

# THE INDESTRUCTIBLE PRIESTHOOD of CHRIST



WALKING ON WATER  
BIBLE CHURCH



"A BETTER PRIEST. A BETTER HOPE. BETTER ACCESS TO GOD."



NOT BY DESCENT,  
BUT BY DIVINE POWER



NOT BY LAW,  
BUT BY AN ENDLESS LIFE



NOT TEMPORARY,  
BUT FOREVER



NOT DISTANT,  
BUT DRAWN NEAR

ASTOR  
**MIKE HOLLOWAY**

**HEBREWS 7:11-19**

*"You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek."*

- Psalm 110:4



**BIBLICAL  
TRUTH**



**ETERNAL  
HOPE**



**DRAW NEAR  
TO GOD**

# Hebrews 7:11-19

- Therefore, if perfection were through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need *was there* that another priest should rise according to the order of Melchizedek, and not be called according to the order of Aaron?
- <sup>12</sup> For the priesthood being changed, of necessity there is also a change of the law.
- <sup>13</sup> For He of whom these things are spoken belongs to another tribe, from which no man has officiated at the altar.

# Hebrews 7:11-19

- <sup>14</sup> For *it is* evident that our Lord arose from Judah, of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood.
- <sup>15</sup> And it is yet far more evident if, in the likeness of Melchizedek, there arises another priest
- <sup>16</sup> who has come, not according to the law of a fleshly commandment, but according to the power of an endless life.

# Hebrews 7:11-19

- <sup>17</sup> For He testifies: “*You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek.*”
- <sup>18</sup> For on the one hand there is an annulling of the former commandment because of its weakness and unprofitableness,
- <sup>19</sup> for the law made nothing perfect; on the other hand, *there is the* bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God.

# “A Better Priesthood

- Hebrews 7:11–29 is teaching that the Levitical priesthood was never God’s final answer for humanity’s sin problem. It served a real purpose under the Law, but it could not bring people into complete, permanent, perfected access to God.
- So God brought in a greater priesthood — not from Aaron, not from Levi, but according to the order of Melchizedek. This priest is Jesus Christ.

# The Levitical Priesthood Could Not Bring Perfection

- Hebrews 7:11
- “Therefore, if perfection were through the Levitical priesthood...”
- The word “perfection” does not mean sinless human behavior in the sense that people never make mistakes.

# Perfection

- The old priesthood could cover sin ceremonially, but it could not finally remove sin from the conscience. It could point people toward God, but it could not permanently bring them near to God.
- The priests kept offering sacrifices because the work was never finished.
- **The Greek word for τελείωσις — teleiōsis.**
- **It carries the idea of being brought to completion, fulfillment, or the intended goal.**

# Under it the People received the Law

- Did the Levitical priesthood bring God's people all the way to the final goal of salvation, cleansing, and access to God? The answer is no.
- "For under it the people received the law..."
- This means the priesthood and the Law were closely connected. Israel's whole worship system was built around the Levitical priesthood.

# The Old Priesthood

- The priests represented the people.
- The priests taught and guarded the worship system.
- So if the priesthood changes, the legal system connected to that priesthood must also change.
- “What further need was there that another priest should rise according to the order of Melchizedek?”

# Teaching

- “You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.”
- God would not promise another priesthood if the old priesthood was final.
- Greek Highlight
- The word for “another” or “different” is ἕτερος — heteros.
- This does not merely mean another priest of the same kind. It means another of a different kind.
- Jesus is not just one more Levitical priest.

# A Promise of a Future Priesthood

- This is the heart of the argument.
- If Aaron's priesthood was enough, why would Psalm 110:4 say:
- The Lord has sworn And will not relent,  
“You *are* a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek.”

# Christ is Beter

- He is not simply a better version of Aaron.
- He is a different kind of priest altogether.
- Aaron's priesthood was temporary.
- Christ's priesthood is eternal.
- Aaron's priesthood was based on genealogy.
- Christ's priesthood is based on divine appointment and resurrection life.

# Christ is Beter

- Aaron's priests died and were replaced.
- Christ lives forever.
- Hebrews 7:12
- A Change in Priesthood Requires a Change in Law
- "For the priesthood being changed, of necessity there is also a change of the law."
- This verse is extremely important.

# A Change Must Take Place

- The writer is saying that you cannot change the priesthood without changing the legal system connected to it.
- Under Moses, priests had to come from Levi. More specifically, from Aaron.
- But Jesus came from Judah. So if Jesus is truly priest, then something major has happened: the old priestly arrangement has been surpassed.

# Change Defined

- That means God Himself has introduced a new order.
- The word for “change” is μετάθεσις — metathesis.
- It means a change, transfer, alteration, or setting aside.

# Hebrews 7:13–14

- Jesus Came From Judah, Not Levi
- “For He of whom these things are spoken belongs to another tribe...
- “For it is evident that our Lord arose from Judah...”
- This was well known. Jesus is the Son of David, from the tribe of Judah.

