

Date: 23rd July, 2017 - Sunday am service

Passage: Hebrews 6:20-7:25

Title: A Better Kind of **Priest**

Introduction:


 When I was a teenager I loved to read.

 One of my favorite books to read was...

- The old **Hardy Boys Mystery Series**
- Written by **Franklin Dixon**




 I think there were **190 books** written...

 I haven't read them all

 But I probably read about **20** of them.

Anyway...

 These were stories about...


- Two teenage brothers
- **Joe & Frank Hardy**
- Who were sleuths/ detectives.

 **They** would go on...


- All sorts of adventures &
- Solve all sorts of mysteries.

 **They** were really cool books.


Well...

 One thing I learned from reading those books is that...

- ✓ You should always pay careful attention
- ✓ To any character that appeared in the story
- ✓ No matter how seemly insignificant the character might seem.

 Because that character...

 Might end up being the key

 To figuring out the whole mystery !

Well in a similar way...

i The **writer** of **Hebrews**...

- Introduces to his readers...
- To a **seemly insignificant** character...

 By the name of **MELCHIZEDEK** !

i **MELCHIZEDEK** is first mentioned...

Yep  In **3 verses** in **Genesis 14**


Nope  Then nothing is heard of **HIM** for 1000 years

i Until **David** writes **Psalms 110**...

Yep  Where **he** is prophesying about the **Messiah**

Yep  And **MELCHIZEDEK** gets mentioned again.

i And then another 1000 years goes by...

Yep  Until the writing of the **NEW TESTAMENT**

Yep  Which brings us to **Hebrews**

i Where the **writer** brings up **MELCHIZEDEK**...

Yep  To encourage the **Christian Jews**

 Who are struggling...
In their faithfulness to the **Lord**.

Now...

i The **writer** of **Hebrews**...

Yep  Has already mentioned **MELCHIZEDEK** three times


But...

i **He** has been "**side-tracked**"...

- With the discussion
- Of the **CONSEQUENCES** of turning your back on **Jesus**.

i So...

Yep  **He** has mentioned **MELCHIZEDEK**.

Nope  But **he** hasn't really elaborated on **HIM** yet.

i So...

- Here in **Hebrews 7**
- The **writer** is going to take the whole **chapter**
- And reveal how **Jesus** is connected to this **MELCHIZEDEK** character



And the **writer** is hoping...

- That by explaining **Jesus'** connection with **MELCHIZEDEK**,
- It will encourage these **Christian Jews**
- Not to turn their backs on **Jesus**.



So that's the context of our passage this morning.

POINT #1...



WHO IS **MELCHIZEDEK** ?



To find the answer to that question...

- We need to go to **Genesis**
- The **BOOK OF BEGINNINGS**.
- **MELCHIZEDEK** appears in one short scene in **Genesis 14:17-20**



Now as Evangelical Protestants...

Nope 🙅 We don't talk a lot about...

- **Priests** &
- **Their** ministry in the worship of **God**.

Yep 🙋 In the **NEW TESTAMENT**...

- The function of the **pastor** is quite a bit different
- Than that of the **OLD TESTAMENT priest**.



But the **Christian Jews**...

- To whom **Hebrews** was written to...

Yep 🙋 Well, **they** had a complete understanding of...

- 👍 What an **OLD TESTAMENT priest** was &
- 👍 What an **OLD TESTAMENT priest** did.



It was part of their **religious background**.

- The **priests** were involved in all of the **sacrifices**
- The **priests** were crucial **mediators**...
↪ Between the **Jews** & **God**

So...



Unlike most of **us**...

- The topic of **OLD TESTAMENT priests**...



Was something these **Christian Jews** knew a lot about.

But...



When the **writer** of **Hebrews**...

- Makes the point in **Hebrews 6:20**...
- That **Jesus** is our...



"high priest forever according to the order of **MELCHIZEDEK**"



These **Christian Jews**...



Would not have known anything about that !



They would have wondered...



What kind of **priesthood** is this "order of **MELCHIZEDEK**" ?



How does this...

- **MELCHIZEDEKIAN Priesthood**
- Compare to the **LEVITICAL Priesthood** ?



What responsibilities does **Christ** have then as our **High Priest**?

Well...



Genesis 14:17-20 + Hebrews 7...



Answers all those questions and more !

Now...



Before I loose **you** all...



Although...

- This **passage** &
- These **concepts**...



Might seem far removed from **us** today...



In reality...

They actually define...

- ✓ How **Jesus Christ**
- ✓ Ministers to **Believers** today.

👁️👁️ **You** see...



