

Hebrews 7:11–17

Endless Priesthood

We are shifting back to the argument that has been being laid by the author of Hebrews regarding the superiority of Christ. Specifically over the Levitical priesthood. The groundwork has been carefully laid and the arguments honed to a fine point... and we must come to grips with the import of the whole structure. Jesus Christ is the **ONLY** path to salvation, by His own declaration, but for the sake of this argument, more directly by the very nature of what He came and accomplished vs what the OT levitical priesthood attempted and failed to provide. Salvation is **ONLY** through Jesus Christ.

I. THE OLD COULD NOT SAVE

- A. The argument runs: God would not have raised up another priest if the first one had been effective, sufficient, able to save.
- B. Note, this argument can only be made with those who are considering... those who staunchly hold to Judaism will simply deny that

there is a new priesthood. For they believe that they are still faithful to the old priesthood.

1. It is important to note that the old priesthood had been directly instituted by God Himself... this reality makes it difficult for the Jew to walk away from that which they had known...
2. Malachi 4.4-6 promises a curse for those who forsake the law...

Malachi 4:4–6(NKJV) 4 “Remember the Law of Moses, My servant, Which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel, With the statutes and judgments.5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.6 And he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.”

- C. Although there clearly IS a new one even for the Jew, for they adhere to the Talmud, the teachings, and count obedience to the teachings as sacrifice in the absence of the temple.

II. GOD PROMISED A NEW PRIESTHOOD

- A. The scripture attested to a new priesthood
- Psalm 110.1-4**
- B. This psalm is accepted to be messianic by all, and in it God proclaims that messiah shall be a priest, of a new priestly line, according to the order of Melchizedek
1. NOT out of, but according to.
 2. Not a descent, but a similitude. A fulfillment of the prior type.
 3. This type was not to be determined according to lineage, but rather according to the election of God.
- C. So a brand new priesthood,
1. a new way of coming into the presence of the most high -
 2. and this priesthood sets aside all of the older priesthood.
 - a. Sets aside all of its ways,
 - b. all of its faults,
 - c. all of its failures -
 3. and further, this new priesthood establishes a better path to God. A path that will surely accomplish what it sets out to create.

III. NEWLY DEFINED

A. A New Tenure

1. Aaronic priesthood was only allowed to serve from age 30 - 50

Numbers 4:46–48(NKJV) 46 All who were numbered of the Levites, whom Moses, Aaron, and the leaders of Israel numbered, by their families and by their fathers' houses, 47 from thirty years old and above, even to fifty years old, everyone who came to do the work of service and the work of bearing burdens in the tabernacle of meeting—48 those who were numbered were eight thousand five hundred and eighty.

2. But there is not only no mention of an end to the priesthood of Melchizedek, it specifically states that Messiah is a priest FOREVER according to that order.

B. A new Selection

1. God chose the line of Aaron, out of Levi. The sons of Aaron served because of their lineage. However this new priesthood is a specific choosing of God. And since it is forever, one choice satisfies forever. There

is no longer a need for any priests to work in the service of God.

2. The choosing of this new priest, is a rejection of the old. It argues for the abolition of the Aaronic priesthood. And this is the reason that it is so repugnant to the Jew.

C. A new sacrifice

1. If the priesthood fails and no one takes it up, they have no means of sacrifice to become acceptable... this is why they cling to the obedience unto the teachings (Talmud)

2. It is also why God allowed the destruction of the temple and why there is NO NEED for another to be built. Any red heifer sacrifice notwithstanding...

3. There is no longer any need for the sacrifices that Aaron's line could offer, for the sacrifices have been COMPLETED in Christ. He Himself died as the atoning sacrifice by the hand of God.

1 John 2:1–2(NKJV) 1 My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone

sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. 2 And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

Hebrews 9.16-28

- i. This is why the red heifer is unimportant,
 - ii. Why the rebuilding of the temple is not about red heifers but red herrings and why the focus **MUST** be on the gospel of God in Jesus Christ.
4. THE SACRIFICE HAS BEEN COMPLETED

IV. A NEW FOCUS.

- A. We are to cling to Christ with all we have and all we are. For there is **NO** other way that will ever be made which will bring us to God.
- B. Christ has been ordained by God to this purpose, called out as the priest
- C. Christ Himself gave testimony that He **ALONE** is the way to God
 1. You are free to reject this if you wish
 2. But you cannot both reject this truth **AND** simultaneously trust Christ.

