

A Better Way
A Better Priest¹
Hebrews 5.1-10

Hebrews is the book of the **Better Way**, in Hebrews we have seen,

- **Our Superlative Savior**

- Jesus Christ is not another way to heaven
- Jesus Christ is not a better way to heaven
- Jesus Christ is the **ONLY WAY** to heaven

John 14:6 - Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

- **Our Better Purging** – We are fully Pardoned from our sins when Jesus Christ,

Hebrews 1:3 - . . . by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

- **Our Better Stand** – Don't Slip (2.1) Don't let the Word of God slip.
- **Our Better "So Great A Salvation"** (2.3)
- **Our Better Reconciliation** and the Defeat of the Devil (2.17)
- **Our Better Exhortation** (3) – Hear God's Voice
- **Our Better Rest** (4.1-11)
- **Our Better Word From God** – This King James Bible
- **Our Better Accountability** – Our God sees all
- **Our Better Prayer**

Today we discover that there is a **Better Priest**.

Read Text

¹ Resourced from Adrian Rogers, Hebrews 5.6.

Many think, falsely, that Baptist's do not believe in priests. This would be a wrong statement. Bible believing baptist believe in one high priest who is the Lord Jesus Christ. As far as earthly human priests are concerned we believe in the priesthood of the believer, that is that every born again believer is a priest and has direct access to God; as we studied just last week at the end of Hebrews chapter 4.

We do not believe in or follow a worldly religious priesthood as the Catholics do and other similar religious systems.

Now concerning our high priest we read in our text,

Hebrews 5:5–6 - *So also Christ glorified **not** himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, to day have I begotten thee. ⁶As he saith also in another place, **Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.***

Look also at,

Hebrews 6:20 - *Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.*

We learn from Hebrews that our Lord did not establish himself as an high priest but God Almighty, The Father, ordained our Lord as a priest after the order of Melchisedec. So we understand that we have an High Priest but not a human High Priest as Israel had of the sons of Aaron, **but we have a far better High Priest.**

Some people believe and teach that Melchisedec was a pre-incarnation appearance of our Lord Jesus Christ; that is that Jesus came to earth before His earthly birth and presented himself as Melchisedek. Whether that is true or not we know Melchisedek was a type or Christ, a foreshadowing of Christ, and is recorded in the Word of God.

Why do we need a priest? **We need someone who can bring God to us and bring us to God.** This is what our Lord Jesus Christ does for us as our Great High Priest.

Hebrews 4:14–16 - *Seeing then that we have **a great high priest**, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. ¹⁵For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*

Our Lord Jesus Christ became a human being just like us so that He could bring us to God, knowing what it means to be human, and He could also bring God to us. Glory To God.

We will learn much about our Glorious High Priest in our study today.

A. The Sacred Mystery of our High Priest – Much of this mysterious priesthood is revealed in Hebrews 7.

*Hebrews 7:1–3 - For this Melchisedec, king of Salem, **priest of the most high God**, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him; ²To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation **King of righteousness**, and after that also **King of Salem**, which is, **King of peace**; ³Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; **but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually.***

Recorded in the Word of God, Abraham went to battle, won the battle and on his return he was met by Melchisedec. Here is what Hebrews teaches us about Melchisedec; he was,

- Priest of the most High God (Heb 7.1)
- King
 - Of Righteousness (Heb 7.2)
 - Of Peace (Heb 7.2)
- Without Genealogy (Heb 7.3)
- Eternal in nature (Heb 7.3) no beginning and no end of life.
- Like unto the Son of God (Heb 7.3) – He represents the Lord Jesus Christ. How do we know this, because the Word of God states it so.

Our Lord Jesus Christ is not like Melchisedec, Melchisedec is like our Lord Jesus Christ. Be sure you get that right.

Psm 85.9

Psalm 85:9–10 - Surely his salvation is nigh them that fear him; that glory may dwell in our land. ¹⁰**Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.**

In the Word of God, God has made mercy and truth to cohabitate together. Righteousness loves peace. Peace loves righteousness. Our Great High Priest is both **King of Righteousness and King of Peace.** If you think you can have peace without righteousness, that is God's righteousness, you are sadly mistaken. Look at our world, a world without righteousness, God's righteousness, is a world without peace.

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A. The Sacred Mystery of our High Priest

When sin comes in peace and righteousness go out.

Do you wonder why there is no peace,

- **In your home,** where is God's righteousness in respect to your home?
- **In our nation,** where is God's righteousness in respect to your nation?

Peace and righteousness cohabitate together.

In celebrating this great victory, Melchisedec said lets celebrate and he brought out bread and wine. God got the victory and celebrated with bread and wine. This is what we do at the Lord's Table, we celebrate the victory with bread and wine.

Abraham celebrated God's victory by giving a tithe of 10%. When we give our tithes we ought to be celebrating the victory our Lord won for us.

So in Mechisedec we see the mystery of our Great High Priest, Without beginning or ending, without genealogy, King of righteousness and peace.

- B. The Sovereign Majesty of our High Priest** – Look at the blessing of the great revelation of our Great High Priest.

Hebrews 7:4 - Now consider how great this man was, unto whom even the patriarch Abraham gave the tenth of the spoils.