What **we** are going to learn is that...

Jesus IS our High Priest !



In fact...

Jesus is a **BETTER Priest...**

↳ Than the **priest** who served **Israel !**



Because...

Jesus IS our High Priest...

- ✓ **We** can have **security** & **confidence**
- ✓ As **we** live for **Him !**



Now before we read our passage...

↳ Let me give you some background leading up to this passage.



Abraham...

- Has just returned from rescuing
- His **E.G.R. nephew Lot.**

↳ **E.G.R.** means "Extra Grace Required".

Anyway...



There were these...

- **Four kings** from the **north**
- That formed a **military coalition force**
- And they attacked the **five kings**
- That ruled the **region** around **Sodom & Gomorrah.**

! **Lot** happened to be living in **Sodom.**



Well...

- The **four kings** from the **north**
- Won the battle against the **five kings** from the **south**



So these **four kings...**


- Plundered everything **they** could from **Sodom & Gomorrah**
- And then **they** took off and left to return to the **north**

i But when **they** left...

! **They** also kidnaped **Abraham's** nephew **Lot**
! **They** took **Lot** and **his** family and everything **Lot** owned.

i Well...

- One of the people taken captive escapes
- And they run to **Abraham**
- And tell **him** what has happened to **Lot**.

 Now **you** need to understand that...

i At this point in **Abraham's** life...

- **He's** a pretty wealthy guy.
- And **he** had a lot of servants.

i So **Abraham** takes...

- **318** of **his** **MEN**
- That were **TRAINED FOR WARFARE**
- And **they** give chase.

i Well...

- **They** catch up with the **military coalition force** of the **four kings**

Yes! And **Abraham**, and **his** **318 MEN DEFEAT THEM.**

YEAH! You talk about **HERO STUFF!**

Wow! Outnumbered & Outgunned...

i **Abraham** and **his** **MEN**...

- Catch up to this **military coalition force**...

Yes! And **BEAT THEM DOWN**

- And bring back...

- Everyone & everything
- The **four kings** had plundered from **Sodom & Gomorrah.**

i Well...

- On **their** way back home...
- **MELCHIZEDEK** goes out to meet **them.**



Let's read about it in **Genesis 14:17-20...**


17 After **Abram** returned from his victory over Kedorlaomer and all his allies, the king of Sodom went out to meet him in the valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley). **18** And **MELCHIZEDEK**, the **king of Salem** and a **priest of God Most High**, brought **Abram** some bread and wine. **19** **MELCHIZEDEK** blessed **Abram** with this blessing: "Blessed be **Abram** by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. **20** And blessed be God Most High, who has defeated your enemies for you." Then **Abram** gave **MELCHIZEDEK** **a tenth** of all the goods he had recovered.



Now although...



The **OLD TESTAMENT** account...

 Really doesn't give us a whole lot of info...

 About **MELCHIZEDEK**



What it does do is...



Show us that even in the **OLD TESTAMENT** there was an...

 Older...

 Different... &

 Superior **Priesthood**

 To that of the **AARONIC / LEVITICAL Priesthood**



Ok now lets read **Hebrews 6:20 - 7:1-3...**

6:20 where **Jesus** has entered as a forerunner for us, **having become a high priest forever** according to **the order** of **MELCHIZEDEK**.

7:1 For this **MELCHISEDEC**, **king of Salem**, **priest of the Most High God**, who met **Abraham** as he was returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, **2** to whom also **Abraham** **apportioned a tenth part of all the spoils**, was first of all, by the translation of *his name*, **king of righteousness**, and then also **king of Salem**, which is **king of peace**. **3** Without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, **but made like the Son of God**, he remains a priest perpetually.

Ok...



So essentially in **Hebrews 7** the **writer** is doing two things...

- First, **he** is summarizing what **Genesis 14** tells **us** about **MELCHIZEDEK**.
- Second, **he** is making some points based on **Genesis 14**...
 - ➔ That shows how **MELCHIZEDEK** is superior.



So lets look at some of these points...



In **Hebrews 7:2** the **writer** tells us...



That the name **MELCHIZEDEK** means...

✓ "king of righteousness"



In **Hebrews 7:2** the **writer** also tells us...



That **MELCHIZEDEK** is...

✓ The "king of Salem"



And the word "**Salem**"...

✓ Means "**peace**"



So **MELCHIZEDEK** is...

✓ The "king of righteousness"

&

✓ The "king of peace"



But notice also that **Hebrews 7:1** tells us...



That **MELCHIZEDEK** is...

✓ A "priest of the Most High God"

POINT #2...



