

Hebrews 7:11-28

Week Eleven

Study written by Holli Worthington



Day 1



Holy Spirit, open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your word. (Ps. 119:18)

- ✓ Read through the passage in each translation.
- ✓ Underline or write in the margin, themes that you see.
- ✓ Write a question you have about the passage.
- ✓ In the space below, write out a verse from our passage that stands out to you, that you can meditate on throughout the week.

Day 2- Hebrews 7:11-14

Scholar's Note: Law (As used in Hebrews): Refers to the Mosaic Code the moral, ceremonial and civil laws given to Moses by God at Sinai. It consists of 613 commands that govern the spiritual, social and moral life of the people of Israel.

1. What was the priesthood of Levi, on which the law was based, incapable of doing according to verse 11?

Scholar's Note: "Perfection in verse 11 means *to put someone in the position in which he can come, or stand, before God*" "...perfection here in verse 11 refers to access to God and a right relationship to him."²

2. What was God's answer to the inability of the Levitical priesthood to provide salvation? (v.11)



Father I thank you that you provided a real Savior, Jesus, who could truly conquer sin and make me perfect by his perfect life.

3. When there is a change in the priesthood, what else needs to be changed according to verse 12?

Picture and Ponder: “The priesthood and the tabernacle with its sacrifices were the means God employed to render the sinful people acceptable to himself. They constituted the shadow of Jesus in the Old Testament. Then the law was given with its sharp demands to awaken the people to their true condition so that they might avail themselves of the sacrifices.... The law was a teacher to lead to Christ (represented in Israel by the tabernacle and its priesthood).³”

4. What was different about the new priest that God was appointing according to verse 13?

5. What tribe was Jesus from according to verse 14?

Scholar's Note: “The phrase “descended from Judah” was meant to indicate that the new Melchizedekian priest was a Messianic figure. The word “descended” is literally, “has arisen,” a term that has Messianic significance in Scripture.”⁴

Critical Connection: Read the following verses and answer the questions:

-What was the tribe of Judah associated with?

Psalm 78:68-72

⁶⁸*He chose instead the tribe of Judah,
and Mount Zion, which he loved.*

⁶⁹*There he built his sanctuary as high as the heavens,
as solid and enduring as the earth.*

⁷⁰*He chose his servant David,
calling him from the sheep pens.*

⁷¹*He took David from tending the ewes and lambs
and made him the shepherd of Jacob's descendants—
God's own people, Israel.*

⁷²*He cared for them with a true heart
and led them with skillful hands.” (NLT)*

Revelation 5:4-6a ⁴*Then I began to weep bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll and read it. ⁵But one of the twenty-four elders said to me, “Stop weeping! Look, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the heir to David's throne, has won the victory. He is worthy to open the scroll and its seven seals.”*

⁶*Then I saw a Lamb that looked as if it had been slaughtered, but it was now standing between the throne and the four living beings and among the twenty-four elders.” (NLT)*

Day 3- Hebrews 7:15-17

6. Unlike the Levitical priests, what was Jesus' priesthood not based on according to verse 16?

Picture and Ponder: “The nature of the Levite's authority determined the kind of ministry he offered. He held his priesthood on the basis of the external code, and the external code is what his ministry offered.”⁵

7. According to verse 16, what was Jesus' priesthood based on?

Digging Deeper: Read the following verse and answer the question:

-What does it mean that Jesus is a priest on the basis of the power of his indestructible life?

Acts 2:24 ²⁴ *But God released him from the horrors of death and raised him back to life, for death could not keep him in its grip.* (NLT)

Digging Deeper: Read the following verses and answer the question:

- If the authority of Jesus' priesthood is based on the power of his indestructible life, what kind of ministry does he offer and what benefits do we receive?

-Why is Jesus' ministry so much better than the old priesthood?

1 Corinthians 6:14 *"And God will raise us from the dead by his power, just as he raised our Lord from the dead."* (NLT)

2 Corinthians 12:9 *"But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me".*

Ephesians 1:19-20 “¹⁹I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God’s power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power²⁰ that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God’s right hand in the heavenly realms”. (NLT)

Ephesians 3:15-20 “¹⁵from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named,¹⁶ that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being,¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith— that you, being rooted and grounded in love,¹⁸ may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth,¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.²⁰ Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us...”

