

## A Better Priest

### I. Slide#1 Announce:

- A. Slide#2 Baby Dedication 2nd - Joshua & Kristyn Suemnick, Jeremiah Jensen.
- B. Slide#3blank/4 Concert next Sun eve - Kel
- C. Slide#5 Women's Christmas Celebration - Kel
- D. Slide#6 TOTG - Sat - Jan24 - register at [takingoffthegloves.org](http://takingoffthegloves.org) - or in info booth today.
  1. Our culture has abandoned men, claiming they are unnecessary. **But** rather than give in or look to our culture for answers, we turn instead to *the call of the Father* that says **BEING A MAN MATTERS**.
- E. Slide#7 Gifts for Eternity - The **last 3 years** we've had a *Christmas Catalog* of diff opp of partnering with ministries we support. This yr we decided to help with *Scripture Translation*.
  1. Slide#8 Over a billion people are still Bibleless. Take a moment. Let that sink in.
    - a) My fav bible verse is Jer.20:9 & to 200 mill people it sounds like this....(long pause)
  2. Slide#9 This Christmas we are partnering with The Seed Company & taking part in the **Jari Project**. The **Jari** name is an *invented name* to protect those working on this project in a **hard access country** in **S/E Asia** to keep the translators safe.
  3. We will be funding 8 books of the bible: *1&2 Pet, Eph, Rom, Titus, Philip, Col & Ex*.
  4. Slide#10 Details: \$106,000 to complete their **whole** project. So we thought we'd help to at least get them 1/2 way there. So w/8 books, that's 2500 ornaments @ \$20 each
    - a) *Your \$20 includes total cost for:* Translators, equip, national helpers, living expenses, resources, everything it takes to do the **full translation** of Scripture into a local language.
  5. Slide#11 4 to choose from on the Xmas Tree in Foyer: Bible book's name is on back.
  6. Slide#12 3 ways to give: [1] Special envelopes provided in pew. [2] Swipe credit card back by tree. [3] Online [calvarymurrieta.com](http://calvarymurrieta.com) "Gifts For Eternity" link. (\$25 paypal fees. Just pay & pick up on *honor system*).
- F. Slide#13,14auto Congratulations to our CM Warriors: Football Team & Girls Var VB & Jr High VB, are the *South Valley League Champs!*

### II. Intro:

- A. Slide#15 It seems like the author of Hebrews would define **religion** as "*Having access to God's presence as friends, with nothing between us & Him.*" William Barclay
  1. The OT Jewish religion was designed to produce **that fellowship** in 2 ways:
    - [1] By **perfect obedience** to the Law [2] or, since that was out of the question, the **sacrificial system** came in.
      - a) So, man would **breach** God's law, a **sacrifice** was to **heal** that breach.

b) **But**, there was also a problem with the *priesthood*.

- B. **Way back in David's time God promised a "new priesthood"**. Ps.110:4 (Heb's brings up 5x's)
1. **But**, a change of the **priesthood**, *means* the whole **legal system** on which the **Levitical institutions** were predicated...*also had to be changed*.
  2. **This former regulation**(Law) has been **replaced** *because* of its **inherent weakness and uselessness**. What has replaced it is the new priesthood which constitutes a *better hope...by which we draw near to God*.
  3. The Law which made **nothing perfect** was **replaced** by a priestly institution which **can accomplish** its objectives *in those who* approach God through it.
    - a) Here the author is affirming Paul's statement, **For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace**. Rom.6:14
- C. **Slide#16** So now the author lists the various characteristics of Jesus, who, according to the Father's decree, is *That Priest*, after the order of Melchizedek. **Thus, his priesthood would be:**
1. **Royal**, as was that of Melchizedek (7:1) **Superior**, to Levi/Aaron priesthood (4-10).
  2. **Independent**, of the law (11,12) & tribe of Levi [Christ came from the tribe of Judah] (13-15). **Everlasting** [endless life, forever] (7:16-17) **Guaranteed** [The Father himself took an oath concerning this] (20-22). **Continuous** (23). **Permanent** (24). **Holy** (26). **All-sufficient** (18,19, 25, 27). **Flawless** (28).

### III. **Slide#17 A NEW PRIESTHOOD (11-19)**

- A. **Slide#18 INSUFFICIENCY OF ONE PRIESTHOOD** (11-14)
- B. The death & res. of Jesus introduced a **new & permanent** priesthood that brings the Levitical priesthood to an **end**, along with its **Law**.
- C. Vs.11 Let's us know that **the law** was given to support **the priesthood & not vice-versa**.
1. **The priesthood & the tabernacle** w/its **sacrifices** were the **means** God employed to render the sinful people **acceptable** to Himself.
  2. **Then**, the **Law** was given w/its **sharp demands** to awaken the people to their true condition...**so** that they might avail themselves of the sacrifices.
  3. The **Law** was simply **a schoolmaster** to lead us to Christ.
    - a) **Slide#19** Sir Philip Sidney wrote, "**Laws are not made like...nets to catch...but rather like seamarks to guide**." [seamark = a conspicuous object distinguishable at sea, to guide or warn sailors in navigation]
  4. **This all must have been just appalling to the Jews listening**, **thus** they would say to Stephen & Paul, **for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and change the customs which Moses delivered to us**. (Acts 6:14)
  5. **But** if **perfection** could have been achieved by the Law & Priesthood, **then why** would the prophecy of David come, regarding a "new priesthood"?