HOW IS **MELCHIZEDEK** SUPERIOR ?



So **MELCHISEDEC** was...

✓ A "priest"

✓ Way before the **AARONIC / LEVITICAL Priesthood** was ever established.



But not only that !



MELCHIZEDEK is...

✓ A "king"

&

✓ A "priest" !



So why is that a big deal?



Well the way the **Jews** operated under the **Law** was...

- i** The **royal line** was...
 - Separate from the **priesthood**
 - Because they were from two separate tribes

i All **priests** had to come from from the tribe of **LEVI**

&

i All the **kings** needed to come from the tribe of **JUDAH**

i So when the **writer** points out to that **MELCHIZEDEK** is both...

✓ A "king"

&

✓ A "priest"



This would have blown the **Jew's** mind...

Nope 🚫 Because that was never allowed under the **Law**.

Nope 🚫 The **AARONIC / LEVITICAL Priesthood...**

✗ Was **not allowed** to fulfill both roles



So what the **writer** has done here is...

i **He** has gone back in time...

- Before the **Law**

i To show that the **MELCHIZEDEKIAN Priesthood...**

✓ Was permitted

✓ To serve as a "king" and also a "priest"

i And this **lack of limitation** then shows that...

● The **MELCHIZEDEKIAN Priesthood...**

● The **Priesthood** to whom **Jesus** belongs to...

✓ Is superior to the **AARONIC / LEVITICAL Priesthood**

 Now there is something else we need to notice in **verse 1**...

 It says there...

 this **MELCHIZEDEK**...

... met **Abraham** as he was returning from the slaughter of the kings and **blessed him**

 So we see here that **MELCHIZEDEK** blessed **Abraham**.

 Why is that a BIG DEAL ?

 Well...

 The fact that **Abraham** was blessed by **MELCHIZEDEK**

 Means that...


 **MELCHIZEDEK** was higher than **Abraham**.

 **MELCHIZEDEK** was superior to **Abraham**.

 Now...

● To the **Jewish** mind...

● To **Jewish** culture...

 That's radical !

 Because...

✓ **Abraham** is the ultimate **patriarch** !

✓ He's the ultimate **guy** !

✓ He's the **father** of the **Jews** !

 And yet...

✓ **Abraham** was blessed by someone **GREATER**...

 By **MELCHIZEDEK** !

 Now...

 The concept of **giving a blessing**...

✓ Had to do with **RANK**.

 In the **OLD TESTAMENT** ...

 A son **never blessed** his father

 A son was **always blessed** **BY** his father

 The **blessing** went from...

● The more **authoritative**

● To the subordinate.

 So the **writer** is making the point here that...


- ✓ **MELCHIZEDEK blesses Abraham**
- ✓ That means that **MELCHIZEDEK** is of a higher **RANK** than **Abraham**.

 Then the **writer** says in **verse 2**...

 ² to whom also **Abraham** apportioned a tenth part of all *the spoils*,


 So when **Abraham**...

- **DEFEATED** these **four kings**
- **He** got the spoils from war
- And **he** gave 10% of it to **MELCHIZEDEK**.


 Essentially this was **Abraham**...

- Acknowledging that **MELCHIZEDEK** was **SUPERIOR** to **him**.


 Then the **writer** goes on in **verse 2** and says...

 **MELCHIZEDEK**... was first of all, by the translation of his name, **king of righteousness**, and then also **king of Salem**, which is king of peace.

 **Now...**


 I think it is important to notice the order here.

- It's subtle...
- But it's important.

 **MELCHISEDEC** is called the "king of **RIGHTEOUSNESS**" **FIRST** !

...and then...

 **HE** is called the "king of **PEACE**"

 And if you think about it...

 That's how it is with **Jesus** !


FIRST...

✓ **Jesus** is our **King** of **RIGHTEOUSNESS** !

 You are not going to experience "**PEACE** with **God**"...

 Until you have **Christ's RIGHTEOUSNESS**.

 **Now...**

 I hope you all know...

X That we are **NOT** **RIGHTEOUS** in and of ourselves.

FACT We all fall short of the glory of **God** !

FACT We are all **sinner**s

FACT There is no way we can ever **save** ourselves

 **But...**

Yes! **Jesus...**

FACT Came as the **Perfect - Spotless - Lamb** of **God**

&

FACT **He** died on the cross for our **sins**

&

FACT **He** rose again on the third day

&

FACT **He** conquered **sin** & death

...so that...


