

**Jesus Christ Is the Greater High Priest:
The Way to God Is Now Changed Forever
Hebrews 07: 01–24**

1 *The change of our approach to God is illustrated in the historical event of Melchizedek*

- a. He was a king
- b. He was a priest
- c. He was a greater priest:
Abraham,
the father of the Jewish priesthood,
paid tithes to him
- d. He was an eternal priest
- just like the Son of God

2 *The change of our approach to God is seen in the superiority of Melchizedek's priesthood*

- a. Greater
because Abraham tithed to him
- b. Greater because he had a special
right to receive tithes
 - 1) Not based upon law - as Aaron's was
 - 2) Based upon his own
personal greatness
- c. Greater because he did the blessing:
He blessed Abraham
- the greater blessed the lesser
- d. Greater because he was not mortal
but eternal
- e. Greater because all priests
also tithed to him
 - 1) Represented through Abraham
 - 2) Levi was yet unborn

- 1 This Melchizedek was king of Salem and priest of God Most High. He met Abraham returning from the defeat of the kings and blessed him,
- 2 And Abraham gave him a tenth of everything. First, his name means "king of righteousness"; then also, "king of Salem" means "king of peace."
- 3 Without father or mother, without genealogy, without beginning of days or end of life, like the Son of God he remains a priest forever.
- 4 Just think how great he was: Even the patriarch Abraham gave him a tenth of the plunder!
- 5 Now the law requires the descendants of Levi who become priests to collect a tenth from the people - that is, their brothers - even though their brothers are descended from Abraham.
- 6 This man, however, did not trace his descent from Levi, yet he collected a tenth from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises.
- 7 And without doubt the lesser person is blessed by the greater.
- 8 In the one case, the tenth is collected by men who die; but in the other case, by him who is declared to be living.
- 9 One might even say that Levi, who collects the tenth, paid the tenth through Abraham,
- 10 Because when Melchizedek met Abraham, Levi was still in the body of his ancestor.

3 *The change of our approach to God is seen in Jesus Christ*

- a. A change in the way perfection is sought

- b. A change in the law:
An absolute necessity

- c. A change in origin or in tribe
 - 1) Not an official, priestly tribe

 - 2) The tribe of Judah

 - 3) A completely new origin

- d. A change in the qualifications of the priesthood
 - 1) Not based on physical and legal qualifications

 - 2) Based on a new qualification
 - the power of an indestructible life

- e. A change in the way man draws near to God
 - 1) Not by the law:
The law is cancelled
 - a) It is weak and useless

 - b) It made nothing perfect

 - 2) By hope

- 11 If perfection could have been attained through the Levitical priesthood (for on the basis of it the law was given to the people), why was there still need for another priest to come
 - one in the order of Melchizedek, not in the order of Aaron?

- 12 For when there is a change of the priesthood, there must also be a change of the law.

- 13 He of whom these things are said belonged to a different tribe, and no one from that tribe has ever served at the altar.

- 14 For it is clear that our Lord descended from Judah, and in regard to that tribe Moses said nothing about priests.

- 15 And what we have said is even more clear if another priest like Melchizedek appears,

- 16 One who has become a priest not on the basis of a regulation as to his ancestry but on the basis of the power of an indestructible life.

- 17 For it is declared:
“You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.”

- 18 The former regulation is set aside because it was weak and useless

- 19 (For the law made nothing perfect), and a better hope is introduced, by which we draw near to God.

<p>f. A change in the guarantee and covenant of priesthood</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Old priests were not sworn by God's oath 2) The new priest, Jesus Christ, was sworn by God's oath and God will never change His mind 3) God's oath guarantees a much better covenant <p>g. A change in the number of priests</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Because of death, there had to be many priests 2) Jesus alone is unchangeable; He abides forever 	<p>20 And it was not without an oath! Others became priests without any oath,</p> <p>21 But he became a priest with an oath when God said to him: "The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind: 'You are a priest forever.'"</p> <p>22 Because of this oath, Jesus has become the guarantee of a better covenant.</p> <p>23 Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office;</p> <p>24 But because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood.</p>
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