

Jesus Is Superior To The Levitical Priesthood!

Hebrews 4:14-10:18

Abraham Lincoln said, "He who represents himself has a fool for a client." The old saying goes, "Only a fool represents himself." Jesus is the best High Priest. A priest represents a person before God. The third pillar of Judaism was the Levitical priesthood. In Hebrews 4:14 to 10:18 Jesus is superior to the Aaronic priesthood in five ways....

I. Jesus Has A Better Position (4:14-16)

Jesus is available continuously! The high priest in the Levitical priesthood entered the holy of holies one day per year and then left. Jesus represents us directly in the presence of God.

The solution to their struggles was not to return to Judaism but to pray! Pray with boldness and confidence.

II. Jesus Is A Better Priest (5:1-7:28)

In verses 1 to 4 there are four prerequisites to be a priest....

First, a priest had to be human (verse 1a).

Second, he had to function in a priestly order (verse 1b).

Third, a priest had to be compassionate and sympathetic (verses 2-3).

Fourth, he had to be appointed by God (verse 4).

Jesus met these prerequisites! **Four points.....**

First, He was appointed (verses 5-6).

Second, Jesus is human (verse 7).

Third, Jesus is compassionate (verse 8).

Fourth, Jesus functions in a priestly order (verses 9-10).

The Book of Hebrews is built around five parenthetical warnings. **We have seen three of them so far....**

First, the danger of d_____ (2:1-4).

Second, the danger of d_____ (3:7-4:13).

Third, the danger of s_____ (5:11-6:20).

Whenever new truth is revealed, we must submit and obey to it! The Greek word for dull means "to have no push." It means "to be lazy or sluggish." Use it or lose it! Understanding the Melchizedekian order is the meat of God's Word. Babyhood is failing to practice what you know.

Chapter 6 verses 1 to 8 is a very difficult chapter! **Four principles...**

First, interpret these verses in light of the B_____ as a whole.

Second, this is written specifically to J_____ believers.

Third, the immediate c_____ is pressing on to spiritual maturity.

Fourth, Scripture cannot c_____ each other. Interpret this passage in light of other biblical truths.

Six ABC's are mentioned in verses 1 and 2....

First, repentance from d_____ works. The Levitical system became dead works.

Second, f_____ toward God. This is salvation.

Third, t_____ of baptisms. This may be different types of baptisms or Levitical washings.

Fourth, the laying on of hands. This was a means of imparting blessings.

Fifth, the r_____ from the dead.

Sixth, eternal judgment.

In verses 4 to 6 they had experienced five spiritual privileges....

First, they were once and for all e_____. They were saved!

Second, they t_____ the heavenly gift. Tasted means "real experience." We see this in Acts 10:10, 1 Peter 2:3, Hebrews 2:9).

Third, they were made p_____ of the Holy Spirit.

Fourth, they t_____ the good Word of God.

Fifth, they tasted the p_____ of the age to come.

In verse 6 it is impossible if they fall away to renew them again to repentance. **It is impossible for two reasons....**

First, they would have to c_____ the Son of God again.

Second, it would put Jesus to open s_____.

These are real believers who were in danger of returning to Judaism. They will be physically destroyed by the Romans in 70 AD if they fail to press on to spiritual maturity.

They have two options....

First, to press on to m_____ and live.

Second, to return to Judaism and die.

In verses 11 and 12 the author expresses three desires for them....

First, they must reach spiritual maturity.

Second, they should not remain s_____.

Third, they must become i_____ of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises. Imitate is where we get the English word mimic!

In verses 13 to 20 God's promises never fail. Abraham exercised patient endurance. We must do the same! Twenty-five years elapsed between God's promise and the birth of Isaac. Abraham is a good example to follow. God's promises are not always immediate but they are certain.

In chapter 7 verses 1 to 3 there are six similarities between Melchizedek and Jesus the Messiah....

First, Melchizedek was both priest and k_____ (verse 1a).

Second, the Melchizedekian Priesthood resulted in b_____ (verse 1b).

Third, Jesus is s_____ over any other priesthood (verse 2).

Fourth, Melchizedek was an i_____ high priest (verse 3a).

Fifth, the Melchizedekian Priesthood was t_____ (verse 3b).

Sixth, the Melchizedekian Priesthood was u_____ (verse 3c). It ministered to everyone.

III. Jesus Has A Better C_____ (8:1-13)

IV. Jesus Functions In A Better S_____ (9:1-10)

V. Jesus Offers A Better S_____ (10:1-18)