

Hebrews 7:23-28

Vss. 23-25

- One aspect of the “better covenant” that vs. 22 ends telling us of, is that in the old way there was always a need for new priests because eventually the old priests would die or otherwise not be able to perform their tasks. So you never knew who or what you were getting. With Jesus you always know who and what you are getting. He is the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. He is the Rock, the Mighty Fortress. He is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.
- Where in vs. 24 the preacher says that Jesus “continues forever”, he uses a legal term. The Greek word **Aparabatos** means inviolable, unalterable, and non-transferable. It describes something that belongs to you and can never be taken away nor given to someone else. It is as if Jesus were your own personal priest.
- Further, this better covenant is something that continues forever because Jesus Himself continues forever. Put the two concepts together and you have a covenant that is stronger and greater lasting than the foundations on which the universe itself was built. Jesus was and is and will always be the only way to God.
- Finally, when he says that Jesus “continues forever” he uses a political word that means “to remain in office in the capacity of a servant”. So no one or nothing can push Jesus out of His role and the role itself is one of a servant to all people, “since he always lives to make intercession for them”.

Vss. 26-28

- A better way of stating the opening thought of vs. 26 is to say, “We needed such a high priest...”. Nothing else would do. We needed Jesus! There was no other way.
- The preacher says that Jesus is Holy. The word **hosios** describes someone set apart by God and faithfully does his duty before God. It carries the greatest goodness, that is the goodness that only God sees.

- He says that Jesus is “innocent”. This is a word, *akakos*, that doesn’t translate well. It describes a person so cleansed of evil that there is no evil in them whatsoever. It carries the idea that such a person cannot be anything but an influence for good in the lives of other people.
- He says that Jesus is undefiled, without stain. Jesus is the perfect lamb of sacrifice.
- He says that Jesus is different / separated from sinners. It does not mean that Jesus was not human, rather that as a person He too faced all the temptations this fallen world has to offer and yet remained sinless. He was humanity as God intended in The Beginning.
- He says that Jesus is exalted above the Heavens. Jesus was human but He was also Divine and sits at the right hand of God.
- A key point that elevates Jesus above the old priests is that He does not have to first make daily sacrifices cleansing Him of sin before He can intercede for others. On the Day of Atonement, it was the High Priest himself who made the sacrifice for the people, but first he would have to be ritually cleansed of his sins before he was worthy. Jesus was without sin yet offered Himself as the supreme sacrifice for all people.
- The law appointed men as priests who were weak and sinful. Their primary qualification was found in their genealogy, not in their character or spiritual maturity growing from their relationship to God. Thus we needed Jesus, who was sinless and without blemish so as to be both High Priest and ultimate sacrifice. Referring back to God’s oath in Psalms 110:4, God appoints a Son, His only Son, because He so loved the world, that through His Son, the perfect High Priest, the world might be saved through Him.