

Jesus and Christianity Are Better

Thoughts from Hebrews

Jesus Is a Better Priest Than the Levitical Priests

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I. From start to finish—Old Testament priests were failures—Literally and spiritually

A. God sent fire—In the next verse—Two of Aaron's sons brought their own fire

[Lev 9:24](#) And there came a fire out from before the LORD, and consumed upon the altar the burnt offering and the fat: *which* when all the people saw, they shouted, and fell on their faces.

[Lev 10:1](#) And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the LORD, which he commanded them not.

[Lev 10:2](#) And there went out fire from the LORD, and devoured them, and they died before the LORD.

B. On the same day—Aaron and the other two sons might have been consumed

[Lev 10:6](#) And Moses said unto Aaron, and unto Eleazar and unto Ithamar, his sons, Uncover not your heads, neither rend your clothes; lest ye die...

[Lev 10:7](#) And ye shall not go out from the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, lest ye die: for the anointing oil of the LORD *is* upon you...

[Lev 10:16](#) And Moses diligently sought the goat of the sin offering, and, behold, it was burnt: and he was angry with Eleazar and Ithamar, the sons of Aaron *which were left alive*, saying,

[Lev 10:17](#) Wherefore have ye not eaten the sin offering in the holy place, seeing it *is* most holy, and *God* hath given it you to bear the iniquity of the congregation, to make atonement for them before the LORD?

Lev 10:18 Behold, the blood of it was not brought in within the holy *place*: ye should indeed have eaten it in the holy *place*, as I commanded.

Lev 10:19 And Aaron said unto Moses, Behold, this day have they offered their sin offering and their burnt offering before the LORD; and such things have befallen me: and *if* I had eaten the sin offering to day, should it have been accepted in the sight of the LORD?

C. Within the veil—Even before the mercy seat—A dangerous place for the priest

Lev 16:1 And the LORD spake unto Moses after the death of the two sons of Aaron, when they offered before the LORD, and died;

Lev 16:2 And the LORD said unto Moses, Speak unto Aaron thy brother, that he come not at all times into the holy *place* within the veil before the mercy seat, which *is* upon the ark; that he die not: for I will appear in the cloud upon the mercy seat.

D. The danger in thinking that any Levite might decide to be as a priest before God

Num 16:31 ...the ground clave asunder that *was* under them:

Num 16:32 And the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up, and their houses, and all the men that *appertained* unto Korah, and all *their* goods.

Num 16:33 They, and all that *appertained* to them, went down alive into the pit, and the earth closed upon them: and they perished from among the congregation...

Num 16:35 And there came out a fire from the LORD, and consumed the two hundred and fifty men that offered incense.

E. The danger in not doing the “priest thing” God’s way

1Ch 13:10 And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzza, and he smote him, because he put his hand to the ark: and there he died before God.

1Ch 15:13 For because ye *did it* not at the first, the LORD our God made a breach upon us, for that we sought him not after the due order.

II. From start to finish—Jesus was the better Priest—Even the perfect Priest

1) Jesus had to become a man— Otherwise, He could not have been a priest for men

Heb 2:17 Wherefore in all things it behoved him (*Jesus*) to be made like unto *his* brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things *pertaining* to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.

Job 9:32 For *he (God)* is not a man, as I *am*, that I should answer him, *and* we should come together in judgment.

Job 9:33 Neither is there any daysman betwixt us, *that* might lay his hand upon us both.

2) Our High Priest is now in heaven—From there, He is our able and accessible helper

Heb 4:14 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* profession.

Heb 4:15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as *we are*, yet without sin.

Heb 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

3) Our High Priest has entered heaven—He is the forerunner—We will soon follow

Heb 6:20 Whither the forerunner is for us entered, *even* Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

4) If the Levitical priests had been sufficient—Why would Christ have come?

Heb 7:11 If therefore perfection were by the Levitical priesthood, (for under it the people received the law,) what further need *was there* that another priest should rise after the order of Melchisedec, and not be called after the order of Aaron?

5) If a priest was to be a ‘forever priest’—He needed to be eternal

Heb 7:15 And it is yet far more evident: for that after the similitude of Melchisedec there ariseth another priest,

Heb 7:16 Who is made, not after the law of a carnal commandment, but after the power of an endless life.

Heb 7:17 For he testifieth, Thou *art* a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

Heb 7:1 For this Melchisedec, king of Salem, priest of the most high God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him;

Heb 7:2 To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace;

Heb 7:3 Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually.

6) Jesus is the eternal priest—Who continues forever—An unchanging priesthood

Heb 7:23 And they truly were many priests, because they were not suffered to continue by reason of death:

Heb 7:24 But this *man (Jesus)*, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood.

Heb 7:25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

7) Jesus is 'such and high priest'—A 'higher' high priest—A perfectly holy high priest

Heb 7:26 For such an high priest (*Jesus*) became us, *who is* holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;

Heb 7:27 Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself.

Heb 7:28 For the law maketh men high priests which have infirmity; but the word of the oath, which was since the law, *maketh* the Son, who is consecrated for evermore.

8) Jesus is 'such an high priest'—For His tabernacle is not on earth—It is in heaven

Heb 8:1 Now of the things which we have spoken *this is* the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens;

Heb 8:2 A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man.

9) Since Jesus was to be the high priest—He had to have a sacrifice to offer to God

Heb 8:3 For every high priest is ordained to offer gifts and sacrifices: wherefore *it is* of necessity that this man (*Jesus*) have somewhat also to offer.

10) Jesus took His blood into 'Heaven's Most Holy Place'—And secured redemption

Heb 9:12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his (*Jesus*'s) own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption *for us*.

11) Jesus' better offering of His own life and blood gives us better motivation to serve

Heb 9:13 For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh:

Heb 9:14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

12) Jesus had better blood—His blood would truly purify to heaven's standard

Heb 9:22 And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

Heb 9:23 *It was* therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.

13) When Jesus offered His 'better' offering—One time was sufficient for all time

Heb 9:25 Nor yet that he (*Jesus*) should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others;

Heb 9:26 For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself...

Heb 9:28 So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

14) The commanded repetition of the law offerings signified their lack of effectiveness

Heb 10:1 For the law having a shadow of good things to come, *and* not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect.

Heb 10:2 For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins.

Heb 10:3 But in those *sacrifices there is* a remembrance again *made* of sins every year.

Heb 10:4 For *it is* not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.

15) The bull and goat bodies had been unacceptable—Jesus had a better body to offer

Heb 10:5 Wherefore when he (*Jesus*) cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me:

16) The better priest—Offered the better body—Giving finished perfection to sinners

Heb 10:11 And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins:

Heb 10:12 But this man (*Jesus*), after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;

Heb 10:13 From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool.

Heb 10:14 For by one offering he (*Jesus*) hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.