



“Everlasting Intercession” (Hebrews 7:11-28)

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Intro: Hebrews is a study in contrast between the imperfect provisions of the Old Covenant and the better provisions of the New Covenant. The Old Covenant is, of course, the Law of Moses (along with the regulations, which included the sacrificial system administered by the priesthood), and the New Covenant is salvation solely by grace through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross. Because the Old Covenant was mediated by angels, the writer of Hebrews opens chapter one quoting seven Old Testament passages proving that Jesus, the sole mediator of the New Covenant, is greater than the angels. Chapter two opens with a stern warning not to ignore the message being presented (because it is founded on clear and undeniable truth). The end of this chapter tells us that Jesus is our merciful and faithful high priest, making atonement for our sins, and helping us when we are tempted. Chapter three declares Christ to be greater than Moses, and then encourages those who have put their faith in Christ (as opposed to Moses) to continue in their courage and hope, knowing that it is only through Christ that we find true spiritual rest. The end of chapter four again mentions Jesus as our great high priest, and chapter five opens with a reminder of what a high priest's job is. (Read 5:1-6.) This is the first time in this letter that Christ is referred to as a priest “in the order of Melchizedek.” We see it again in 6:13-20 (read). And of course Pastor Ryan Marr covered Hebrews 7:1-10. Why such emphasis on Jesus being a high priest in the order of Melchizedek? Because Jesus' priesthood is superior to the Levitical priesthood.

I. THE TEXT

- Pick it up with me in Hebrews 7:11. Now read Hebrews 10:1-14.
- v.12 What is the change in the law?
 - See I Cor.9:21; Gal.6:2
 - Note: The moral law is still valid, but the ceremonial law with all its regulations is replaced by Jesus and the New Covenant.
- vv.13-14 Moses represents the Law, and that is why he said nothing about the priesthood of Christ through the line of Judah. Judah is not the priestly line but the royal line. Jesus is a royal priest. As Ryan said last weekend, Jesus is a king and a

priest, something not possible under the old order. See Gen.49:10; Micah 5:2; Rev.5:5.

- vv.15-17 High priests under the law of Moses had to be able to trace their lineage back to Aaron, but Jesus ancestry is eternal (Micah 5:2).
 - v.15, the word for “appears’ is anistatíe. It’s a present middle indicative; and what it comes from is anistamíe, which means to arise; but anything in the middle voice is reflexive. That means to arise by myself. No Aaronic priest could ever use that middle voice. He would “appear” (arise) by virtue of his mother and father, not of himself. In other words, the Aaronic priest would have to say, "I am a priest, not by myself, but because I've inherited the right." Jesus said, "I just arose a priest by Myself." Anistamíe is used in Acts 2:32 to refer to His resurrection. He Himself raised Himself from the dead.
 - Word for “another” priest is very interesting also. Two Greek words for another, one is “allas,” which means another of the same kind. The second is “heteras,” which means another of a different kind. Illustration: trade my Suburban for a different Suburban (allas), or trade my Suburban for a Ferrari (heteras).
- vv.18-19 At Sinai no one was brought near to God. They were all told not to even touch the foot of the mountain God descended upon. And in the temple, a thick veil separated everyone from the Holy of Holies. Remember when Jesus died on the cross that veil was torn from top to bottom, indicating the way had now been opened for access to the Father through the sacrifice of His Son.
- vv.20-22 Jesus is an eternal priest, and the covenant through Him is an eternal covenant. God promised it before the beginning of time (Titus 1:2), and once initiated by the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, it will never be nullified, or superseded by another covenant. Read commentary, p.47.
- v.23 Josephus estimated that some eighty-three priests served from Aaron to the destruction of the second temple in A.D. 70. Each one’s ministry came to an end at death.
- vv.24-25 Intercession = to intervene on behalf of another; to plead a case in favor of. Jesus intercessory ministry on my behalf will never end!
- vv.26-28 There were 142 blemishes listed that would disqualify a priest, some of which are recorded in Leviticus 21:16-23. What’s the point? They were outwardly impressive, but inwardly lacking.

II. LESSONS

A. Old Covenant Priesthood

1. The best the flesh could offer, but still lacking in holiness, purity, etc.

2. Required to sacrifice for their own sins first (Lev.9:8).
3. Sacrifices offered insufficient to cleanse from sin.
4. Intercession insufficient to bring people near to God.
5. Ministry limited by death.

B. Jesus' Priesthood

1. Holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens.
2. No need to sacrifice for his own sin. (He had none.)
3. Sufficient sacrifice to cleanse from sin.
4. Intercession on our behalf brings us into the very presence of the Father (see Eph.2:18).
5. Ministry on our behalf will never end!

C. More About Jesus' Intercessory Ministry

1. Intercession for protection (John 17:10-16).
 - * The protection here is directly linked to their confession of Jesus Christ. So, in essence, Jesus is praying that they will continue to confess His name in a world where they are hated because of Him. That confession will protect them from straying from off the path...
 - * See Luke 22:31-34
 - * I Peter 4: 15 If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. 16 However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name.
 - * Rev.12:10...the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. 11They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.
2. Intercession for sanctification (John 17:17-19).
 - * See James 1:21-25; Psalm 1:1-3
3. Intercession for salvation (John 17:20),
 - * Salvation invitation

4. Intercession for oneness/unity (John 17:21-23).
5. Intercession regarding our future union with Jesus (John 7:24).
6. Intercession due to present failure (I John 2:1-2).

CONCLUSION

* We live in the light of a wonderful covenant. We have perfect high priest that meets our every need. And we have in Him an everlasting intercessor. Hallelujah! What a Savior!!

* What is your need TODAY?

- Are you confessing Christ openly and unashamedly?
- Are you daily being sanctified by the Word of God?
- Are you in fellowship with the body of Christ?
- Are you looking forward to your union with Jesus Christ one day?
- Have you gotten caught up in some sin?