FACT **He** could wipe away all our **sins**

Yes! **And...**


FACT As we put our **FAITH** in **Him...**

FACT As we **REPENT** of our **sins...**

 **YES!** Then **Jesus** gives us **His** **RIGHTEOUSNESS**

 **YES!** Then **Jesus** clothes us in **His** **RIGHTEOUSNESS**

Yes! In **Romans** says that **He** **imputes** to us **His** **RIGHTEOUSNESS**.


 **YES!** **He** gives it to us freely

 **NO!** You can't earn it

Yes! **And...**

FACT After you have **Christ's** **RIGHTEOUSNESS**

 **YES!** You are then right with **God** !






 **YES!** There is no more guilt

FACT It is then that you are at **PEACE** with **God** !

FACT It is then that you can experience **PEACE** !



Too often people try to find **PEACE** in other things !

-  They turn to the **BOTTLE**
-  They turn to **DRUGS**
-  They turn to **ENTERTAINMENT**
-  They turn to **SPORTS**
-  They turn to **WORK/ BEING BUSY**






These are all essentially **ESCAPES FROM REALITY !**

 They don't deal with the **real issue !**




Even the wisest man that ever lived, **Solomon** said...



 **I've** tried everything !

-  But its like chasing the wind !
-  It's emptiness !
-  Its vanity !



At the end of **Solomon's** life...

 **He** realized that the only thing worth anything...

-  Is to just fear **God**
-  And to serve **Him !**



"king of **RIGHTEOUSNESS**"


...and then...



"king of **PEACE**"


FACT

You will only find the **PEACE**...

 When you are clothed in the **RIGHTEOUSNESS** of **Christ**.




Jesus said in **Matthew 6:33**...

 "But seek ye first the kingdom of God,
and **His RIGHTEOUSNESS**;
and all these things shall be added unto you."

Well...


 **Verse 3** is very interesting !

 The **writer** goes on and says that **MELCHIZEDEK** was...

 “³ Without father, without mother, without **genealogy**, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, he remains a priest perpetually.”

 **Now...**

 When it says “Without father, without mother”

 This doesn't mean that...

X MELCHIZEDEK didn't have a father or mother.


 All this means is that...

✓ Their names were not recorded.

✓ There is no mention of a **genealogy** for **MELCHIZEDEK**.


 **Now...**

 We have **Jesus' genealogy**...

 You have it in **Matthew 1...**

↳ Where it goes all the way back to **Abraham**.

&

 You have it in **Luke 3...**

↳ Where it goes all the way back to **Adam**.

 And we know that **Jesus...**

↳ Is from the tribe of **Judah**

 And we have **Jesus' genealogy**...

↳ To prove that **He** has the right to the throne

 **BUT...**

 You don't need a **genealogy** to be **CHOSEN**...

↳ For the **MELCHIZEDEKIAN priesthood**.

 And we see...

 MELCHIZEDEK...

-  Was just **CHOSEN** by **God**
-  To be a **priest** !
-  A "**priest of the Most High God**" verse 1

 HE wasn't **Jewish** !

 HE wasn't a **Levite** !

 HE was before all that !

 So...

 To be a part of the **MELCHIZEDEKIAN priesthood**

 You were simply **CHOSEN** by **God**.

 Now...

 To be part of the **Aaronic / Levitical Priesthood...**

 Was completely different !

 You had to prove...

 Your **genealogy** according to the **Law**

See for example **Numbers 16 + 17**

 You had to prove...

 That **Aaron** was your Great, Great, Great Grandfather.




 You had to prove...

 That you were a descendant of **Aaron**.

 Otherwise you couldn't be a **priest**.

 Actually...


 In **Ezra 2 + Nehemiah 7...**

-  There were some **Jews**
-  That when **they** were returning from Babylon.
-  **They** wanted to go into the **priesthood**.

 But...


 When they couldn't produce their **genealogical** records...

 They were told no !

 They couldn't become **priests** !

 **BUT...**


 To be a part of the **MELCHIZEDEKIAN priesthood...**

 You didn't have to prove your **genealogy**

 You were simply **CHOSEN** by **God**.

 **Genealogy** had nothing to do with it.

 **Now...**

 Notice it says there in **verse 3...**

 "having neither beginning of days nor end of life"

**-IN OTHER-
WORDS...**

 It wasn't recorded when **MELCHIZEDEK** was born

 It wasn't recorded when **MELCHIZEDEK** died

 **So...**

 According to the **text...**

☉☉ If you read it in a **Jewish** sense...

✓ **MELCHIZEDEK** is kind-of **eternal** !

✓ Kind-of like **Jesus** is **eternal** !

 **BUT...**


 Then **verse 3** says...

