

Hebrews 7:11-28

REVIEW...

- As the author continues to show Jesus is BETTER than EVERYONE and EVERYTHING...
 - BETTER than the Prophets – at giving us the Word of God...
 - BETTER than the Angels – He is the eternal creator who will rule over all...
 - BETTER than the servant Moses – as Jesus is the BUILDER and the Son...
 - BETTER Rest – because ONLY in Jesus can we have victory of sin!
 - BETTER High Priest – who allows us to come BOLDLY into the Throne Room of Grace!
- After the order of Melchizedek...
 - King of Righteousness / who was the King of Salem – King of Peace...
 - Priest of the God Most High – He was BOTH King and Priest – He is all that we NEED!
 - Abraham gave him TENTH of all he had – he gave his TITHE...
 - Because Abraham knew that this was a greater man than he was – the greater blesses the lesser!
 - Levi – in Abraham – also gave TITHES to Melchizedek – who represented a BETTER Priesthood!

A BETTER PRIESTHOOD... (3 POINTS)

- 1st – NEW PRIESTHOOD... vs. 11-14
 - 1st – Change in PRIEST... vs. 11
 - Therefore – if PERFECTION had come through the Levitical PRIESTHOOD...
 - PRIESTHOOD – 4x in NT – only used here in this passage!
 - Having established Jesus is a BETTER Priest - **Hebrews 4:14-6:20**
 - The Author is now going one step further – Jesus replaced the old PRIESTHOOD of Aaron...
 - This would have been an inflammatory statement for the Jews...
 - This was challenging their RELIGION – and they were not eager to CHANGE!
 - What further NEED was there that ANOTHER priest should rise...
 - The Levitical PRIESTHOOD could not bring about PERFECTION [τελείωσις] ...
 - Because the sacrifices of the Old Testament could only COVER sin – **Hebrews 10:4**
 - The sacrifices reminded men of the penalty for sin – DEATH – **Romans 6:23**
 - But they could do NOTHING to change the heart of the SINNER!
 - Therefore - there was a NEED for a CHANGE – a PRIESTHOOD not after Aaron...
 - Instead - a PRIESTHOOD after the order of Melchizedek!
 - 2nd – Change in LAW... vs. 12
 - [Out] of necessity there is also a CHANGE of *the* LAW...
 - CHANGE – 3x in NT – to transpose or exchange one thing for another...
 - LAW – there is no *the* – before the word LAW in the original language...
 - Meaning we are NOT talking about the LAW of Moses – the LAW cannot change!
 - **Matthew 5:18** – “Till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from THE law till all is fulfilled.”
 - LAW – refers to TRADITIONS – RELIGION...
 - We live in a country where many are hardened towards the Gospel...
 - Because they have been indoctrinated in a lifetime of TRADITIONS...
 - And they are proud and think RELIGION is enough to get them into heaven...
 - Religion that just becomes an excuse to JUSTIFY sin – and disobey God...
 - I can do what I want from Monday - Saturday / so long as I go to church on Sunday...
 - Yet all RELIGION does is make us a HYPOCRITE – put on a mask one day a week...
 - It is time for a CHANGE – throw RELIGION out the window – and come to Jesus!

- o 3rd – Change in TRIBE... vs. 13-14
 - [Jesus] belongs to another TRIBE...
 - It is evident [known to all] our Lord arose from Judah – **Revelation 5:5**
 - Which TRIBE – Moses spoke nothing concerning the PRIESTHOOD!
 - Every Priest had to come from the TRIBE of Levi – though not every Levite was a Priest...
 - When Israel rebelled – Golden Calf – all of Levi stood with the Lord – **Exodus 32:26**
 - As a result - God chose the Tribe of Levi to serve Him – **Numbers 18:2**
 - But ONLY the sons of Aaron were able to serve as Priests – **Numbers 18:1**
 - Judah was the TRIBE of the Kings...
 - God promised King David – his throne would be FOREVER – **II Samuel 7:16**
 - David was from the TRIBE of Judah – so every king after had to be from that TRIBE...
 - Including Jesus – who was from the line of King David – **Matthew 1:17**
 - Since the TRIBE of Levi was NOT working – it was time for a CHANGE!
 - Nobody likes CHANGE – we get comfortable in our routine...
 - But the definition of insanity – is doing the same thing but expecting different results!
 - If something is not working – then it is time to try something NEW!
- 2ND – BETTER PRIESTHOOD... vs. 15-25
 - o 1st – Better PRIEST... vs. 15-17
 - It is far more EVIDENT – there arises ANOTHER priest...
 - As EVIDENT as it was that Jesus came from the TRIBE of Judah – as KING...
 - It is far more [abundantly] EVIDENT [only here NT] – crystal clear...
 - ANOTHER priest - [ἄλλος] – NOT the same - another of a DIFFERENT kind!
 - Jesus did not come after the same ORDER as the priests before Him...
 - Who met the requirement [fleshly commandment] of belonging to the TRIBE of Levi...
 - Instead - Jesus came in the POWER of and ENDLESS life...
 - ENDLESS [only here NT] – a life that cannot be destroyed – never dies!
 - You are a priest FOREVER according to the order of Melchizedek – **Psalms 110:4**
 - The problem was the sons of Aaron all died - and needed to be replaced...
 - God gave us a BETTER priesthood - one who lives forever – never changes!
 - **Hebrews 13:8** – “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.”
 - o 2nd – Better HOPE... vs. 18-19
 - On the one hand - there is the ANNULING of the former command...
 - ANNULING [ἀθετήσις] – 2x in NT – to ABOLISH or to put away...
 - Because of WEAKNESS and UNPROFITABLENESS – for THE LAW made nothing perfect!
 - The old PRIESTHOOD – and the LAWS relating to it – had no POWER!
 - **Romans 3:20** – “No one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. The law simply shows us how sinful we are.” [NLT]
 - It only takes one SIN to keep us out of heaven - **James 2:10**
 - The problem is - how do we know WHEN we SIN against God...
 - To show us - God gave us His perfect Law – **Romans 7:12**
 - The problem is we are NOT perfect – we are in bondage to SIN – **Romans 7:14**
 - Therefore - the Law does not keep us from sin – is just shows we are sinners!
 - Have you ever seen a sign that says WET PAINT – and felt the need to touch it...
 - The Law stirs up the DESIRE for sin – sin that leads to judgment / death!
 - **Romans 7:7** – “I would not have known sin except through the law.”
 - The LAW is meant to be our TEACHER – that points us to Jesus!
 - **Galatians 3:24** - “The law was our tutor to bring us to Christ...”
 - On the other hand – a better HOPE – through which we draw near to God...

