

“PERFECTLY FITTING”

(Hebrews 7:1-28)

November 19, 2017

Priesthood is an important topic in the Book of Hebrews, especially the role of Jesus Christ:

For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. Hebrews 2:17

Therefore, holy brothers, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, the apostle and high priest whom we confess.

Hebrews 3:1

I. A new priesthood, but in an old ORDER

“He has become a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.” (6:20).

Melchizedek was:

- **“King of righteousness”**
- **“King of peace”**
- **Without mother, father, or genealogy**
- **Without beginning or end**
- **A priest forever**

The author's primary purpose here is to prove the SUPERIORITY of the priesthood of Jesus over the Levitical priesthood of the Jews.

Jesus' priesthood is of an even older order, the order of Melchizedek, who was NOT a Levite. Christ is like Melchizedek in the sense that his priesthood is not of the Levites and it will last forever.

II. The NEED for a new priesthood

- **The priesthood was to sanctify the people before God by the offering of sacrifices, but the cleansing was NOT lasting**
- **The Law could not bring salvation, but only an AWARENESS of the individual's dire need for a Savior:**

Therefore, no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin... Romans 3:20

- **By the witness of the Holy Spirit and the transformed lives of the apostles, the perfecting of the worshipper in God's eyes is POSSIBLE because of:**

III. The GREATNESS of the new priesthood

- **God swore by an OATH to make Jesus' priesthood superior. God takes oaths seriously. They matter to God!**
- **A better covenant with God is available through Jesus ALONE. The Old Covenant was insufficient as far as RESTORING people to communion with God.**
- **Because he is forever, Jesus' SALVATION lasts forever.**

IV. The PURITY of the new priesthood

What we NEED is a priest who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart.

Oh, we HAVE one!

Jesus sacrificed for all sins, once and for all, when he offered himself up on the cross.

God's appointment of Jesus as High Priest was perfect, because he alone is perfect.

Is he YOUR high priest – forever?