● **MELCHIZEDEK** was...

 "made like the Son of God,
he remains a priest perpetually."

 **Now...**

 You might want to note that...

 It wasn't that **Jesus...**

✗ Who was made like **MELCHIZEDEK**

 It was **MELCHIZEDEK...**

✓ Who was "made like the **Son of God**"

 **Now...**

 The phrase...

→ "made like" in the **GREEK** means...

↪ "an exact copy"

→ We get our word "facsimile" from this word.

 **It's like...**

 When you make a copy on a copy machine...

- ✓ Its an "exact copy" of what you put in there.
- ✓ Well, thats the **idea** of this word.


 **MELCHISEDEC** was...

- ✓ A "facsimile"
- ✓ A "photo-copy"
- ✓ An "exact-copy" of the **Son of God**.

 **The point is...**

 Each of these descriptions...

✓ Is meant to **parallel** Christ's being **eternal**.

 **Jesus** is **eternal**

&

 **His priesthood** is **eternal** !

 **Well...**

 **Verse 4** goes on and says...

 "Consider then how great this **MELCHIZEDEK** was." ^{NLT}

 Consider it !

 Contemplate it !

 Think about it !

 The **writer** wants **his readers...**

 To **recognize** these...

- HISTORICAL &
- **LITERAL FACTS...**

...from the **Text**


 And then make...

- **Natural**
- **Logical conclusions** from **them**.

 **He's** saying...

 Look at the **OLD TESTAMENT** account concerning **MELCHIZEDEK**.

 And lets apply this **THEOLOGICALLY**.

 And thats how we are to **interpret** the **Scriptures**.

i When it comes to the **Bible...**



We must ask ourselves...

? What does the **Text** say...

↪ In its most **natural, historical & literal sense.**



Not...

? What do **I THINK** it says.



Not...

? How does the **Text** make **ME FEEL**



Not...

? How can **I ALLEGORIZE** this **Text** to fit **MY THEOLOGY**.

No!

We don't come to the **Text** and say...

WRONG! I want to read into **it** what **I** want to believe.



Because if we do that...



We can make the **Text** say anything !



So the **writer** of **Hebrews** goes on and says...



“⁴ Consider then how great this **MELCHIZEDEK** was. Even **Abraham**, the great **patriarch** of **Israel**, recognized this by giving **HIM** a tenth of what **he** had taken in battle.” **NLT**

i “The great **patriarch** of **Israel - Abraham**”



This was the **guy**...

✓ Who was the **head** of the **family**



This was the **guy**...

✓ Who is the **father** of ...the **Israelites**
...the **Jewish Nation** !



Even **Abraham**...

✓ Who was great in **his** own right...



Acknowledged **MELCHIZEDEK'S SUPERIOR** position.



By giving **MELCHIZEDEK** a 10th of the spoils of war.



Well then the **writer** goes on in **verses 5-10**...



And **he** explains further...



Why the **MELCHISEDECIAN Priesthood**...

Yep Is **SUPERIOR**...

➡ To the **Levitical priesthood**...

➡ That came from **Abraham's** lineage.



5 And those indeed of the sons of **LEVI** who receive the **PRIEST'S** office have commandment in the **Law** to collect a tenth from the **people**, that is, from **THEIR brethren**, although these are descended from **Abraham**.

6 But the one whose genealogy is not traced from them collected a tenth from **Abraham** and blessed the one who had the promises.

7 But without any dispute the lesser is blessed by the greater.

8 In this case mortal men receive **TITHES**, but in that case one receives *them*, of whom it is witnessed that he lives on.

9 And, so to speak, through **Abraham** even **LEVI**, who received **TITHES**, paid **TITHES**,

10 for **HE** was still in the loins of **HIS father** when **MELCHIZEDEK** met **HIM**." NASB



So...



Verse 5 + Verses 9+10...

➡ Hold another interesting point that the **writer** of **Hebrews** is making.



He is pointing out that...

- The **PRIESTS** of **Israel**
 - Who were of the **TRIBE** of **LEVI**
 - **THEY** would receive **TITHES** from the other **TRIBES** of **Israel**
 - As **THEIR** financial support
- &
- As recognition of **THEIR SUPERIOR** role...

...within the **nations** worship (Hebrews 7:5).



BUT...




MELCHIZEDEK, was not an **Israelite** !

 **And here's the kicker...**

FACT HE , MELCHIZEDEK...

 Received **TITHES** from **Abraham**,

 The **patriarch** of **Israel** (Hebrews 7:6).


 So whats the big deal here?

