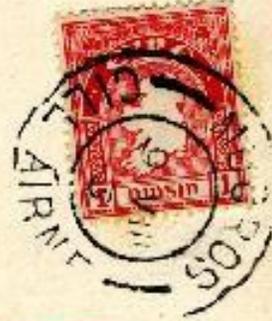




*The Letter to the*  
**Hebrews**

**Chapter Seven**



**Wednesday Series**

June – August 2020



# The Book of Hebrews: Introduction

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- Contents are deep & challenging ...  
Readers are:
  - **Reminded** of how blessed they are to have trusted in Christ
  - **Impressed** with the superiority of Christ
  - **Warned** of the dangers of apostasy



# The Book of Hebrews: Introduction

## ■ “Better” in the Epistle:

- 1) Christ **BETTER** than angels **1:4**
- 2) Confident of **BETTER** things concerning you **6:9**
- 3) The lesser is blessed by the **BETTER** **7:7**
- 4) A **BETTER** hope **7:19**
- 5) Surety of a **BETTER** covenant **7:22**
- 6) Mediator of a **BETTER** covenant **8:6**
- 7) Established on **BETTER** promises **8:6**
- 8) **BETTER** sacrifices **9:23**
- 9) A **BETTER** and enduring possession ... in heaven **10:34**
- 10) A **BETTER**, that is, a heavenly country **11:16**
- 11) A **BETTER** resurrection **11:35**
- 12) Something **BETTER** for us **11:40**



# The Book of Hebrews: Outline

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- Theme: The **Superiority** of Christ!
  - Superior to angels **1:1–2:4**
  - Superior as a Redeemer **2:5 – 2:18**
  - Superior to Moses **3:1 – 4:13**
  - Superior to Aaron **4:14 – 5:10**
  - Warnings of apostasy **5:11 – 6:20**
  - Jesus, Priest forever **7:1 – 7:28**
  - Better covenant & tabernacle **8:1 – 9:12**
  - Better Sacrifice **9:13 – 10:18**
  - Better life **10:19 – 13:25**

# This Melchizedek

[7: 1-3]

- Introduced in **5:6** (quotation of **Ps. 110:4**)
  - “You are **a priest forever**, *after the order of Melchizedek.*”
- Discussion teed up in **5:10**
  - “being designated by God **a high priest** *after the order of Melchizedek.*”
    - But the “lazy listeners” weren’t ready for it
- Re-introduced in **6:20**
  - “where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become **a high priest forever** *after the order of Melchizedek.*”
- Comparison is between the **priesthoods** not the men

# This Melchizedek

[7: 1-3]

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

2 and to him Abraham apportioned a tenth part of everything. He is first, **by translation of his name**, king of righteousness, and then he is also king of Salem, that is, king of peace.

3 He is 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.

# This Melchizedek

[7:3]

- *“without father or mother or genealogy”*
  - His **priesthood** was “apart from” his ancestry
  - His **priesthood** was not hereditary, inherited or dependent upon his direct line of descent
- *“having neither beginning of days nor end of life”*
  - His **priesthood** was neither preceded nor succeeded
- *“but **resembling the Son of God...***
  - *he continues **a priest forever.**”*
- Comparison is between the **priesthoods** not the men
- Jesus’s **priesthood** (like Melchizedek’s) is eternal

# Why Melchizedek's Priesthood is Better

[7:4-6]

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## ABRAHAM PAID TITHES TO HIM (4-6a)

- The “*Patriarch*” – founding father of Israel
- Gave him “*a tenth part of everything*” (2)
- Paying of a tithe honors the one to whom it is paid
  - Later compelled in the Law of Moses (5)
- Proves that **Abraham believed he was in the presence of someone worthy of greater honor than himself**
- The greatness of the priest Melchizedek should be acknowledged in Jesus, a priest after the order of Melchizedek

# Why Melchizedek's Priesthood is Better

[7:6-7]

## HE BLESSED ABRAHAM (6b-7)

- to call down God's beneficent power upon another
- "it comes from one who had the status and authority to impart benefit from God..." - McClister
- "*him who had the promises*" - reminds/affirms the great status of Abraham
  - God had chosen Abraham from among all the people of the earth and made him the Father of God's own people
  - "*yet without dispute the lesser is blessed by the greater*"

# **Why Melchizedek's Priesthood is Better**

**[7:8-10]**

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## **HE IS THE TYPE OF THE UNDYING PRIESTHOOD (8)**

- Not that Melchizedek did not literally die (he did)
- Tithes to Levitical priests go to a succession of men
  - Limited by “*beginning of days*” and “*end of life*” (3)
- But a “Melchizedekian” priesthood is perpetual