3. Jesus was clear, to confess HIM is to reject everything and everyone else for salvation.

V. A NEW COVENANT

- A. First covenant conditional - adding conditions will always lead to failure. But in the covenant of grace there are no conditions. For Christ has fulfilled all of the conditions HIMSELF. There is nothing left for us to do.
- B. First covenant was a type.
 1. Shadows of the real
 2. A lesson in trust
 3. Intending to lead us somewhere. (to Christ)

Galatians 3:22–25(NKJV) 22 But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. 23 But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed. 24 Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. 25 But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.

- C. The first was **always intended** to be temporary. God Himself told us He was raising up a new.

Deuteronomy 18:18(NKJV) 18 I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him.

Luke 1:69(NKJV) 69 And has raised up a horn of salvation for us In the house of His servant David,

1. God Himself ONLY could have accomplished this upheaval.

Zechariah 4:6–7(NKJV) 6 So he answered and said to me: “This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: ‘Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’ Says the Lord of hosts.7 ‘Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain! And he shall bring forth the capstone With shouts of “Grace, grace to it!” ’ ”

2. Necessarily replaces and abolishes.
 - a. Where Christ is established, any thing or role which attempts or claims to do the same work is done away with. When he arose as a king, he did not put an end unto the office and power of kings in

the world for clearly no ONE king or leader will ever be able to unite all (hence the attempts of the spirit of anti-Christ to unite all under a one world government, and incidentally why all Christians should oppose the same!) He told Pilate that He wasn't fighting for rule of this world for that was not yet his purpose.

John 18:35–37(NKJV) 35 Pilate answered, “Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You to me. What have You done?”36 Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here.”37 Pilate therefore said to Him, “Are You a king then?”Jesus answered, “You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.”

- b. But to all other things pertaining to access to God He put an end.

- i. He arose as a priest THE priest who neither needs nor tolerates another
- ii. And when He rises spiritually in the hearts and consciences of believers, an end is put unto all other things that they might before look for life, or righteousness, or salvation by.
- iii. Again I will say it - if you honor Christ as your access to God, you necessarily deny and refute all other means of getting to Him.

- D. The Old had flaws from its very beginning
1. Aaron made the calf of gold
 2. His sons offered profane fire
 3. Israel rejected the covenant and the God of the covenant ...

Hebrews 8.7-13

Cf. **Jeremiah 31.31-34**

E. The new covenant of grace is perfect throughout. NO flaw, NO failure, NO fault, NO decay of death to accompany imperfect pictures of life... for He Himself has become both our peace and our life!

Ephesians 2:14(NKJV) 14 For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation,

1John 5:12(NKJV) 12 He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

F. The New covenant accomplishes its end.

1. Christ lives forever to fulfill His duty

Hebrews 7:25 Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

2. Christ is given to us BY the Father to this end and Has been given all authority to fulfill all that is needed!

a. Universal total authority leads to universal purpose for us

Matthew 28:18–20(NKJV) 18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

b. Universal authority over all truth

John 12:49(NKJV) 49 For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak.

c. Universal authority to save those who are His own chosen children.

2Peter 1:2–4(NKJV) 2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, 3 as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, 4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

d. Universal authority to GIVE LIFE

John 17:1–3(NKJV) 1 Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, 2 as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. 3 And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

e. Universal authority over His own life

John 10:17–18(NKJV) 17 “Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. 18 No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.”

- i. NOTE that the ESV renders power as authority... it is not the normal word rendered as power <dunamos> from which we get "dynamite" but rather it is the word <exousian> which specifically is attributed to power from an office of state. Authority. Because of the office of Messiah, because of the role He is fulfilling HE alone is the authority over all life. Including His own. No one does anything to Him, He is the author of all. This is important to us because it reinforces the truth that Christ is the WILLING sacrifice of God on our behalf.
3. Thus the new covenant in Christ's blood fulfills its purpose. He saves to the uttermost

Hebrews 7:25(NKJV) 25 Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.