

Background Information

"Perfect" and "perfection" are key words in the epistle of Hebrews. They essentially mean "completed, fulfilled." The Old Testament priests could not by their ministry complete the work of God in the **heart** of a worshiper. "For the Law made nothing perfect" (v. 7:19). The Law was not a permanent system. It was served as a "schoolmaster" to prepare the way for the coming of Christ.

The Law of Moses made no provision for a priesthood from the tribe of Judah. Since our High Priest is from the tribe of Judah according to His human ancestry, then there must be a change in Moses Law. There has been! The entire system of Old Testament Law has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ according to the "order of Melchizedek".

The Levitical priests were made priests by the authority of a temporary and imperfect Law. Jesus Christ was made Priest by a declaration of God. The announcement of the coming One who would be a priest forever was written midway in the history of the Levitical priesthood, which could only mean that the existing system was to give way to something better and unchanging.

"You are a priest forever
According to the order of Melchizedek."

Ps 110:4



LOOKING FOR GOLD - WHAT DOES IT SAY?

The first step in mining for gold is getting the lay of the land. **Carefully observe the text** looking to see where you might dig to find hidden treasure. **Mark your text** looking for repeated words, contrasts or similarities. Look for answers to, Who? What? When? Where? Why or How?

Setting the scene: You may want to begin your reading with Jer. 31:31-34, Rom. 8:1-4, Gal. 3:19-27

Hebrews 7:11-19

11 Therefore, if perfection were through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need was there that another priest should rise according to the order of Melchizedek, and not be called according to the order of Aaron? 12 For the priesthood being changed, of necessity there is also a change of the law. 13 For He of whom these things are spoken belongs to another tribe, from which no man has officiated at the altar.

14 For it is evident that our Lord arose from Judah, of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood. 15 And it is yet far more evident if, in the likeness of Melchizedek, there arises another priest 16 who has come, not according to the law of a fleshly commandment, but according to the power of an endless life. 17 For He testifies: "You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek."

18 For on the one hand there is an annulling of the former commandment because of its weakness and unprofitableness, 19 for the law made nothing perfect; on the other hand, there is the bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God.



Digging Deeper

Dig deeper using other resources such as a dictionary, concordance, maps & cross-references. Notate where you found it to share with the group. Look for commands to obey or questions to be answered. What does God want you to know about Himself?

Hebrews 7:20-24

20 And inasmuch as He was not made priest without an oath 21 (for they have become priests without an oath, but He with an oath by Him who said to Him: "The Lord has sworn and will not relent, 'You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek'"), 22 by so much more Jesus has become a surety of a better covenant. 23 Also there were many priests, because they were prevented by death from continuing. 24 But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood.



BOILING IT DOWN – WHAT DOES IT MEAN?



What **lesson** can I draw from my observations?

State each lesson in a simple sentence (aim for 10 words or less).

Hebrews 7:11-19 _____

Hebrews 7:20-24 _____

Hebrews 7:25-28 _____



REFINED AS GOLD - HOW CAN I APPLY IT?

How should it change me? Ask yourself, "What **course of action** do I need to take to apply each lesson?" (aim for 10 words or less)

Hebrews 7:11-19 _____

Hebrews 7:20-24 _____

Hebrews 7:25-28 _____

CHALLENGE: Use cross-references to find correlating scripture that backs up a main point of the chapter. Summarize your findings in your own words.



STORING UP YOUR TREASURE . . .

FOR DISCUSSION:

What do you understand about the “order” of Melchizedek? Heb. 6:20

What do you think “a better hope” implies?

What words or phrases are repeated? Repeated words help us discover the main point.

CHECKING FOR CLARITY: See if you can boil down the meaning of **each section** into one or two words. This helps you fully understand what the author is trying to convey. (It's fun to alliterate if you want to try) Did you catch the vision?

Hebrews 7:11-19 _____
Hebrews 7:20-24 _____
Hebrews 7:25-28 _____

BARS OF GOLD: State the main **point** of the passage in the form of a title.

FLEX YOUR MUSCLES: Can you discover an O.T. example of this N.T. truth?



HIDE YOUR TREASURE IN YOUR HEART

. . . for the law made nothing perfect; on the other hand, there is the bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God. Hebrews 7:19

Radiating His Truth . . .

You can live by the power of His endless life. - Warren Wiersbe

