

## HEBREWS LESSON TWELVE OUTLINE THE PERFECT PRIEST TO ANCHOR YOUR SOUL

- I. Review of last week's lesson
  - A. Focus shifts from Genesis 14 account to Psalm 110:4
- II. Structure of Hebrews 7:11-28
  - A. v. 11-19 change in priesthood required for perfection- Psalm 110:4B
  - B. v. 18-25 contrasts between Jesus' and Levitical priesthoods- Psalm 110:4A
  - C. v. 26-28 summary of the perfection of Jesus as high priest and sacrifice
- III. v. 11-19 What further need? Focus on Psalm 110:4B
  - A. v. 11-12 since perfection is NOT through Levitical priesthood> there is a need for another priesthood
    - 1. v. 12 priesthood is crucial to the observance of the Law
    - 2. Change in priesthood automatically results in change in law
  - B. v. 13-14 liberation of priesthood from genealogical requirement
    - 1. Connection with v. 3A and v.6- genealogical freedom of Melchizedek
    - 2. Jesus is from the tribe of Judah- never entered the Holy of Holies
    - 3. Qualified to be descendant of David> the King who occupies the throne
    - 4. Melchizedek was a king and a priest> Jesus is as well- also ch. 1:8-9, 2:17
    - 5. Priesthood changed from limitation to one nation to **universal**
  - C. v. 15-17 liberation of priesthood from power of death
    - 1. Jesus' priesthood not based on physical descent but on indestructible life
    - 2. Power evidenced in His resurrection from the dead> eternal priesthood
    - 3. Fulfills Psalm 110:4 You are a priest forever
    - 4. Priesthood changed from limitation to a portion of time to **eternal**
    - 5. Priesthood no longer limited to one nation/ its era but for EVERY tribe, tongue, people, and nation- fulfills promise to Abraham in Genesis 12: 3
  - D. v. 18-19 bookend for this section in speaking of perfection
    - 1. v. 18 setting aside= legal term for abolition/ annulment of former commandment b/c of weakness- it could only provide external cleansing
    - 2. v. 19 no perfection in the Law- only the high priest could come near
      - a. All sacrifices had to be repeated again and again
      - b. But it is replaced with a BETTER hope- WE draw near!
        - i. "better" is repeated theme in all Hebrews- used 13x
      - c. Levitical priesthood was hopeful, Jesus' priesthood is **hope-filled**
      - d. Vital implication- Levitical priesthood is replaced and does not co-exist with Jesus' priesthood> the church is an organism with all connected to the head vs a hierarchical organization
- IV. v. 18-25 begins focus on first part of Psalm 110:4

- A. Begin again w/ v. 18-19= series of contrasts between the two priesthoods
  - 1. Strong contrasting language- on the one hand...on the other hand w/ emphasis on the second
- B. v. 18-19 first contrast
  - 1. Annulment due to weakness/uselessness, replacement w/ better hope
  - 2. Repetition of sacrifices w/o proximity/ intimacy vs drawing near
- C. v. 20-22 second contrast
  - 1. Levitical priests became such w/o and oath, Jesus w/ an oath
    - a. The Lord has sworn and will not change His mind
  - 2. There will never be a need for another priest based on God's solemn oath
  - 3. Therefore, priesthood is now **unchanging** and Jesus is the guarantee
- D. v. 23-24 third contrast
  - 1. Many former priests d/t death, some good, some bad> variability/instability
  - 2. Priesthood is now **stable** because Jesus is the same forever
- E. v. 25 result- Jesus is powerful to save ALL who draw near
  - 1. He saves absolutely, completely, permanently
  - 2. He always lives to intercede- both temporal and purposeful language
  - 3. Implication- He will be faithful to complete what He began in you
- V. v. 26-28 the beautiful conclusion
  - A. v. 26 points back to the perfection of Jesus as high priest
    - 1. It was fitting for us to have such a high priest- right, appropriate
      - a. Reminiscent of 2:10
    - 2. Five descriptors
      - a. Holy- free from any wickedness, observing all moral obligations
      - b. Innocent- free from any guilt, bad intentions/actions/words
      - c. undefiled- not soiled or corrupted by the evil around Him, pure
      - d. Separated from sinners- morally and spatially
      - e. Exalted above the heavens- He is at the right hand of God!
  - B. v. 27 no further mention of Melchizedek, who made no sacrifices
    - 1. Jesus' priesthood is different AND the sacrifice is different!
    - 2. He is the perfect, sinless priest and once-for-all sacrifice
  - C. v. 28 a most beautiful conclusion
    - 1. Began w/ picture of one man meeting another> concludes with a magnificent portrait of their/ our Savior
    - 2. Contrasts
      - a. The Law vs word of the oath
      - b. Men vs a Son
      - c. Weak vs made perfect FOREVER
- VI. Implications
  - A. Inevitable change in the world, community, and ourselves needs and ANCHOR!