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The Uniqueness of Jesus Hebrews 7

In this chapter, the Holy Spirit demonstrates a significant and practical outcome of Jesus serving as our High Priest. Because Jesus is from the tribe of Judah (Hebrews 7.14), a tribe which was barred from priesthood under the Law of Moses, the fact that He serves as a High Priest today indicates that the Law of Moses is no longer in effect (7.12).

To that end, we find in Jesus something else unique — He is involved with a new law. While this idea will be clarified in chapters 9-10, the concept is introduced here. This new law, in which Jesus is an integral part, is not transitory like the Law of Moses. Instead, the new law is enduring, just like its High Priest (7.16,24).

There are some significant points of difference between the Law of Moses and the new law brought in alongside Jesus. Consider the following:

The foundation of Jesus' priesthood in the new law differs from that of the Levitical priests. While high priests under the Law of Moses

served in that capacity due to their genealogy (7.16) and were often replaced due to death (7.23), Jesus serves as High Priest forever, not hindered by death (7.24) and specifically called to that role by the promise of God (7.21). By the nature of His call and His enduring service, Jesus is the High Priest we need, the perfect High Priest.

Additionally, the new law offers something the Law of Moses could not offer — hope (7.19). This hope that is brought in by the new law is contrasted to the inability of the Law of Moses to perfect those who lived under it. And the hope which the new law offers is based in the person and intercession of Jesus (7.22).

Finally, the new law offers something that the Law of Moses could never offer — forgiveness of sin (7.25). To be sure, people who lived under the Law of Moses could be forgiven (Psalm 32), but their forgiveness was not through the Law of Moses, but through the work of the High Priest who was to come — Jesus (7.26; cf. 9.15).

We are blessed to live with Jesus as our High Priest and Savior! -TS

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