

Hebrews 7:20 – 9:10

Day 1

Jesus' Permanent and Perfect Priesthood. Read Hebrews 7:23-28

1. How does the permanence of the Levitical priests compare to Jesus? 7:23,24

FYI: Permanent/unchangeable Strong's NT:531 *aparabatos*, not passing away, i.e. untransferable (perpetual)

2. Because of His superiority, what is Jesus able to do and why? 7:25 (Cf. 2:17,18; 4:15,16)

- What does the phrase "save to the uttermost/completely/forever" mean to you? See John 10:28,29; Ephesians 3:20; Jude 24

3. What do the following say about Jesus as our mediator?

- 1 Timothy 2:5
- John 14:6

FYI: Completely/to the uttermost/forever Strong's NT:3838 *panteles*, full-ended, i.e. entire (as noun, completion):

"unto the completion of all; means completely, wholly, entirely; as referring to time, always forever." - Zodhaites

"The words are actually in the present tense. The reference is not just to the great initial experience of being saved. It refers to the perpetual experience of being saved. As Raymond Brown says, 'He saves us, not only in the moment of initial commitment, but day by day and moment by moment' – through all time!" - R. Kent Hughes (208)

"The ground for salvation comes from no other source but Christ. Jesus completed every criterion necessary for the redemption of His people. The sinner seeking salvation does not have to appeal to any authority or person other than Christ. His priesthood leaves nothing undone....Christ's eternal priesthood grounds our eternal salvation."

- R. Albert Mohler, Jr. (114)

4. List the attributes that are given in 7:26 and what they say to you about Christ as your advocate.

FYI: Blameless/harmless/innocent Strong's NT:172 *akakos*, not bad, i.e. (objectively) innocent or (subjectively) unsuspecting "harmless, void of evil, blameless"

Pure/undefiled Strong's NT:283 *amiantos* "That which has nothing in it that defiles, unpolluted, unstained, unsoiled, undefiled by sin (Heb. 7:26)..." - Zodhaites

5. List the contrasts between Levitical priests and Jesus.

| Priests | Jesus |
|---------|-------|
| 7:16a | 7:16b |
| 7:20b | 7:21 |
| 7:23 | 7:24 |
| 7:27a | 7:27b |
| 7:28a | 7:28b |

FYI: "Christ...did not need to offer any sacrifice for His own sin because He had none. He is sinless, perfect, holy, undefiled, innocent, and separated from sinners. Jesus does not need to offer up sacrifices repeatedly because the cross and resurrection are not repeated events; they are 'once for all time.' Christ's sacrifice was the perfect sacrifice, and it was completed all at once."
 - R. Albert Mohler, Jr. (116)

"Human priests, because of their sin, had to offer repeated sacrifices for their own sins, and then repeatedly for the people (vs. 27). But Christ only had to do it once. He was and is infinite – and is infinitely pure. In His infinity He created everything – all the one hundred thousand million stars of the galaxy and the one hundred thousand million galaxies with as many or more stars. And when He hitches His infinity and infinite purity to mankind, His sacrifice was sufficient. And it follows, so is His priesthood...
 Jesus is a superior priest because God swore His priesthood into existence, because His priesthood is permanent, and because His person is perfect. The outcome for us is inevitable and eternal: 'Such a high priest meets our need' (vs. 26a). Hallelujah! Double Hallelujah!"
 - R. Kent Hughes (209,210)

Applying the Word: *How does the price paid for Christ to be your priestly mediator affect your view of prayer?*

Day 2

A More Excellent Ministry: Read Hebrews 8:1-6

6. What is Jesus' position as high priest? 8:1 (Cf. 1:3,4:14) *Optional: Research explanations of what it means to be "seated at God's right hand" to share with your group.*

7. From Revelation 5:11-13, what picture do you have of Christ's heavenly reign?

- What kind of power does He have? Ephesians 1:20-23

8. List the phrases in 8:2 that describe the heavenly tabernacle. (See also 9:11)

9. What did high priests offer? 8:3

- What did Jesus offer? Heb. 7:27b; Ephesians 5:2

10. Why doesn't Jesus serve on earth as a high priest? 8:4

- List the phrases that describe what the earthly priests, gifts, sacrifices and even the tabernacle were based on. 8:4,5 (Cf. Exodus 25:9,40)

FYI: Shadow Strong's NT:4639 *skia*; "shade"

"Metaphorically, a foreshadowing...of the Jewish rites and dispensation as prefiguring things future and more perfect (Col. 2:17; Heb. 8:5; 10:1)" - Zodhiates

Copy/example Strong's NT:5262 *hupodeigma*; an exhibit for imitation or warning

"[The writer] combines two Greek words, *hupodeigma*, which means a specimen, or, still better, a sketch-plan, and *skia*, which means a shadow, a reflection, a phantom, a silhouette...

