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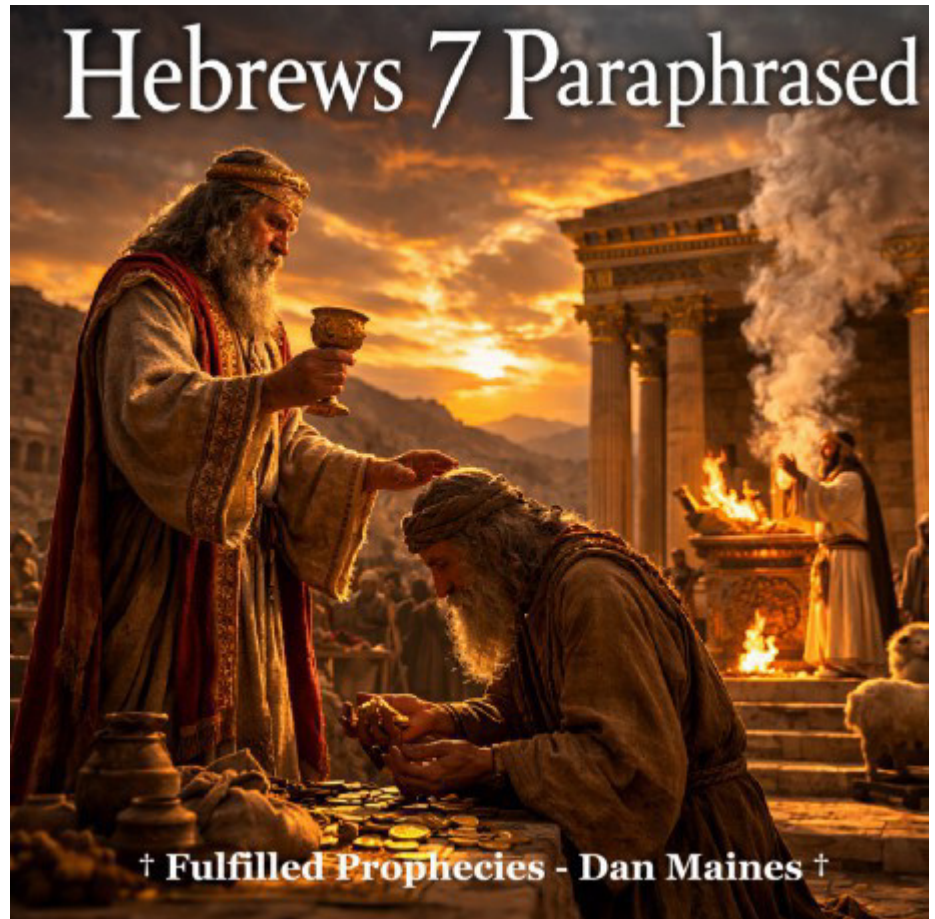
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## Hebrews 7 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines

## Hebrews 7 Paraphrased

### Introduction

† The writer of Hebrews explains why Jesus is the true and final High Priest. He points back to Melchizedek in Genesis to show a priesthood greater than Levi's. This chapter proves that the priesthood changed, which means the covenant system connected to it also had to change.

† The argument shows that Jesus did not come from the tribe of Levi, yet He still became the true High Priest because His priesthood comes from a higher order, the order of Melchizedek

(Genesis 14:18-20; Psalm 110:4).

† This matters because it shows that the temple system, sacrifices, and Levitical priesthood were temporary and were replaced by Christ's eternal priesthood.

### **Hebrews 7:1**

This Melchizedek was king of Salem and a priest of the Most High God. He met Abraham returning from the defeat of the kings and gave him a blessing.

† Melchizedek appears suddenly in the Genesis record as both king and priest, something unique in the Old Testament (Genesis 14:18-20).

† Abraham receiving a blessing from him shows Melchizedek held a higher spiritual position than Abraham.

† The writer is setting the stage to prove that Jesus' priesthood follows this greater order (Psalm 110:4).

### **Hebrews 7:2**

Abraham gave him a tenth of everything he had taken. His name means king of righteousness, and he was also king of Salem, meaning king of peace.

† Abraham giving a tenth shows honor and recognition of Melchizedek's authority (Genesis 14:20).

† The meanings of his titles point directly to Christ, righteousness and peace both come through Him (Isaiah 9:6; Jeremiah 23:5-6).

† The combination of king and priest points forward to the Messiah who would rule and intercede.

### **Hebrews 7:3**

There is no record of his father, mother, family line, beginning of life, or end of days. In the biblical record he remains like the Son of God, continuing as a priest in the pattern shown in Scripture.

† The point is not that Melchizedek had no parents, but that the genealogy is intentionally absent in the record (Genesis 14).

† Levitical priests required documented ancestry, but

Melchizedek's priesthood didn't depend on genealogy (Ezra 2:62).

† This mirrors Christ's priesthood which comes by divine appointment, not tribal descent (Psalm 110:4).

### **Hebrews 7:4**

Look at how great this man was, even Abraham the patriarch gave him a tenth of the spoils.