# Why This Matters

- Moses never assigned priestly service to Judah.
- Judah was the kingly tribe, not the priestly tribe.
- **So Jesus being priest means His priesthood does not come from Moses' Levitical arrangement. It comes from a higher divine appointment.**

# Christ is Much Better

- Jesus “arose” from Judah as the promised King, but He also serves as eternal Priest.
- That means in Christ, kingship and priesthood come together.
- He is the King who rules.
- He is the Priest who represents.
- He is the Sacrifice who atones.
- He is the Mediator who brings us to God.

# The Matter Becomes Even Clearer

- Hebrews 7:15
- “And it is yet far more evident if, in the likeness of Melchizedek, there arises another priest...”
- Melchizedek was not introduced in Scripture by genealogy.
- His priesthood was not based on tribal descent.

# The Matter Becomes Even Clearer

- He appears as a priest-king, blessing Abraham, and receiving tithes from him.
- Jesus is not like Melchizedek in every possible way, but in the way Hebrews is emphasizing:
- His priesthood is not based on Levitical descent, and it is presented as superior and enduring.

# Greek Highlight

- The word “likeness” is ὁμοιότης — homoiotēs.
- It means resemblance or similarity.
- Jesus is not Melchizedek reincarnated. Rather, Melchizedek serves as a biblical pattern or type that points forward to Christ.

# Not a Fleshly Commandment

- “Who has come, not according to the law of a fleshly commandment...”
- This means Jesus did not become priest because He met the physical ancestry requirement of Levi.
- The Levitical priesthood depended on physical descent. You had to be born into the right tribe and family line.

# The Difference in Christ

- He lives forever.
- His priesthood cannot be interrupted by death.
- His ministry cannot be replaced by another priest.
- The word translated “endless” or “indestructible” is ἀκατάλυτος — akatalytos.
- It means indestructible, unable to be dissolved, unable to be brought to an end.

# **This is resurrection language.**

- Christ's priesthood rests on a life death cannot destroy.
- That is why His priesthood is superior.
- Levitical priests were many because death kept removing them.
- Jesus is one eternal priest because death has no dominion over Him.

# Hebrews 7:17

- Scripture Testifies to Christ's Eternal Priesthood
- “For He testifies: ‘You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.’”
- The writer quotes Psalm 110:4 again.
- This verse is the foundation of the entire argument.
- God Himself swore that the Messiah would be a priest forever.

# The phrase “forever”

- In context, it means permanently, endlessly, forever.
- is literally εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα — eis ton aiōna, meaning “unto the age.”
- This is the key contrast:
- Aaron’s priests served temporarily.
- Jesus serves forever.

# Former Commandment Was Set Aside

- “For on the one hand there is an annulling of the former commandment because of its weakness and unprofitableness...”
- The priestly commandment was unable to accomplish final salvation.
- The Law could expose sin.
- The Law could regulate worship.
- The Law could command sacrifices.
- But the Law could not perfect the worshiper.

# What the Law Could Not Do!

- Unprofitable means it could not produce the final benefit needed.
- It could not cleanse the conscience.
- It could not permanently remove guilt.
- It could not give final access to God.
- It could not make the people complete.

# More Limitations of the Law

- The Law could diagnose sin, but it could not cure sin.
- The Law could reveal guilt, but it could not remove guilt permanently.
- The Law could point to holiness, but it could not transform the heart fully.
- The Law could command approach to God through priests, but it could not give permanent access.

# Christ: A Better Hope

- “But the bringing in of a better hope did...”
- Here is the good news.
- God did not only set aside the old. He brought in something better.
- That better hope is found in Jesus Christ.

# The Eternal Hope

- Because Christ lives forever, believers have a better hope.
- Because Christ offered Himself once for all, believers have a better hope.
- Because Christ is seated at the right hand of God, believers have a better hope.
- Because Christ intercedes forever, believers have a better hope.

# The Old Priesthood

- The goal of priesthood is access to God.
- The old priesthood kept reminding people that access was limited.
- Only certain priests could enter certain places.
- Only the high priest could enter the Most Holy Place.
- Only once a year. Only with blood.
- Only under strict regulation.

# The New Priesthood

- But through Christ, we draw near to God.
- Greek Highlight
- The verb “draw near” is ἐγγίζω — engizō.
- It means to approach, to come near.
- The present tense implies present access.

# Access Granted In Christ

- In Christ, we are not merely waiting to approach God someday. We have access now.
- This is pastoral gold:
- Because of Jesus, the believer can come near now.
- Not through animal blood.
- Not through an earthly priest.
- Not through temple rituals.

# Conclusion

- Jesus is not another Aaronic priest. He is a priest according to the order of Melchizedek.
- His priesthood is superior because it is based on:
  - His divine appointment,
  - His sinless life,
  - His once-for-all sacrifice,
  - His resurrection power,