"The earthly Temple is a pale copy of the real Temple of God...the earthly priesthood is an inadequate shadow of the real priesthood. All these things point beyond themselves to the reality of which they are the shadows. The writer to the Hebrews even finds that idea in the Old Testament itself." - Charles Swindoll (131)

"The tabernacle on earth was real, but it wasn't the place where full salvation was won. Full salvation takes place in the true tabernacle in heaven. Man does not make it. Only the Lord does." - R. Albert Mohler Jr. (121)

11. How does this compare to Jesus' ministry and the new covenant? 8:6

Digging Deeper

What attitude should we have about these heavenly truths? Colossians 3:1-5

FYI: "Throughout the OT period the relationship of the people of God to their God was characteristically viewed in terms of covenant. Indeed, it would not be too much to say that covenant was fundamental to the thinking and outlook of the men of the old way...It is accordingly something radically new and daring to maintain that this whole system has been done away and replaced by a new covenant. And central to the new covenant is the death of Jesus, the sacrifice that established the new covenant. The demonstration of what all this means spells out the end of the Mosaic system. The author shows that once the Christian way is understood, there is no place for the old system." - Expositor's Bible Commentary

Applying the Word: What does it mean that Jesus is your advocate – "completely" and "forever"?

Day 3

The Old and New Covenants. Read Hebrews 8:7-13

12. Why was a second covenant needed? 8:7-8 (Cf. 7:18,19)

- What conditions did the first covenant have? See Exodus 19:5
- What did the people promise? Exodus 24:3,4,7

FYI: "These verses don't imply that the Old Covenant was sinful, only that it was insufficient. The Law reflected the righteousness of God, but it couldn't produce righteousness in the believer's life." - Charles Swindoll (132)

"The endless repetition of sacrifices demonstrated the covenant's incompleteness and its inability to deal with sin once for all time. This makes Christ's statement on the cross all the more breathtaking. When he cried, 'It is finished' (John 19:30), He was announcing that the wrath of God toward the sin of His people was finally paid in full."
- R. Albert Mohler, Jr. (122)

13. What problems resulted with the first covenant? 8:9

- What had the Lord told Moses about the future actions of the nation? Deuteronomy 31:16

Digging Deeper

For how far the evil and rebellion went during King Manasseh's reign, see 2 Kings 21:1-18.

14. Underline the ways that the Israelites rebelled against the Lord.

- Jeremiah 9:13-14 The LORD said, "Because they have abandoned My Law which I put before them, and have not obeyed My voice nor walked according to it, ¹⁴ but have followed the stubbornness of their heart and the Baals, as their fathers taught them,"
- Jeremiah 11:7-10 For I solemnly warned your fathers on the day I brought them up from the land of Egypt, even to this day, warning them persistently, saying, "Listen to My voice." ⁸ Yet they did not obey or incline their ear, but walked in the stubbornness of their evil heart, each one of them; therefore I brought on them all the words of this covenant which I commanded them to do, but they did not.' ⁹ Then the Lord said to me, "A conspiracy has been found among the men of Judah and among the inhabitants of Jerusalem. ¹⁰ They have turned back to the wrongdoings of their ancestors who refused to hear My words, and they have followed other gods to serve them. The house of Israel and the house of Judah have broken My covenant which I made with their fathers.'"
- Jeremiah 7:23-31 This is what I commanded them, saying, 'Obey My voice, and I will be your God, and you will be My people; and you shall walk entirely in the way which I command you, so that it may go well for you.' ²⁴ Yet they did not obey or incline their ear, but walked by *their own advice* and in the stubbornness of their evil hearts, and they went backward and not forward. ²⁵ Since the day that your fathers came out of the land of Egypt until this day, I have sent you all My servants the prophets, sending *them* daily, again and again. ²⁶ Yet they did not listen to Me or incline their ear, but stiffened their neck; they did more evil than their fathers.... ³⁰ For the sons of Judah have done that which is evil in My sight," declares the LORD. "They have put their detestable things in the house which is called by My name, to defile it. ³¹ They have built the high places of Topheth, which is in the Valley of Ben-hinnom, to burn their sons and their daughters in the fire, which I did not command, and it did not come into My mind.