Philippians 3:21 “He will take our weak mortal bodies and change them into glorious bodies like his own, using the same power with which he will bring everything under his control.” (NLT)

Colossians 1:11 “¹¹We also pray that you will be strengthened with all his glorious power so you will have all the endurance and patience you need”. (NLT)

1 Peter 1:5-6 “⁵And through your faith, God is protecting you by his power until you receive this salvation, which is ready to be revealed on the last day for all to see.⁶ So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while.” (NLT)



Heavenly Father, you have given me so much in Jesus. Forgive me for not constantly living from your glorious blessings. Help me to understand the incredible greatness of your power for me.

8. What word in verse 17 (which is quoting Psalm 110 and speaking of Jesus) points to Jesus’ indestructible life?

Day 4- Hebrews 7:18-22

9. Why was the former commandment (the Levitical system of priests and sacrifices) set aside according to verse 18?

10. According to verse 19, what did the law not do?

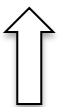
Digging Deeper: Read the following verse and answer the questions:

What was the purpose of the law?

How long was the law designed to last?

Galatians 3:19 ¹⁹ Why, then, was the law given? It was given alongside the promise to show people their sins. But the law was designed to last only until the coming of the child who was promised. God gave his law through angels to Moses, who was the mediator between God and the people.” (NLT)

11. The Levitical law was weak and useless in making us fit for God so that we could have access to him. What, according to verse 19, does this “better hope” allow us to do?



Heavenly Father, thank you for your perfect plan, designed in eternity, to provide Jesus. Jesus, thank you for making it possible for me to draw near to God! You are my sure hope!



Jesus is the “better hope”! His superior priesthood allows us to draw near to God. The Levitical priests could only mediate temporary cleansing of sin and never unhindered access to God. Jesus’ indestructible life secured this for us. Upon the resurrection Jesus became our high priest forever, making it possible for sinners to draw near to a Holy God.

- ❖ Do you ever feel like you don’t have unhindered access to God, or that more needs to be done to bring you into fellowship with God? Do you struggle with feeling that *you* need to make some sort of sacrifice even though you know that Jesus’ sacrifice is enough? What have you learned from Hebrews that can help that wrong thinking?

- ❖ Write down all that it means to *draw near* to God because of Jesus. Spend time in prayer thanking God for this priceless gift.

12. Because Jesus was a priest – not because he was born into the tribe of Levi, but because he was appointed by God with an oath, and because of the power of his indestructible life, what does that make him according to verse 22? (More on this next lesson)

Scholar’s Note: “Guarantee” translates a word found only here in the NT (engyos) and it brings before us an unusual idea. The old covenant was established... with a mediator (Gal 3:19) but with no one to guarantee that the people would fulfill their undertaking. But Jesus stands as a continuing guarantor and that in two directions. He guarantees to men that God will fulfill his covenant of forgiveness, and he guarantees to God that those who are in him are acceptable.”⁶

“The word... engyos, ...was used in ancient legal documents for "one who stands security." The engyos offered his goods or even himself as security to ensure what was promised.”⁷



We love to have a guarantee don't we? Guarantees remove risk, but guarantees in this world are pretty flimsy. However, in Jesus we have a sure thing! With God's oath, promising that Jesus would be a priest forever, we are assured that God's promises to us will be fulfilled. Jesus is the surety for God's promise. “It is by means of [Jesus'] priesthood that God's promises are accomplished.”⁸

- ❖ What kinds of risks do you no longer need to fear with Jesus as your guarantee?

- ❖ What would a life anchored on Jesus' guarantee and no longer fearing risks look like?

- ❖ What risks are you willing to take for the kingdom of God?

Day 5- Hebrews 7:23-28

13. Why is Jesus a superior priest according to verses 23-24?

14. Let's take a closer look at these benefits we see in verse 25:

Save to the uttermost (ESV) Able to save completely (NIV)

“The term “completely” is unusual, being used elsewhere only in Luke 13:11, and combines the idea of completeness with the idea of eternality “for all time” (RSV). It means complete, absolute, total, eternal salvation!”⁹

What are some words we could use for the opposite of being saved completely?