 What's the **writer's** point ?

 **Well...**

 You have to understand something about...

- **Jewish** thinking &
- **Jewish** culture...

 To get this !

 In **Jewish** thinking...

- If a person was **subservient** to someone...
 - ➔ Then that person's **descendants**
 - ➔ Were viewed as **subservient** as well.

 **Understanding this way of thinking...**

 The **writer's** point is...

 Because **Abraham** paid a **TITHE** to **MELCHIZEDEK**


 It was an acknowledgment by **Abraham**...

 That **MELCHIZEDEK** was **SUPERIOR** to **him**

 This means that **Abraham's descendants** then...

 Are also **inferior** to **MELCHIZEDEK**.

 Seeing that **Abraham**...

 Is the **father** of the **nation** of **Israel**

&

 Seeing that **Abraham**...

 Had **GENUINE LEVI JEANS/ genes**

-IN OTHER-
WORDS...



Seeing that the **TRIBE** of **LEVI**...



Is **genetically** linked to **Abraham**,



That meant according to the **Jewish** way of thinking...



That the **Aaronic / Levitical Priesthood**...



Was then to be placed...



Under the **MELCHIZEDEKIAN Priesthood !**



Was then to be considered...



Subservient to the **MELCHIZEDEKIAN Priesthood !**



Now...



On top of that...



When **MELCHIZEDEK** received **Abraham's TITHE**...



MELCHIZEDEK pronounced a blessing on **Abraham**.



Lets read about that in **verse 6**...



6 But the one whose genealogy is not traced (**MELCHISEDEC**) from them collected a tenth from **Abraham** & blessed the one who had the promises.



So why is it a **BIG DEAL**...



That **MELCHIZEDEK** pronounced a blessing on **Abraham** ?



Well **Hebrews 7:7** goes on and gives us the answer...



7 But without any dispute the lesser is blessed by the greater.



the lesser is blessed by the greater



So when **MELCHIZEDEK** blessed **Abraham**...

- It indicated that **MELCHISEDEC**...



Was **greater** than **Abraham**.

- And thus **MELCHISEDEC'S Priesthood...**

✓ Is always **greater** than the **Levitical priesthood**
↳ That came from **Abraham's** lineage.



Now...



If we move on to **Hebrews 7:8...**

👁️👁️ We see the **writer** makes another interesting point...



In **Hebrews 7:8** it says...



⁸ In this case mortal men ("**they**") receive **TITHES**, but in that case **ONE** receives *them*, of whom it is witnessed that **HE** lives on.



So what is this all about?



We'll remember back in **verse 3...**



The **writer** pointed out:

Nope! That the **Bible** does not mention **MELCHIZEDEK'S** birth or death



So **textually...**

Yep! This **symbolized...**

Yep! That **MELCHIZEDEK'S** ministry...

👍 Never had a **starting point.**

&

👍 Never had an **ending point**



Well if you compare that to the **Aaronic / Levitical Priests...**



The **writer** is pointing out that...

Yep! **They** were merely mortal men.




**-IN OTHER-
WORDS...**


Yep! **They** die !

Yep! **They** have an end !

 And we know from the **Scriptures** that...

 There was a record of them...

-  Dying &
-  Needing to be replaced
-  By another generation of **priests**.

 So the point is...

 The **Levitical Priesthood** had...


 A **TEMPORARY** &

 Thus inferior ministry

 To that of **MELCHIZEDEK**

 Why?

 Because the **MELCHIZEDEKIAN Priesthood...**

 Doesn't have a **record** of ending.


 Because the **MELCHIZEDEKIAN Priesthood...**

 Is **eternal** !

 **Well...**

 The **writer** of **Hebrews** then moves on...

 In **verse 11** & asks a question.

 He asks... ¹¹ Now if perfection was through the **Levitical priesthood** (for on the basis of it the **people** received the **Law**), what further need was *there* for another priest to arise according to the order of **MELCHIZEDEK**, and not be designated according to the order of Aaron? ^{NASB}

 So the **writer** is making a case now.

 You've got to follow the logic here.

 He's saying...

 If the **Levitical priesthood** could bring perfection...

 They why do you need another priest?



Well the reality is...

Nope The **Levitical priesthood** couldn't bring perfection.

Yep That's why there was a need for another **Priest** !



