

Hebrews Part One

Lesson #28, Chapter 7:11-19

Read all of Chapter 7, then pray and ask God for wisdom in studying before starting this lesson.

1. What is the main point from 7:1-10 that we studied in the last lesson?
2. R. Kent Hughes explains the precise meaning of perfection in Heb. 7:11: “Often in Scripture the word “perfection” has the meaning of “maturity” or “completeness.” So, some assume “perfection” here means “completeness in relation to God.” But actually, the meaning here is more specialized and means “to put someone in the position in which he can come, or stand, before God” – access to God. This is also the meaning of “perfect” in verse 19, which says, “(for the law made nothing perfect), and a better hope is introduced, by which we draw near to God.” It is also the meaning in two other Hebrews texts – 10:1, 14. So again, “perfection” here in verse 11 refers to *access to God and a right relationship to Him.*”¹ Now rewrite verse 11 substituting Kent Hughes’ definition of perfection. Add any details that will give clarity to the meaning of vs. 11.
3. The writer of Hebrews further illumines this truth in Heb. 7:19; 9:9; 10:1-3, 14. Explain what you learn from those verses.
4. Where did the people receive the Law according to vs. 11?
5. Define *change* as used in vs. 12 [Strong’s #3346].

¹ R. Kent Hughes, *Hebrews Volume One: An Anchor for the Soul* (Wheaton, ILL.: Crossway, 1993), pgs. 194-195.

6. Verse 12 states the priesthood needed to change. Why? See vs. 11 and your answer to Question 2.

7. When did the priesthood change? See 6:20.

8. What happened when the priesthood changed? See vs. 12.

9. Why would that change be necessary? See Jer. 31:31-34.

10. In vs. 13 who is the “one concerning whom these things are spoken”? See vs. 14 for this one’s identity.

11. Which tribe did Jesus come from? What is noteworthy about that tribe? See vss. 13-14.

12. How was it known to all (evident) that Jesus was descended from Judah? See Matt. 13:55; Luke 2:4-5; 3:23, 32-33.

13. Everyone knew that Jesus didn’t come from the line of Levi and therefore, wasn’t qualified to be a priest under the old law system. The author of Hebrews continues to show that Jesus has been appointed to a better priesthood. What quality is cited in vs. 16 that shows its superiority over the Levitical priesthood?

14. The author of Hebrews underscores this point with a verse from Ps. 110:4. How does this verse support what he says in vs. 16?

15. Define *indestructible* [Strong's #179 (KJV *endless*)].

16. How does that attribute set Jesus our high priest apart from all the other high priests?

17. According to vs. 18 what happened to the previous law system, which included the Levitical priesthood? Why (vss. 18-19)?

18. In vs. 19 the author states, *for the law made nothing perfect*. *Perfect* (a form of the same Greek word which was used in vs. 11) generally means "to carry through completely, to make complete, to finish, bring to an end"² and we learned from R. Kent Hughes that in this context the definition is expanded further, so that it means "to God and to have a right relationship with God."³ In what way was the Law unable to bring things to completion so that access to God was possible? See Rom. 3:19-20; Gal. 3:21; Heb. 7:19; 9:9; 10:1-4.

19. Because the Law was not able to bring man into a right relationship with God, God provided another way. How is it described and what does it accomplish in vs. 19?

² Kenneth S. Wuest, *Wuest's Word Studies from the Greek New Testament* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997, c1984), Heb. 7:18.

³ R. Kent Hughes, pgs. 194-195.

20. What is the result of this “better” way? See Acts 13:39; John 1:17; Rom. 8:3; Gal. 2:16; 3:8-9, 22-24.
21. That “better hope,” which is summed up in Jesus Christ, allows us to draw near to God. In Jesus Christ, we have access to the eternal, all-powerful God who loves us and desires to bless us. Consider your relationship with God right now.
- a. Are you *able* to draw near to Him because you have accepted the free gift of salvation through Jesus Christ? (If not, what are you going to do about it?)

 - b. Are you *continuing* to draw near to God knowing that Jesus claims you as part of His family? (If not, what are you going to do about it?)

 - c. What *hinders* you from drawing near to God?

 - d. What *encourages* you to draw near to God?