

## **NEW AND IMPROVED**

**Scripture Reading:** Read Hebrews 7

Throughout Hebrews, the author repeatedly contrasts the old covenant under Moses with the new covenant under Christ. In each case, he shows the superiority of the new over the old. In the gospel of Christ, we have a better revelation, a better sacrifice, a better hope, a better covenant, better promises, a better resurrection and a better future; all because we have a better high priest in Jesus.

By revealing the better things that are ours in Christ, the writer of Hebrews sought to encourage the Hebrew believers to remain faithful to the Lord and not to return to the old ways of Judaism. Why go backwards when we now have a new and improved hope in Christ? By way of example, look at the contrast between the old priesthood and the new high priest we have in Christ to see how much better off we are with the new covenant.

<u><b>OLD PRIESTHOOD</b></u>	<u><b>NEW HIGH PRIEST</b></u>
Given by God	Son of God
Of the tribe of Levi	Of the tribe of Judah
In the order of Aaron	In the order of Melchizedek
Sinful high priest	Sinless high priest
Subject to death	Overcame death
Offered sacrifices repeatedly	Offered up one sacrifice
Subject to frailty	Touched with the feelings of our infirmities
Couldn't remove sin	Did away with sin
Made outwardly clean	Made perfect forever
Temporary intercession	Ever lives to make intercession
Passing away	Permanent

What a contrast! Temporary and imperfect versus permanent and perfect. No wonder the author of Hebrews writes as he does in verses 24-27 of today's chapter reading: *"...because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them. Such a high priest meets our need--one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself."* How blessed we are in Christ to have one who ever lives to make intercession for us. His sacrifice was enough and his priesthood is permanent. It's why he can save us completely!

**Action Step & Prayer Focus:** Skim through Hebrews and see if you can find the Scripture references to support the points made in the chart above. Reflect on what Christ has done for you as a faithful high priest and then draw near to God in prayer with a full assurance of faith (Hebrews 4:14-16; 10:19-22).

**Take-a-way:** *Jesus is both a perfect sacrifice and a permanent high priest.*