



# JESUS, THE FAITHFUL PRIEST

Lesson 6 for February 5, 2022



In Hebrews 5 to 7, Paul introduced Jesus as our heavenly High Priest, our representative before the Father.

High Priest? How's that possible? The priests had to be members of the tribe of Levi, the family of Aaron. Didn't Jesus belong to the tribe of Judah?

We'll study why and how this change of priestly lineage happened. We'll also discover the perfect Priest, Jesus. "For such a High Priest was fitting for us" (Heb. 7:26).



- ▶ **His role:** Merciful Mediator (Heb. 5:1-10)
- ▶ **His lineage:** The order of Melchizedek (Heb. 7:1-3)
- ▶ **His right:** Changing the law (Heb. 7:11-16)
- ▶ **His regulation:** A better covenant (Heb. 7:17-22)
- ▶ **His character:** The perfect Priest (Heb. 7:26)

# MERCIFUL MEDIATOR

**“And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him.” (Hebrews 5:9)**

**Mediating between God and humans was one of the tasks of the priests.**



**Priests could fully understand people because they were as sinful as them. Therefore, they had to “have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray” (Heb. 5:2).**

**Jesus was not a sinner, but He took our nature and was perfected in obedience and suffering (Heb. 5:7-8). This way He proved that He could understand us and love us.**

**He was qualified as priest because of His obedience, His suffering, and His perfect life. He became the mediator between God and us (Heb. 5:9-10).**



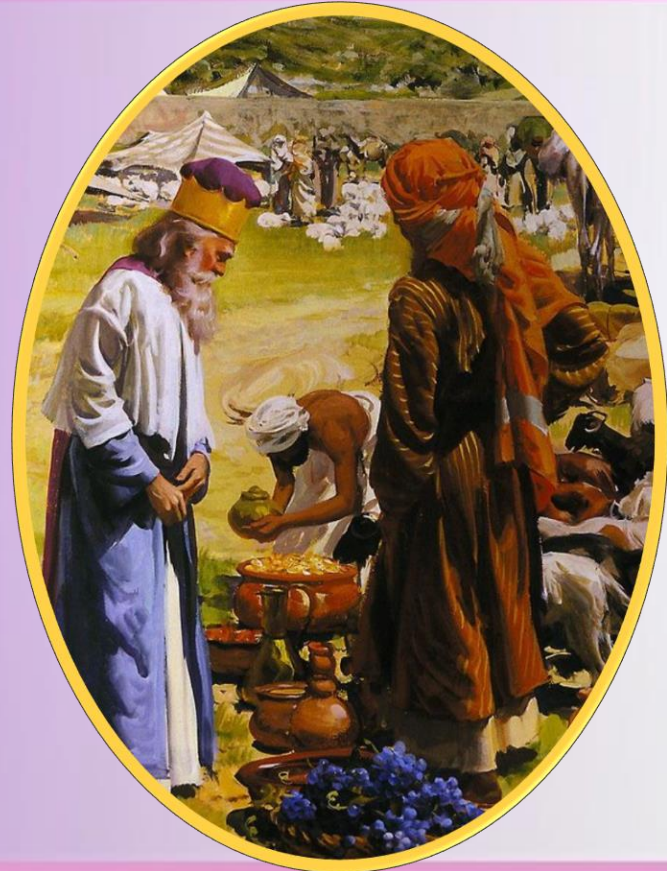
# THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK

“called by God as High Priest ‘according to the order of Melchizedek,’” (Hebrews 5:10)

Melchizedek, King of Salem, blessed Abram when he returned from fighting Chedorlaomer and his allies to free his nephew Lot (Gn. 14:17). Melchizedek was also “the priest of God Most High” (Gn. 14:18-20).

Melchizedek is only mentioned one more time in the Old Testament, Psalm 110:4. Paul used that verse to introduce the story of the king-priest as a type of Jesus.

Melchizedek was “made like the Son of God” (Heb. 7:3). Jesus is King and Priest. He is eternal, “having neither beginning of days nor end of life” (Heb. 7:3). Jesus is not a descendant of Melchizedek, but Jesus’ priesthood is similar to his.



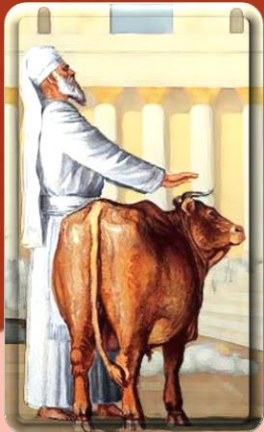
# CHANGING THE LAW

"who has come, not according to the law of a fleshly commandment, but according to the power of an endless life." (Hebrews 7:16)

The priests mediated between God and humans, but they were not perfect. They still had to offer sacrifices for their own sins (Heb. 7:27).

