

Our High Priest's Order
(Hebrews 5:10)

- I. A study like this is difficult to teach to those who are *dull of hearing*. **HEB 5:11.**
 - A. For various reasons, their ears received not doctrine. **HEB 5:12 c/w 2TI 4:3-4.**
 - B. Sharpness rebukes dullness; sharpening overcomes it. **2CO 13:10; PRO 27:17.**
 - C. Many of the Hebrew Christians were still overmuch zealous of the law (**ACT 21:20**) and its Levitical priesthood. To pry them from Levi, Paul sets forth something better.

- II. Christ's priesthood is after the superior order of Melchisedec. **HEB 5:5-6; 6:20.**
 - A. This argument would help Hebrew Christians accept that the traditional priesthood of their nation was set aside.
 - 1. Their Levitical priesthood was appointed by God.
 - 2. Paul shows that their O.T. scriptures taught that the Levitical priesthood would be superceded by a superior order.
 - a. The relationship of Abraham to Melchisedec suggested this. **GEN 14:18-20.**
 - b. The prophecy of **PSA 110:4** showed it also.
 - B. The Melchisedec priesthood is a royal one. **HEB 7:1-2, 14; 8:1; 10:10-13.**
 - C. The Melchisedec priesthood is not derived from descent as was the Levitical. **HEB 7:3, 6.**
 - 1. Pedigree was necessary to be a Levitical priest. **EZR 2:61-62.**
 - 2. Melchisedec was a man with a descent, but not from Levi. **HEB 7:4, 6.**
 - 3. He was "...made like unto the Son of God..." (**HEB 7:3**). He is a type of Christ.
 - 4. Since his priesthood is a type of Christ's which is not derived by descent nor bounded by time, there is *no record* in Genesis of Melchisedec's parents, his birth, or his death.
 - a. Christ is a priest FOREVER after the order of Melchisedec. **HEB 7:21.**
 - b. The Melchisedec priesthood typified a priesthood uninterrupted by death.
 - c. The Levitical priests were made such "...after the law of a carnal commandment..." (**HEB 7:16**). Their priesthood depended upon and was conferred by fleshly generation.
 - d. Christ was made a priest "...after the power of an endless life" (**HEB 7:16**).
 - [1] His divine nature was ever immortal.
 - [2] His human nature was raised immortal. **ROM 6:9.**
 - 5. The Levitical priests ministry terminated with their death. Their death was not part of their priestly work.
 - a. Christ officiated as priest IN and BY His death.
 - b. He "...offered himself without spot to God..." (**HEB 9:14**).
 - c. His death was part of His priestly work.
 - d. Death did not interrupt the execution of His priesthood.
 - 6. The confirmation of Christ's priesthood by an oath further demonstrates its superiority and perpetuity. **HEB 7:20-21 c/w HEB 6:16-17.**
 - 7. The perpetuity of Christ's priesthood is the reason He is "...able to save them to the uttermost than come unto God BY Him..." (**HEB 7:24-25**).
 - a. We are saved by Christ's endless life. **JOH 14:19; ROM 5:10; 1CO 15:17.**
 - b. Christ ever lives to make intercession, i.e., to intervene before God on behalf of His people.
 - c. Salvation depends on His endurance, not ours!

- d. *He saves to the uttermost.*
 - [1] He saves from all evil forever.
 - [2] He does not do part of the saving and then leave the rest to someone else.

D. Melchisedec blessed the Levites in Abraham. **HEB 7:6-7.**

E. The Levites paid tithes to Melchisedec in Abraham. **HEB 7:4-5, 8-10.**

- 1. Abraham paid homage to Melchisedec, thus showing "...how great this man was..." (**HEB 7:4**).
- 2. This was a powerful argument to the Hebrew mind since they highly regarded Abraham. **JOH 8:53.**

F. The very fact that David prophesied of a priest after the order of Melchisedec showed that the Levitical priesthood was deficient and would be displaced. **HEB 7:11.**

G. The fact that Messiah, Who would spring from Judah, would be a priest showed the setting aside of the Levitical priesthood. **HEB 7:12-17.**

- 1. It is evident that the Messiah sprang out of Judah. **2SAM 7:12; ISA 11:1; MIC 5:2.**
- 2. God had formerly judged a king from the tribe of Judah for intruding into the priestly office. **2CH 26:16-21.**
- 3. Therefore, if a descendant of Judah was to be a priest, the old order would have to be disannulled. **HEB 7:18.**

III. Christ's priesthood is superior to the Levitical in that they were men of infirmity whereas Christ is the sinless Son of God. **HEB 4:14; 7:28.**

IV. Christ's priesthood is superior to the Levitical in that Christ did not need to offer for His own sins. **HEB 4:15; 5:3; 7:26-27.**

V. Christ's priesthood is superior to the Levitical in that the Levitical priesthood perfected nothing, but Christ does. **HEB 7:11, 18-19; 2:10; 5:8-9; 9:9; 10:1, 14.**