source of a right standing before God lay outside of itself, Romans 8:3.
- 2. Uselessness Of The Commandment** – It could not remove the effects of sin. It had no inherent power to produce change within a sinner. It could tell the sinner what to do, but it could not enable him to do it. The law thus could neither begin nor end the process of spiritual perfection

Verse 19 – Better Hope Through Jesus: Hebrews 7:19

“(for the Law made nothing perfect)” – The failure of the law involves also the failure of the Levitical order. It could not produce justification or sanctification; it “made nothing perfect”.

Romans 3:21

The Law was designed to bring man to a sense of moral guilt and to direct him to put his faith in God for salvation, Galatians 3:22-24.

“of a better hope,” – Hebrews 7:22

Colossians 1:27 – “Christ in you, the hope of glory.”

Application:

1. The Law Was Given To Support The Priesthood: (Awaken People To Their True Condition).
2. The Priesthood Was The Way To Make Sinful Persons Acceptable To God.
3. God Never Intended Perfection To Come Through The Law/Priesthood.
4. Jesus Christ Conquered Both The Cause And Effects Of Human Sin At The Cross; And Through His Resurrection, He Is Free To Empower Every Believing Sinner For A Holy Life.