

## HEBREWS PART 4

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The whole theme of Hebrews is ... **better**.

### Hebrews 6:19-20 (NKJV)

19 This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil,  
20 where **the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.**

### HEBREWS CHAPTER 7 ... BETTER PRIESTHOOD

#### Hebrews 7:1-3 (NKJV)

1 For this **\*Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God**, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him,

2 to whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all, first being translated **"king of righteousness," and then also king of Salem, meaning "king of peace,"**

3 **without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, remains a priest continually.**

Paul brings out that Melchizedek was of great importance. Jesus' Priesthood is of the order of Melchizedek.

\*Melchizedek

#### Hebrews 5:6 (NKJV)

6 As He also says in another place:

**"You are a priest forever**

**According to the order of Melchizedek”;**

**Hebrews 5:9-10 (NKJV)**

9 And having been perfected, **He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,**

10 **called by God as High Priest “according to the order of Melchizedek,”**

Jesus is of the ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK ... not of Aaron.

Melchizedek ... A Superior Priesthood to Aaron/Levi ... Old Covenant.

Who was Melchizedek? He was unique.

**Hebrews 7:4-10 (NKJV)**

4 **Now consider how great this man was, to whom even the patriarch Abraham gave a tenth of the spoils.** (*Who was greater than Abraham if you were a Jew? Melchizedek was more important*)

5 And indeed those who are of the sons of Levi, who receive the priesthood, have a commandment to receive tithes from the people according to the law, that is, from their brethren, though they have come from the loins of Abraham;

6 but he whose genealogy is not derived from them received tithes from **Abraham** and blessed him who **had the promises.**

7 **Now beyond all contradiction the lesser is blessed by the better.** (*Melchizedek is better. Abraham is inferior to Melchizedek*)

8 Here mortal men receive tithes, but there he receives them, of whom it is witnessed that he lives.

9 Even Levi, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, so to speak,

10 for he was still in the loins of his father when Melchizedek met him.

This was written to a Jewish/Hebrew Audience!

Abraham had the Promises. He is great ... But Melchizedek was greater than Abraham? And ... of course ... Jesus is after the order of Melchizedek.

**Verse 7 ... 20<sup>th</sup> Century New Testament** "now no one can dispute that it is the superior who blesses the inferior"

**Hebrews 7:11 (NKJV)**

11 Therefore, if perfection (*completion ... "Spiritual Maturity"*) were through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need was there that another (*Heteros ... of a different type*) priest should rise according to the order of Melchizedek, and not be called according to the order of Aaron?

**Hebrews 7:12-14 (NKJV)**

12 **For the priesthood being changed, of necessity there is also a change of the law.** (*There had to be a change in the Law of Priesthood. God has to change it! It doesn't deliver! It can't bring relationships*)

13 For He of whom these things are spoken belongs to another tribe, from which no man has officiated at the altar.

14 **For it is evident that our Lord arose from Judah, of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood.** (*How can Jesus be any sort of priest? He was descended from Judah ... so the law of the priesthood had to be changed ... to allow a non-Levite to become a priest ... that is Jesus*)

**Hebrews 7:15-22 (NKJV)**

15 And it is yet far more evident if, in the likeness of Melchizedek, there arises another priest

16 who has come, not according to the law of a fleshly commandment, but according to the power of an endless life.

17 For He testifies:

**"You are a priest forever**

**According to the order of Melchizedek."** *(Paul is working hard to get the people to forget the old Levitical priesthood ... because we now have a better Priest ... according to the order of Melchizedek. Everything is better)*

18 For on the one hand there is an annulling of the former commandment because of its weakness and unprofitableness,

19 for the law made nothing perfect; on the other hand, there is the bringing in of a **better hope**, through which we draw near to God.

20 And inasmuch as **He was not made priest without an oath**

21 (for they have become priests without an oath, but He with an oath by Him who said to Him:

**"The Lord has sworn**

And will not relent,

**'You are a priest forever**

**According to the order of Melchizedek' "**),

22 by so much more **Jesus has become a surety of a better covenant.**

Only a Jewish person can become a King and only a Levite can become a Priest ... Except ...

### **Zechariah 6:12-13 (NKJV)**

12 Then speak to him, saying, 'Thus says the Lord of hosts, saying:

**"Behold, the Man whose name is the BRANCH!**

From His place He shall branch out,

And He shall build the temple of the Lord;

13 Yes, He shall build the temple of the Lord.

He shall bear the glory,

And shall **sit and rule on His throne;** *(Kingship)*

So **He shall be a priest on His throne,** *(only one person combines the role of both King and Priest ... The Lord Jesus)*

And the counsel of peace shall be between them both."

