

# The Perfect Priest!

## Hebrews 7:20-28

East Berlin Community Church

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February 1, 2026

### Introduction

- My quest for the “perfect” wife
- The Jews considered their religious system as being “perfect” and thus did not need anything more
- The question raised concerning the need for different priest in a different order.
  - Hebrews 7:11-- *“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?”*
- The Levitical system of priests and sacrifices could not achieve “perfection”
  - “Perfection” is the *“better hope through which we draw near to God.”* (Hebrews 7:11)
  - Aaron’s priests could never bring a man fully to God. Only the High Priest, once a year on the day of Atonement, could come into the presence of God in the Holy of Holies.
  - The Law with the entire sacrificial system could not make a man perfect, thus the need for a new priesthood after the order of Melchizedek.

### The Perfect Priest!

- Hebrews 7:20-28-- *“And inasmuch as He was not made priest without an oath (for they have become priests without an oath, but He with an oath by Him who said to Him: “The LORD has sworn And will not relent, ‘You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek’ ”), by so much more Jesus has become a surety of a better covenant. Also there were many priests, because they were prevented by death from continuing. But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood. Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people’s, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself. For the law appoints as high priests men who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the law, appoints the Son who has been perfected forever.”*

#### A. The Surety of a Better Covenant.

- Hebrews 7:20-22-- *“And inasmuch as He was not made priest without an oath (for they have become priests without an oath, but He with an oath by Him who said to Him: “The LORD has sworn And will not relent, ‘You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek’ ”), by so much more Jesus has become a surety of a better covenant.”*
  1. **God did not swear to Aaron that his priesthood would be forever.**
  2. **But for Jesus Christ, God the Father swore an eternal priesthood.**
    - Psalm 110:4-- *“The LORD has sworn and will not relent, ‘You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek.’”*
      - a. The LORD “will not relent”-- that is, change His mind
      - b. God made His covenantal promise to Abraham with an “oath”
        - Hebrews 6:13-- *“For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself.”*
      - c. Jesus Christ’s priesthood is permanent, eternal, and unchangeable.

3. **Because of the permanency of Jesus' priesthood, He is the "surety of a better covenant".**
  - a. The meaning of "surety"-- a "bondsman"
  - b. Biblical Illustration of "surety".-- Judah as a surety for Benjamin.
    - Genesis 43:9-- *"I myself will be surety for him; from my hand you shall require him. If I do not bring him back to you and set him before you, then let me bear the blame forever."*
    - Genesis 44:33-- *"Now therefore, please let your servant remain instead of the lad as a slave to my lord, and let the lad go up with his brothers."*
4. **The fact that the New Covenant is better does not mean that the Old Covenant was bad, but rather imperfect and temporary.**
5. **All the promises made in the New Covenant are guaranteed by Jesus.**

## **B. The Source of Eternal Salvation**

- Hebrews 7:23-25-- *"Also there were many priests, because they were prevented by death from continuing. But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood. Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them."*
1. **The Old Testament priests never functioned in a permanent way. They all died.**
  2. **Visual confirmation at the death of Aaron.**
    - Numbers 20:26-29-- *"strip Aaron of his garments and put them on Eleazar his son; for Aaron shall be gathered to his people and die there.' So Moses did just as the LORD commanded, and they went up to Mount Hor in the sight of all the congregation. Moses stripped Aaron of his garments and put them on Eleazar his son; and Aaron died there on the top of the mountain. Then Moses and Eleazar came down from the mountain. Now when all the congregation saw that Aaron was dead, all the house of Israel mourned for Aaron thirty days."*
  3. **Jesus Christ's priesthood is eternal for it is based on the "power of His endless life". It is "unchangeable", that is incapable of being altered in any way.**
    - Hebrews 7:24-- *"He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood."*
  4. **As a result, He is the Source of our Eternal Salvation.**
    - Hebrews 7:25-- *"Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them."*
    - a. Jesus Christ is able to save "to the uttermost"-- the idea is completeness or perfection
    - b. **The Basis, Nature, Power, Object, and Security of our salvation.** (Dr. John MacArthur, Jr)
      - 1) The **BASIS**: Jesus' permanent and eternal priesthood.
      - 2) The **POWER**: Jesus *"is able"* to save. In fact, He is the only one able to save.
        - Acts 4:12-- *"Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."*
        - John 14:6-- *"I am the way, the truth, and the life. NO man comes to the Father except through Me."*
      - 3) The **NATURE**: Bringing men near to God. Salvation pictured in three tenses.
        - a) Past: Justification-- saved from the penalty of sin
        - b) Present: Sanctification-- saved from the power of sin
        - c) Future: Glorification-- saved from the presence of sin

- 4) The **OBJECT**: You and I who come to God through Him.
  - John 6:37-- *"All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out."*
- 5) The **SECURITY**: Jesus' perpetual intercession for us.
  - 1 John 2:1b-2-- *"if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world."*

### C. One who Suits Us Perfectly

- Hebrews 7:26-28-- *"For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself. For the law appoints as high priests men who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the law, appoints the Son who has been perfected forever."*
1. **We needed a priest who was absolutely sinless. Our High Priest had to be...**
    - a. **HOLY**, that is completely void of sin.
      - 1 Peter 2:22-- *"Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth"*
      - John 14:30-- *"the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me."*
    - b. **HARMLESS**, that is towards men. Jesus never harmed, only healed.
    - c. **UNDEFILED**, that is free from any moral or spiritual blemish.
      - Hebrews 4:13-- *"For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin."*
    - d. **SEPARATE FROM SINNERS**, that is, in a class by Himself
    - e. **ELEVATED ABOVE THE HEAVENS.**
  2. **We needed a priest who could be the sacrifice for our sins.**
    - Hebrews 7:27-- *"who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself."*
    - a. **The Levitical priests were sinful men who had to first offer a sacrifice for their own sin before he could offer a sin sacrifice on behalf of the people.**
    - b. **Our perfect High Priest offered Himself as the sacrifice for our sins, and He did so "once for all". Thus He put an end to sacrifice so that no more blood needs to be shed for our guilt. A perfect sacrifice by a perfect Priest for all time!**
  3. **God the Father appointed His perfect Son to be our perfect High Priest so to provide the perfect sacrifice for our sins!**
    - Hebrews 7:28-- *"For the law appoints as high priests men who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the law, appoints the Son who has been perfected forever."*