† Abraham is the ancestor of Israel, so if he honored Melchizedek, that priesthood must be greater.

† This establishes the foundation for the argument that Levi's priesthood is subordinate.

† The writer is proving superiority through Abraham's actions (Genesis 14:20).

### **Hebrews 7:5**

The descendants of Levi who receive the priesthood are commanded in the Law to collect tithes from the people, that is, from their fellow Israelites, even though they also came from Abraham.

† The Law authorized Levitical priests to collect tithes from Israel (Numbers 18:21).

† Yet those priests were still descendants of Abraham just like the rest of the people.

† This shows the system was internal to Israel and temporary.

### **Hebrews 7:6**

But this man, whose ancestry wasn't traced from Levi, collected a tenth from Abraham and blessed the one who held the promises.

† Melchizedek blessed Abraham, the one carrying the covenant promises (Genesis 12:1-3).

† This shows that spiritual authority did not originate with the Levitical system.

† The blessing establishes the greater position of Melchizedek's priesthood.

## **Hebrews 7:7**

It is beyond dispute that the lesser person is blessed by the greater.

† The argument is simple and clear, the one giving the blessing holds the greater authority.

† Therefore Melchizedek stands above Abraham in that moment.

† Since Levi came through Abraham, Levi's priesthood is shown to be inferior.

## **Hebrews 7:8**

In one case mortal men receive tithes, but in the other case it is testified that he lives.

† Levitical priests eventually died and were replaced (Numbers 20:28).

† In the scriptural narrative Melchizedek is presented without recorded death, symbolizing a continuing priesthood.

† This points forward to Christ's eternal priesthood.

## **Hebrews 7:9**

You could even say that Levi, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham.

† Since Levi was still within Abraham's lineage at that time, the act symbolically included him.

† This strengthens the argument that Levi acknowledged Melchizedek's superiority.

† The priesthood connected to Levi therefore comes after and beneath the earlier priesthood.

## **Hebrews 7:10**

Because he was still within his ancestor when Melchizedek met Abraham.

† The writer uses ancestry logic common in Jewish teaching to make the point.

† Levi's future priesthood was represented in Abraham.

† This reinforces that Melchizedek's priesthood existed first and

was greater.

### **Hebrews 7:11**

If perfection had come through the Levitical priesthood, since the people received the Law through it, why would there still be a need for another priest to arise in the order of Melchizedek and not in the order of Aaron?

† The Law and priesthood were connected systems (Exodus 28:1).

† Psalm 110:4 predicted another priest would come, showing the Levitical system was incomplete.

† The prophecy itself proves the earlier priesthood would not last.

### **Hebrews 7:12**

When the priesthood changes, the law connected to it must also change.

† The priesthood and covenant system functioned together.

† When Christ became the High Priest, the covenant structure tied to the Levitical system ended (Hebrews 8:13).

† This explains why the temple system no longer stands.

### **Hebrews 7:13**

The one these things are spoken about belongs to another tribe, and no one from that tribe has ever served at the altar.

† Jesus came from the tribe of Judah (Matthew 1:2-3).

† The tribe of Judah had no role in the temple priesthood.

† This proves His priesthood must come from a different order.

### **Hebrews 7:14**

It is clear that our Lord came from Judah, a tribe Moses said nothing about regarding priests.

† The Law limited priesthood to the tribe of Levi (Numbers 3:10).

† Jesus serving as priest proves a new priesthood had begun.

† This fulfills Psalm 110:4.

## **Hebrews 7:15**

This becomes even clearer when another priest appears in the likeness of Melchizedek.

† The new priesthood follows the Melchizedek pattern, not the Levitical one.

† It is based on divine appointment, not genealogy.

† This is fulfilled in Christ.

## **Hebrews 7:16**

He became a priest not through the law of physical descent but through the power of an endless life.

† Levitical priests served temporarily and died.

† Christ's resurrection proves His priesthood is permanent (Romans 6:9).

† His life is the foundation of the new priesthood.

## **Hebrews 7:17**

Because it is testified, You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

† This quote comes directly from Psalm 110:4.

† David prophesied a future eternal priest.

† The writer of Hebrews applies that prophecy to Jesus.

## **Hebrews 7:18**

The previous commandment is set aside because it was weak and ineffective.

† The Law could reveal sin but couldn't remove it (Romans 8:3).

† The sacrifices were repeated constantly because they were incomplete.

† This shows the need for Christ's perfect sacrifice.

## **Hebrews 7:19**

The Law made nothing perfect, but a better hope was introduced through which we draw near to God.

† Access to God became possible through Christ's priesthood (Hebrews 10:19-22).

† The old system pointed forward but couldn't complete

redemption.

† Christ brought the reality the Law foreshadowed.

### **Hebrews 7:20**

This didn't happen without an oath.

† God's oath confirms the permanence of Christ's priesthood.

† Divine oaths in Scripture mark unchangeable promises (Genesis 22:16-18).

† This establishes the certainty of the new covenant.

