

## Hebrews 7:20-28 “A Superior Covenant”

January 8, 2026

We are in Chapter 7 of Hebrews. Last week, Bryan introduced us to the person and high priest Melchizedek. Remember, that the author started to introduce Melchizedek in Chapter 5 and then steps back saying, about this Melchizedek, I have much to say, BUT it is hard to explain because you have become dull of hearing, and he goes to encourage them to return to the basic teachings of God.

In Chapter 6, he recounts the basics of the Christian faith and warns those who are believers to protect their faith lest they fall away. Not that they would lose their salvation, but once they have fallen away there is no guarantee that the Spirit will restore them to repentance and their life would be fruitless only producing thorns and thistles that are worthless and to be burned. And we cited **1 Corinthians 3:15** saying if anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, **though he himself will be saved**, but only as through fire. What a tragic loss for the kingdom when a believer in Christ who is dull of hearing, falls away and has no fruit or rewards from their life.

- Melchizedek is introduced as King of Salem and priest of the most high God. The author is recounting the story where we first run into Melchizedek in Genesis 14 at the time of Abraham. Salem means peace and his name Melchizedek means, “my Lord is Righteous.” So Melchizedek was king of righteousness and king of peace.
- Verse 1 and 2 recount the story of Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings. Upon his return, Abraham honors Melchizedek with a tithe and receives a blessing from Melchizedek.

Melchizedek is a person and we read in **Hebrews 7:3** “Without father or mother or genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but resembling the Son of God, he continues a priest forever.”

### What does this mean?

This verse is often misunderstood. Scripture is not teaching that Melchizedek was a supernatural being or that he literally had no parents.

### 1. “Without father or mother or genealogy”

This means that Scripture does not record Melchizedek’s parents or lineage. In contrast to the Levitical priesthood—where genealogy was essential—Melchizedek appears without ancestral records. The silence of Scripture is intentional and serves a theological purpose.

### 2. “Having neither beginning of days nor end of life”

This phrase does not mean Melchizedek was eternal. Rather, the Bible does not mention his birth or death. He appears and disappears in the biblical narrative without explanation, allowing him to function **symbolically**.

### 3. “Resembling the Son of God”

The passage does not say Melchizedek “*is*” the Son of God. It says he “*resembles*” the Son of God. He is a **type or foreshadowing** of Christ, not Christ Himself.

**This makes Melchizedek a fitting picture of Christ’s eternal priesthood.**

- He goes on to describe Melchizedek’s priesthood as superior to the Levitical priesthood in verses 4-10.
- In verses 11-19, the author shows the imperfection of the Levitical priesthood that was from the Line of Aaron, and presents Jesus as a better high priest having power over life, He does not die, and is from the line or order of Melchizedek. Jesus is the better hope to draw near to God.
- Verses 20-24 describe the priests of Aaron as inferior because their priesthood was built upon the weakness of the Law that was useless to save. The Law condemns. The Law does not save. The priests of Aaron died and were replaced. Jesus is ordained high priest by an OATH of GOD, Psalm 110:4 Jesus is the guarantor of a better covenant by the oath of God and Jesus and His priesthood are everlasting.

**As a summary and comparison, these are the ways the New Covenant and priesthood of Melchizedek obsoletes the Old Covenant and the Aaronic or Levitical priesthood.**

1. In Genesis 14, Melchizedek gives a blessing to Abraham and Abraham gives tithes of his spoils to Melchizedek. In the Jewish tradition blessings are given by the Superior, and tithes are given to the Superior. Therefore, **Melchizedek is Superior to Abraham and Superior to the priests of Levi** who are “from the loins” or descendants of Abraham.
2. Moses’ brother Aaron and his family were of the tribe of Levi. One of 12 sons of Jacob. In Exodus 28 and 29, God gives instructions to Moses to consecrate or set apart Aaron and his sons. **The priesthood of Melchizedek precedes the Mosaic Law.** *(I may refer to the Priests of Aaron or the Levitical priesthood. These are the same.)*
3. The Levitical priesthood was a temporary and repeating priesthood based on genealogy where Priests would die and be replaced. The priesthood of Melchizedek is established by God’s oath. **Psalms 110:4** “The Lord has sworn and will not change His mind, ‘**You are a priest forever.**’” - **God’s oath is more secure than the Law.**
4. Sacrifices are continually offered by the Levitical priests. First for their own sins and then to cover the sins of the Jews. The sacrifices only COVERED the sins with the blood, but did not REMOVE their sins. The priests of Aaron died and were replaced, **the priesthood of Melchizedek is permanent having no beginning or end and the sacrifice of Christ eliminates sin and is complete.** Never needing to be repeated.
5. Where the Levitical sacrifices were in an earthly temple and a veil separates the people from entering God’s presence. Christ has removed the veil and is in a heavenly sanctuary serving as priest for those who believe. And as it says in verse 24, **“He holds His priesthood permanently, because He continues forever.”**

