

FALL QUARTER SUNDAY SCHOOL 2016
THEME: GOD’S SOVEREIGNTY SEEN PROPHETICALLY
UNIT TWO –THE SOVEREIGNTY OF JESUS CHRIST...

“CHRIST JESUS OUR PERFECT INTERCESSOR”
(God’s Eternal High Priest)

PRE CROSS		POST CROSS
LEVITICAL PRIESTHOOD		MELCHIZEDEK PRIESTHOOD
Imperfect Priesthood		Perfect Priesthood
Temporary Priesthood		Eternal Priesthood
Old Order of Priesthood		New Order of Priesthood
Insufficient Priesthood		Sufficient Priesthood
Deficient Priesthood		Model Priesthood
Earthy Priesthood		Royal, heavenly Priesthood
Imperfect Mediator		Perfect Mediator
This Priest is a sinner		This Priest is Sinless
Under sentence of Death		Broke the power of death
Descendent of Levi priestly tribe		Descendent of Judah kingly tribe
Cannot reconcile man to God		CAN reconcile man to God
Cannot represent God to man		CAN represent God to man
Cannot remove the sin barrier		CAN remove the sin barrier
Cannot being man to perfection		CAN being man to perfection
Under condemnation of the Law	Hebrews 7:11	Fulfilled the requirements of the Law

Sunday School Lesson No. VIII
 October 23, 2016

Presented by Rev. Frank A. Davis, III
 Pastor-Teacher

Lesson Text: Hebrews 7:1-3, 20-28

Motto Text: Hebrews 7:24-25, *“But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.”*

Required Reading:
 Hebrews 4:14–5:11; Chapter 7

Reliable Resources: Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator; Standard Lesson Commentary; Libronix Electronic Library; Thomas Nelson Bible Notes; Life Application Bible Commentary (Hebrews)

INTRODUCTION

As we discussed previously, the book of Hebrews is written to encourage Jewish Christians to remain faithful to Christ during times of persecution by their own enemies and countrymen. Challenges forced many to turn back to the religion of their ancestors, which was a good one, until God sent Christ as His final word to men. Christ is the fulfillment of the Old Covenant given by God, making way for a new and perfect way that would last eternally!

Hebrews 1:1-2, *“God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds.”*

John 14:6, *“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”*

Hebrews 10:9, *“Then said he (Jesus), Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second.”*

THE OVERVIEW

In this week’s lesson, the Hebrews writer challenges the reader to receive God’s superior priesthood in Jesus Christ. Under the Old Covenant, Jehovah gave Israel a priesthood through Aaron, Moses’ brother. (Read Exodus 28 – 29). Priests were totally essential for people to have a relationship with God.

Priest defined: *“One who offers sacrifice and has the charge of things pertaining thereto.”* (Vines Complete Expository Dictionary). The nation of Israel not only had many priests for daily sacrificial service, but they had a “High Priest.” This man’s responsibility was to represent the nation before the presence of God. He was their **intercessor**, and according to the historian Josephus, there may have been at least 83 priests from Aaron to the fall of the Temple in A.D. 70.

Now, why is this so important? According to Hebrews 7, God declares that He has established a new priesthood to serve before Him eternally, and it is after the order of Melchisedec (Hebrews 7:21). To the Jews this seems blasphemous because of their tradition and history with the Levitical priesthood and Aaron, but as we will briefly discuss this week, Jesus’ priesthood after the order of Melchisedec is far superior to the Levitical priesthood of Aaron!

According to Hebrews 7, the priesthood of Christ is a mysterious eternal order, which is paralleled by Melchisedec! H. L. Willmington says it is:

- “1.) A royal priesthood. 7:1-2
- 2.) An authoritative priesthood. 7:4-10
- 3.) A timeless priesthood. 7:3
- 4.) An independent priesthood. 7:14, 22-24
- 5.) An everlasting priesthood. 7:17; Ps. 110:4

- 6.) An immutable priesthood. 7:2-4
- 7.) An all-inclusive priesthood. 7:27
- 8.) A Holy priesthood. 7:26
- 9.) A perfecting priesthood. 7:19, 25”

Now beloved, with these over-viewing thoughts, let us examine an outline of the Sunday School lesson for the week entitled: **“Christ Jesus Our Perfect Intercessor (God’s Eternal High Priest)”**. **Anticipated Power Points: As our Perfect Intercessor...**

- **Christ Intercedes Covenantly. Hebrews 7:20-22**
- **Christ Intercedes Continually. Hebrews 7:23-24**
- **Christ Intercedes Constantly. Hebrews 7:25**
- **Christ Intercedes Consecrationally. Hebrews 7:26-27**
- **Christ Intercedes Convincingly. Hebrews 7:28**

LESSON OUTLINE

As our Perfect Intercessor...

I. Christ Intercedes Covenantly. Hebrews 7:20-22

God provided Christ to all believers as a High Priest (Intercessor) by an oath of His own validation. As recorded earlier, the Levitical priesthood had been established by the Law to intercede through its High Priest for the people. But Jehovah supersedes this priesthood with an oath or covenantal promise of Jesus Christ to be an eternal intercessor for those who are born again. According to Life Application Bible Commentary, “Jesus guarantees God’s forgiveness of us, and He guarantees our acceptability with God.” We can be sure by no greater guarantee than the covenantal word of God, Christ is our guaranteed intercessor! (Our surety or everlasting Guarantor!)

II. Christ Intercedes Continually. Hebrews 7:23-24

The priests of Aaron’s line have come and gone, living and dying, but the Hebrews writer gives the believer everlasting hope that Christ our intercessor is eternally representing us before Almighty God. Hebrews 10:12-14 tells us, **“But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.”** (Keyword is Forever!)

III. Christ Intercedes Constantly. Hebrews 7:25

This is a blessing because He is our eternal sacrifice (Hebrews 9:24-28). And His presence is always at the right hand of the Father – **“seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.”** Beloved, are you one of **“them?”** I know I am! Romans 8:33-34, **“Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God’s elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.”** (Christ’s vigilance gives us constant confidence!)

IV. Christ Intercedes Consecrationally. Hebrews 7:26-27

All one has to do is experience the consecrated character of Christ our High Priest and shout for joy! **Holy; harmless** (blameless or innocent); **undefiled** (pure and untouched by the influence of those He purifies!); **separate from sinners** (a completely sinless life!). **made “higher than the heavens.”** (This describes His intercessory position as superior to any other priest that preceded Him. He is in a class all by Himself...HALLELUJAH!)

V. Christ Intercedes Convincingly. Hebrews 7:28

All priests prior to Christ were weak, sinful and anemic to the will of the flesh. But not Christ! His appointment as intercessor was made after the failures of those who were under the law. The oath of the Father concerning His appointment guarantees His eternal longevity, and that’s convincing enough for us all! Remember Hebrews 7:25, **“Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.”**

CLOSING

Let us rejoice for the presence of Christ as our eternal intercessor before the presence of the Father. This opens the doors that we may boldly approach the throne of grace! Keep in mind Hebrews 4:16, **“Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”**

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Looking Ahead: October 30, 2016 Hebrews 12:1-13

Please join us each Wednesday noon at Bibleway as Pastor Davis teaches the Sunday School lesson.

