

The Superior Spokesman His Priesthood (Heb. 4:14 – 7:28)

Introduction

Jesus Christ has been shown to be both divine and human. He has also been shown to be worthy of our belief and trust so that we may enter the rest God has planned for us. Now, the author will present Him as superior to Aaron and his priesthood according to the Mosaic covenant.

The office of priest has always been important to those seeking fellowship with God. Priests can be referenced very early in the Scripture. They serve as mediators between the people and God, interceding for man in his greatest needs (cp. 7:25). Once again, the theme of the epistle is to establish the covenant of Christ over the covenant through Moses. Proving the priesthood of Christ superior to the priesthood of Aaron will go along way towards accomplishing that objective.

Introduction Of His Priesthood (Heb. 4:14 - 5:10)

1. How does the author begin discussing Jesus' priesthood? (4:14a) *Thought question:* to Hebrew saints, what image might this conjure up in their minds? (Lev. 16:12; cp. Heb. 9:23-24)
2. Based on Jesus' actions, what should believers do? (4:14b) Upon what should saints base their steadfastness? (4:15) How does the author commend Christ's character in 4:15?
3. Again, how are saints exhorted in 4:16? *Thought question:* what 2 "deficiencies" of the Mosaic covenant are emphasized in this verse?
4. In the blanks below, list the 3 "qualifications" for priests of God that are elaborated in 5:1-4.
Qualification #1 _____
Qualification #2 _____
Qualification #3 _____

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5. Research question: relate how **Ex. 28:1** & **Num. 16** illustrate the certainty of these “qualifications” under the Mosaic covenant.

6. As our “Priest,” does Christ meet these qualifications? **(5:5-6)** How did Jesus fulfill His priestly duties re: sacrifice? **(5:7-8)**

7. Because of His obedience, what results? **(5:9)** To whom are we introduced in **5:10**? Where is he first mentioned in the Scripture?

Pause In The Discussion Of His Priesthood (*Heb. 5:11 - 6:20*)

8. What happens beginning at **5:11**? Why does the author pause in his teaching re: Melchizedek?

9. When the author mentions “dull of hearing,” what do you think is meant by this? **(5:11b; cp. 6:12)** How is this condition further explained in **5:13-14**?

10. What elaboration of “the basic principles of the oracles of God” **(5:12)** does the author provide in **6:1-2**? Can the Christian ever “graduate” from the “ABC’s of the gospel?” **(6:3)** If so, how? **(5:14)**

11. Of what condition does the author warn in **6:4-6**? To whom is he talking? **(6:4-5)** Thought question: why would it be “impossible” to renew some to repentance? Before answering, consider **Mt. 19:26**.

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12. To what tragic event is apostasy likened in **6:6**? *Thought question*: how does this likeness aptly depict just how tragic apostasy is? How are the consequences of apostasy illustrated in **6:7-8**?

13. Despite the grim picture just painted re: apostasy (**6:6, 8**), what exhortation do we find in **6:9-12**? On what 2 truths does the author base his hope for readers? (**6:10**)

14. Regarding God's promises, how does the author emphasize the certainty of what God has promised to those who remain faithful? (**6:13-14**) How is Abraham used as an example? (**6:15**)

15. What points are made in **6:16-18a**? *Thought question*: what do you think are the 2 "immutable" or "unchangeable" things in **6:18a**?

16. Based on the description of God in **6:13-18a**, what should this information do for believers? (**6:18b-19**)

17. How does the author conclude the exhortation he began at **5:11**? (**6:20**) How does he connect this thought with his attempt to pick back up his discussion previously dropped? What was that discussion?

Conclusion To The Discussion Of His Priesthood (*Heb. 7:1-28*)

18. How is Melchizedek described in **7:1a**? What event is referenced in **7:1b-2**?

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19. What is the point being made in 7:3? How does this verse help us better understand 5:6, 10; 6:20; and 7:17?

20. What application does the author make in 7:4? What practice from the Law is discussed in 7:5-10? What point is being made in 7:5-6?

21. In 7:7, be able to identify the "lesser" and the "greater." What contrast is made in 7:8? What do you see as the author's point in 7:9-10? Thus, what are we to conclude about Melchizedek's priesthood?

22. Beginning at 7:11, how does the author show the significance of the new (Melchizedek's) priesthood? What is the point being made in 7:11?

23. What is the author's point in 7:12-14? Who is the "one concerning whom these things are spoken?" (7:13) *Thought question*: how can 7:14 be used as a powerful argument in discussions on Biblical authority? *[Think carefully before answering.]*

24. The author's presentation becomes "clearer still..." (7:15a) How does he further describe Christ's priesthood? (7:15b-16) How does he offer proof? (7:17)

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25. Because there is a new priesthood, what are the obvious conclusions formed in **7:18-19**? How does the author show in yet another way Christ's priesthood is superior to Aaron's in **7:20-21**?
26. What truth is stated about Christ's covenant in **7:22**? What other comparison is made between Christ and the Levites in **7:23-24**? What is our Priest able to do that Levitical priests could not do? (**7:25**)
27. From **7:26-28**, be able to list and define the attributes of our High Priest that show Him to be superior to the priesthood of the Mosaic covenant.
28. Thought question: be able to discuss how this discussion brings to a close the first main section of the epistle.