The **writer** actually answers **his** own question in **verse 12-19...**

¹² For when the **priesthood** is changed, of necessity there takes place a change of **Law** also. ¹³ For the **One** concerning whom these things are spoken belongs to **another tribe**, from which no one has officiated at the altar. ¹⁴ For it is evident that our **Lord** was descended from **Judah**, a **tribe** with reference to which **Moses** spoke nothing concerning **priests**. ¹⁵ And this is clearer still, if another **priest** arises according to the likeness of **MELCHIZEDEK**, ¹⁶ who has become such not on the basis of a **Law** of physical requirement, but according to the power of **an indestructible life**. ¹⁷ For it is attested of **Him**, "**You** are a **priest** forever According to the order of **MELCHIZEDEK**." ¹⁸ For, on the one hand, there is a setting aside of a **former commandment** because of its weakness and uselessness ¹⁹ (for the **Law** made nothing perfect), and on the other hand there is a bringing in of a **better hope**, through which we draw near to **God**.



The point here is...



The **Levitical priesthood** is inseparable from the **Law...**



Because it is contained in the **Law**.



So when **God** gave the **Law** to **Moses...**



Part of that was the **Levitical priesthood**.



God said...



Have **Aaron** be the High Priest



Have **Aaron's** sons be the **LEVITES** who serve in the sanctuary



Have **Aaron's descendants** be the **priesthood**.



But then...



1000 years after **Abraham** meets **MELCHIZEDEK...**



We have **Psalms 110:4** that says...



The **Lord** has sworn and will not change **His** mind, "**You** are a **priest** forever

According to the order of **MELCHIZEDEK**." NASB



So lets think about this...



The **Aaronic/ Levitical Priesthood...**

- With it's accompanying **Mosaic Law...**



Was incapable of bringing people...

→ To **perfection**

or

→ To **spiritual fulfillment**

☉☉ Before **God**.



So, that fact...

Yep 👍 Shows that there was a need **for a change !**



Because...

Yep 👍 **God** knew that...

- The **Law** &
- The accompanying **Aaronic/ Levitical Priesthood**



Was **insufficient** to **save** people !



As the **writer** says in **verses 18-19...**



¹⁸ For, on the one hand, there is a setting aside of a **former commandment** because of its weakness and uselessness

¹⁹ (for the **Law** made nothing perfect)



So...

Yep 👍 What **God** did was **He...**

- ✓ Preserved & extended the **MELCHIZEDEKIAN Priesthood**
- ✓ Beyond the **Aaronic/ Levitical Priesthood**



Let me explain...



Think about it this way...



What is the purpose of the **Law**?

- ✓ To show **us God's holiness**
- ✓ To show **us God's holy standard**
- ✓ To show **us** that **we** are **sinners**
- ✓ To show **us** that **we** can't **save ourselves**
- ✓ To show **us our** need for a **Redeemer**.



But...

✗ The **Law** doesn't have the ability to change **us** !

✗ The **Law** doesn't have the ability to **save us** !



And the reason for that is because...

FACT The **Law** was never meant to **save us** !

FACT The **Law** was never meant to make us **righteous**.



The **Law** was meant to be like a **MIRROR**...

⚙️ To show **us** how **sinful we** are.



Galatians 3:24 says it this way...



"Therefore the Law has become our tutor
to lead us to Christ,
so that we may be justified by faith."



So because the **Law**...

Nope! Couldn't make anyone **perfect**...

Yep! It had to be... "set aside" **Hebrews 7:18**



And the **2nd** part of **verse 19** tells us...



That **SOMETHING ELSE** was brought in place of the **Law**...

✓ "a **better hope**" replaced the **Law**.

&

✓ That "**better hope**" is **Jesus Christ** !

&

✓ That's the **theme** of the book of **Hebrews**



Jesus Christ is "**better**" - Amen !

👍 He's "**better**" than the **angels**

👍 He's "**better**" than **Moses**

👍 He's "**better**" than **Abraham**

👍 His **Priesthood** is "**better**" than the **Levitical Priesthood**



And we see here...

👍 He's **our** "**better hope**"

👍 Through which we draw near to **God**. **Hebrews 7:19**



We can only be **saved** from our **sin**...



Not by keeping the **Law**



But by placing our **FAITH** in **Jesus Christ** alone for our **salvation**



Ok lets look look at **verses 20-25**...



20 And inasmuch as *it* was not without an **OATH**

21 (for they indeed became priests without an **OATH**, but **He** with an **OATH** through the **One** who said to **Him**, "The **Lord** has sworn And will not change **His** mind, '**You** are a **priest forever**'");

22 so much the more also **Jesus** has become the guarantee of a better **covenant**.

23 The *former* priests, on the one hand, existed in greater numbers because they were prevented by death from continuing,

24 but **Jesus**, on the other hand, because **He** continues **forever**, holds **His priesthood permanently**.

