

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for June 7, 2015

Melchizedek's Priesthood Trumped Aaron's Priesthood
Hebrews 7:15-19

The author in Hebrews 7:11-28 explained why it was necessary for Aaron's priesthood to be replaced by Christ's priesthood which was according to the order of Melchizedek.

It was necessary because Aaron's priesthood could not bring about "perfection" Hebrews 7:11-14.

The word "perfection" (TELEIOSIS) here, as elsewhere in Hebrews, does not mean "without flaws," but rather it has to do with "arriving at a desired end" or "reaching a particular goal."

The desired end or the specific goal that Aaron's priesthood was unable to achieve was to make people acceptable to God in such a way that they gained personal access to God.

It was necessary because its replacement brought about a "better hope" (Hebrews 7:15-19).

The best way to understand this conditional "if" is as a factual "if," with the meaning of "since" (Hebrews 7:15).

The priesthood of Christ is unique, for it is not built upon a law of physical requirement but rather upon the power of an indestructible life (Hebrews 7:16).

The word "power" (DUNAMIS) in this context is referring to the inherent power residing in Christ, the eternal Son of God, whose life, because of His eternality, was indestructible.

The author in Hebrews 7:17, in seeking to further drive home the uniqueness of Christ's priesthood and the fact that it was based on indestructibility of his life, quoted from Psalm 110:4.

The word translated as "setting aside" was used for an official annulment of a decree, the cancelation of a debt, or the abrogation of a will.

The "better hope" is the direct and lasting access to God that has been provided us through Christ, our great heavenly high priest.

May we by God's grace continuously draw near to God in light of the direct and lasting access that Christ, our great high priest, has provided us.

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