

Theme: Christ is the fulfillment of the priesthood, He is superior to the old priests, and He has made all of us priests in the new covenant.

I. Intro – Jesus Our Great Priest

- A. Jesus is our great deliverer
- B. Jesus is our Passover Lamb
- C. Jesus is also our priest
- D. What was the OT priesthood?
- E. How does Jesus fulfill it and give to us?

II. The OT Priesthood

- A. Priests were mediators between people and God
 - 1. They represented the people to God (Heb 5:1)
 - 2. They made sin offerings (5:1; Lev 16:11, 15)
- B. Priests spoke God's blessing on the people
 - 1. Not only remove sin – restore blessing
 - 2. Aaronic blessing – Numbers 6:22-27
- C. Aaronic priesthood and priesthood of nation
 - 1. Aaron and sons were the priests (Num 18:5-7)
 - 2. All Israel priests to nations (Exodus 19:5-6)

- 3. They mediated God's Law, worship to other nations

III. The Need for a New Priesthood

- A. The OT priesthood never fulfilled its call
 - 1. Failure of Aaronic priesthood (Ex 32; Ez 22:26)
 - 2. Failure of Israel's priesthood (Ezek 36:20-22; Rom 2:24)
- B. The call for a new Priest
 - 1. Psalm 110:4 – New Priest – Messiah!
 - 2. New order – Melchizedek not Aaron

IV. The Superiority of Christ's Priesthood

- A. The order of Melchizedek superior to Aaronic
 - 1. Melchizedek was a priest-king (7:1)
 - 2. Melchizedek blessed Abraham (7:6-7)
 - 3. He received tithes from Abraham/Levi (7:4-10)
- B. Jesus' priesthood based on an oath (7:20-21)
- C. Jesus' priesthood part of better covenant (7:22)
- D. Jesus serves in the real tabernacle (8:1-5)
- E. Jesus has no sin of His own (4:15; 7:26-28)
- F. Jesus' priesthood is permanent (7:23-25)

- G. Jesus made only one Perfect sacrifice (7:27; 10:11-12)
- H. Jesus offered Himself (7:27; 9:12-14)
- I. Jesus saves us totally (7:25; 9:11-14; quote)
- J. He has made all believers priests of God (1 Pet 2:9; Rev 1:5-6)

V. Conclusion & Summary

- A. Jesus is Superior to the OT priesthood!
- B. Jesus is the fulfillment of the OT priesthood
- C. We are the fulfillment of the call in Ex 19:6

Christ and the Priesthood
Hebrews 7:17-28
March 21, 2004
You Have Called Us Out of Darkness
Numbers 6:24-26

Every high priest is selected from among men and is appointed to represent them in matters related to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. Heb 5:1

¹¹ "Aaron shall bring the bull for his own sin offering to make atonement for himself and his household, and he is to slaughter the bull for his own sin offering. . . . ¹⁵ "He shall then slaughter the goat for the sin offering for the people and take its blood behind the curtain and do with it as he did with the bull's blood: He shall sprinkle it on the atonement cover and in front of it. Leviticus 16:11, 15

²² The LORD said to Moses, ²³ "Tell Aaron and his sons, 'This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them: ²⁴ ""The LORD bless you and keep you; ²⁵ the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; ²⁶ the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace."²⁷ "So they will put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them." Num 6:22-27

⁵ "You are to be responsible for the care of the sanctuary and the altar, so that wrath will not fall on the Israelites again. ⁶ I myself have selected your fellow Levites from among the Israelites as a gift to you, dedicated to the LORD to do the work at the Tent of Meeting. ⁷ But only you and your sons may serve as priests in connection with everything at the altar and inside the curtain. I am giving you the service of the priesthood as a gift. Anyone else who comes near the sanctuary must be put to death." Numbers 18:5-7

⁵ Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, ⁶ you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites." Ex 19:5-6

