

Hebrews 7:15-21

The Eternal Priesthood

- the idea of Melchisedec is not that he is eternal, but the priesthood

(Since Melchisedec didn't have a recorded death, the priesthood never ended)

*the writer has already shown in this chapter on how Melchisedec is superior to Abraham

- and since the Levites are Abraham's seed, he is superior to them as well

vs.15- "evident"- even though Christ was not a Levite and not mentioned by Moses that someone from Judah would be appointed to the role

(It is "far more evident" because God prophesied about it)

- "similitude"- (homoiotes) a likeness

- the likeness is the kingship priest and that neither had a beginning or an end

- "another"- (heteros) meaning another of a different kind (different nature, class, or quality)

(This is the same word used in vs.11)

vs.16- "made"- (ginomai) to arise or appear in history

- this term means He was appointed by God Himself and not just a successor to someone that is disabled or has died

- "carnal"- the idea of this word's usage is to mean external or fleshly

- the meaning behind this is twofold:

1- the Law related more to outward observances than to the keeping of the heart

(This is why Christ's message on earth was all about the inside of a man)

2- the Law stated the regulations for a high priest (external or fleshly implies that one must be of Aaronic lineage- the high priest was instituted due to natural birth- fleshly)

- "endless life"- unlike the O.T. priesthood that finishes when a priest would die, the priesthood of Christ never ends because He is eternal

- since God has stated that the priesthood of Melchisedec is forever and Christ is eternal, He is the only One qualified to assume the role of an eternal Priest

Truth- Jesus didn't obtain His Priesthood by virtue of the Law, but by virtue of His Deity

vs.17- now the writer brings to remembrance what Ps.110 has said

- "for he testifieth"- meaning that this is the true account and is proved by the witness of God

vs.18- "disannulling"- (athetsis) abolition or putting away

*this means the O.T. Law and the covenant has ended- this also relates to the Levitical priests

- "weakness"- (asthenes) feeble or low energy

- the old covenant had no spirit to minister- it required perfect obedience but gave no assistance or power to those who were under it

- "unprofitableness"- this means that it was never adapted to save mankind

*man could never be redeemed by the Law as the Law could only reveal sin (Rom.3:20,7:7)

vs.19- now the writer explains the Law's purpose

- "made nothing perfect"- it saved no one but condemned everyone (Rom.3:23)

- the design of the Law was to make man aware of his sin and it led to the introduction of a more perfect plan - once introduced, the Law was meant to vanish as a matter of course (8:13)

- "better hope"- this is the new covenant of grace (available to all)

(A different covenant with laws written in hearts requires a different High Priest- 8:10)

Truth- this covenant allows us access to God because Christ Himself is our High Priest

(vs.20-21)- God's promise is sealed with His oath (6:17)

*the Melchisedecian priesthood of Christ is confirmed with God's oath in Ps.110:4

- this oath was divine certification that this priesthood is unending

(The Levites never received such an oath)

Truth- there will not be a third priesthood as God has given His oath that this one is forever