

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for July 5, 2015

Melchizedek's Priesthood Trumped Aaron's Priesthood
Hebrews 7:20-22

The author in Hebrews 7:11-28 explained why it was necessary for Aaron's priesthood to be replaced by Christ's priesthood which was according to the order of Melchizedek.

It was necessary because Aaron's priesthood could not bring about "perfection" Hebrews 7:11-14.

It was necessary because of God's oath to Christ (Hebrews 7:20-22).

The author, after having introduced the fact that an oath had accompanied the inauguration of Christ's priesthood, then used that fact in Hebrews 7:21 to highlight a sharp contrast between the Levitical priesthood and the priesthood of Christ.

The Levitical priesthood had not been inaugurated with an oath but Christ's priesthood had been inaugurated with an oath (Hebrews 7:21).

The author in seeking to support what he had just said about an oath having accompanied the inauguration of Christ's priesthood then quoted from Psalm 110:4.

Psalm 110:4 made it clear that it was the "Lord" (KURIOS) who swore an oath to "Him" or in other words to Christ on the day of His inauguration as priest.

Psalm 110:4 also made it clear that the oath the "Lord" swore to Christ on the day of His inauguration as priest was that He would be a priest "forever."

After the author established the necessity for the replacement of the Levitical priesthood with Christ's priesthood based on God's oath to Christ, he then explained how Christ, because of God's oath, had become the "guarantee" of a better covenant (Hebrews 7:22).

The word "guarantee" (ENGYOS) which can also be translated "guarantor" referred to a person who assumed responsibility for another person's debt.

When God swore the oath to Christ and He became our forever high priest, He became the guarantee of God's New Covenant promises; for in that role He assumed the responsibility for the fulfillment of those promises.

May God give us the grace to understand that God's placement of Christ at His right hand as our forever-heavenly priest was to assure us that His promises to us would be fulfilled.