For these Hebrew Christians, much of their life and culture revolves around the Law, the prophets, the temple and the sacrifices of the high priest. They were being persecuted for following Jesus. The argument that the author is presenting in this letter was mind-blowing. He starts his letter describing Jesus as the creator of the world, the radiance of God's glory, exact imprint of His nature and holding the world together by His power, but he has now added that Jesus, the Christ, is superior to the prophets, superior to the angels, superior to Moses and now, superior to Abraham and superior in glory and function to the high priesthood of Aaron. Jesus is the fulfillment of the Old Covenant and has given us a New Covenant. A permanent covenant, a much better covenant! To the Hebrew Christians, Don't let persecution tempt you to return to the old ways.

So, we pick up here today in Hebrews 7:25 where we will complete this teaching with the author's "SO WHAT."

**Hebrews 7:25** Consequently, He is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. **2X.**

- **Consequently.** As a result, or consequence of all that we have covered.
- Because of this, **He is able to save.** He is able to deliver you from sin that results in condemnation. He is telling these Hebrew Christians, the New Covenant is better. It does not just cover your sins, but it wholly removes the consequence of your sins FOREVER.

**Romans 8:1** There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

- He saves us from our **Past sins** – At the cross he saved us and delivered us from sin's guilt of the sins of the past.
- He saves us from our **Present sins** - He is currently on the throne, where He intercedes for us, and delivers us from the power of sin in our present life.
- He saves us from our **Future sins** – At the second coming He will deliver us from the presence of sin once and for all time.

- Titus 2 shows these all together.

**Titus 2:11 – 13** <sup>11</sup> For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, (past tense)<sup>12</sup> training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, (present tense) <sup>13</sup> waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, (future tense)

**Hebrews 7:25** adds: Consequently, He is able to save us (from our past, present and future sins) **to the UTTERMOST**. What is the Uttermost?

When I think of 1 John 1:9, I think of the complete result of His saving.

**1 John 1:9** <sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

There is no condition to this statement. He does not say He is faithful to forgive us from some of our sins. No, He is faithful and He is JUST to forgive our sins. He has paid the full penalty and has the right to forgive us of our sin. But it does not end here. He continues on to **cleanse us from ALL unrighteousness. To the uttermost**. Not only does He forgive our sins as if it never happened, but he also cleanses us from all unrighteousness. He washes us white as snow.

- Whatever it is, He can save you.
- Whatever it is, He can cleanse you, and
- Whatever it is, He can redeem you to right standing with Him.

Are there sins in your life you can name? Are there consequences in your life resulting from your sin? The Scripture is telling us, He is able.

- First, He is able to save you from condemnation, the eternal consequences of your sin. For those who believe, He saves from eternal separation from Him.

- He is able to restore peace, contentment and joy that may have been lost as a consequence of your sin.
  - He is able to heal relationships and lost reputations that were broken as a result of our sin.
  - Many times sin results in financial loss and He is able to restore financial loss as well.
  - Sin often results in feelings of guilt or shame. He is able to deliver you from shame and guilt and, He is able to **restore innocence** to a mind that has been contaminated.
- We have hope! “He is able to save to the UTTERMOST.” Psalm 103. My focus was on verse 12, but I think it all speaks to the Uttermost.

### **Psalm 103:1-13**

Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and all that is within me,  
bless his holy name!

<sup>2</sup>Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and forget not all his benefits,  
<sup>3</sup>who forgives all your iniquity,  
who heals all your diseases,  
<sup>4</sup>who redeems your life from the pit,  
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,  
<sup>5</sup>who satisfies you with good  
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

<sup>6</sup>The Lord works righteousness  
and justice for all who are oppressed.

<sup>7</sup>He made known his ways to Moses,  
his acts to the people of Israel.

<sup>8</sup>The Lord is merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

<sup>9</sup>He will not always chide,  
nor will he keep his anger forever.

<sup>10</sup>He does not deal with us according to our sins,  
nor repay us according to our iniquities.