- What is our better HOPE – the GOSPEL of Jesus Christ...
- **Hebrews 9:26** – “[Jesus] has appeared to PUT AWAY sin by the sacrifice of Himself.”
- Jesus PUT AWAY [ἀθέτησας] our sin – cast it as far as east is from west – **Psalm 110:12**
- There are ONLY two places we can look to for HOPE in life...
- We can HOPE in OUR strength – look to RULES we can follow...
- The Law of God - with its commands – that can never CHANGE our hearts...
- The Law that has the power to PROVE we are a sinner – but only brings death!
- Or we can HOPE in Jesus – His GRACE – that allows us to draw near to God!
- **II Corinthians 3:6** – “[God] made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.”
- o 3rd – Better PROMISE... vs. 20-22
 - The Old Testament priests inherited their positions – sons of Aaron...
 - Jesus was made a priest with an OATH - 4x in NT (*all here*) - swearing to keep a PROMISE...
 - **Psalm 110:4** – “The LORD has sworn and will not relent, ‘You are a priest forever...’”
 - Therefore – Jesus has become the guarantee of a BETTER covenant...
 - We have already seen Jesus is BETTER than - Prophets/ Angels / Moses / Rest / Priests...
 - Not only is He a BETTER Hope – is also a BETTER Covenant!
 - **Hebrews 8:6** – “[Jesus] is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises.”
- o 4th – Better RESULTS... vs. 23-25
 - There were many [Old Testament] priests...
 - Because they were prevented by death from continuing [as priests] ...
 - The priest in the Old Testament might have wanted to HELP...
 - But they were temporary – they could only HELP as long as they lived!
 - [Jesus] – continues FOREVER – has an unchangeable PRIESTHOOD!
 - Therefore – [Jesus] is able to SAVE to the UTTERMOST...
 - UTTERMOST [παντελής] – all the way to the END!
 - As a RESULT - He LIVES to make constant INTERCESSION [present] for us!
 - INTERCESSION – Jesus is always coming to our defense – **Romans 8:34**
 - Satan is our adversary – like a roaring lion he seeks to devour us - **I Peter 5:8**
 - Picture a courtroom - we are on trial for our sins - God is the judge...
 - Satan is accusing us - wants to see us condemned to hell - **Revelation 12:10**
 - He has all the evidence he needs - all our sins – long list of failures...
 - But Jesus INTERCEDES every time - comes to our DEFENSE - He points out a simple fact...
 - All our sins were paid for in full on the cross - we are found NOT guilty!
- 3RD – PERFECT PRIESTHOOD... vs. 26-28
 - o Such a High Priest was FITTING for us...
 - FITTING [imperfect] – Jesus came to earth to be us what we NEEDED...
 - **Hebrews 7:6** – “He [was] the kind of high priest we NEED...” [NLT]
 - We will conclude by looking at SEVEN ways Jesus is EXACTLY the High Priest we NEEDED!
 - o 1st – Jesus was HOLY... vs. 26
 - HOLY – [ἅγιος] - to be HOLY / SET APART for God!
 - Jesus was HOLY – in everything He said and did – as an EXAMPLE for us to follow!
 - **John 13:15** – “I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done.”
 - We can be set apart for God – in ALL of our conduct – in everything we do...
 - As we follow the EXAMPLE of Jesus - being set apart – not living for this world...
 - The NT word for church - *ekklesia* - means to be CALLED OUT of the world!