How would this kind of salvation be weak and useless?

How does *to the uttermost* or *completely* go beyond the outward compliance to the Mosaic code?

Able to save completely is written in the present tense. (Paul talks about salvation this way in his letters. In 1 Cor. 1:18 for example, he calls believers, those *who are being saved*.) Our salvation in Jesus is not merely a one-time act, but a continuing work in our lives. Jesus continually saves us from all we need saving from. How do you see this truth working in your life? What do you need saving from right now?

For Discussion: In contrast to Jesus' complete salvation, what things does the world offer in response to sin and the harm it inflicts on others and us?

Those who draw near to God through him

Here we see who are the ones who are saved. What is the only way to draw near to God and be saved?

What does this mean for those who say they love God, but have nothing to do with Jesus?

He always lives to make intercession for them

The reason Jesus is able to save his own completely is because he is our eternal high priest. He is risen from the dead and lives forever nothing keeps him from interceding for his people.

Scholar's Note: *intercession*- "The word means 'to intercede on behalf of another.' It was used to refer to bringing a petition to a king on behalf of someone."¹⁰

How does Jesus' intercession for us make provision for our guilt and help us in our weakness according to the following verses?

1 John 2:1b "But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous." (NLT)

Romans 8:34³⁴ Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us."

Luke 22:31-32³¹ "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat,³² but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers."

John 17 is called Jesus' High Priestly Prayer. He prayed this prayer for his disciples and for us when he was on earth. What does Jesus ask the Father for, for us?

John 17:9,11,15, 17, 20, 21, 24⁹ "My prayer is not for the world, but for those you have given me, because they belong to you..."¹¹ Now I am departing from the world; they are staying in this world, but I am coming to you. Holy Father, you have given me your name; now protect them by the power of your name so that they will be united just as we are...¹⁵ I'm not asking you to take them out of the world, but to keep them safe from the evil one...¹⁷ Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is

truth...²⁰ “I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message.²¹ I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me...²⁴ Father, I want these whom you have given me to be with me where I am. Then they can see all the glory you gave me because you loved me even before the world began! (NLT)



Jesus, forgive me for ever doubting that you are near and caring for me. You are constantly praying for me with perfect knowledge of what I need! Because of you, God joyfully accepts me. Because of you, my faith will not fail. You are a wonderful, marvelous Savior!

Picture and Ponder: “It appears to many that, seeing Christ fulfilled all righteousness for His people, redeemed them by His blood, made full atonement for their sins, nothing more was needed. But had Christ left us to build our eternal safety on the foundation which He laid, had He ascended on High to enjoy His reward without continuing to exercise His priestly office on our behalf, had He merely secured our right and title unto the heavenly inheritance and left us to press forward to it unaided by Him, everyone of us would quickly fall a prey to the powerful adversaries which constantly seek our destruction.”¹¹



That Jesus is continually and eternally interceding for us is a stunning truth that we should constantly remind ourselves of. It changes everything. Knowing that the beloved Son of God is our advocate and powerful enabler is a blessing beyond belief.

- ❖ What limitations do your prayers have? What does it mean to you that Jesus’ prayers for you have none of those limitations?
- ❖ What does the utterly effective and powerful ministry of Jesus as intercessor on our behalf, mean for your everyday walk of faith?
- ❖ How does Jesus’ priestly intercession on your behalf free you from the bondage of trying to gain God’s approval by what you do?

- ❖ When we pray in Jesus' Name, we are relying on him as our advocate and intercessor. How does this give you hope?
- ❖ Consider memorizing verse 25 to help you keep this exquisite truth on your mind and heart.

For Discussion: To rely on Mary, angels, saints or anyone else for intercession implies what about Jesus and his priestly role?

15. Verse 26 tells us why Jesus is perfectly suited to be the exact high priest we need. What three things describe the character of Jesus that makes him a superior high priest?

-In what ways is each one of these traits the opposite of human nature?

