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

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

Sunday School Lesson No. VIII
October 23, 2016
Presented by Rev. Frank A. Davis, III
Pastor-Teacher

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
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 superseded 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 look forward with constant hope. Hebrews 7:23 – “Christ Intercedes Continually.” Hebrews 7:20 – “Christ Intercedes Covenantly.” Hebrews 7:26 – “Christ Intercedes Consecrationally.”
   Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. Hebrews 8:33

   Hebrews 4:16 – “Let us therefore come boldly un...”
   Hebrews 7:28 – “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.”

   (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 priest 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.”

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