

➤ **Read Hebrews 7:11–28.**

➤ **Reread Hebrews 7:11–19.**

At the end of the last lesson we learned about Melchizedek, a mysterious priest who blessed Abraham and received a tithe from him. This Melchizedek lived before any of the laws were given or the priesthood of Israel formed. The passage makes the point that Melchizedek, king of Salem, whose name means “king of righteousness” and whose title means “king of peace” (7:2), and who was “without beginning of days or end of life” (7:3), foreshadowed the Son of God, Jesus, God’s ultimate high priest. This week we will dig deeper into this priesthood of the order of Melchizedek.

1. Use this table<sup>1</sup> to compare and contrast the two priesthoods from this passage:

<b>Verses</b>	<b>Levitical Priesthood Order of Aaron</b>	<b>Christ Order of Melchizedek</b>
7:11–19		
7:20–22		
7:23–25		
7:26–28		

Reading through this passage can feel a bit overwhelming or disorienting, like being set down in a culture that you know little about. In a similar way, the Jewish believers to whom Hebrews was written must have felt disoriented by the priesthood of Jesus. It would be easier for them to stick with the familiar Levitical priesthood and underestimate the superiority of Jesus’ priesthood.

## ➤ Read Hebrews 7:11–22.

2. The Levitical priesthood was a constant reminder of the law of God. What did the law demand in order for people to have a relationship with God? (v. 11; Jer. 11:1–4; 📖\* Deut. 6:25)
  
3. Why did the law and the Levitical priesthood it established need to be replaced? (vv. 11, 19a; Rom. 3:19–20; Gal 3:10; Heb. 10:1)
  
4. If the law demands perfection we can never attain, what hope is there for us who deserve God’s wrath? (1 Thess. 5:9; Rom. 5:9)
  
5. What are two purposes of the law (the old covenant)? (Gal. 3:23–25; Rom. 3:19–20)
  
6. What is the new, “better covenant” (v. 22)? (Jer. 31:31–34; Rom. 3:21–26; 📖 2 Cor. 3:6)

How is the new covenant guaranteed?  
vv. 20–22

Mt. 26:26–28; Heb. 9:11–15

7. “The Levitical priesthood came into existence through the law. The priesthood of Jesus Christ came through a promise made by God ... [that] assures us of access to God (v. 19). As if this were not enough, the writer underscores the fact that the Lord will not change His mind (v. 21). As if *that* were not enough, the promise itself assures us that Jesus Christ, following the order of Melchizedec, will be an eternal priest.”<sup>2</sup> This priest is able to meet our need (v. 26).  
What are the characteristics that make Jesus the only truly effective high priest? (vv. 23–28)

Which of these characteristics is most meaningful to you? Why?

8. “[Jesus] is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them” (v. 25). Be still and meditate on what it means for Jesus to be your high priest.  
Identify something you are struggling with now. How is Jesus’ priesthood relevant to your struggle?

\*📖 For further study

<sup>1</sup> Walter A. Henrichsen, *After the Sacrifice: A Practical Study of Hebrews* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1979), 95.

<sup>2</sup> Henrichsen, 94.