

**NOW THE MAIN POINT  
IS THIS ...**

**WE HAVE SUCH A  
HIGH PRIEST**



High priest forever, Priest/King, no earthly genealogy, perfection comes through, indestructible life, order of Melchizedek, priest by sworn oath of God, guarantee of better covenant, permanent priesthood, able to save forever, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners, exalted above the heavens, sacrifice/offering for sins, once-for-all sacrifice for sins, Son appointed by oath of the Father, made perfect forever, sat down at right hand of Majesty, minister in the holy places, more excellent ministry, mediator of a better covenant based on better promises.

## 1. Jesus Son of God became our high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek, 6:19-20.

- (Hebrews 6:19–20 LSB) This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and confirmed and one which enters within the veil, 20 where a forerunner has entered for us—**Jesus, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.**

### WHAT DOES IT MEAN? JESUS, HAVING BECOME A HIGH PRIEST FOREVER?

When the Bible uses terms such as “*having become, might become, learned obedience and having been made perfect*” when speaking of Jesus, it is always in relation to his humanity.

Saying that Jesus “might become” or be “made perfect” is never putting into question his full, eternal nature as God himself.

- (Philippians 2:5b–7 LSB) **Christ Jesus, 6 who, although existing in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7** but emptied Himself, by taking the form of a slave, **by being made in the likeness of men.**

The Son of God had to become a human so he could fulfill the mission that was planned according to the divine council of our triune God through his infinite wisdom in eternity past to save those whom he called.

- (Ephesians 1:4 LSB) **Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world,** that we would be holy and blameless before Him in love.
- (Romans 8:30 LSB) **And those whom He predestined,** He also **called;** and those whom He called, He also **justified;** and those whom He justified, He also **glorified.**

**JESUS BECAME OUR HIGH PRIEST FOREVER ... 1)** through his *life experience* on earth, **2)** by the *sworn oath* of the Father and **3)** by serving as a *faithful Son* over the Father’s house.

### Life Experience ...

- A. The Son of God had to be born on this earth as the infant Jesus to be one of us and live a righteous life.
- (Hebrews 2:17–18 LSB) Therefore, He had to be made like His brothers in all things, **so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God,** to make propitiation for the sins of the people. 18 For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, **He is able to come to help those who are tempted.**

- B. Our High Priest had to fully human to become our wrath taker—to make propitiation for our sins.
- C. He had to experience life on earth as a human to become a merciful and faithful High Priest.
- D. He had to experience temptation to be able to help those who are tempted.

### Faithful Son ...

- E. It was necessary that our High Priest be faithful to God who appointed him as High Priest.
- (Hebrews 3:1–3 LSB) Therefore, holy brothers, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession—Jesus, 2 **who was faithful to Him who appointed Him,** as Moses also was in all His house. 3 For **He has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses,** in so much as the builder of the house has more honor than the house.
- F. Christ fulfilled his mission by being faithful as a Son over God’s house.
- (Hebrews 3:5–6 LSB) Now **MOSES WAS FAITHFUL IN ALL HIS HOUSE AS A SERVANT,** for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken later, 6 **but Christ was faithful as a Son over His house**—whose house we are, if we hold fast our confidence and the boast of our hope.
- G. Jesus the Son of God completed the authentication of his priestly office when he passed through the heavens.
- H. He entered into the highest place of authority and holiness and represents us before God and yet also sympathizes with our weaknesses..
- (Hebrews 4:14–15 LSB) Therefore, since we have a great high priest **who has passed through the heavens,** Jesus the Son of God, let us take hold of our confession. 15 For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, **but One who has been tempted in all things like we are, yet without sin.**

### Oath of the Father ...

- I. Our High Priest did not take this honor to himself.
- (Hebrews 5:4–6 LSB) And no one takes this honor to himself, **but receives it when he is called by God,** even as Aaron was. 5 In this way also **Christ did not glorify Himself to become a high priest,** but **He who said** to Him, “YOU ARE MY SON, TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU”; 6 **just**

as He says also in another passage, "YOU ARE A PRIEST FOREVER ACCORDING TO THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK."

- (Hebrews 7:20–21 LSB) And inasmuch as it was not without an oath 21 (for they indeed became priests without an oath, **but He with an oath through the One who said to Him, "THE LORD HAS SWORN AND WILL NOT CHANGE HIS MIND, 'YOU ARE A PRIEST FOREVER.'"**)

J. Our High Priest submitted to suffering to learn obedience to become complete and fulfill the necessary requirements for the office of high priest although he was the Son of God.

- (Hebrews 5:8–10 LSB) Although He was a Son, He **learned obedience** from the things which He suffered. 9 And **having been made perfect**, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation, 10 **being designated by God as a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek**.
- (Philippians 2:8 LSB) Being found in appearance as a man, **He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death**, even death on a cross.

