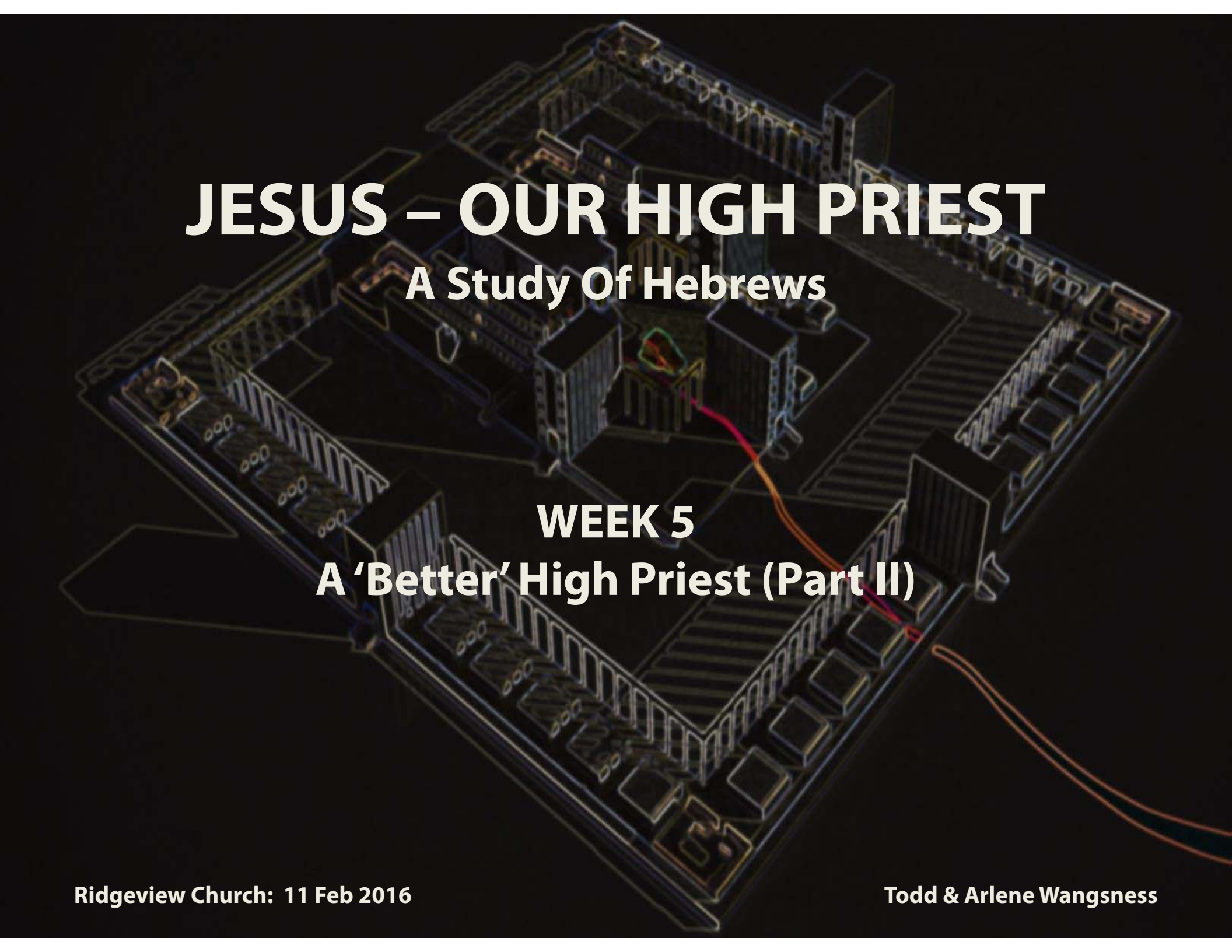


JESUS – OUR HIGH PRIEST

A Study Of Hebrews

WEEK 5
A 'Better' High Priest (Part II)

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HEBREWS: Jesus Our High Priest

