

# Better Hope

**Heb 7:19** ....*there is the bringing in of a better hope*, through which we draw near to God.

Better means to improve. Hope means to expect with assurance

*Against all hope / Hope against hope:*

- To hope very strongly that something will happen, although you know it is not likely
- Origin of this phrase. **Rom 4:18**
- *<sup>18</sup> In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, "So shall your offspring be." <sup>19</sup> He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. <sup>20</sup> No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, <sup>21</sup> fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.*

## Background to Hebrews

- Hebrews was written to Jewish Christians experiencing intense hardship.
- Following Jesus was extremely difficult and made them unpopular, specifically amongst fellow Jews. Believers endured persecution and frequent adversity.
- Doubts about the gospel began to creep in their thoughts whether Jesus was the only way.
- Early disciples wrote Hebrews with a clear message: fix your eyes, set your faith, and rest your hope on Jesus.

## Superior Jesus

### Heb 7:11-16

*<sup>11</sup> 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? <sup>12</sup> For the priesthood being changed, of necessity there is also a change of the law. <sup>13</sup> For He of whom these things are spoken belongs to another tribe, from which no man has officiated at the altar.*

*<sup>14</sup> For it is evident that our Lord arose from Judah, of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood. <sup>15</sup> And it is yet far more evident if, in the likeness of Melchizedek, there*

*arises another priest<sup>16</sup> who has come, not according to the law of a fleshly commandment, but according to the power of an endless life.*

Two priesthoods are being compared

- The order of Melchizedek points to Jesus, the new covenant for all Christians
- The order of Aaron is the Levitical system, the old covenant for the Jews.
- For the Jews, it would be impossible for them to accept the priesthood other than Aaron's. This was a game changer for the Hebrews

Melchizedek was contemporary of Abraham. First referenced in Gen 14:18-20. He was king of Salem and priest of God Most High: a king and a priest. He lived approx. 600 years before the Levitical priesthood was established.

In Gen 14, Abraham returned from victory over the 5 kings, Melchizedek was both king and God's priest, blessed Abraham. Abraham gave him a tithe (portion from the plunder of his victory). The whole point was to demonstrate that Melchizedek was superior to Aaron.

- In Psalm 110, David would prophesy the Messiah would fulfill the order of Melchizedek. *The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind, "You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.* Jesus is clearly the fulfillment.

## Perfect Jesus

Heb 7:17-22

<sup>17</sup> *For He testifies: "You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek.*

<sup>18</sup> *For on the one hand there is an annulling of the former commandment because of its weakness and unprofitableness, <sup>19</sup> 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.*

<sup>20</sup> *And inasmuch as He was not made priest without an oath <sup>21</sup> (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',*

<sup>22</sup> *by so much more Jesus has become a surety of a better covenant.*

## The Old was provisional, the New is exceptional

Once a year, tenth day of the seventh month (Yom Kippur / Day of Atonement), the high priest must bring the blood of sacrifices into the Holy of Holies to atone for personal sin and corporate sins of Israel. See Leviticus 16.

### Heb 7:26-28

*<sup>26</sup> For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; <sup>27</sup> 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. <sup>28</sup> 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.*

## **Eternal Jesus**

### Heb 7:23-25

*<sup>23</sup> Also there were many priests, because they were prevented by death from continuing. <sup>24</sup> But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood. <sup>25</sup> 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.*

Better Hope is based on:

1. **Superior Jesus** – Jesus is both King and Priest
2. **Perfect Jesus** – The new is exceptional, the old was provisional
3. **Eternal Jesus** – Risen Saviour, Lifetime guarantee