



## A New Superior High Priest

By Shannon Ford on August 4, 2022

**TODAY'S READING:** Hebrews 7

More than 40 percent of the book of Hebrews is devoted to the priesthood of Jesus Christ. In Hebrews 7, the writer presents an argument for the superiority of the priesthood of Christ. A priest like Melchizedek. Melchizedek, the ancient priest-king of Salem (Genesis 14:18-20), is regarded as a primordial type of Christ. He is “king of righteousness” and “king of peace” (Heb 7:2). The priest from Salem has figuratively what Christ possesses actually: neither mother nor father, neither beginning nor end of life (v. 3). Melchizedek is shown to be superior to Abraham. It follows that since Levi was in the loins of Abraham as seed (v. 10), Melchizedek is superior to the Levitical priests. And because Christ is a priest after “the likeness of Melchizedek” (v. 15), it follows that the Son of God is more excellent than the old legal priesthood.

The result is that the old Levitical priesthood has been superseded by the priesthood of Christ. The demise of the old order was inevitable, for its repetitive animal sacrifices could never obtain spiritual perfection (7:11). It was a system characterized by “weakness and uselessness” (v. 18). By contrast, Christ’s priesthood is indestructible, eternal, uninterrupted, final, and perfect (vv. 16, 21, 24, 25, 27). Forgiveness and reconciliation are possible only through Christ, our Great High Priest.

We can clearly see through this chapter the superiority of Jesus’ priesthood. His work has no end, no expiration date! He will never step down from His position and, as such, our hope is eternally secure in Him and His work alone. There is nothing you need to do, no extra mile, no extra sacrifice, no supplemental high priest, to add to that which Jesus Christ has secured eternally on your behalf. So, rest daily under the banner of “It is finished!”

**PRAYER:** Lord, as we clearly see You as the perfect High Priest who intercedes for us, we also praise You for Your sacrifice on the cross. No other priest ever took the role of the sacrificial lamb—nor could they. Thank You for being our Lamb of God who took away our sins. Amen.

**TOMORROW'S READING:** Hebrews 8

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