Her priests do violence to my law and profane my holy things; they do not distinguish between the holy and the common; they teach that there is no difference between the unclean and the clean; and they shut their eyes to the keeping of my Sabbaths, so that I am profaned among them. Ezek 22:26

And wherever they went among the nations they profaned my holy name, for it was said of them, 'These are the LORD's people, and yet they had to leave his land.' ²¹ I had concern for my holy name, which the house of Israel profaned among the nations where they had gone. ²² "Therefore say to the house of Israel, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am going to do these things, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you have gone. Ezekiel 36:20-22

²⁴ As it is written: "God's name is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you." Romans 2:24

⁴ The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind: "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek." Psalm 110:4

¹ This Melchizedek was king of Salem and priest of God Most High. Hb 7:1

⁶ This man, however, did not trace his descent from Levi, yet he collected a tenth from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises. ⁷ And without doubt the lesser person is blessed by the greater. Hebrews 7:6-7

⁴ Just think how great he was: Even the patriarch Abraham gave him a tenth of the plunder! ⁵ Now the law requires the descendants of Levi who become priests to collect a tenth from the people-- that is, their brothers-- even though their brothers are descended from Abraham. ⁶ This man, however, did not trace his descent from Levi, yet he collected a tenth from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises. ⁷ And without doubt the lesser person is blessed by the greater. ⁸ In the one case, the tenth is collected by men who die; but in the other case, by him who is declared to be living. ⁹ One might even say that Levi, who collects the tenth, paid the tenth through Abraham, ¹⁰ because when Melchizedek met Abraham, Levi was still in the body of his ancestor. Hebrews 7:4,9-10

²⁰ And it was not without an oath! Others became priests without any oath, ²¹ but he became a priest with an oath when God said to him: "The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind: 'You are a priest forever.'" Hb 7:20-21

²² Because of this oath, Jesus has become the guarantee of a better covenant. Hebrews 7:22

¹ The point of what we are saying is this: We do have such a high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, ² and who serves in the sanctuary, the true tabernacle set up by the Lord, not by man. ³ Every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices, and so it was necessary for this one also to have something to offer. ⁴ If he were on earth, he would not be a priest, for there are already men who offer the gifts prescribed by the law. ⁵ They serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven. Hebrews 8:1-5

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are-- yet was without sin. Heb 4:15

²⁶ Such a high priest meets our need-- one who is **holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners**, exalted above the heavens.²⁷ **Unlike** the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. **He sacrificed for their sins** once for all when he offered himself.²⁸ **For the law appoints as high priests men who are weak; but the oath, which came after the law, appointed the Son, who has been made perfect forever.** Hebrews 7:26-28

²³ Now there have been **many of those priests**, since **death** prevented them from continuing in office;²⁴ but **because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood.**²⁵ Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because **he always lives to intercede for them.** Heb 7:23-25

²⁷ Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. **He sacrificed for their sins once for all** when he offered himself. Heb 7:27

¹¹ **Day after day** every priest stands and performs his religious duties; **again and again** he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.¹² But when this priest had **offered for all time one sacrifice for sins**, he **sat down** at the right hand of God. Hebrews 10:11-12

²⁷ Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when **he offered himself.** Heb 7:27

12 **He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood**, having obtained eternal redemption. 13 The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. 14 How much more, then, will **the blood of Christ**, who through the eternal Spirit **offered himself** unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God! Hebrews 9:12-14

²⁵ Therefore he is able to **save completely** those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them. Hebrews 7:25

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So the believer in Jesus should be confident. A high priest intercedes, continually drawing near to God. By the oath of God and the power of an endless life He is established permanently at the right hand of God to intercede for the needy. The participant in the new covenant is better off in every way in terms of his ability to draw on the resources of a gracious God who remains reconciled to sinners. Any returning to the older forms of the old covenant could only mean loss of blessing. Robertson, *The Israel of God*, 78.

⁹ **But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood**, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 1 Peter 2:9

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood,⁶ and has **made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father--** to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen. Revelation 1:5-6