

## Hebrews 7:11-17

### Hebrews 7:11 (NOTES)

- "if perfection was through the Levitical priesthood" - Why does the writer use the word perfection (Gr. - teleiosis)? The Son of God could only serve as a priest in a perfect priesthood, and sinners could only be saved (made perfect) through a perfect priesthood. Being made perfect, we are restored to that condition in which Adam existed prior to the fall. Matthew 5:48
- Keep in mind that the entire Levitical priesthood paid homage to that of MZ through their father, Abraham, when Abraham gave the tribute of the tithe to MZ. The Levitical is inferior to the Melchizedekian - the lesser served the greater.
- "perfection" - The Levitical priesthood was established by the Law, which could make neither the order perfect nor the sinner it represented to God (for the Law made nothing perfect). The Levitical order was a stop-gap order until Christ would assume His priesthood under the Order of Melchizedek. Hebrews 7:19
- "what further need *was there* for another priest" - This is rhetorical to show that a perfect priesthood was required both for God (Christ) to serve in it and for sinners to be successfully represented by it and saved through it.
- The purpose of a priesthood is make atoning sacrifice for sinners and thereby reconcile sinners to God. But both the priests (the Levites) and their means of atonement (bulls and goats) was insufficient - neither met God's standard of perfection. Christ, the only perfect man, had to be both the sacrifice and the priest who mediated it. Hebrews 10:4, 1Timothy 2:5
- "order of Melchizedek" - This is the highest priesthood, as it is initiated, and exclusively held, by the Son of God. It is not staffed by humans of corrupt nature, but by God (the Second Person) Himself.
- Moreover, the "order" is, by the definition of the words, "The Order of the King of Righteousness - the King of Peace." The order itself bears the name and titles of Christ.
- "order of Aaron" - He was the first priest in the Levitical line. It was understood to be the Aaronic priesthood before it became known as the Levitical priesthood, when the Levites were codified as such in the law.
- "and not be designated according to the order of Aaron" - The perfection in view here could not come through Aaron and the Levites, imperfect as they and their sacrificial system was. So, what was this "perfection"? It has two parts:

- *Righteousness* - God is perfect in righteousness and imputes His to us through Christ, our Great High Priest. Christ is our righteousness, He will bring in everlasting righteousness at His Second Coming (Parousia), and we are made the righteousness of God in Him. Thus, He is in actuality the King of Righteousness (MZ). Philippians 3:9, Jeremiah 23:6, Daniel 9:24, 2Corinthians 5:21
- *Peace* - We have perfect peace with God through Christ. We began as enemies of God when Adam sinned. We were in need of peace with God. Christ made that peace for us on the cross, which is the Gospel - good news. Thus, He is in actuality the King of Peace (Melchisalem/shalom). Romans 5:1, 10, Colossians 1:20, Ephesians 6:15, Isaiah 9:6

### Hebrews 7:12 (NOTES)

- "when the priesthood is changed" - When the Levitical is replaced by the Melchizedekian. Since it was the coming Messiah of the Jews that, being God Himself, that would assume a higher priesthood (MZ), the Levitical order had to be set aside. Aaron, his successors the Levites, and their priesthood were each and collectively temporary, inadequate, and defective and had to be replaced.
- "of necessity there takes place a change of law also" - The Law that established the Levitical priesthood (the OT Law) is replaced by grace. Law is the old defunct system of salvation. Grace is the new system. The old covenant is replaced by the new covenant. One might ask, Why an old system at all? Because sinners required a means of salvation prior to the coming of the Messiah and Great High Priest of the MZ order, Jesus.
- It was never God's plan for the Levitical priesthood to last forever. There is an OT allusion and a prophecy that refer to this fact. In Genesis 14, the federal head of the Jewish race and nation pays homage to a higher priestly order. King David declared that the Messiah was already in that higher priestly order - ("You are ... ," not "You will be ... "). Psalm 110:1-4

### Hebrews 7:13 (NOTES)

- "the One" - Jesus.
- "another tribe" - Judah.
- "from which no one has officiated at the altar" - The tribe of Levi officiated, not the tribe of Judah. The tribe of Judah was the royal tribe of the kings, not priests.

### Hebrews 7:14 (NOTES)

- Jesus is the "Lion of Judah." His descent through Judah is also evident in His genealogy. Revelation 5:5, Matthew 1:3

### Hebrews 7:16 (NOTES)

- "who" - Jesus.
- "has become such" - priest of the order of MZ.
- "not on the basis of law" - the Levitical priesthood.
- "but according to the power of an indestructible life" - Both Jesus and MZ have indestructible lives - they are one and the same. Hebrews 7:3

### Hebrews 7:17 (NOTES)

- Psalm 110:4