



Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States



The Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews

Chapter 7

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Introduction

- Hebrews 2:17 refers to Christ as a priest
- Hebrews 4:14 focuses on Christ as our High Priest
- Hebrews 5:6 quotes Psalm 110:4, and describes Christ's priesthood after the order of Melchizedek
- Hebrews 7 explains what is meant by a priest according to the order of Melchizedek

Melchizedek The High Priest (7:1-10)



- The story of Abraham and Melchizedek is found in Genesis 14:17-20
- Melchizedek was both king and priest
- King of Salem (Genesis 14:18) is Jerusalem although some say it is Shechem

Melchizedek The High Priest (7:1-10)



- Melchizedek means “*King of righteousness*.”
- Salem means *peace*, (king of peace)
- The Lord Jesus is the king of *peace* and the king of *righteousness*
- The priestly role of Melchizedek shows superiority over Abraham

Melchizedek The High Priest (7:1-10)



- The priestly role of Melchizedek appeared in:
 - ❖ Blessing Abraham
 - ❖ Offering Bread and Wine
 - ❖ Receiving the tithes from Abraham
- V. 3 is not a literal verse but typological

Melchizedek The High Priest (7:1-10)



- The Scripture did not mention anything about the genealogy and the age of Melchizedek
- Why? Especially if compared with the genealogy of Aaron
- Because he was made like the Son of God who has eternal relationship with the Father

Melchizedek The High Priest (7:1-10)



- Melchizedek was a very unusual priest
- He did not inherit his priesthood
- It was given to him by *appointment from God* (as Christ)
- The Scripture did not mention the beginning or end of his priesthood
- His priesthood continues on forever

Melchizedek The High Priest (7:1-10)



- Superiority of Melchizedek's priesthood over the priesthood of Aaron
- Abraham who is the father of Aaron:
 - ❖ Paid a tithe to Melchizedek
 - ❖ Was blessed by Melchizedek
- Melchizedek's genealogy is not derived from them

Melchizedek The High Priest (7:1-10)



- Melchizedek's is an *enduring priesthood while the Levitical priesthood is a transitory priesthood (V. 8)*
- Melchizedek is superior to Abraham, the father of Aaron
- Christ who is a priest according to the order of Melchizedek is superior to Aaron

The Eternal Priesthood of Christ (7:11-25)



- Speaking of a priesthood according to the order of Melchizedek (Psalm 110:4) means that the Levitical priesthood was *deficient*
- Again perfection in V.11 means to fulfill the purpose
- Since the Levitical priesthood was described in the Law of the Old Testament, a new priesthood will require a new law

The Eternal Priesthood of Christ (7:11-25)



- Since Jesus was not from the descendants of Aaron, then His priesthood is different
- “Who has come not according to the *law* of a *fleshly commandment*, but according to the *power* of an *endless life*” V. 16
- The basis of Christ’s priesthood is His resurrection V. 16

The Eternal Priesthood of Christ (7:11-25)



- The former commandment that is annulled because of its weakness and un-profitableness was the legal basis by which one became a priest
- That portion of the Law failed to accomplish God's goal (to draw near to Him) but this was accomplished by Christ's resurrection

The Eternal Priesthood of Christ (7:11-25)



- God had sworn that Christ would be a priest forever (Psalm 110:4)
- Christ's priesthood is effective and will remain effective because God has *sworn it*
- Thus in Christ's priesthood there is a greater assurance than in Jewish priesthood (surety of a better covenant)

The Eternal Priesthood of Christ (7:11-25)



- The Levitical priests were *mortal* but Christ is *alive forever* (unchangeable priesthood)
- The superior priesthood of Christ provides *an eternal and ultimate salvation*

The Ultimate Uniqueness of Christ (7:26-28)



- Morally, He is harmless which means “*without evil*”
- Religiously, He is undefiled which means “*nothing impure* attached itself to Him”
- He is separated from sinners:
 - ❖ Because of His sinless perfection
 - ❖ By His ascension and thus He has become higher than the heavens

The Ultimate Uniqueness of Christ (7:26-28)



- He has no necessity to offer sacrifices day by day because:
 - ❖ He is sinless
 - ❖ He offered Himself (a perfect sacrifice) once for all (people and time)
- The necessity of repetition has disappeared because the perfect high priest (*Christ*) offered the perfect sacrifice (*Himself*)

Ultimate Uniqueness of Christ (7:26-28)



Christ	Levitical Priests
Appointed by an oath	Appointed by the law
Son of God who became man	Men
Has been perfected (accomplished the will of the Father)	Have weakness
Forever	Temporary



Conclusion

- Why is the Lord Jesus the surety of a better covenant?
- Why is the Lord Jesus able to save people to the uttermost?
- What is the essential function of a priest?
- How is the Lord Jesus described in verse 26?
- How does the Lord Jesus differ from human high priests?