

## **SERMON OUTLINE**

### **THE LETTER TO THE HEBREWS**

#### **'Jesus: Simply the Best' - 11**

#### **Hebrews 7 v20 - 28**

Key Verse (v21b & Ps 110 v4) - "You are a priest for ever....."

This passage is all about how God swore an oath - that is, how He made a promise to send His Son, Jesus, to be a priest who would live for ever. See - v20 - 22. This was the fulfilling of the prophecy concerning Melchizedek. See - v3. Melchizedek was a priest for ever - so is Jesus!

Note - The Old Testament (Old Covenant) priests were impermanent - but Jesus, living for ever, is a permanent priest. See - v23 - 24. This is the priest (the only priest) who can meet our need. See - v26a. Our need is for a priest who will meet our needs, not just for the sins of yesterday (forgiving them), but for the temptations of today and tomorrow which would take us away from God. Notice how the writer unfold this for us here.....

#### **1. WITH RESPECT TO YESTERDAY - WHAT JESUS HAS DONE FOR US ONCE-AND-FOR-ALL**

See - v27. Unlike the Old Covenant priests who had to repeatedly offer up sacrifices for their own sins and the sins of the people, Jesus offered up His own life (the perfect sacrifice) for the sins of men and women. Note - the perfection of Jesus' life, unlike the imperfection of the Old Covenant priests. See - v26a. He was the spotless Lamb of God. When we are told (v26b) that Jesus was "exalted above the heavens" we are meant to understand that Jesus sacrifice of His life (the perfection of it) was acceptable to God.

Note - What the Law provided in the priestly ritual was never going to be enough. See - v28a. What God promised (on oath) was a perfect sacrifice. See - v28b. What He promised - He fulfilled.

## **2. WITH RESPECT TO TODAY AND TOMORROW - WHAT JESUS IS DOING, AND WILL GO ON DOING UNTIL THE DAY WE GET TO HEAVEN**

The Problem - How can we be sure of getting to heaven? This is a problem because, though saved, we still sin. Is there not the possibility that sin will drag us down and drag us away from God - and that at the end we won't get to heaven?

The Answer - Jesus permanent priesthood. Yes, His work is finished - and yet, it is ongoing. See - v25. Jesus is praying for us! See - Rom 8 v31 - 34, Jn 17 v17b - 12, Lk 22 v32a.

Our great confidence of getting to heaven - we have a permanent priest in Jesus.