Therefore, they were also unable to make other people perfect. Besides, the sacrifices were not a means to perfection (Heb. 10:1).

Humans needed a perfect priest that could perfect us before the Father. The law of the priesthood had to change because none of Aaron's descendants would be perfect (Heb. 7:11, 16).

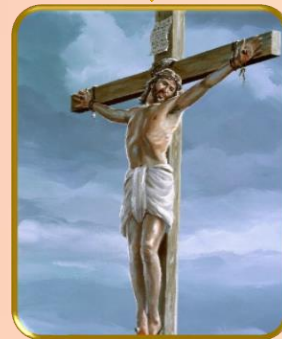


Changing the  
law of the  
priesthood

Changing the  
sacrificial law

from the order  
of Aaron to the  
order of  
Melchizedek

from many  
animals to  
only Jesus'  
sacrifice



# A BETTER COVENANT

**"by so much more Jesus has become a surety of a better covenant." (Hebrews 7:22)**



**The old covenant was based on Aaron's priesthood. Therefore, a new covenant was necessary because the law of priesthood had changed (Heb. 8:7, 13).**

**In the new covenant, the weakness of the priests was replaced by the "endless life" of our Guarantor, Jesus. He is the High Priest according to the order of Melchizedek.**

**Furthermore, the oath in this new covenant is a guarantee. Human oaths expire when the person died, but the Father's oath about Jesus' priesthood is eternal because they will never die (Heb. 7:21). His promises are certain.**



# THE PERFECT PRIEST

"For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens;" (Hebrews 7:26)

**Holy**

Literally "pious" or "pleases the Lord." He does God's will

**Harmless**

Not evil or vengeful. He always does good to others and doesn't ever think badly

**Undefiled**

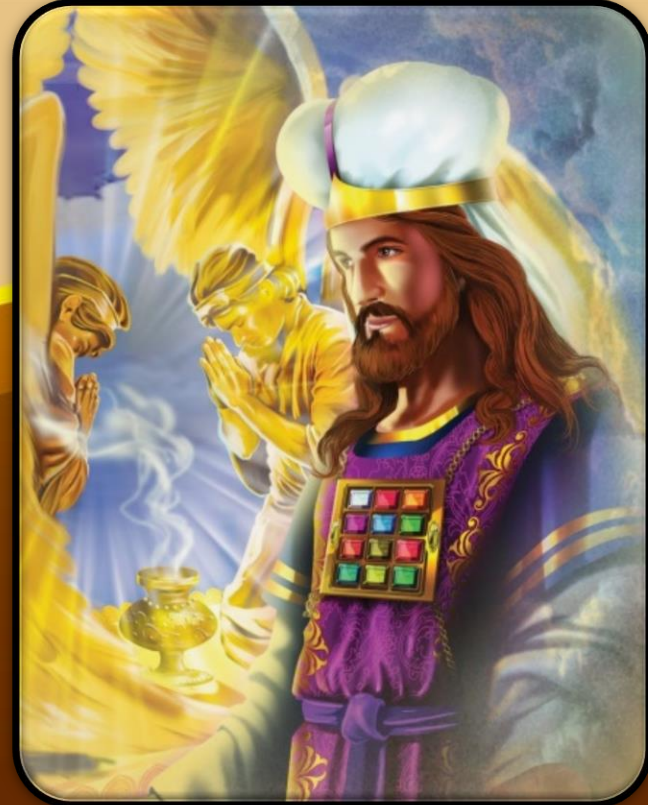
Pure, sinless. He was tempted in all points, yet without sin

**Separate from sinners**

He was separated from sinners when He ascended. Now He intercedes in their behalf

**Has become higher than the heavens**

He is exalted above everything, like God is (Ps. 57:5; 108:5)



**“Christ is the connecting link between God and man. He has promised His personal intercession. He places the whole virtue of His righteousness on the side of the suppliant [...] As we approach God through the virtue of the Redeemer's merits, Christ places us close by His side, encircling us with His human arm, while with His divine arm He grasps the throne of the Infinite [...] He promises to hear and answer our supplications.”**

**E. G. W. (Testimonies for the Church, vol. 8, cp. 29, p. 178)**