Topics

• Week 1:	Theme, Background and Overview	1:1 – 1:3
• Week 2:	Superiority of the Son to Angels	1:4 – 2:18
• Week 3:	Superiority of the Son to Moses and	3:1 – 3:6
	Warning on the Danger of Disobedience	3:7 – 4:13
• Week 4:	A 'Better' Position and	4:14 – 4:16
	A 'Better' High Priest (Part 1)	5:1 – 6:12
• Week 5:	A 'Better' High Priest (Part 2)	6:13 – 7:28
• Week 6:	A 'Better' Covenant	8:1 – 8:13
• Week 7:	A 'Better' Sanctuary	9:1 – 9:10
• Week 8:	A 'Better' Sacrifice	9:11 – 10:18
• Week 9:	Exhortations – Warning – Encouragement	10:19 – 10:39
• Week 10:	Evidence of the Life of Faith	11:1 – 11:40
• Week 11:	Exhortation to Endurance of Faith	12:1 – 12:29
• Week 12:	Concluding Exhortations	13:1 – 13:25

Hebrews: A 'Better' High Priest (Part II)

God's Infallible Purpose in Christ (Heb 6:13–20)

"For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, 14 saying, "Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you." 15 And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. 16 For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is for them an end of all dispute. 17 Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, 18 that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us. 19 This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, 20 where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek."

- **God's promises to Abraham implied a future fulfillment**
  - **:15 *"after he patiently endured"***
    - **Abraham had to wait 25+ years for Isaac to be born**
- **God's promises are not always immediate…but they are <u>always certain</u>!**

Hebrews: A 'Better' High Priest (Part II)

- When men make a solemn promise, we bind it with an oath
  - I.e., swear on the bible, etc.
- When God makes a promise, it is binding upon Him
  - One of his divine attributes is that He cannot lie or be unfaithful
- But, when making the promise to Abraham, He went beyond just making a promise
  - He swore an oath upon the greatest authority in the universe…Himself!
  - He did not *need* to take an oath…He *chose* to!
- :18 *"… who have fled for refuge "* has in view the OT concept of the Cities of Refuge
- Believers have a promise made by God that we can obtain spiritual maturity
  - We must lay hold of that promise just like Abraham did…through faith and patient endurance!
- :19 *"This hope we have…"* We are given four facts concerning our hope:
  1. It is an anchor of the soul
  2. The object of our hope is sure (indestructible)
  3. It is steadfast (provides inner strength)
  4. Our hope is in the very presence of God (behind the veil in the Holiest of all)

Hebrews: A 'Better' High Priest (Part II)

The writer makes three major comparisons between:

1. **Melchizedek and Jesus (:1-3)**
2. **The Order of Melchizedek and the Order of Aaron (:4-10)**
3. **The Levitical and Melchizedek Priesthoods (:11-25)**

Heb 7:1-3 ***"For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, 2 to whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all, first being translated "king of righteousness," and then also king of Salem, meaning "king of peace," 3 without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, remains a priest continually."***

Hebrews: A 'Better' High Priest (Part II)

I. COMPARISON OF MELCHIZEDEK AND JESUS (:1-3)

- Both were priests and kings
  - Melchizedek was King of Salem (peace) and King of Zedek (righteousness)
- Both issued blessings
  - Melchizedek blessed Abraham
- Melchizedek received tithes from Abraham (Aaron was his offspring)
  - Giving of tithes was a recognition of superiority. Abraham tithed to Melchizedek.
- Both were independent High Priests, not dependent on ancestry
  - Ancestry was not important in establishing Melchizedek's claim to priesthood
- Both Jesus and Melchizedek had timeless priesthoods
  - There is no stated beginning or end to Melchizedek's priesthood
- Both priesthoods ministered to all (not just the nation of Israel)

Hebrews: A 'Better' High Priest (Part II)

II. COMPARISON OF THE ORDERS OF MELCHIZEDEK AND AARON (:4 – 10)

Heb 7:4-10 ***"Now consider how great this man was, to whom even the patriarch Abraham gave a tenth of the spoils. 5 And indeed those who are of the sons of Levi, who receive the priesthood, have a commandment to receive tithes from the people according to the law, that is, from their brethren, though they have come from the loins of Abraham; 6 but he whose genealogy is not derived from them received tithes from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises. 7 Now beyond all contradiction the lesser is blessed by the better. 8 Here mortal men receive tithes, but there he receives them, of whom it is witnessed that he lives. 9 Even Levi, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, so to speak, 10 for he was still in the loins of his father when Melchizedek met him."***