25 Therefore **He** is able also to **save forever** those who draw near to **God** through **Him**, since **He** **always lives** to make intercession for them. NASB



Now...



When a **Levitical Priest** was made a **priest**...



It was based on the fact that they were **descendants** of **Aaron**.



Talk about nepotism - right !



It's not like they earned their **priesthood**.



They didn't get it based on **MERIT** !



They were just born into it being a **descendant** of **Aaron**.



Well...



Verses 20+21 tells us that...

- When **God**...
- Installed **Jesus** as a **Priest**...
- After the order of **MELCHIZEDEK**...



He backed up **His** appointment...



With an **IRREVOCABLE OATH** !

-IN OTHER-
WORDS...

Jesus was specially chosen...

&

Jesus was specifically placed...

Into **His priestly** ministry BY GOD !



And...

Because of **God's OATH**...

Verse 22-24 tells us that...

Unlike the **Levitical Priests**...

✓ **Jesus** is **eternal**...

&

✓ **He** lives **forever**...

&

✓ **He** became the guarantee of an...

Unchanging,

Eternal &

Better covenant !

✓ **He** became the guarantee of an...

A **new covenant**

That is the final solution for our **sin**.



Lets read **verses 25-28** in closing...

²⁵ Therefore **He** is able also to **save forever** those who draw near to **God** through Him, since **He** always lives to make intercession for them

²⁶ For it was fitting for us to have such a **High Priest**, holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners and exalted above the heavens;

²⁷ who does not need daily, like those **high priests**, to offer up sacrifices, first for **His** own sins and then for the **sins** of the **people**, because this **He** did once for all when **He** offered up **Himself**.

²⁸ For the **Law** appoints men as **high priests** who are weak, but the word of the **OATH**, which came after the **Law**, *appoints* a **Son**, made perfect forever. NASB



So what the **writer** is trying to do here is...

YEAH! Encourage these **Christian Hebrews**...

&

YEAH! Encourage **us**...

⚙️ By teaching **us** that...

👎 **We** NEVER need to **fear**...

👎 That **our High Priest Jesus** won't be able to help **us**.

⚙️ The **writer** wants us to know that...

👍 **We** have a SECURE GUARANTEE of help.

👍 **Our High Priest Jesus** is PERMANENTLY in **His** position

👍 **God OATHED** it to be so !

👎 **He** will NEVER leave **His** office.

👎 **He** will NEVER fail **His people**.

Yes! That is why **Jesus** and **His MELCHIZEDEKIAN Priesthood...**

👍 Is BETTER in EVERY WAY...

➡️ Than the **Levitical Priesthood**.

✅ **YES!** Our **salvation**...

✅ Is secure in **Jesus Christ**

✅ **YES!** Just as **Jesus**...

✅ Saved **us** from the penalty of **sin** in the past...

✅ **YES!** So **His Priestly** ministry...

✅ Continues for **us**...

👍 In the present

&

👍 Into the future.

📖 As **Jude 1:24-25** says...

📖 ²⁴ Now to **Him** who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of **His** glory blameless with great joy,

²⁵ to the only **God** our **Savior**, **through Jesus Christ** our **Lord**, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. “

APPLICATION...



WHAT DOES ALL OF THIS HAVE TO DO WITH **ME**?



Well, **we** have:

✓ **STABILITY**...

✓ **STABILITY** that comes through...

👍 **Security**...

&

👍 **Confidence**...

✓ **YES!** In **Christ our High Priest** !



We have:

✓ **STABILITY** - In this life NOW !

&

✓ **STABILITY** - For eternity to come !



All of this is obtainable through...

✓ Knowing **Jesus Christ** as...

👍 **Our Savior** &

👍 **High Priest**.



You don't have to face the **pressures** of life on **your** own !



We have a **High Priest**...

✓ That has **EXPERIENCED** those same **pressures**

✓ And **He** is there for **us INTERCEDING** for **us**.

✓ **YES!** **He** is reliable...

✓ **YES!** **He** is constant...

✓ **YES!** **He** will never leave **us** or forsake **us**...

✓ **YES!** **He** is a great comfort to **us**...

➡ As we go through **difficult** times.

 **And that is exactly...**

 What these **Christian Jews** were facing &

 **And that is exactly...**

 What these **Christian Jews** needed to be reminded of.

 As do **we**.

 **So...**

 **We** need to...

 Look to **Jesus...**

 The **Author**

&

 The **Finisher** of **our Faith**.

 **He** is **our** help in time of need.

 *Close in prayer...*