

Tusculum Hills Baptist Church
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Sermon title: The Ultimate Guarantee, Hebrews 7:11-28

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INTRODUCTION: [Quick Review of Hebrews]

There are three points to my message today. They are:

1. Jesus provided a new way.
2. Jesus is the guarantor of the new way.
3. Jesus truly meets our need.

First, JESUS PROVIDED A NEW WAY.

SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 7:11 ¹¹ *If perfection could have been attained through the Levitical priesthood—and indeed the law given to the people established that priesthood—why was there still need for another priest to come, one in the order of Melchizedek, not in the order of Aaron?*

EXPLANATION: This verse tells us the Old Testament way of doing things was not enough and a new order was needed.

SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 7:12-14 ¹² *For when the priesthood is changed, the law must be changed also.* 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.*

EXPLANATION: The Old Testament priests came from the tribe of Levi, but Jesus came from the tribe of Judah. Had he come from the tribe of Levi, people might have thought that in some way the Levitical priests became better and better and eventually produced a savior. But no, Jesus came from a different tribe.

SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 7:15-17 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.”*

Here is a comparison of Melchizedek and Jesus.

- Melchizedek and Jesus were both priests. The role of the priest was to act as an intermediary between God and the people.
- Melchizedek and Jesus were both from outside the tribe of Levi. For those who may not know, all other priests were from the tribe of Levi. We don't know where Melchizedek was from, but he was long before the tribe of Levi. We know where Jesus came from, and he was from the tribe of Judah. So, when the scripture references Jesus “in the order of Melchizedek,” it means he was a special designation, not from the normal tribe of priests.

SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 7:18-19 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.*

EXPLANATION: The old regulation dictated where the priests came from. In fact, they didn't have a choice. If they were born a Levite, they were a priest. No one from other tribes felt a call to the ministry.

SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 7:20-21 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.’*

- The old priests were priests because of birth.
- Jesus became the permanent priest because of God's oath. And, we know God cannot lie.

Second, JESUS IS THE GUARANTOR OF THE NEW WAY.

SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 7:22 ²² *Because of this oath, Jesus has become the guarantor of a better covenant.*

ILLUSTRATION: How many times have you been let down by a guarantee or warrantee? I buy something because of the guarantee, and then when the product breaks, I usually find out I have violated the guarantee in some way. Either I've lost the receipt or used the product in a way I wasn't supposed to. OR...the details say not to return to the place where you bought it but to mail it to the manufacturer, which would cost more than the product itself.

Only a few times have I really cashed in on a warrantee. Once, I took a Black and Decker product to the company store, and they swapped it for a new one. Many times I get car engine components with a lifetime guarantee because I usually keep a car long enough to cash in on the guarantee. Once, I replaced the rack and pinion steering system on my car. It was a huge job, and when I finished, the new system leaked, so I returned it. The company tested it and said it did not leak. They did not want to refund my money. Then I said, "Well do you think I put this on and took it off just for fun?" Then I pulled out the preacher card and said, "I am a preacher and would not lie." 😊 At this point, they gave me back half of my cost. I was not satisfied, but it was the best I could get. That's the way most of guarantees end up with me.

A long time ago, I saw a flaw on one of my car tires. I had a guarantee, and I was pretty excited about cashing in on the guarantee and getting a new tire out of the deal. At the tire store, the man said, "Mr. Gunn, you've got about 20,000 miles more out of these tires than you were supposed to, so the guarantee is not valid. In fact, you've worn some of them down to the steel belt." About \$500 later, I drove away with a new set of tires. That's the way most guarantees end up with me.

Listen to this—

SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 7:22²² *Because of this oath, [the oath from God that Jesus is a priest forever] Jesus has become the guarantor of a better covenant.*

EXPLANATION: The first covenant was good. The second covenant is better! With Jesus as the guarantor of the covenant, we can count on it, because he's guaranteed with the oath of God, who cannot lie. And, the guarantee is delivered by one who paid the price with his own life and blood, followed by his resurrection.

The guarantee in the first covenant has expired. The guarantee for the new covenant will never expire.

Folks, with Jesus as the guarantor, life is good!

Third, JESUS TRULY MEETS OUR NEED.

And, if this is not enough for you, go back to—

SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 7:26-28 ²⁶ *Such a high priest truly 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 in all their weakness; but the oath, which came after the law, appointed the Son, who has been made perfect forever.*

Back to verse 23—

SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 7:23-25 ²³ *Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented 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.*

A long time after Melchizedek, came those priests out of the tribe of Levi.

- The Levites had to offer sacrifices for their own sins before they offered on behalf of others.
- Jesus does not offer sacrifices for his own sins because he never sinned, nor does he continue to offer sacrifices because he offered himself as the one time sacrifice for sin of all time. And, God’s word was, “*You are a priest forever.*”

APPLICATION: Listen to me: What I just told you is why you do not need to go to a priest to confess and seek forgiveness. We go to Jesus and no one else. Say this with me. ***We go to Jesus and no one else.***

1. He truly meets our needs. Melchizedek and the other priests only partially met peoples' needs.
2. He is sinless. The Old Testament priests were sinners.
3. He lives forever, so he is the permanent priest. All the other priests were temporary priests.
4. He saves people because he lives forever and continually intercedes for us. Other priests died and could not continue interceding for us.

For me, I want a priest who meets my needs, who is sinless, who lives forever, and who can continually intercede for me. I do not want one who is full of flaws.

There is no earthly priest who can do any redemptive act on your behalf before God. Jesus does the work for us.

The old Law appointed priests in their weaknesses. God appointed Jesus who had no weaknesses.

Perhaps people go to a priest to confess sin and seek forgiveness because they were taught this was the way to do it. Or, perhaps people go to a priest for such matters because they feel like they need to tell someone. Or, perhaps they go to a priest because they have not read Hebrews and do not understand the role of Jesus.

ILLUSTRATION: Have you ever been the lowest person in a business or organization and you had to work the chain of command if you had a question or needed something done? In a business, there is a chain of command. In the military, there is a chain of command. In families, there is usually a pecking order of some sort. The family I grew up in...we took most things to our mom, but when we really wanted something, we'd take it to our dad.

APPLICATION: But, think about it—with Jesus, I can take my concerns directly to him. I can take my concerns directly to the top, and I'm not breaking any rules. I'm not breaking any chain of command. Why? Because he is the living Savior. He is interceding on my and your behalf. There is no reason for us to go anywhere else for forgiveness and salvation.

Look at Verse 25: *“Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him.”*

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I use the NIV translation of scripture because of its conversational nature. Feel free to go to Bible Gateway and copy and paste whichever translation you want to use. This transcript has been edited to an outline format that improves readability and therefore may not exactly follow the video edition.

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Sincerely, Paul Gunn
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