- **Melchizedek accepted tithes (Aaron was the offspring of Abraham)**
  - **The Levitical priesthood accepted tithes from their brethren**
  - **Melchizedek had no racial connection with Abraham, the *patriarch* of the tribes**
- **Melchizedek blessed Abraham - the blessor is superior to the one being blessed**
  - **Abraham did not bless Melchizedek**
- **Melchizedek's order never ended - he abides as a priest continually**
  - **The Aaronic High Priests all died**
- **Levi paid tithes to Melchizedek through Abraham**

Hebrews: A 'Better' High Priest (Part II)

III. COMPARISON OF THE LEVITICAL AND MELCHIZEDEK PRIESTHOODS

Heb 7:11–19 ***"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."***

Hebrews: A 'Better' High Priest (Part II)

III. COMPARISON OF THE LEVITICAL AND MELCHIZEDEK PRIESTHOODS (:11-25)

- The Levitical Priesthood (:11-19)
  - It was changeable
    - Ps 110:4 said another priest would come after the order of Melchizedek
      - It required a change of the Law - as the Aaronic Priesthood was part of the Law
    - The new High Priest would come from David's line, not from Levi
  - It was temporary
    - The word "another" means" of a different kind" (:15)
  - It was 'outward'
    - The new priesthood is based on inward power (:16)
  - It was 'disannulled' and set aside
    - The Greek word means "to abolish"
    - The Law was set aside because of weakness and unprofitableness
  - It could not impart strength or bestow life (:18)
    - The Law never brought perfection
    - It could only point to the One who would be perfect

Hebrews: A 'Better' High Priest (Part II)

III. COMPARISON OF THE LEVITICAL AND MELCHIZEDEK PRIESTHOODS (cont.)

Heb 7:20–25 ***"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. 25 Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.***

- **The Priesthood of Jesus (:20-25)**
  - **It is Unchangeable (:20-21)**
    - **The oath of God makes it permanent and unchangeable**
  - **It is founded on better promises through a *<u>better covenant</u>*! (:22)**
    - **Jesus Himself is the 'surety' or guarantee of the promises!**
  - **It is Eternal (:24-25)**
    - **Our Priest Jesus continues 'forever'**
  - **He saves to the *<u>uttermost</u>***
    - **The Greek word means "to arrive at a final destination with all these various aspects completed"**

Hebrews: A 'Better' High Priest (Part II)

CONCLUSION (Heb 7:26–28)

"For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; 27 who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself. 28 For the law appoints as high priests men who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the law, appoints the Son who has been perfected forever."

- **Humanity needed a spotless priest - God provided One!**
  - **He is holy. He has personal purity.**
  - **He is guileless. He did not practice evil.**
  - **He is undefiled**
  - **He is separated from sinners**
    - **His present ministry is in the Holy of Holies in the Heavenly Tabernacle**
  - **He was made higher than the heavens**
    - **He passed through into the Third Heaven**
- **Humanity needed a sufficient sacrifice**
  - **Jesus was a once-for-all sinless sacrifice**

Hebrews: A 'Better' High Priest (Part II)

SUMMARY

1. Jesus represents *all people* while Aaron represented Israel only
2. Aaron was only a high priest while Jesus is both Priest and King
3. While Aaron was concerned with sin and judgment, the priestly ministry of Jesus is characterized by righteousness and peace
4. Jesus did not inherit or pass on His priesthood while Aaron did
5. Aaron's priesthood kept the Israelites in a state of infancy while Jesus's Priesthood brings *all believers* to maturity
6. The ministry of Jesus resulted in blessing while Aaron's only produced that which was weak and unprofitable
7. The Aaronic priesthood functioned on the basis of a series of dying men, while the Jesus' Priesthood is based on a covenant that made Him a priest forever, unchangeable and permanent
8. Jesus' Priesthood is sinless while the Aaronic priesthood was carried out through/by sinful men