

"Our Great High Priest"

Part 25

Hebrews 4:14-8:5

Introduction: Last week in our study of Hebrews we were looking at Hebrews 7:20-28 and it is in these verses that the writer is presenting Jesus as Superior to all of the Levitical priests. We looked at 2 reasons why Jesus is superior in our study last week and tonight I want to finish this chapter out and I also desire to look again and the 2 points we considered last week because there are a few more thoughts I want to share with you.

I. Jesus, the Superior Priest

Part 2

Hebrews 7:20-28

The first point we looked at in this section last week was:

1. Jesus is our Surety.

Notice Hebrews 7:19-21

The Mosaic Law, namely the Levitical priesthood which was part of the Law, was not able to bring one person into complete communion with God. We had considered how it is God's desire to have sweet fellowship with the crown of His creation which is man. The Levitical priesthood could not accomplish this and therefore there had to be a Better Priesthood brought in. This is where Jesus comes in as a Priest after the order of Melchisedec and not after the order of Aaron.

When God announced the Priesthood of Jesus Christ He entered into an oath which means that God was fully committed to placing His Son in the position of the High Priest.

Psalm 110:4

⁴ ***The LORD hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.***

Now catch this; the Levitical Law had to be changed because Jesus was not of the tribe of Levi and He was not of the family of Aaron. So the Levitical priesthood and the requirements for it were replaced by the Priesthood of Jesus Christ. Now because God

entered into an oath in Psalm 110 that means that the Priesthood of Jesus Christ will never be changed. He is a Priest FOREVER after the order of Melchisedec.

The first priesthood was changed because it was not perfect. The replacement Priesthood which is the Priesthood of Jesus Christ is Perfect and it will NEVER be changed.

Notice Hebrews 7:22

When God entered into the oath He made Jesus the SURETY of the New Covenant. Last week I told you that the word "SURETY" means He is the "GUARANTEE" of the New Covenant. Here was Vine's definition of the word:

"As the Surety, He is the Personal guarantee of the terms of the new and better covenant, secured on the ground of His perfect sacrifice..."

Last week we looked at the book of Philemon and there we saw a picture of a "SURETY". There is yet another picture in the Old Testament and I want you to see this to help you grasp what the Bible is saying here.

I am going to step you into a scene where Joseph's brothers have made their way to Egypt to by food because of the famine. Joseph knows them but they do not recognize him.

Notice Genesis 42:7-24

Joseph kept Simeon and the other brothers were sent back to their father. Joseph needed to test his brothers to see if they had changed so as he kept Simeon he required that they must return with Benjamin in order to get more food and to bring Simeon safely back home.

When they told their father Jacob he refused to let Benjamin leave.

Notice Genesis 42:36-38

But Jacob would not be able to hold out because the famine was still very severe. He would be forced to send his sons with Benjamin back to Egypt. Judah will then stand up and make a promise to his father.

Notice Genesis 43:1-9

In verse 9 we see our word. Judah became "SURETY" for Benjamin. In other words he presented himself as the "GUARANTEE" that Benjamin would return to his father.

Now let me take you ahead to another test that Joseph placed his brothers in. When they came to Egypt Joseph released Simeon and sent them all back to their father Jacob. But Joseph had the steward of his house place his silver cup in Benjamin's sack. Joseph then had him go after them to make it appear as though they had stolen the cup.

Notice Genesis 44:1-12

This was a test for his brothers because they had abandoned him and sold him and Joseph needed to know if they had changed or would they do the same to Benjamin? They were then brought back to Joseph.

Notice Genesis 44:14-17

Joseph told them Benjamin would be his servant but the other brothers were to return to their father. This is where the "SURETY" comes in. Let me show you the words of Judah.

Notice Genesis 44:30-33

Judah told Joseph he would take Benjamin's place so that Benjamin would be safely taken to his father.

Application:

Here is the picture of Christ as our SURETY. Judah was willing to take the place of Benjamin and to bear his punishment so that Benjamin could be sure to get home to his father. In the same way Jesus took our place and He bore the punishment for our sin so He is our GUARANTEE that we WILL one day arrive safely into the presence of our Heavenly Father.

Not only is Jesus our SURETY:

2. Jesus is our Savior.

Notice Hebrews 7:25

Now there is something in this verse that we did not consider last week that I want to help you to see.

Here in this verse the writer tells his readers that Jesus is ABLE to save all who come to God by Him and He is ABLE to save them to the uttermost. This means that Jesus is ABLE and DOES save those who come to the Father by Him COMPLETELY.

Now we constantly focus upon the suffering and the death of our Lord when He hung upon the cross. But as we have been looking at on Sunday evenings the death of Jesus as the payment for our sins was not enough to save us. He had to be resurrected and in His resurrection we can be assured of 2 things:

- a. **God the Father accepted His sacrifice.**
- b. **He has FOREVER put away our sins.**

But there is more.

Notice Hebrews 7:25 again.

We are **GUARANTEED** that we will make home to our Heavenly Father because Jesus lives and is our **INTERCESSOR**. Someone has said, "Sinners could not be saved without the death of Jesus Christ, and believers could not be saved without the **RESURRECTION MINISTRY** of Jesus Christ.

Let me show you another verse that will shine some light on this Truth.

Romans 5:8-10

⁸ *But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

⁹ *Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.*

¹⁰ *For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.*

Paul tells us here that we shall be saved **by His life**. This is His resurrection life and the fact that He is our High Priest who intercedes on our behalf every moment.

Romans 8:33-35

³³ *Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.*

³⁴ *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.*

³⁵ *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?*

The resurrection and the High Priestly ministry of Jesus Christ is vital to our salvation. If Jesus had died for our sins and then ascended on high to enjoy His reward without

continuing the work of the High Priest we would not stand a chance of getting to our eternal home with our Heavenly Father. We are still here in these bodies of sin and we need a High Priest to intercede on our behalf every day. After Jesus made the Greatest Sacrifice ever made He rose from the grave and He ascended into the Holy of Holies to carry out the ministry of the High Priest on our behalf. Therefore, He is ABLE to save us to the UTTERMOST/COMPLETELY.

So Jesus is our SURETY and He is our Savior. There is one more:

3. Jesus is Sinless

Notice Hebrews 7:26a

When the writer says that He "became us" it means that He is the Perfect Fit for us. In other words He is a High Priest that fits our need perfectly.

Notice Hebrews 7:26-28

Jesus is holy, harmless, undefiled, and separate from sinners. He does not need to offer up a sacrifice for His sins and then for ours on a daily basis. He made one Sacrifice and paid the entire sin debt. The Law placed men in the priesthood who were far from perfect. But God has placed His Son in the office of the High Priest with an oath and He is consecrated forever. The word "consecrated" means "to be made perfect".

Now we can read these 3 verses and we can ask, "What does this mean to us and to the Hebrews who received this letter?"

The high priests of the Levitical system had to go through ceremonial washings and they had to offer sacrifices in order to be cleansed from their own sin. The offerings that were presented had to be without blemish. There were many stipulations and if they were not properly followed then the priest was not qualified and if he was not qualified then neither could he be the "bridge builder between man and God".

This was the system which some of the Hebrews desired to return to. The question was, "Why would you desire to return to the Levitical system in which the priests were sinful men that were unable to bring anyone into complete communion with God?" Jesus was so much better.

Jesus is sinless and perfect. He qualifies to be in the Holy of Holies and to intercede on our behalf from now until the day in which we stand before the Lord. He is the Eternal Bridge Builder who can save to the uttermost.

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Conclusion:

Jude 1:24-25

²⁴ Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy.

²⁵ *To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.*