



Sunday, September 12, 2021

Pastor Don Denyes

## **Intro to Hebrews 7:11-28**

This section of Hebrews is especially complicated for us, as 21<sup>st</sup> century western people, to get a handle on. In order to fully appreciate who Jesus is as our High Priest, we have to understand something of the Old Testament system. That system institutionalized the sacrifices that would be made to God on behalf of the people. Within that system, only men who were descended from the tribe of Levi would be eligible to offer those sacrifices. However, as the author will state later on, those sacrifices could never take away sin.

Jesus, on the other hand, who was not descended from the tribe of Levi, is eligible to be a High Priest on the basis of the prophetic word of Psalm 110:4. In this priestly line, not only does the priest serve forever (His service is not terminated at death, because He lives forever), but His sacrifice is sufficient to take away sin. Not only that, but His sacrifice, being acceptable to God as an atonement for sin, continuously intercedes for us. Therefore, since we can be made acceptable to God because of the sacrifice of Jesus, and because He always intercedes on our behalf, we ought to draw near to God and take full advantage of the great blessings that Jesus has secured for us.

### **Context**

The section on Melchizedek is drawing to a close in this chapter as the author begins to pivot from talking about the earthly tabernacle and earthly priesthood to talking about the new covenant and the heavenly tabernacle. As the author's argument progresses, he is drawing us into God's presence as we contemplate what the old system must have been like (given its imperfections) and then move on from that system to the perfect system inaugurated by Jesus's life, death, and resurrection.

**Read and Reflect** *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read Hebrews 7:11-28

“Perfect”

Imperfect System      11-18

Perfect Savior          19-28

Jesus is perfect

Jesus is enough!

## Discuss

- 1) What objections might a Jewish person have to the idea that Jesus is our High Priest?
- 2) In what ways is Jesus's priesthood better than the Levitical priesthood outline in the Old Testament?
- 3) Why is it important that God appointed Jesus as a great High Priest *with an oath*? What difference would it make if God had not made it with an oath?
- 4) How deeply do you believe that Jesus is interceding for you always (v. 25)? What difference should that make in our lives?
- 5) What does it mean to draw near to God? Is that a discipline you have cultivated? If so, how?