2. To understand what it means that Jesus is our high priest according to the order of Melchizedek we need to answer at least two questions, 6:20-7:3.

- (Hebrews 6:20–7:3 LSB) **Where a forerunner has entered for us**—Jesus, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek. 1 For this **MELCHIZEDEK, KING OF SALEM, PRIEST OF THE MOST HIGH GOD, who met ABRAHAM AS HE WAS RETURNING FROM THE SLAUGHTER OF THE KINGS and BLESSED HIM**, 2 **TO WHOM ALSO ABRAHAM APPORTIONED A TENTH PART OF ALL**, was first of all, by the translation of his name, king of **righteousness**, and then also king of Salem, which is 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, he remains a priest continually.

The two questions are ...  
Who is he? Why is he mentioned here?

### QUESTION 1: WHO IS MELCHIZEDEK?

A. Melchizedek is mentioned in three places in Scripture—in Genesis, Psalms and Hebrews.

- i. In Genesis Melchizedek is a historical figure—probably the king of a city state.

ii. He blessed Abraham after Abraham defeated the kings who had taken Lot captive. (See the summary of the account above in Hebrews 7:1.)

- (Genesis 14:17–18 LSB) Then after he came back from striking down Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley). 18 **And Melchizedek king of Salem** brought out bread and wine; now he was a priest of God Most High. (Cf. Hebrews 7:1.)

iii. The priestly order of Melchizedek is spoken of in Psalm 110 in reference to the Lord.

- (Psalm 110:4 LSB) Yahweh has sworn and will not change His mind, "**You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.**" (Quoted in Hebrews 5:6.)

iv. The Son of God is proclaimed to be a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

- (Hebrews 5:9–10 LSB) **And having been made perfect**, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation, 10 **being designated by God as a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek**.

### QUESTION 2: WHY IS HE MENTIONED HERE?

(What is his relevance to the priesthood of Jesus?)

- B. He is a connection with the Old Testament to help us understand and contrast the old covenant and the old priesthood **based on the law** with the new covenant and the new priesthood based on Jesus Son of God—who is **filled with grace and truth**.
- C. He is a reference point for the people in this fellowship who were predominantly Jews with ties to the Law and the Old Covenant.

### HERE IS AN OVERVIEW OF THE HELPFUL REFERENCE POINTS ...

- i. The priesthood of Jesus was not the same priesthood as that in the Old Testament.
- ii. Many or most of the people in this church fellowship in Hebrews were Jews.
- iii. They needed to see the contrast between the high priesthood of Jesus Son of God and the priesthood of the law.
- iv. Some of them were in danger of falling back into trusting in the old covenant which was inferior to the new covenant which the Son represented.

v. Broader application: We need to be aware of the ongoing temptation to fall back into what is familiar instead striving for what is true.

D. Melchizedek provides a reference point for those who struggle with letting go of the old ways and are in danger of trusting in a lesser Savior and a lesser covenant with God.

- i. From the beginning the writer of Hebrews has emphasized the necessity of holding fast to the superiority and eternity of the Son.
- ii. Only believing in Jesus the Son of God as fully revealed in Scripture guards our hearts and minds from falling into a state of unbelief.

3. We have this hope as an anchor of the soul that our High Priest Jesus Son of God “checks all the boxes” and will save us to the uttermost—completely and forever.

A. As our high priest he assures and confirms our hope within the most holy place.

B. Jesus has entered the most holy place on our behalf to represent us before God as our high priest forever.

C. The big issues before the throne of God are righteousness and peace.

- (Romans 4:3 LSB) For what does the Scripture say? **“ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS COUNTED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.”**
- (Romans 4:5 LSB) But to the one who does not work, **but believes upon Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness.**
- (Romans 4:23-24, 5:1 LSB) Now not for his sake only was it written **THAT IT WAS COUNTED TO HIM**, 24 but for our sake also, to whom it will be counted, as those who believe upon Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead ...1 **Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

- i. Jesus is—as seen from the example of Melchizedek—the King of righteousness and the King of peace.
- ii. Jesus paid the price for our sins to settle the issue of righteousness.
- iii. Through his death on the cross we have been

made righteous and have the righteousness of God put to our account.

- (Romans 3:22–23 LSB) Even **the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe**; for there is no distinction; 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
- (2 Corinthians 5:21 LSB) He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, **so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.**
- (Philippians 3:9 LSB) **And be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own which is from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God upon faith.**

D. Jesus will forever present us before God in the holy of holies as righteous based on his righteous life and his death on the cross.

E. We now have peace with God forever because we are justified through faith in Christ.

F. We have peace with God forever because Jesus Son of God represents us as our high priest before the throne of God forever.

G. He was the sacrifice and he will represent us in our righteous standing before the throne of God based on the sacrifice.