### Hebrews 7:23-28 (NKJV)

23 Also there were many priests, because they were prevented by death from continuing.

24 **But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood.**

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.**

26 For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens;

27 who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, **for this He (Jesus) did once for all when He offered up Himself.**

28 For the law appoints as high priests men who have weakness, but **the word of the oath, which came after the law, appoints the Son who has been perfected forever.**

### \*Hebrews 7:25 (NET)

25 **So he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.**

### \*Hebrews 7:25 (RSV)

25 **Consequently he is able for all time to save those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them**

### \*Hebrews 7:25 (NASB)

25 **Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.**

In the Old Testament the High Priest went to God on behalf of the people. Now ... Jesus does that for us continually ... Day to day. His physical sacrifice was once ... 2,000 years ago ... for all time. But ... He still serves today ... just as He did then. He still teaches ... directs ... interceding for us ... goes to The Father on our behalf. His ministry continues everyday ... forever.

Of ourselves we are not fit to come before a Holy God. But ... we can come directly to God ... right before Him ... talk to Him ... get an audience with Him ... be heard by Him ... enjoy a close and intimate relationship with Him ... through our High Priest. He "looks out" for us!

He has gone before us. He is going to make sure we are in the Kingdom! And ... unlike a physical High Priest ... He won't get distracted or die.

We don't know what Jesus does day by day for us. We don't know ... but by faith ... we believe.

Jesus emptied Himself ... He came to earth as a human being ... was beaten ... scourged ... crucified. He gave it all! 100% ... for you and for me. He isn't taking it easy now. He wants to deliver as many sons to glory as is possible ... you and me. Jesus intercedes all of the time for us.

### **Romans 8:28-34 (NKJV)**

28 **And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.**

29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. (*Brothers and sisters. Jesus is not ashamed to call us brethren*)

30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. *(Calling those things that be not as though they were)*

31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

32 **He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?** *(God has given everything ... Given all!!)*

33 Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

34 Who is he who condemns? **It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.** *(Who could possibly accuse you or me to the Father? No one is going to condemn us)*

### **1 John 1:8 - 2:2 (NKJV)**

8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

9 **If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** *(If you are cleansed ... you are cleansed)*

10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

### **Chapter 2**

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.** *(Advocate ... Parakletos ... Intercessor ... Helper... Strengthener ... Standby)*

2 **And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.**

We should be confident ... comforted ... encouraged? We have Jesus to minister to us today. It's our High Priest who died for me ... My Brother ... it's not just me.

Yet ... without the Book of Hebrews ... we would know very little.

## **HEBREWS CHAPTER 8 ... A BETTER COVENANT**

### **Hebrews 8:1-5 (NKJV)**

1 Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: **We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens,**

**2 a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man.**

3 For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices. Therefore it is necessary that this One also have something to offer.

4 For if He were on earth, He would not be a priest, since there are priests who offer the gifts according to the law;

5 who serve the copy and shadow of the heavenly things, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, "See that you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain."

So Paul is going to talk about the old system. Priests ... High Priest ... Levites ... they only serve in a physical temple. They are a copy and shadow of the Heavenly things/realities ... verse 5. Jesus serves in the real Sanctuary ... The Heavenly Sanctuary ... **FOR US!**

This is not just "interesting" academic knowledge ... This is Jesus' role ... what He's doing ... to ensure that we will one day join Him and The Father!

### **Hebrews 8:6 (NKJV)**

6 But now He has obtained **a more excellent** (*better theme*) **ministry**, (*public office*) inasmuch as He is also **Mediator** (*go-between*) of a **better covenant**, (*agreement*) which was established on **better promises**. (*Good as the old covenant*)

*might have been ... Jesus is Mediator of the new covenant ... based on better promises)*

### **Hebrews 8:7-13 (NKJV)**

7 For if that first covenant had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a second. *(Not strictly the first covenant: Noah ... after the flood. Another covenant ... with Abraham ... but ... the first of the two under discussion)*

8 **Because finding fault with them,** *(rebellious ... inadequate ... they didn't have the Holy Spirit ... but also the first covenant was inherently inadequate ... Levitical sacrifices which won't perfect you spiritually. Cp: Heb 9 & 10)* He says: **"Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah—**

9 not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; **because they did not continue in My covenant, and I disregarded them, says the Lord.**

10 For **this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.** *(At last a relationship. People will naturally lean to going God's ways. The laws will be in their mind and heart not on tables of stone. We all live by some standards ... gang members ... democrats ... socialists ... LGBT ... church-goers ... copy our families. The right standards are God's standards [God knows best])*

11 None of them shall teach his neighbour, and none his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them. *(When God can have a great relationship with everyone)*

12 For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and **their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."** *(God won't remember our sins. We remember our sins ... and other peoples*

*sins. We can't totally forget ... but ... God does. He doesn't remember them anymore. Mercy: we don't get what we deserve! Something to be very grateful for.)*

13 *In that He says, "A new covenant," He has made the first obsolete.* Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away. *(Paul is saying the old covenant is obsolete. It's sell-by-date has arrived)*