<sup>11</sup> For as high as the heavens are above the earth,  
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

<sup>12</sup> as far as the east is from the west,  
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

<sup>13</sup> As a father shows compassion to his children,  
so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him.

- “as far as the east is from the west, so far does He remove our transgressions from us.” **To the uttermost.** He can do it because He is the eternal priest.

**Verse 25** – <sup>25</sup> Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost **those who draw near to God through Him**, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

**“To those who draw near to Him”** – Because of Christ’s perfect sacrifice removing sin completely, once and for all, the veil has been removed, and believers are able to draw near to God through Christ.

- **“Since He always lives to make intercession for them.”** ALWAYS means that His work is forever complete. We must not imagine or get the picture that God the Father is angry with us so that God the Son must constantly appeal to Him not to judge us! The Father and the Son are in complete agreement in the plan of salvation. His work was complete on the cross, once and for all time. And there is no sin that is greater than the grace extended on the cross.

**Romans 8:34** Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

- He ALWAYS lives to make intercession for us. ***We are saved, and as long as Jesus is on the throne making intercession for us, we cannot lose our salvation.*** The permanence of our salvation is tied directly to the permanence of Christ’s priesthood and His advocacy for us.
- In John 14, Jesus is talking to Phillip about sending the Spirit and says in verse 19

**John 14:19** <sup>19</sup>Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. **Because I live, you also will live.**

- Because Jesus lives, you also will live because He is our forever High Priest. Our salvation is permanent. Jesus work is “ALWAYS” complete.

The author wraps up his argument in verses 26 and 27.

**Hebrews 7:26-27** <sup>26</sup>For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. <sup>27</sup>He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself.

- For it was indeed fitting – As our high priest, He is perfectly fitted or perfectly suited to meet our needs completely.
- He is Holy – The OT priests were holy meaning, “set apart,” but they were not always holy in character. They were sinners who ministered to the people, but the “holy” describing Jesus here is Holiness of character. Only Jesus was holy in character.
- He was innocent - He is blameless and without sin
- He was unstained – He was undefiled by the world.

**Hebrews 4:15** <sup>15</sup>For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

- He was separated from sinners –He was a friend of sinners, but His contact with them did not defile His character or His conduct. He was not isolated. He was separated.
- In the last part of verse 26 he says, He is exalted above the heavens – Because of His position, He was made higher than the heavens and always available to us at His throne of grace.

**Verse 27** *The author compares Jesus to the old covenant high priests.* <sup>27</sup>He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own



sins and then for those of the people, since He did this once for all when He offered up himself.

- Jesus never had to offer sacrifices for His own cleansing as did the priests, but His one sacrifice of Himself for our sins settled the matter forever.

**Verse 28** gives one more reason why Jesus is the better high priest and it summarizes the whole chapter.

**Hebrews 7:28** <sup>28</sup> For the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the **word of the oath**, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.

- The Law from the old covenant appointed men to be Levitical priests who were weak. They could cover sins but could not forgive them of their sins.
- But God superseded the Law and set up Jesus through an oath recorded hundreds of years after the Law in this messianic psalm.

**Psalms 110:4** The Lord has sworn  
and will not change his mind,  
“You are a priest forever  
after the order of Melchizedek.”

So, go back the chapter 5 when the author of Hebrews started to teach about Melchizedek, he retreated to nail down the basics of their faith in chapter 6, and then comes back to Melchizedek in chapter 7. What is this great message that he was trying to teach.

- The message about Melchizedek is not about Melchizedek. Melchizedek is but a shadow or foretelling of what is to come. It is about Jesus.
- The author takes the Hebrew Christians all the way back to Genesis, chapter 14 where this person Melchizedek is first mentioned. He walks them through Moses, the Law, the priests and the temple rituals performed to cover their sins with the blood of an innocent animal.

1. He uses Melchizedek to prove that Jesus is a Greater High Priest. He is greater than Abraham and the sons of Aaron that came from him.
2. Melchizedek proves the Law and Old Covenant were inferior and there is a superior new covenant in Jesus
3. Jesus is both King and Priest. Jesus is King from the line of Judah and priest after the order of Melchizedek.
4. The Old Covenant is obsolete. It has been fulfilled and superseded with a better covenant.
5. Believers now have direct and permanent access to God

The author of Hebrews uses Melchizedek to prove that Jesus is the final, eternal High Priest whose superior priesthood fulfills and replaces the entire Old Covenant—so believers must hold fast to Him and not turn back.