15. With whom was the new covenant made? 8:8b,10a

16. How would the new covenant be better? *Note the "I wills."*

- 8:10b
- 8:10c
- 8:11 (See Isaiah 11:9)

FYI: "The problem with the Old Covenant was, it was patently external. Its laws were written on stone (Exodus 32:15,16). They provided no internal power to live them out...Psalms 1 and 119 eloquently testify to the benefit of knowing the Law, for it could guide and influence the heart. But the writing on the heart was beyond the power of unaided man. Something far more radical was needed – a spiritual heart operation." - R. Kent Hughes (218)

17. What amazing thing does the New Covenant bring? 8:12

FYI: "The writer quotes at length from Jeremiah 31:31-34...The quotation dates back over 600 years to Josiah's reign, when after the rediscovery of the Law, a national time of repentance, and a public covenant to keep the Law Israel again failed. In the midst of this dark failure, God promised a New Covenant – not conditional like the old, but unconditional – totally dependent upon the work of God." - R. Kent Hughes (217)

"Jeremiah wrote to show that the Lord had long ago foretold the day when His final priest would come...Thus the author of Hebrews used Jeremiah 31:31-34 to ask his readers, 'Were we not told? 'Why did you not see?' This is similar to the way he used Genesis 14 and Psalm 110 to show them they should have been anticipating a priest according to the order of Melchizedek." - R. Albert Mohler, Jr. (122)

"This new Covenant is better than the old one.

First: It offers internal motivation and power instead of external lists. (v. 10a)

Second: It is based on a close relationship instead of one that is fearful and distant. (v. 10b)

Third: It provides confidence and assurance instead of insecurity and uncertainty. (v. 11)

Fourth: It emphasized forgiveness and mercy instead of failure and wrong. (v. 12)" - Charles Swindoll (132)

"I will make: The Lord made it clear that this covenant would originate with God, and not with man. At Sinai under the Old Covenant the key words were *if you* (Exodus 19:5), but in the New Covenant, the key words are *I will*.

I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts: The New Covenant features transformation from within, not regulation through external law." - David Guzik

18. How is God's forgiveness described in:

- Isaiah 43:25 "I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more.
- Jeremiah 50:20 In those days and at that time,' declares the Lord, 'search will be made for the wrongdoing of Israel, but there will be none; and for the sins of Judah, but they will not be found; for I will forgive those whom I leave as a remnant.'
- Micah 7:18,19 Who is a God like You, who pardons wrongdoing And passes over a rebellious act of the remnant of His possession? He does not retain His anger forever, Because He delights in mercy.¹⁹ He will again take pity on us; He will trample on our wrongdoings. Yes, You will cast all their sins Into the depths of the sea.

19. How does the New Covenant affect the Old? 8:13 (See 2 Corinthians 5:17)

20. Summarize the things that characterize the new covenant concerning:

- Relationship (8:10)
- Understanding (8:11)
- Sin (8:12)

21. From Ezekiel 36:24-38, what else did the Lord promise He would do for the nation?

FYI: "It is important to recognize that while these new covenant blessings have been inaugurated by Jesus, their complete fulfillment awaits His second coming ... Craig Blaising writes: 'It is equally clear that new covenant promises are not yet fully realized. The promises in Jeremiah, Isaiah, and Ezekiel describe a people who have the law written in their hearts, who walk in the way of the Lord, fully under the control of the Holy Spirit. These same promises look to a people who are raised from the dead, enjoying the blessings of an eternal inheritance with God dwelling with them and in them forever...Only in the future will those blessings be granted in full, and the complete transformation promised by the new covenant will be realized. That future will arrive when Jesus returns to earth.'" - Steven Cole

"Hebrews 8:8-12 constitute a quotation from Jeremiah 31:31-34. Note that this 'new covenant' is specifically affirmed, both by Jeremiah and here in the book of Hebrews, to be with Israel and Judah, not with the Christian church. However, since the covenant includes the promise of eternal forgiveness (Hebrews 8:12), it is evident that it applies only to those in Israel and Judah who have been redeemed through faith in Christ, not only as their Messiah but also as their Savior...The promise must be fulfilled in the coming millennium, after 'the time of Jacob's trouble' (Jeremiah 30:7-9) during the 'great tribulation' (Matthew 24:21). At the climax of that terrible time, the people of Israel still living will all believe on Him 'whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for Him' (Zechariah 12:10). 'In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness' (Zechariah 13:1)."