1. His Pre-eminence

Hebrews 7:5–6 - And verily they that are of the sons of Levi, who receive the office of the priesthood, have a commandment to take tithes of the people according to the law, that is, of their brethren, though they come out of the loins of Abraham: ⁶ **But he whose descent is not counted from them received tithes of Abraham, and blessed him that had the promises.**

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- A. The Sacred Mystery of our High Priest
- B. The Sovereign Majesty of our High Priest
 - 1. His Pre-eminence

The People of Israel gave tithes to the Levites, but Abraham gave tithes to Melchisedec **before the Levites existed.** This is way before the Mosaic law. Now what does this mean?

Hebrews 7:7 - **And without all contradiction the less is blessed of the better.**

Since, **Melchisedec blessed Abraham it means Melchisedec is better than Abraham.** The Jews are always looking to Father Abraham, but there is one that Father Abraham revealed was better than him, that is Melchisedec who was the foreshadowing of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Our Lord Jesus Christ is Pre-eminent to all others.

2. His Permanence

Hebrews 7:8 - And here men that die receive tithes; but there he receiveth them, **of whom it is witnessed that he liveth.**

Remember Melchisedec had no beginning or ending. The Levites that receive tithes all died or will die. But our Great High Priest just lives on. Our Lord Jesus Christ is not dead, **He is a living priest forever and ever.**

3. His Primacy

Hebrews 7:9–10 - And as I may so say, Levi also, who receiveth tithes, payed tithes in Abraham. ¹⁰For he was yet in the loins of his father, when Melchisedec met him.

This means that Abraham represented the whole Jewish heritage that would come out of his loins. In Abraham even the Levites paid tithes to Melchisedec before they ever existed.

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A. The Sacred Mystery of our High Priest

B. The Sovereign Majesty of our High Priest

1. His Pre-eminence
2. His Permanence

The whole point here is that our Lord Jesus Christ has the primacy because **He was the Great High Priest before there was a Moses, or Levi, or any of the heirs of Abrahams.**

4. His Perfection

*Hebrews 7:11 - If therefore **perfection** were by the Levitical priesthood, (for under it the people received the law,) what further need was there that another priest should rise after the order of Melchisedec, and not be called after the order of Aaron?*

This is saying that if the sacrifices offered under the old mosaic law could satisfy the law then there would have been no need for our Lord Jesus Christ, but our Lord came after the order of melchisedec. Why? Because we needed a better priest, a perfect priest.

*Hebrews 7:22 - By so much was Jesus made a surety **of a better testament.***

Our Lord Jesus Christ brought in a better covenant through His perfect priesthood.

C. The Saving Ministry of our High Priest

1. The Permanence of the Saving Ministry

*Hebrews 7:23–24 - And they truly were many priests, because they were not suffered to continue by reason of death: ²⁴But this man, **because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood.***

Sometimes you have to get,

- **A new doctor**
- **A new Lawyer**
- **A new Pastor**

Illustration - A Pastor was leaving his church. There was a lady crying. The Pastor asked, “Why are you crying?” She replied, “I don’t want you to leave.” The pastor said, “Your next pastor will be a better pastor.” She replied, “That’s what they said last time.”

You may have to get a lot of new things in life **but you will never have to get a New Salvation or a New Savior**, because our Great High Priest continues forever.

2. The Power of the Saving Ministry

*Hebrews 7:25 - Wherefore he is able also **to save them to the uttermost** that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.*

Many preach this verse to mean our Lord can save anyone, and that is true, but it is not what this verse is saying. **This is saying our Great High Priest is able to save you to the utter end.** You are Saved and Secure in our Lord Jesus Christ. Glory to God.

When your great High Priest saves you, you are saved to the uttermost.

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 2. His Permanence
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- C. The Saving Ministry of our High Priest**

3. The Purity of the Saving Ministry

*Hebrews 7:26–27 - For such an high priest became us, **who is holy**, harmless, **undefiled**, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; ²⁷Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: **for this he did once, when he offered up himself.***

Our Great High Priest is not like any other earthly priest, having his own sin to deal with. No our Great High Priest is undefiled,

He does not need any forgiveness and for that reason He and He alone is able to cleanse us of our sin. He is the only Great High Priest we will ever need.

Illustration – An elderly lady was dying in the hospital. A priest came in and asked, “Would you like be to absolve you of your sins?” The lady asked, “May I see your hands.” The priest showed his hands, and the lady said, “I don’t need you, the one who forgives my sins has the print of the nails in His hands.”

You don’t need any worldly priest your need the perfectly pure Great High Priest who alone is able to cleanse you of all your sins.

4. The Place of the Saving Ministry

*Hebrews 8:1–2 - Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: **We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens;** ²A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man.*

Our Lord Jesus Christ, our Great High Priest is set and the right hand of the Father and could be in no better place to make intercession for you and I.

This is where our Great High Priest is today.

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B. The Sovereign Majesty of our High Priest

1. His Pre-eminence
2. His Permanence
3. His Primacy
4. His Perfection

C. The Saving Ministry of our High Priest

1. The Permanence of the Saving Ministry
2. The Power of the Saving Ministry

Hebrews 7:25 - Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, **seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.**

Your Great High Priest is intimately involved in your life. He is watching you and caring for you and pleading for you with your Heavenly Father. You could not ask for a better High Priest than the Lord Jesus Christ.

We have a Great High Priest and what a glorious and majestic High Priest He is. We could have no better High Priest than our Lord Jesus Christ and we need no other.

CrossRoads Baptist Church, Sept 19, 2021

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