- o 2nd – Jesus was HARMLESS... vs. 26
 - HARMLESS – 2x in NT [ἄκακος] – the opposite of being HARMFUL [κακος] ...
 - Jesus will come TWICE – the first time He came HARMLESS – to defeat sin...
 - The second time he will come in VENGEANCE – to judge the nations - **John 5:22**
 - We are told - **Philippians 2:10** – that every knee SHOULD bow to Jesus for salvation...
 - But we are also told – **Romans 14:11** – every knee WILL bow to Jesus in judgment...
 - There are only two kinds of people when it comes to God...
 - Sinners who have seen their NEED for a Savior – and bow their knee to HARMLESS Lord...
 - Or sinners who reject Jesus – and will one day bow their knee to a VENGEFUL God!
- o 3rd – Jesus was UNDEFILED... vs. 26
 - UNDEFILED - [ἀμίαντος] – the opposite of being stained / polluted by sin...
 - Jesus was NOT stained by selfishness – He took the time to care for the needs of others...
 - He did not pass by the poor or sick – He was UNDEFILED in His religion!
 - **James 1:27** – “Pure and undefiled [ἀμίαντος] religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows...”
 - I can tell you I am a Christian – but what kind of EXAMPLE comes from my life...
 - It is easy to say we are UNDEFILED – but the proof is in our actions – LOVE...
 - If we say we are Christians – but only think about ourselves – we are DEFILED...
 - The number one MARK of someone who is following the EXAMPLE of Jesus – LOVE for others!
 - **John 13:35** – “All will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”
- o 4th – Jesus was SEPARATE... vs. 26
 - SEPARATE – to depart – to go away – put space between...
 - The word is commonly used to describe DIVORCE – **Matthew 19:6** / **I Corinthians 7:10**
 - Jesus was SEPARATE from the world – He never sinned – **Hebrews 4:15**
 - We must be careful NOT to invest our hearts into friends / family who live in SIN...
 - Do not seek their counsel or advice - they are not going to point us to the Word!
 - We must DIVORCE ourselves from the world – put space between us and their example...
 - Because people will either draw you closer to - or farther away from Jesus!
 - **I Corinthians 15:33** - “...bad company corrupts good character.”
- o 5th – Jesus is HIGHER... vs. 26
 - Jesus has become [aorist] HIGHER than the Heavens...
 - Speaking of the ASCENSION of Jesus after his resurrection – **Acts 1:9**
 - **Ephesians 4:10** – “The One who ascended far above all the heavens...”
 - Jesus is in Heaven – He sits at the right hand of the Father – **Hebrews 1:3**
 - That makes him uniquely qualified to be able to tell others how to get to heaven!
 - People have LOTS of ideas on how to get to heaven - but they have never been...
 - It seems wiser to listen to the only one who is there - Jesus!
- o 6th – Jesus was our SACRIFICE... vs. 27
 - The High Priest in the Old Testament – had to DAILY offer FIRST for their own sins...
 - Then they could DAILY offer sacrifices for the sins of the people...
 - In CONTRAST – Jesus is perfect – and did not have to offer sacrifices for Himself...
 - He OFFERED UP Himself [active] - ONCE and for all – and He died for the sins of ALL men!
 - OFFERED UP – to put something on the ALTAR...
 - Jesus CHOSE to give His life as a sacrifice – so that we COULD be forgiven...
 - Our part is now to CHOSE to OFFER UP our life as a sacrifice to Him...
 - **Romans 12:1** – “Give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable.” [NLT]
 - We are not our own – we have been bought with the highest price - **I Corinthians 6:20**

- Therefore - we should glorify God with our body and mind – which are His!
- o 7th – Jesus is PERFECT... vs. 28
 - THE Law [ὁ νόμος] of Moses – appointed priests out of men who had WEAKNESS...
 - WEAKNESS – to be weak in body – or weak in SOUL...
 - The idea is the LAW made men who were sinners – as mediators between God and man...
 - Therefore - they were IMPERFECT – flawed – and temporary!
 - The OLD PRIESTHOOD did NOT work – because it was filled with FLAWED men...
 - That is why God gave us a BETTER P PRIESTHOOD – in Jesus Christ!
 - The WORD [ὁ λόγος] Jesus – of the OATH [promise] which came AFTER the LAW...
 - Was [appointed is in italics] the SON who is PERFECT [perfect] FOREVER...
 - Do not miss this – Jesus is THE WORD – He is the PROMISE – He is PERFECT...
 - That makes Him the PRIEST of a perfect PRIESTHOOD – able to bring us to God!
 - Jesus is a BETTER PRIEST – who gives us a BETTER HOPE – built on BETTER PROMISES...
 - With BETTER RESULTS – because Jesus is EVERYTHING we NEED!
 - ALL we NEED in this life – and the next – is simply Jesus!
 - **Philippians 4:19** – “God shall supply all your need [singular] according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”