

# DON'T FORSAKE JESUS

## THE HIGH PRIEST OF A NEW ORDER

### ➤ READ HEBREWS 6:13-20

**SUMMARY:** God's promises are sure. Hold on to them and you won't drift!

### Look

- "Confirmed it with an oath" (17) – it is impossible for God's oath to fail
- "As an anchor" (19) – the anchor is our hope in Christ
- "It enters the inner sanctuary" (19) – heaven, symbolized by the Most Holy Place of the Tabernacle
- "Melchizedek" (20) – Outside of the book of Hebrews he is only mentioned twice. We hear of his interaction with Abraham; and David writes a psalm that mentions his name. His name, however, would have been a household name to the first readers of this letter – along with names like David, Abraham, Aaron, and Levi.

### Discuss

1. Focus on the word *patiently* in verse 15. Why does Abraham provide a good role model for the Hebrews?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What are the two unchangeable things the author is talking about in verse 18?

*<sup>17</sup> Because God wanted to show the heirs of the promise with even greater certainty that his plan was unchangeable, he guaranteed his promise with an oath. <sup>18</sup> He did this so that, through two unchangeable things (in which it is impossible that God would lie), we, who have fled for refuge by taking hold of this hope that is held out to us, might have strong encouragement. (EHV)*

3. The writer pictures an anchor holding to the bottom of a lake, keeping the boat from drifting.
  - a. What is the anchor?
  - b. Where does it hold fast?
  - c. Why doesn't it come loose?

4. This section has a special message to us especially if we struggle with doubts. What circumstances have caused doubt in your mind? What assurances do you find here to relieve those doubts? How can this help you to grow deeper?

*His oath, his covenant and blood  
Support me in the raging flood;  
In every high and stormy gale  
My anchor holds within the veil.  
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;  
All other ground is sinking sand.*

➤ **READ GENESIS 14**

➤ **READ HEBREWS 7:1-10**

**SUMMARY:** Here is some of that solid food! In mysterious Melchizedek we have a picture of Christ.

Discuss

5. What are all the things that make Melchizedek special?
- a. (vs. 1) \_\_\_\_\_ of God Most High
  - b. (vs. 1,6,7) he \_\_\_\_\_ Abraham
  - c. (vs. 2,4-6,9-10) \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ gave him a  
\_\_\_\_\_ of the plunder
  - d. (vs. 2) king of \_\_\_\_\_; king of \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. (vs. 3) no trace of his \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_

Look

- “Priest forever” (3) - He is a priest forever since his ‘priesthood’ lives on in the priesthood of Jesus
- “Just look” (4) - Urgency is built into this word

➤ **READ HEBREWS 7:11-19**

**SUMMARY:** The Old Testament spoke about another Priest not descended from the tribe of Levi who would establish a covenant that Levi could never have established - this Priest is Jesus.

Look

- “Perfection” (11) – Perfection is required for acceptance before a perfect and holy God. The Old Testament priesthood could not provide this perfection.
- “More clear” (15) – the appearance of such a high priest, in the order of Melchizedek, is more proof; it is meant to make all this more clear
- “Indestructible life” (16) - Jesus’ priesthood is linked to an indestructible life. The resurrection proves that Jesus paid the price for our sins, something the law could never do.
- “Set aside” (18) – this word carries with it the idea of complete cancellation, annulment. It is the same word used in Hebrews 9:24 that is translated “to do away with.”
- “Read Psalm 110” – An important Messianic Psalm

Discuss

6. Two things make it clear that Melchizedek and the one he pictured, Jesus, were of a different system than Aaron. Can you spot these two differences? (*Hint: focus on verses 13 & 16*)
  
7. Why was it crucial that a new priesthood replace that of Aaron?

➤ **READ HEBREWS 7:20-28**

**SUMMARY:** Jesus is the perfect High Priest, appointed by God to be our High Priest forever.

Look

- “guarantee of a better covenant” (22) – covenant = agreement, testament, will; God’s covenant with us is a ‘one-sided agreement’ and Jesus is the guarantor. This is the first of 17 uses of the word ‘covenant’ in this book.
- “verse 25” - this is the conclusion drawn from verses 23 & 24; the priesthood of Christ is what inevitably makes it possible for us to come to God
- “save completely those who come to God through him” – a phrase emphasizing the role and necessity of faith
- “intercede” (25) – the word carries with it the idea of serving as one’s lawyer

Discuss

8. What argument is the author using in verses 20-22 to say that Jesus' priesthood is better than Aaron's?
  
9. On the basis of verse 26-28, contrast...
  - a. The High Priest Jesus with the Old Testament high priests. (vs. 23-26)
    - i. They were \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
    - ii. Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_ and lives \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. Jesus' sacrifice with the sacrifices of the Old Testament high priests. (vs. 27)
    - i. The Old Testament high priest had to offer sacrifices \_\_\_\_\_  
and they could never really \_\_\_\_\_ sins.
    - ii. Jesus offered \_\_\_\_\_ sacrifice and it never has to be \_\_\_\_\_.
  - c. The foundation on which Jesus' priesthood is built with the foundation on which the Old Testament priesthood was built. (vs. 28)
    - i. The Old Testament priesthood was based on \_\_\_\_\_
    - ii. Jesus' priesthood is based on God's \_\_\_\_\_
  
10. Sometimes we may think God is not really helping us in our needs. We are expecting more than we are getting. How does Hebrews 7:26 help us see the picture differently?

Endure

1. What comfort do we find in knowing that Jesus lives forever and that he has established a permanent priesthood?
  
2. "All religions lead back to God." What key thought from our study in this section shows that this statement is not true.

3. While we may not feel the same tug away from Jesus as the first readers of Hebrews, we are still drawn away from faith in Christ. What are those tugs upon us?

Why should we confess Jesus and leave ourselves open to persecution, ridicule? Don't we have reason enough to hope in salvation based on following the Old Testament? After all, isn't it the Word of God? Yes, indeed it is, says the author, and when you become skilled in the Word of righteousness you see why it is necessary to move from the covenant with which the Levitical priests were associated to the better covenant of which Jesus is the guarantor.

Jesus is better...

- God swore on oath with regard to Christ's priesthood
  - He remains alive to intercede for everyone
  - He is sinless and has gone to heaven
  - He is not weak and susceptible to sin

### Responsive Closing Prayer

L: Dear God, just as the first-century Hebrew people struggled between the two covenants – the old and the new – so we struggle between two different teachings that compete for our devotion. One lures us with the false promise that if we are good enough, you will love us and accept us on the basis of what we have done.

**G: But the truth is that you have already loved us in Jesus and have done all that is necessary to bring us to you.**

L: Give us your Spirit to help us to remember every day this outstanding truth,

**G: and to trust only Jesus, our Great High Priest,**

L: to save us from our sins and to bring us to you.

**G: Amen.**