6. **The Law** was an excellent institution...the real problem was that *man was sinful*.
- a) Mt.5:17 Do not think that I came to **destroy** the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to **destroy** but to **fulfill**.
- D. **Slide#20 SUFFICIENCY OF MELCHIZEDEK PRIESTHOOD (15-19)**
- E. (the Law was) **Weak & unprofitable/useless – How?**
1. Since it **cannot cleanse** from sin or **provide power** to obey.
- F. **Slide#21 The law is** the **light** that reveals how dirty the room is, **not** the **broom** that sweeps it **clean**.
- G. **The law is a dentist's mirror** that shows decay, **not** the **instruments** needed to **fix** the cavity.
- H. **The law is a flashlight** that guides you in the dark to the electrical panel, **but doesn't** help you **trip** the breaker.
- I. **The law is a plumb-line**, a framer used to see if something was true to vertical, **but** he never uses it to square the wall.
1. **So, The law points out the problem** of sin; it **doesn't** provide a **solution**.
- J. Despite the Jews *longings*...**access** was *limited* to God.
1. **The Old Cov.** made man *keep his distance*...**The New Cov.** brings man near.
- K. **A better hope** is brought in to replace it which will do what the Law & the priesthood could not do...enable us to **draw near to God**.
1. **Slide#22 Access** was seen as the *highest good*. **Access** presupposes a *right relationship*. **Access** would mean *acceptance* before God & the *forgiveness* of sin. **Access** would also involve an *exposure* to the *glory of his holiness*.
- a) During the **Civil War**, there was a **young Union soldier** who had lost his father and older brother in the war. He went to Washington, D.C., to see if he could get an **exemption from military service** so that he could go back home and help his mother and sister with the spring planting. **When** he approached the White House and asked to see the president, he was turned away. Totally disheartened, the soldier sat down on a park bench nearby. **Slide#23a/b** A little boy approached him and said, "You look unhappy, soldier. What's wrong?" After the soldier shared his story, the little boy **took him by the hand**. He led him through the back door of the White House, past the guards, and into the president's office itself. President Lincoln looked up and asked, "What can I do for you, Tad?" Tad said, "Daddy, this soldier needs to talk to you" - and the soldier was not turned away.<sup>1</sup>
2. **Slide#24** Jesus simply says, "*Abba, this is someone who needs to talk to You.*"

#### IV. **Slide#25 A NEW PRIEST (20-28)**

<sup>1</sup> Progress Magazine, December 12/13, 1992

- A. **Slide#26 PLEDGED PRIEST** (20-22)
- B. Many things we buy today have on them a **warranty or guarantee**. *It is the manufactures promise that the item sold will fulfill the buyer's expectations.*
1. The author now focuses in on **God's oath**.
- C. (22) **A surety/guarantee** – He not only **mediates** the covenant **but guarantees** it.
1. **A mediator** would offer the covenant **but** it would be up to **the believer** to receive it. **A guarantor** however, sees to it that the covenant is **fulfilled**...even though the believer *resists & stumbles* at times.
- D. **Slide#27 PERMANENT PRIESTHOOD** (23-25)
- E. Because he is a **priest forever**, He **saves forever**.
- F. (25) **To the utmost** – means *completely, perfectly, forever*.
1. So we are **secure as long as He lives...& He lives eternally** :)
- G. **He always lives to make intercession for them** –
1. Spurgeon, "If Christ appears in heaven for us, be glad to appear on earth for Him. **If** Christ pleads w/God for men, **let us** plead w/men for God. **If** He by intercession saves us to the uttermost, **let us** hasten to serve Him to the uttermost. **If** He spends eternity in intercession for us, **let us** spend our time in intercession for His cause."
- H. **Slide#28 PERFECT PRIEST** (26-28)
- I. (27) **Once for all** – he provided a *1-time sacrifice* sufficient **for all people, for all time**.
- J. **He offered up Himself** – how much more should we respond by offering up ourselves for Him?
- K. **Slide#29,30** 2 hunters noticed on the horizon a cloud of smoke. Soon he could hear crackling as the wind shifted. He realized a brushfire was advancing, so fast they couldn't outrun it. Rifling through his pockets, he soon found what he was looking for - **a book of matches**. **He lit a small fire around the two of them**. Soon they were standing in a circle of blackened earth, waiting for the fire to come. They didn't have to wait long. They covered their mouths with handkerchiefs and braced themselves. **The fire came near - and swept right past them**. But they were completely unhurt, untouched. **Fire would not pass where fire already had passed**.
1. **The law is like a brushfire**. I cannot escape it. **But** if I stand in the **burned-over place**, **not** a hair of my head will be singed. **Christ's death has disarmed it**.
- L. **Slide#31** "Such then is **our Melchizedek**, God's provision for help in our daily life, **incomparable** in greatness, **inexhaustible** in resource, **infinite** in patience, **infallible** in wisdom & **interested** in all that concerns us." Ray Stedman pg.86
- M. **Communion:**
1. Bread -
  2. Cup -