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Sermon Notes

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The Priesthood Changed... and With It, the Law

Hebrews 7:11-17

What an unforgettable experience it must have been... to stand at the base of Mount Sinai, to see the mountain wrapped in a thick cloud, to see the top of it billowing like the smoke from a kiln, to feel the entire mountain trembling beneath your feet; to see the lightning and hear the thunder; to hear an unearthly trumpet blast; and to see on the faces of your loved ones and neighbors the same terror you felt in your heart; then to draw as near as the barriers allowed, to remember the command that if anyone crossed the boundary and went up on the mountain he must be stoned... to feel the terror of impending death;

Then above all, to hear the awesome voice of Almighty God speak words to you... the commands of God; the Ten Commandments, spoken clearly and unforgettably; then Moses, your leader, went up on the mountain for forty days and returned with the tablets of stone—the Ten Commandments written with the finger of God... a sense of the eternal nature of the Law of God given on Mount Sinai

And God also spoke to Moses many other commandments, most of them centering on the animal sacrificial system; God gave clear instructions for the establishment of the Tabernacle, the Ark of the Covenant, and the various elements of the sacrificial system—the altar for sacrifices, the altar for incense, the basin for washing, the table for the showbread, the lampstand...

Then God gave clear commands for the establishment of a Priesthood—Aaron would be the first, and his sons would follow him. God commanded that Moses make magnificent clothes, priestly vestments, that would set Aaron off with dignity and honor.

When the time came, all of these things were constructed... and Aaron was called forward: Moses consecrated Aaron with the blood of the sacrifice, and clothed Aaron with the most magnificent robes ever designed by the people of God

What dignity and honor was conferred on Aaron that day—clothed with the priestly robes that God Himself had specifically designed with rich symbolic meaning

Aaron stood there, in front of the people, glowing with the honor that God had bestowed on him

Later, God openly supported Aaron's ministry as priest when Korah, Dathan, and Abiram revolted... they claimed that ALL of God's people were EQUALLY priests before God, that ALL of God's people were holy in His sight, and that no one tribe or one man should exalt himself above all the rest. There were 250 men in all involved in this direct

rebellion against Aaron's priesthood. God commanded that Korah, Dathan, and Abiram and the 250 men with them should appear before the Lord and offer incense in an incenser. And God would show whom he would accept as a priest. When the time came, the ground opened up under Korah, Dathan, and Abiram and swallowed them alive. Then supernatural fire came out from the Lord and burned the 250 men who were offering incense. So God clearly chose Aaron as his priest.

But even that wasn't enough. The next day the people complained against Aaron again... so God had a representative from each tribe choose a staff and write on that staff his name, and He had Aaron also choose a staff and write his name on it. God would choose one of the staffs to show who He had chosen as a priest to minister before Him and offer sacrifices and represent the sinful people to a holy God.

So all twelve men wrote their names on their staffs and laid them before the Lord.

The next day, they went to look at the staffs and this was the result:

Numbers 17:8 ... behold, the staff of Aaron for the house of Levi had sprouted and put forth buds and produced blossoms, and it bore ripe almonds.

So God clearly established the glory and honor of the priesthood of Aaron... and the clearest symbol day after day were the priestly robes, the robes of honor and glory that God had made for him... by which God had invested in him the dignity of being High Priest

But there came another day years later when those robes were taken from him by the command of God and given to another:

Numbers 20:25-28 Take Aaron and Eleazar his son and bring them up to Mount Hor. ²⁶ And strip Aaron of his garments and put them on Eleazar his son. And Aaron shall be gathered to his people and shall die there." ²⁷ Moses did as the LORD commanded. And they went up Mount Hor in the sight of all the congregation. ²⁸ And Moses stripped Aaron of his garments and put them on Eleazar his son. And Aaron died there on the top of the mountain.

God has the power to give the priesthood to Aaron, and He also has the power to take it away from Aaron and give it to someone else.

