**Lesson 11 Hebrews 7:11-28**

**Hebrews 7:11-28 (NIV)**
11  If perfection could have been attained through the Levitical priesthood (for on the basis of it the law was given to the people), why was there still need for another priest to come--one in the order of Melchizedek, not in the order of Aaron?
12  For when there is a change of the priesthood, there must also be a change of the law.
13  He of whom these things are said belonged to a different tribe, and no one from that tribe has ever served at the altar.
14  For it is clear that our Lord descended from Judah, and in regard to that tribe Moses said nothing about priests.
15  And what we have said is even more clear if another priest like Melchizedek appears,
16  one who has become a priest not on the basis of a regulation as to his ancestry but on the basis of the power of an indestructible life.
17  For it is declared: "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek."
18  The former regulation is set aside because it was weak and useless
19  (for the law made nothing perfect), and a better hope is introduced, by which we draw near to God.
20  And it was not without an oath! Others became priests without any oath,
21  but he became a priest with an oath when God said to him: "The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind: 'You are a priest forever.'"
22  Because of this oath, Jesus has become the guarantee of a better covenant.
23  Now there have been many of those priests, since death jujuprevented them from continuing in office;
24  but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood.
25  Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.
26  Such a high priest meets our need--one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens.
27  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.
28  For the law appoints as high priests men who are weak; but the oath, which came after the law, appointed the Son, who has been made perfect forever.

[7:11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+7%3A11) the law was given. The law of Moses and the priesthood went together. All the people without exception were sinners, subject to the law's condemnation, and thus were in need of a priestly system to mediate between them and God. in the order of Melchizedek, not in the order of Aaron. Implies that the Aaronic (or Levitical) priesthood was imperfect but that Melchizedek's was perfect. The announcement of a coming one who would be a priest forever ([Ps 110:4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ps+110%3A4)) was written midway in the history of the Levitical priesthood—which could be understood as a hint that the existing system was to give way to something better.

[7:16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+7%3A16) become a priest not on the basis of a regulation as to his ancestry. In the law of Moses the priestly function was restricted to the family of Aaron from the tribe of Levi (see [Ex 28:1-4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ex+28%3A1-4); [40:12-15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ex+40%3A12-15); [Nu 3:10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Nu+3%3A10)), but Jesus came from the nonpriestly tribe of Judah ([vv. 14-15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+7%3A14-15)). power of an indestructible life. According to [Ps 110:4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ps+110%3A4) the priest in the order of Melchizedek is "a priest forever." This is what Jesus became as a result of the act of God's power that raised him from the dead as the eternal victor over death.

[7:18](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+7%3A18) The former regulation... was weak and useless. The law is holy and good ([Ro 7:12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+7%3A12)), but it could neither give the ability to fulfill its demands nor provide the atonement necessary for those who violated it ([v. 19a](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+7%3A19); cf. [Ro 8:2-4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+8%3A2-4) and notes).

[7:19](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+7%3A19) The law was only preparatory (see [Gal 3:23-24](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Gal+3%3A23-24) and notes) and brought nothing to fulfillment (see [Mt 5:17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+5%3A17) and note). better hope. The new covenant is better because it assures us of complete redemption and brings us into the very presence of God. See [3:6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+3%3A6) and note; see also Introduction: Theme.

[7:20](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+7%3A20) No divine oath was associated with the establishment of the Levitical priesthood.

[7:21](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+7%3A21) with an oath. For the significance of the oath see [6:17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+6%3A17).

[7:22](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+7%3A22) better covenant. See chs. 8-10.

[7:23](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+7%3A23) death prevented them from continuing in office. Impermanence was further evidence of the imperfection of the Levitical order.

[7:25](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+7%3A25) completely. May include the ideas of completeness and permanence (see NIV text note). always lives to intercede. His people will never be without a priest to represent them in the very presence of God, interceding on their behalf (see [1Jn 2:1-2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Jn+2%3A1-2) and notes; cf. [Jn 17:6-26](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+17%3A6-26)).

[7:26](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+7%3A26) high priest. See note on [2:17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+2%3A17). meets our need. Of salvation from sin and its consequences.

[7:27](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+7%3A27) day after day. A reference to the endless repetition of sacrifices throughout the year (see [Ex 29:36-42](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ex+29%3A36-42)), evidence that these sacrifices never effectively and finally atoned for sin. first for his own sins. Christ's priesthood is superior because he has no personal sins for which sacrifice had to be made (see [Lev 9:8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Lev+9%3A8) and note). once for all. A key phrase in Hebrews (see [9:12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+9%3A12),[26](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+9%3A26) and note on [9:12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+9%3A12); [10:2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+10%3A2),[10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+10%3A10)). offered himself. Levitical priests offered up only animals; our high priest offered himself, the perfect substitute for us.

[7:28](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+7%3A28) men who are weak. Because (1) they are mortal and therefore impermanent, [v. 23](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+7%3A23); (2) they are sinful, [v. 27](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+7%3A27); and (3) they could only offer animals, which could never provide a genuine substitute for human beings made in the image of God (see [Ge 1:26-28](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+1%3A26-28) and notes). made perfect forever. In regard to his appointed mission (see [2:10](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+2%3A10); [5:9](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+5%3A9) and notes).

NIV Study Bible.

**Open it**

1. When might a person want to be represented by a lawyer? Why?
 **Being sued, arrested. The lawyer would know more about the laws than you.**

2. What is something that you have replaced or gotten rid of recently?
 **A cell phone, it was cracked and battery wasn’t holding a good charge.**

**Explore it**

3. Why did a new priest from the order of Melchizedek come along to replace the order of Aaron? ([7:11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+7%3A11))
 **The law only tutored, but it did not save a person**

4. What does a new priesthood require? ([7:12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+7%3A12))
 **A change in the law**

5. What made Jesus unique as a member of His tribe? ([7:13-14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+7%3A13-14))
 **He was the only one to become a priest, he was descended from Judah**

6. What connection did Jesus’ tribe have to the Jewish priesthood? ([7:14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+7%3A14))
 **None**

7. On what basis did Christ become a priest? ([7:15-16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+7%3A15-16))
 **He was another priest like Melchizedek, who became priest not on his tribe but on the basis of an indestructible life**

8. Why is the new covenant superior to the old covenant of law? ([7:18-19](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+7%3A18-19))
 **The former laws were set aside as the were weak and useless, no one was made perfect. A new and better hope is introduced, and we can draw nearer to God, through Jesus**

9. How is Jesus unique among the priests who represented Israel before God? ([7:23-25](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+7%3A23-25))
 **He will never die and will always be a priest for us**

10. What does Jesus do for those who come to God through Him? How? ([7:25](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+7%3A25))
 **Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.**

11. What is Jesus, our high priest, like? ([7:26-27](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+7%3A26-27))
 **Such a high priest meets our need--one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. 27  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.**

12. What did the Levitical priests have to do before they offered sacrifices for the sins of the people? ([7:27](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+7%3A27))
 **They had to offer sacrifices for their own sins before sacrifices for the people**

**Get it**

13. How does it make you feel to know that Jesus is praying for you at this very moment?
 **He is very merciful to me.**

14. In what way can Christ’s priesthood give us confidence to draw near to God?
 **He will always forgive our sins**

**Apply it**

15. How can you make a special effort each day this next week to draw near to God?
 **Study, study, pray**