

As Hebrews 7 ends and chapter 8 opens, the author builds on Jesus being a better priest. The previous section established Christ as a priest in the order of Melchizedek, and in this section the author argues, in greater detail, why Jesus is better able to save, leaving readers with a clear recognition of what we have in Christ.

Hebrews 7:23-8:2

Jesus

Compared to
Melchizedek

I. COMPARING OUR STORIES

MY EXPERIENCE...

YOUR EXPERIENCE...

Good is the enemy to better. Better is the enemy to best. In the midst of good options, sometimes the real battle is determining which one is the best. Trying to prayerfully discern what is best in any situation is much harder than choosing good from bad, since that choice is typically a clear one. As Christians, we often need to look wisely into those things that are best.

II. CONSIDERING OUR STRUGGLES

SHARE of an experience when you were faced with two decisions or options, both of which were considered good. How did you come to the final decision of what you would do?

WHY is it sometimes difficult to make a decision when both choices present good options?

CAN you think of a scenario where a decision may have been good for a time, but now no longer is? **EXPLAIN** why things may have shifted in the situation.

Hebrews 7:23-8:2

Jesus Compared to Melchizedek

Read Hebrews 7:23-8:2

OBSERVATION

What does vs. 24 say is true of the Levitical priests, and how does this contrast with Jesus?

According to vs. 25, what is the result of vs. 24?

What does vs. 26 say is fitting in a high priest?

Vs. 27-28 contrasts the qualification of the Levitical priest to that of Jesus. What observations can you make regarding these contrasts?

According to 8:1-2, what does the text say is the point of what he is saying?

INTERPRETATION

Why is it significant that the former priests (the Levites) were necessarily numerous, but Jesus continues forever (vs. 23-24)?

What does it mean that Jesus, “Is able to save to the uttermost” (vs. 25)?

Why does it matter that Jesus “always lives to make intercession” (vs. 25)?

Why is it fitting that our high priest should have the characteristics described in vs. 26-27?

Explain what the author means when he contrasts men appointed by the law with Jesus appointed with an oath (vs. 28). Consider what was previously stated in 6:13-18 for insight.

Give three reasons from the text that describe why Jesus’ priesthood is better than that of the Old Testament Levites.

What does it mean that we have (present tense) a high priest who is sitting at the “Right hand of the throne of Majesty”? Why is this significant to us today?

APPLICATION

Why does Jesus’ better priesthood and His guarantee of a better covenant matter to you?