Picture and Ponder: Verses 26-28 are the climax of the chapter. These verses have been called a "Hymn to the High Priest."¹² Ponder on these beautiful truths about Jesus

"Holy- tells of what Christ was God-wards: perfectly conformed to the Divine will inwardly, evidenced by His perfect outward conduct... As "holy", He loved the Lord His God with all His heart...

Blameless or Harmless- tells of what He was man-wards. He is the only one who has ever walked this earth who never contaminated, tempted, injured, those with whom He came into contact. ...As "harmless" He loved His neighbor as Himself.

Pure or undefiled- Christ was "undefiled" morally, as the priests under the law were required to be ceremonially. He was never infected by the evils around Him. He touched the leper, and the leper was cleansed. He came into contact with death, and death was conquered. He was in the presence of the Devil for forty days, and was as spotless at the close as He was at the beginning of them."³



Jesus, you are so beautiful! I can barely comprehend your holiness, blamelessness, and purity, but I praise and thank you that you are my perfect high priest, exalted above the heavens, seated at God's right hand, interceding for me.

16. The phrase *separated from sinners* in verse 26 is linked to the beginning of the verse and to the end of the verse. How does the phrase *separated from sinners* summarize the nature of Jesus shown in the beginning of the verse?

- In what way is he *separated from sinners*, according to the last phrase in verse 26?

- What does this signify? (Look back to the last part of Heb.1:3 for help)

17. Why was Jesus' one-time sacrifice sufficient? (vs.27-28)

One Thing: Look back over this week's study. Pick one thing that God was stirring in your heart, convicting you about, or something new that you learned and write it here.

How will knowing this impact the way you think and act?

¹ Gerhard Friedrich, ed., *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*, Vol. 8, trans. Geoffrey W. Bromiley (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1974), pp. 82, 83 as quoted in Hughes, R. Kent. *Hebrews (Vol. 1): An Anchor for the Soul: 001 (Preaching the Word)* (Kindle Locations 4430-4431). Crossway. Kindle Edition.

² Hughes, R. Kent. *Hebrews (Vol. 1): An Anchor for the Soul: 001 (Preaching the Word)* (Kindle Locations 3187-3188). Crossway.

³ Ray Stedman, *Hebrews* (Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity, 1992), 82 as quoted in Richard D. Phillips. *Hebrews (Reformed Expository Commentary)* (Kindle Location 8370). Kindle Edition.

⁴ Hughes, R. Kent. *Hebrews (Vol. 1): An Anchor for the Soul: 001 (Preaching the Word)* (Kindle Locations 3241-3243). Crossway. Kindle Edition.

⁵ Richard D. Phillips. *Hebrews (Reformed Expository Commentary)* (Kindle Locations 2973-2974). Kindle Edition.

⁶ Expositor's Commentary Copyright © 1998-2018 Olive Tree Bible Software

⁷ Richard D. Phillips. *Hebrews (Reformed Expository Commentary)* (Kindle Locations 3118-3119). Kindle Edition.

⁸ Richard D. Phillips. *Hebrews (Reformed Expository Commentary)* (Kindle Location 3112). Kindle Edition.

⁹ Philip Edgcumbe Hughes, *A Commentary on the Epistle to the Hebrews*, p. 268, as quoted in Hughes, R. Kent. *Hebrews (Vol. 1): An Anchor for the Soul: 001 (Preaching the Word)* (Kindle Location 4444). Crossway. Kindle Edition.

¹⁰ MacArthur, John F.. *Hebrews (MacArthur Bible Studies)* (p.55). Thomas Nelson. Kindle Edition.

¹¹ Pink, Arthur W.. *An Exposition of Hebrews (Arthur Pink Collection Book 21)* (Kindle Locations 8042-8046). Prisbrary Publishing. Kindle Edition.

¹² Hughes, R. Kent. *Hebrews (Vol. 1): An Anchor for the Soul: 001 (Preaching the Word)* (Kindle Location 3442). Crossway. Kindle Edition.

¹³ Pink, Arthur W.. *An Exposition of Hebrews (Arthur Pink Collection Book 21)* (Kindle Location 8095). Prisbrary Publishing. Kindle Edition.

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