## **LEVI PAID TITHES THROUGH ABRAHAM (9-10)**

- Representative of the priesthood of Levi's descendants
- In a sense acknowledges the superiority of Melchizedek
  - Paying of a tithe honors the one to whom it is paid

# Why Melchizedek's Priesthood is Better

[7:11-14]

THERE WAS A "NEED" FOR ANOTHER PRIEST LIKE MELCHIZEDEK (11)

- Levitical priesthood did not arrive at the intended goal
  - "the inadequacy of the system had to do with its inability to remove sin." - Willis
- It had been prophesied (**Ps. 110:4**)
- Required a change in the law (12)
- **Because** the Law of Moses was **silent** on priests from the tribe of Judah (13-14)
  - **We know how the Holy Spirit views God's silence (14)**

# **The Book of Hebrews**

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**Stand by for parenthetical preacher  
aside...**

**(Gary said it was okay last week)**

# How Can We Become “dull of hearing”?

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- “lazy listeners” had to be reminded of the basic principles
- The basic principles “of the **oracles**” of God
  - “In the N. T. spoken of the **words** or **utterances of God**... of the substance of the Christian religion, Hebrews 5:12; of the **utterances of God through Christian teachers**, 1 Peter 4:11.” [Thayer]
- The doctrine of Christ (**6:1**) is based upon what God has **said** through inspired teachers
- The doctrine of Christ does **not** include things about which God has “**said nothing**”!

# How Can We Become “dull of hearing”?

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- Sometimes the “dull of hearing” among us must be reminded of **basic principles** of the doctrine of Christ
  - Like the clear point in **Heb. 7:14 (1 Pet. 4:11; Acts 15:24)**
  - Cyclically revisit the **work and worship of the church**
- “Lazy listeners” among us still make arguments from silence
  - As if they have never heard **Heb. 7:14** or **5:12; 1 Pet. 4:11...**
- Let’s consider the structure & language of **Heb. 7:14** as we “*lay again the foundation*” of some **basic principles** about the **work and worship of the church**

# How We Can Become “dull of hearing”?

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*For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, and in connection with that tribe Moses said nothing about priests.*

- An established fact
- A specific subject
- The authoritative source
- An unauthorized practice

The **inspired** argument: No one from the tribe of Judah could be a Levitical priest because the law was **silent!**

# How Can We Become “dull of hearing”?

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*For it is evident that **the early church sang**, and in connection with **congregational worship** the **New Testament says nothing** about **mechanical musical instruments**.*

*For it is evident that **the early church generously provided for needy saints**, and in connection with **how the church spent its money** the **New Testament says nothing** about **non-Christians**.*

*For it is evident that **the early church was engaged in a spiritual war**, and in connection with **the work of the church** the **New Testament says nothing** about **social outreach or political activism**.*

# **The Book of Hebrews**

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**We now return to our regularly  
scheduled programming**

# Why Melchizedek's Priesthood is Better

[7:15-25]

## BASED UPON AN INDESTRUCTIBLE LIFE (15-19)

- Now evident that “another priest” has arisen
- Introduced a “Better Hope”

## HE WAS MADE A PRIEST WITH AN OATH (21)

- The sovereign Lord has sworn!

## HE HOLDS HIS PRIESTHOOD PERMANENTLY (24)

- Because He is eternal (*continues forever*)
- And... because He is eternal (25) He is able to:
  - **save completely** or at all times (NASB)
  - **always make intercession**

# **Jesus, the High Priest We Needed**

**[7:26-28]**

**26 For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens.**

**27 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.**

**28 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.**

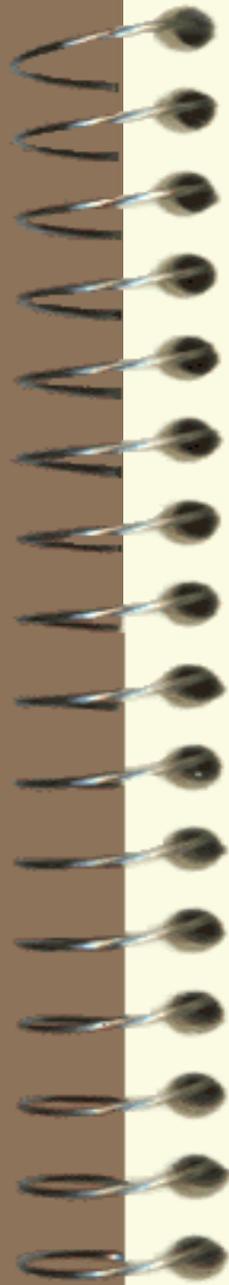
# Jesus, High Priest Forever

[7:1-28]

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**So if we have a better High Priest...**

**We have a better covenant!!**



# **The Book of Hebrews**

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**Next Week:  
Chapter 8**