### **Hebrews 7:21**

Those priests became priests without an oath, but this one became a priest with an oath by the One who said to Him, The Lord has sworn and will not change His mind, You are a priest forever.

† This again refers to Psalm 110:4.

† The Levitical priests entered service by lineage, not divine oath.

† Christ's priesthood is guaranteed by God's sworn promise.

### **Hebrews 7:22**

Because of this oath, Jesus has become the guarantee of a better covenant.

† The covenant connected to Christ surpasses the old one (Hebrews 8:6).

† He Himself guarantees its permanence.

† This covenant was established through His sacrifice.

### **Hebrews 7:23**

Many priests existed because death prevented them from continuing.

† The Levitical priesthood constantly changed due to death.

† No priest served permanently.

† This highlighted the temporary nature of the system.

### **Hebrews 7:24**

But Jesus holds His priesthood permanently because He lives

forever.

† His resurrection guarantees His eternal priesthood.

† No successor is needed.

† His intercession continues without interruption.

### **Hebrews 7:25**

Therefore He is able to save completely those who come to God through Him, because He always lives to intercede for them.

† Christ's priesthood provides complete salvation.

† His continual life ensures ongoing intercession (Romans 8:34).

† This is the final priesthood that never ends.

### **Hebrews 7:26**

This kind of High Priest fits our need, holy, innocent, pure, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens.

† Unlike the Levitical priests, Christ is completely sinless (1 Peter 2:22).

† His holiness qualifies Him uniquely as High Priest.

† He stands above the earthly priesthood.

### **Hebrews 7:27**

He doesn't need to offer sacrifices daily like those high priests who first offer sacrifices for their own sins and then for the people. He did this once for all when He offered Himself.

† Levitical priests had to sacrifice for themselves (Leviticus 16:6).

† Christ offered Himself once, ending the need for repeated sacrifices (Hebrews 10:10).

† This single sacrifice fulfilled the entire system.

### **Hebrews 7:28**

The Law appoints men as high priests who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the Law, appoints the Son who has been made perfect forever.

† The Law installed imperfect priests.

- † God's oath appointed the perfect Son as eternal High Priest.
- † This closes the argument that Christ's priesthood surpasses the old system.

## **Historical References**

- † Justin Martyr explained that Melchizedek was a prophetic type pointing forward to Christ's eternal priesthood.
- † Irenaeus taught that Christ fulfilled the priesthood that the Law only foreshadowed.
- † Eusebius recorded that early Christians saw Psalm 110:4 as direct proof of Christ's eternal priesthood.

## **How It Applies To Us Today**

- † We don't rely on earthly priests or temple sacrifices because Christ's priesthood is complete.
- † Our access to God doesn't come through ritual systems but through the finished work of Jesus.
- † The destruction of the temple in AD 70 confirmed that the old priesthood had passed and Christ's priesthood remained.

## **Q & A Appendix**

**Q** Why does Hebrews focus on Melchizedek?

**A** Because Melchizedek's priesthood came before Levi's and shows the pattern for Christ's eternal priesthood (Genesis 14:18-20; Psalm 110:4).

**Q** Why couldn't the Levitical priesthood bring perfection?

**A** Because the Law and sacrifices only pointed forward to the true solution, Christ's sacrifice (Hebrews 10:1-4).

**Q** How do we know the priesthood changed?

**A** Scripture predicted another priest would come in the order of Melchizedek, showing the Levitical system would be replaced (Psalm 110:4; Hebrews 7:11-12).

**Q** Why did the writer emphasize that Jesus came from the tribe of Judah instead of Levi?

**A** Because the Law said priests had to come from Levi, yet Jesus came from Judah. This proves a different priesthood had been established, the one foretold in Psalm 110:4. Hebrews explains that when the priesthood changed, the law connected to it had to change as well (Hebrews 7:12-14; Psalm 110:4).

**Q** What does it mean that Jesus saves completely?

**A** It means His sacrifice and priesthood finish the work of salvation. Unlike the temple priests who had to repeat sacrifices constantly, Jesus offered Himself once and forever secured redemption. Because He lives forever, His priesthood never ends (Hebrews 7:25-27; Hebrews 10:10-14).

**Q** Why is the oath in Psalm 110:4 so important?

**A** Because God swore an oath that the Messiah would be a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek. The Levitical priests became priests by genealogy, but Jesus became priest by God's sworn promise, making His priesthood permanent (Psalm 110:4; Hebrews 7:20-22).

**Q** How did the destruction of the temple confirm Hebrews 7?

**A** Hebrews explains that the old priesthood would be replaced by Christ's priesthood. When the temple was destroyed in AD 70, the Levitical priesthood ended completely, confirming that the priesthood of Jesus was the only one that remained (Hebrews 7:12; Hebrews 8:13; Matthew 24:2).

**† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †**

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## **Source Index**

† Hebrews 7:1-28

† Genesis 14:18-20; Psalm 110:4; Numbers 18:21; Matthew

1:2-3; Romans 6:9; Hebrews 8:13; Hebrews 10:10  
† Justin Martyr, Dialogue with Trypho; Irenaeus, Against Heresies; Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History.

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