

Calvary Chapel of El Paso Morning Ladies' Bible Study – The Book of Hebrews
February 2, 2021 – Fellowship and Review of Chapters 6 and 7

Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such a high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens. – Hebrews 8:1

The Book of Hebrews discusses Jesus Christ as High Priest in various passages and in much detail. Examples up to this point are found in Hebrews 2:17; 3:1; 4:14 (He has passed into heaven); 5:5 (the Father assigned this to Him); 5:6 (He is of order of Melchisedec); and 5:10. Then Paul writes them in Hebrews 5:11-14 to not miss this! Heads up! He wants to move on from the basics.

[Lesson 8 – Hebrews 6:1-12] Chapter 6 begins with the admonition to move on from foundational teachings.

Those who fall away completely from the faith never knew Jesus. 1 John 2:19 *They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.*

But not you! (6:9) Be diligent to follow the example of those who have gone before. (6:11-12)

[Lesson 9 – Hebrews 6:13 – 7:28] Paul then began to explain how Jesus as our High Priest is the *Anchor of our Soul*. Mary explained this very well last week:

“In Heb. 6:20, we read where Jesus is described as the “*forerunner*”. The Greek for this word was descriptive of smaller boats that would be sent ahead into the harbor where the larger ships could not enter. These little boats would carry the anchor through the harbor and then drop it there, thereby securing the larger ships. This is a picture of Jesus acting as OUR anchor---He goes before us entering where we cannot go on our own and, once there, He secures our anchor so that we are able to follow Him.”

Our hope is in Jesus, the anchor of our soul. (Hebrews 7:19-20)

So who is this Jesus, our High Priest?

He is of the order of Melchisedec – not of the order of Levi. Jesus is the ONLY priest of this order because it is everlasting, and Christ was the once and only perfect sacrifice for all the sin of the world for all time. (The Levitical priesthood passed from father to son, and they offered many sacrifices daily.)

Because the priesthood changed (from Levitical to Melchisedec), the law had to change, too. (Hebrews 7:12) The Law was given to Moses. The everlasting covenant was promised to Abraham when God swore by Himself so that it would be perfect and everlasting. (Genesis chapter 15) And Jesus our High Priest is the guarantee of it. (Hebrews 7:22) So though it was given through Abraham, it depends on no man to continue.

Here's the interesting part: The everlasting covenant and priesthood were in place BEFORE the Law of Moses and Levitical Priesthood were given about 400 years later. Why is this? To have it in place as permanent and superior to the temporary Law, which simply guided the Israelites to prevent their total self-destruction before Christ would come around 500 years later. AND the Law of Moses and its priesthood were finished when Jesus died on the cross. John 19:30 *When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.*

There is SO much in these rich passages – we have only touched on the high points. As a visual way to conclude this brief review, let's look at a couple of timelines. The first is relevant events in Abraham's life, and the second is the timeline concerning Jesus Christ as our everlasting High Priest.

Abraham: God used him to reveal and foreshadow the perfect and everlasting priesthood and law: (note abbrev.: Abe=Abraham; Mel=Melchisedec)

<u>Gen. 12</u>	<u>Gen. 14</u>	<u>Gen. 14</u>	<u>Gen. 15</u>
Abe in Canaan, Lot separated from Abe	Abe rescued Lot (also rescued the people of the Canaanites with whom Lot lived)	Abe met Mel* (the King of Sodom tried to be first: Satan tempting?) Abe tithed to Mel Abe did not keep the booty**	Everlasting covenant given by God through Abe God swore by Himself (Heb. 6:13)

[If you are not familiar with these passages, you might want to read Gen. 12:1-5 and Gen. 14 & 15]

* Melchisedec King of Salem – “Salem” at that time was the FUTURE name of Jerusalem; also the King of Salem (Peace) foreshadowed Who Jesus would be as the High Priest.

** So at this time Abe truly worshipped God, and Abe knew he was a sojourner (tent dweller in a foreign land) Heb. 11:9-10. He showed this by not taking the booty from the Canaanite kings.

There were other “tests” for Abe after this, including in Genesis 22 (Abe offered up his only son Isaac to God), in which God “proved” Abe, showing that Abe would believe and obey Him. BUT the key “test” was in Genesis 14 when Abe was blessed by Mel and Abe tithed to Mel, the “*priest of the Most High God.*” After the everlasting priesthood was established, God gave the everlasting covenant.

Jesus Christ, our everlasting High Priest:

[Jesus is *the same yesterday, today, and for ever.* He always existed, was foretold in the Old Testament, came in fullness in the New Testament, and lives forever in eternity.]

<u>Eternity Past</u> Jesus with Father as everlasting High Priest	<u>Gen. 14-15 ***</u> Appeared to Abe, brought Mel Priesthood and Everlasting covenant into earth's time	<u>Psa. 110:4</u> Promised by God	<u>Jn. 19:30</u> “ <i>It is finished</i> ” The new and everlasting covenant and priesthood went into effect ending Mosaic law and priesthood – line of Judah, not Levi	<u>Eternity Future</u> Jesus Christ is our High Priest forever, of the order of Mel
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*** The Mosaic Law & Levitical Priesthood were established about 400 years after Abraham.

The High Priesthood of Melchisedec was revealed before the Levitical priesthood, but did not go into full effect until Jesus became the High Priest after His death, burial and resurrection. So the Law of Moses and the Levitical priesthood came first, and then the everlasting covenant and the Priesthood of Melchisedec, as in Heb. 8:7 *For if the first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second.*

Next Week in Lesson 10 we will study Hebrews chapter 8 in which Paul explains much about the old covenant (Moses) and the new covenant (Abrahamic; Jesus). Actually, several chapters in Hebrews go into much detail about all this.

How much better is the perfect, everlasting covenant. It is foretold in many places in the Old Testament, and the following is a beautiful description of it:

But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.
And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

- Jeremiah 31:33-34