

**I. Introduction and review.**

**II. The Old Covenant priesthood was insufficient. v. 11-19 Ps. 110:4**

- A. King David's anticipation of a new priesthood implies the inadequacy of the Levitical Priesthood. v. 11-12 Ps. 110:4**
- 1. God gave notice in Psalm 110:4 that the old priesthood would be replaced with another kind of priesthood. v. 12**
  - 2. The old priesthood could not bring the perfection (access) God requires. v. 19 2:10 5:9 Ex. 29:9,22,26-29**
  - 3. With the changing of the priesthood there is also a change of law/covenant. v. 12**
- B. Jesus' new priesthood has nothing to do with tribal descent. v. 13-14**
- 1. Under the old covenant, priests were from the tribe of Levi.**
  - 2. David foresaw that the Messiah would be a Priest and a King. v. 14 Ps. 110:4,1**
  - 3. Our Lord Jesus, of whom David spoke, *arose* from Judah. v. 13 Rev. 5:5 Rom. 1:3 Luke 1:32 Mal. 4:2 Num. 24:17 Is. 11:1**
- C. Jesus' new priesthood is everlasting. v. 15-17**
- 1. The succession of Aaronic priests gained office through physical descent. v. 16a**
  - 2. Our Lord is a priest forever because of His indestructible life. v. 15-17 Ps. 110:4 16:10 Acts 2:24,34 <**
- D. Jesus' new priesthood offers us perfect access to God. v. 18-19**
- 1. The old covenant with its priesthood has been set aside because it was unable to make us fit (perfect) for God's presence. 9:13-14 Rom. 8:3**
  - 2. Through Christ we draw near to God. v. 19b 6:19-20 A better hope.**

**III. The New Covenant priesthood is vastly superior to the old. v. 20-28**

- A. Jesus' priesthood is established by divine oath, as a guarantee of a better covenant. v. 20-22 6:13f Ps. 110:4a**
- 1. The old covenant priesthood was established without an oath. v. 20-21a Ex. 28:1**
  - 2. *The LORD has sworn* concerning the everlasting priesthood of Jesus. v. 21b 6:13f**
  - 3. *He will not change His mind:* The New Covenant priesthood will not be replaced.**
  - 4. This is the first explicit mention of *covenant* in Hebrews. v. 22 8:6f Jer. 31:33f**
  - 5. Jesus is the *guarantor* of the new (and better) covenant. v. 22b Phm. 18-19**
- B. Jesus' priesthood is permanent, by which He mediates everlasting salvation. v. 23-25**
- 1. There was a long succession of Levitical priests each of whom had to be replaced because of death. v. 23 Num. 20:25f**
  - 2. Jesus is our permanent and final priest Who has no successor. v. 24**
  - 3. Because Jesus' priesthood is never ending, He is able to give full and everlasting salvation to all who draw near to God through Him. v. 25a John 14:6**
  - 4. He continuously intercedes for us. v. 25b 2:18 4:14-16 Rom. 8:34,37 Isa. 53:11 Luke 22:31-32 John 17**
- C. Jesus is fully qualified to be our high priest. v. 26**
- 1. Again there is an implicit contrast to the inadequacy of the Levitical priests.**
  - 2. He is fit to represent us before God. 1:3 4:14 Ps. 110:1**

- D. Jesus offered Himself as a once-and-for-all final sacrifice. v. 27 10:12 I Pe. 3:18**
- 1. Again Jesus is set in sharp contrast to the Levitical priests whose work was never done. Lev. 16:6 4:3**
  - 2. Jesus did not need to offer sacrifice for his own sin because He is sinless.**
  - 3. His one sacrifice has fully paid for the sins of His people. 1:3 2:17 9:11-14 10:12 Mark 10:45 Isa. 53:10**
- E. Summary: Jesus, the High Priest of the New Covenant, is far superior to the Priests appointed by the law of Moses. v. 28**
- 1. The law appointed priests who were weak (mortal), limited, and temporary.**
  - 2. Our one great High Priest has been forever appointed by divine oath and has perfect access to God. And He is the Son! 1:2**

#### **IV. Concluding applications.**

- A. Don't abandon Christ to go back to the Levitical priesthood**
- B. Don't revert to an Old Covenant way of approaching God.**  
*Some Christians see Jesus only as their Aaron, not their Melchizedek (S. L. Johnson).*
- 1. A priesthood is only established by divine authority.**
  - 2. The priesthood of Rome (and other similar groups) is weak like that of Aaron.**
  - 3. Many professing Christians rely upon their works to draw them near to God.**
- C. Have you drawn near to God through Jesus Christ? v. 25a John 14:6 6:37 Acts 4:12**
- D. Look to Jesus alone as your intercessor (mediator). v. 25b Ro. 8:34 I Tim. 2:5**

#### **Discussion questions**

- 1. What indications did God give in the Old Testament that the Aaronic priesthood would be replaced?**
- 2. Why doesn't it matter that Jesus, our great High Priest, came from the tribe of Judah rather than Levi?**
- 3. What was wrong with the Old Covenant and its priesthood? v. 18**
- 4. How is the New Covenant better? v. 22**
- 5. Name four ways in which the priesthood of Jesus is superior to that of Aaron.**
- 6. In what ways are people today guilty of approaching God in an Old Covenant way?**
- 7. Explain Jesus' work of intercession. Why is it so important?**
- 8. What qualified Jesus to be our High Priest?**
- 9. Why is His sacrifice superior to that of the Levitical priesthood?**