- Defender's Study Bible

Applying the Word: *What does the giving of a new covenant tell you about God's heart for His people? About Israel's heart for God?*

Day 4

External and Internal Realities. Read Hebrews 9:1-10

The Earthly Tabernacle and Worship

22. What things did the first covenant regulate? 9:1

23. How many rooms were in the tabernacle and what were they called? 9:2,3

- What separated the two rooms? (See Exodus 26:33)

24. What did the “Holy Place/Sanctuary” contain? 9:2

- What did the “Most Holy Place/Holiest of All” contain? 9:4

Digging Deeper

Budding of Aaron’s rod: See Numbers 17:10.

Golden altar of incense: Leviticus 16:12,13.

Tablets of the covenant: Deuteronomy 10:2-5.

Setting up the tabernacle: Exodus 40.

FYI: 9:4 golden altar of censer. The golden censer was only brought into the holiest place on the Day of Atonement (Leviticus 16:12-15), burning incense with coals from the altar, so the cloud of incense would cover the mercy seat where the sacrificial blood was to be sprinkled.” - Defender’s Study Bible

“On the Day of Atonement this altar was used in the ritual of the inner room. This is why it is included at 9:4 as part of the inner-room furniture. (See Leviticus 16:12,13)” - Irving Jensen (105)

Video: Exodus 19-40 <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/exodus-19-40/>



25. What was the purpose of the tabernacle and its furnishings? Exodus 25:8,9

26. What was above the mercy seat? 9:5 (Compare Genesis

- What occurred at the mercy seat? Exodus 25:17-22 (See also Leviticus 16:2; Numbers 18:7)

FYI: “Mercy seat” is a translation of the same Greek word translated ‘propitiation’ in Rom. 3:25. It was the place where the high priest offered the blood of the propitiatory sacrifice for the sins of the people.” - Defender’s Study Bible

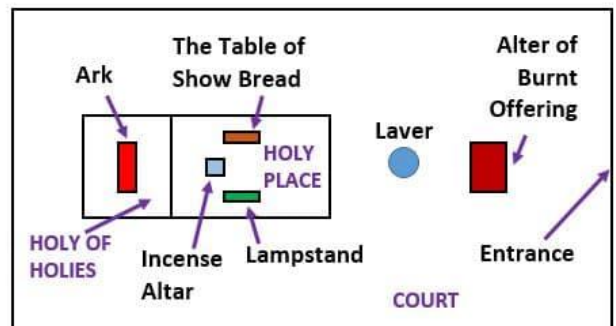
See “What are cherubim?” <https://www.gotquestions.org/cherubim.html>



27. Answer *who*, *what* and *when* about the service of:

- The outer room/Holy Place? 9:6 (Levitical Priests: See Number 3:6-9)
- The inner room/Holy of Holies – 9:7 (High Priests: See Numbers 3:10)

THE TABERNACLE



28. Who could go into the Holy of Holies and how often? 9:9 (See Numbers 18:7; 16:29-34)

- How was Moses warned about this? Leviticus 16:1,2
- What does the fact that the high priest had to take blood “for himself” say about the limitations of the Levitical priests?

FYI: "When the Jews received the Law of Moses at Sinai, the Lord gave commands regarding a formal priesthood for Israel. The priests would be males from the tribe of Levi and must meet certain physical and age qualifications in order to serve. In addition, they had to remain ceremonially clean to perform their duties before a holy God. The priests served as mediators between the Israelites and God. They were the ones who performed animal sacrifices on behalf of the people. It was only the priests who were permitted to enter the Holy Place in the tabernacle and, later, the temple..."

Among these Levitical priests was the high priest. The first high priest was Aaron, the brother of Moses. His sons and their descendants were to serve as the future high priests of the nation of Israel (Exodus 29). Only the high priest was permitted to enter the Most Holy Place in the tabernacle and temple, and that only once per year on the Day of Atonement."

- <https://www.gotquestions.org/difference-priests-Levites.html>

29. From 9:9-10, what other limitations/shortcomings did the earthly tabernacle and its services have?

- 9:8

9:9

- 9:10 (Contrast 9:14)

Applying the Word: *Imagine a New Testament Jew coming out of the old covenant with its laws and regulations about approaching God to having complete and free access through Christ. How might this message have been both difficult and, on the other hand, wonderful to accept?*

*Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him,
because he always lives to intercede for them.*

Hebrews 7:25 NIV