

GOD'S OATH AND THE PRIESTHOOD OF JESUS

Hebrews 7:20-25

INTRODUCTION:

A. Why do we need a priest?

- 1) We are sinners by nature
- 2) God is sinless by nature
- 3) As such we are enemies. We are at war with God. There must be a basis for our reconciliation and for our approaching God.

B. God has chosen that this way of approach be through the work of a priest.

- 1) The patriarchs were the first priests. We think of Adam, Abel, Job, etc.
- 2) This time was replaced by the Mosaic priesthood. The sons of Aaron and Levi.
- 3) This was a flawed system because it involved things that were temporary. The Tabernacle, the men, the offerings all of these were flawed. vs 11

C. Christ is now our priest

- 1) Jesus is a better High Priest
- 2) His priesthood is eternal. The sanctuary is eternal. The offering is eternal. The Priest is eternal. It is after the order of Melchisedec.

I. He Is A Priest By An Oath Of God

A. *"And inasmuch as not without an oath he was made priest"* vs 20

- 1) *"oath"* = ὀρκωμοσία = "the sacrifice on taking a solemn oath.
- 2) *"Then again, the appointment of this new priest was ratified by an oath."* TENT

B. The oath that made Jesus a priest vs 21

- 1) The Levitical priests were not by an oath
- 2) *Psalm 110:4*
- 3) "sware" = ὀμνῶμι = "to declare with an oath"
- 4) He swore it by Himself, and He will not repent =
μεταμελομαι = "to have dissatisfaction with one's self
for what one has done, to change or alter one's purpose,
have anxiety consequent o a past transaction; to have
pain of mind.

II. God's Guarantee Of This Oath

A. "By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament"
vs 22

- 1) "In keeping with the oath's greater force and strength"
- 2) "surety" = εγγυος
surety, guarantee. The word means a bond, bail,
collateral, or some kind of guarantee that a promise will be
fulfilled. The word was used in the papyri in legal and promissory
documents meaning "a guarantor" or "one who stands security."
Jesus Himself is our security that there will be no annulment of
this new and better covenant.
- 3) "better" = κρείσσων = "stronger", "more powerful"
- 4) "testament" = διαθήκη = It denotes a last will and
testament. It is translated covenant. This does not
mean it is something both sides agree to. It is a
treaty between two parties, but binding only on the one
according to the terms fixed by the other. It denoted
"an arrangement" made by one party with plenary power,
which the other party may accept or reject, but cannot
alter.

B. The basis of this better covenant

- 1) It is by God's oath
- 2) He will never change His mind
- 3) Jesus is the guarantor, the collateral that God has
put-up to guarantee His promise.

III. Death Will Not Change The Priesthood Of Jesus vs 23-24

A. *"And they truly were many priests, because they were not suffered to continue by reason of death."* vs 23

- 1) The Levitical priesthood required many priest because they were continually dying.
- 2) They were many not at one time but in succession
- 3) *"suffer not"* = κωλω = "to hinder", "to prevent"
- 4) *"continue"* = παραμενειν = "to remain in office"

B. *"But this man, because he continueth even, hath an unchangeable priesthood."* vs 24

- 1) *"continueth"* = μενειν = "to remain", The present tense indicates the unending and continuing action or state.
- 2) *"unchangeable"* = απαραβατος = "not able to be transferred to another" The priesthood of Christ does not pass to another. "Not passing from beside" It will not ever pass from His side.

IV. This High Priest, Jesus, Saves Completely

A. *"Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost..."* vs 25

- 1) *"wherefore"* = οθεν = "therefore", "because of all of the preceding truths"
- 2) *"able"* = δυναται = "inherit power"
- 3) *"save"* = σωζω = "to preserve safe"
- 4) *"uttermost"* = εις το παντελες = "the very end", "for all time", "to full completeness", The Lord will not stop until the work is completed.

B. *"that come unto God by him"*

- 1) *"that come"* = προσερχομαι = "that come to"
- 2) The present tense emphasizes continual activity
- 3) This is the one condition that God imposes upon man. We must come to God "by Him".

C. "...seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them."

- 1) "ever liveth" = πάντοτε = always ζῶν = "life"
- 2) "because he continually lives"
- 3) "intercession" = εντυγχάνω = "to fall in with and talk with" It often was used to describe the actions of one bringing a petition to a king on the behalf of another.

V. The Availability Of Jesus As Priest

A. He is available as to all men

- 1) There is no limited atonement
- 2) There is no exclusive number
- 3) There is no certain place

B. He is available as to time

- 1) "Today is the day..."
- 2) "harden not your hearts..."