

## Christ Our Surety

Harmony M.B.C., June 22, 2008 (Morning)

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**Heb 7:21-25** (For those priests were made without an oath; but this with an oath by him that said unto him, The Lord swore and will not repent, Thou *art* a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek:) 22 By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament. 23 And they truly were many priests, because they were not suffered to continue by reason of death: 24 But this *man*, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. 25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

Here in this chapter we find writings which address the Jewish fixation on the Mosaic law and the Levitical priesthood with its associated ceremonial offerings which were types of that which was to come. We often find couched in Holy Writ which addresses the Jewish misconceptions about these types some wonderful doctrine related to Jesus Christ. It is inevitable that when New Testament writers should address these things that Christ would show forth preeminently. The awful fact of Jewish blindness then, has given rise to Holy Scriptures from which we can draw again and again messages from God that magnify our Lord and Savior.

So, in this text today are some truths about Christ and about the eternal salvation that He has wrought for His people that should bring us out of our seats when we contemplate them. It is to these ideas that I want to turn this morning, and trust that the Holy Spirit will revive our spirits regarding the finished work of Jesus Christ.

### **I. V. 22 - Jesus Christ Stands as a Pledge Ensuring and Confirming a Better Covenant Than The Covenant Made to The Jews and Instituted Under Moses**

(egguos): *eng'-goo-os*: From Gr. En = fixed in position or time and “guion” (a limb); *pledged* (as if articulated by a member), that is, a *bondsman*: - surety.

- Here is a word image of a person who has come before a judge with the price of freedom in his hand to buy out of prison a criminal.
- This is also a word image of a person who has come to stand as a substitute for a criminal. This person is saying to the judge, “I will take this person’s place under the law.”
- Every time we hear, read, or think of the name of Jesus Christ it should be a confirmation that there is certainty in the covenant of grace between God and us.
  
- ✓ The whole foundation of the covenant of grace stands on this one base: that Jesus Christ is the pledge from God that eternal life is secure in Him. (If this were not true, Holy Scripture could never say [Romans 8:38-39 “For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord”].

## **II. VV. 23-24 - The Contrast Between the Priests of the Jewish Covenant and Jesus Christ Further Substantiates the Superiority of the New Covenant of Grace**

- Every earthly priest that ever served at an altar is now dead, or will die, but Jesus Christ is alive forevermore
- The death of priests serving at earthly altars require a changing of the guard (so to speak), but the everlasting nature of Christ ensures that the same priest will be perpetually representing us as High Priest.

## **III. V. 25 - The Superiority of His Priesthood Makes The Covenant of Grace Unshakeable**

**The complete and absolute effectiveness of Jesus Christ as Priest (able to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him)**

- If we could rush to the outer perimeter of this solar system..beyond Neptune, beyond Pluto we would find that we have not neared the distant place called “the uttermost”
- If we could take a space ship and fly through the almost limitless expanse of the universe...if we could come to the very edge of what we call universe, we would find that we had not reached the distant place called “the uttermost.”
- If we could traverse time until we launched out into eternity and time ceased to be an element that we existed in, we would still not have reached that far shore called “the uttermost.”
- If we could speed through the infinity of eternity, we would never get to that place called “the uttermost.”

**The absolute nature of this infinite saving capacity exists because the surety (the one who pledged Himself, the bond-maker) has secured it by Himself and the God whom He secured it from has sworn the ultimate oath in a promise that it is secure (see Heb 6:13-20)**

- Some words about the simplicity of becoming a recipient of this far-reaching covenant security (“that come unto God by Him”)
- The reason why His Priesthood is so complete and absolute: He ever liveth to make intercession for them
- ✓ There will never be a moment nor a bit of eternity in which there will not be a High Priest

before the altar of God interceding for the saints

- ✓ There will never be a time that God will have to appoint another High Priest to represent us.

Rev 1:17-18 "...Fear not; I am the first and the last: 18 I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive forevermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death."