



Open it

1. What is your favorite restaurant? What makes it better than all the rest?

Daily Devotions

Day 1

Today's Theme: Explore It

Read Hebrews 7:11–28

2. What were the Law and Levitical priesthood incapable of doing?
3. On what basis has Jesus become a high priest?
4. What does our passage say has happened to the former commandment? Why?
5. Why is Jesus able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through Him?
6. How is our High Priest, Jesus, characterized in this passage?

Day 2

Today's Theme: The Need for a New Priesthood

Read Hebrews 7:11–19

Hammers are some of the most versatile tools in the world of construction. You can use them for a lot of things. But there are still limitations as to what a hammer can do. For example, it'd be pretty difficult to cut a piece of wood with precision using a hammer. It'd also be pretty hard to cut wire with a hammer. It'd be tough to paint a wall with a hammer. While hammers are versatile, they were made with an intended purpose — to hammer things.

In the first five books of the Bible, called the Torah (or “Law”), God outlined His law for His people to follow. In the Law, there were guidelines for certain people to fill the role of priest, which we've learned some about in Hebrews already. The purpose for the priest was to mediate between God and man by offering sacrifices on behalf of the people and teaching the people the things of God. The Law is good and was perfect in the purpose it was intended for. The problem is that people over time have tried to use the Law for a purpose it wasn't meant to be used for — to bring perfection.

The Law was never meant to bring perfection. That was never the purpose. The purpose of the Law was to act as the “guardian” or “tutor” until the Messiah came. In other words, the Law was meant to lead people not to itself, but to the Messiah! The Law was designed to be used kind of like a mirror, that we would look at the Law and look at ourselves, and the Law would reveal to us the sin in our lives. And that's why there were priests — to make temporary coverings for those sins until the Perfect High Priest came who would remove them once and for all.

The Law was never meant to be Plan A and when it failed Jesus was Plan B. Jesus has always been Plan A, and God created and used the Law to point us to Jesus.

7. From what you know about God's Law, in what ways is it incapable of making us perfect?

8. Why do you think there is so much emphasis, especially in church, to “be a good person”? According to this week's passage, what really makes someone a “good person”?

Day 3

Today's Theme: Jesus is the Perfect Priest of a Better Promise

Read Hebrews 7:15–28

I want you to imagine your dream job someday. Now imagine if you could only have that job because you were born into that job. Your parents, your grandparents, your great-grandparents and so on all worked that job. And if you weren't born into it, you couldn't do it. That idea seems so foreign to us today, but that's exactly how it worked to be a priest in the Old Testament. You could only be a priest, especially a high priest, if it were in your family lineage. And the only reason you would ever enter that role is that the person before you died.

This is one primary reason that the priesthood of the Old Testament was not perfect — because it was tainted by death. The Bible says in Romans 6:23 that the wages (or penalty) of sin is death. That means that since all the Old Testament priests died, they weren't perfect and therefore couldn't bring perfection to others. But Jesus has an indestructible life or, in other words, an eternal life that has no end. For that reason, our passage tells us that He holds His priesthood forever and is therefore “able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.”

Jesus is unlike any other priest or mediator. Every other person and every pastor or leader you may love, are all sinful people and therefore are unable to save you. But Jesus is perfect! In Hebrews 7:26 it says that Jesus is “holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens.” Jesus stands out above all the rest. That's why He didn't have to make many sacrifices. He only made one — Himself. That was all that was needed. By rising on the third day, He not only forgave our sins, but He conquered over sin itself, and therefore we can find true goodness and perfection not in ourselves, but ONLY in Jesus!

9. If you had to explain to someone who Jesus is and why salvation can be found only in Him, how would you explain it?

10. Our passage says in multiple places that because of Jesus we have a “better hope” and a “better covenant (promise).” Why do we have a better hope and promise because of Jesus?