Yes, the next person that God the priesthood was Aaron's son, Eleazar, and this established the pattern of genetic succession: only descendents of Aaron could be priests under the Law of Moses...

BUT THE SAME GOD WHO HAS POWER TO ESTABLISH THIS PRIESTHOOD ALSO HAS THE POWER TO CHANGE IT!!!

And that is precisely what He has done in Jesus...

He has lifted the priestly robes PERMANENTLY from Aaron's sons and put it forever on His own son, Jesus Christ

And in order to do that legally, the Law of Moses itself must become obsolete...the Law which established the priesthood must be abolished with the priesthood itself... the priesthood and the law are linked and in Christ they have become OBSOLETE

I. The Levitical Priesthood Fundamental to Jewish Life

A. Difficult to Overstate How Huge the Levitical Priesthood Was to Jewish Life

1. Three times a year, every Jewish male had to appear before the Lord at the Temple
2. When they arrived, they were commanded not to appear empty-handed
3. Their sacrifices were acceptable only through the ministry of the Aaronic priests

B. From Childhood Up

1. This was intrinsic to the fabric of Jewish life
2. They could not conceive of a world in which the Levitical priesthood was abolished

C. The Levitical Priesthood was God-Ordained... and therefore it seemed perfect

D. Any Effort to Make Changes Were Reacted to Violently

1. In the case of Stephen

Acts 6:13-14 They produced false witnesses, who testified, "This fellow never stops speaking against this holy place and against the law. ¹⁴ For we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and change the customs Moses handed down to us."

When Stephen argued that the temple itself was temporary and man-made, the Jews went crazy and stoned him to death

Acts 7:48-50 "However, the Most High does not live in houses made by men. As the prophet says: ⁴⁹ "Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. What kind of house will you build for me? says the Lord. Or where will my resting place be? ⁵⁰ Has not my hand made all these things?"

Acts 7:55-58 But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ "Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." ⁵⁷

At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, ⁵⁸ dragged him out of the city and began to stone him.

2. In the case of Paul

Acts 21:21 They have been informed that you teach all the Jews who live among the Gentiles to turn away from Moses, telling them not to circumcise their children or live according to our customs.

Acts 21:27-30 Some Jews from the province of Asia saw Paul at the temple. They stirred up the whole crowd and seized him, ²⁸ shouting, "Men of Israel, help us! This is the man who teaches all men everywhere against our people and our law and this place. And besides, he has brought Greeks into the temple area and defiled this holy place." ²⁹ (They had previously seen Trophimus the Ephesian in the city with Paul and assumed that Paul had brought him into the temple area.) ³⁰ The whole city was aroused, and the people came running from all directions. Seizing Paul, they dragged him from the temple, and immediately the gates were shut.

E. How Difficult It Would Be for the Author to the Hebrews to Prove this to the Jews

John Owen: "And this I look upon as the greatest trial the faith of men has ever had in the concerns of religion; namely, to believe that God should take away, abolish and leave as dead and useless, that whole system of worship which He had appointed in so glorious a manner, and accepted for so many generations."

1. The Author to the Hebrews has to prove to Jewish Christians that the sacrificial system was OVER
2. That the Aaronic priesthood was OBSOLETE
3. That there would never again be the need for another animal sacrifice for the rest of their lives
4. That the temple itself was UNNEEDED
5. That the thrice-annual pilgrimages to Jerusalem were finished
6. This is the task of the Book of Hebrews
7. Here in Hebrews 7:11-17, he focuses on evidence that God has always intended to set up a priesthood not in the order of Aaron... a permanent, holy priesthood that would bring about the perfection we yearn for and need

II. First Proof of the Change: God Spoke About Another Priest

Hebrews 7:17 For it is declared: "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek."

Psalm 110:4 The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind: "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek."

A. Facts are Stubborn Things... How Much More God's Unchangeable Word

In March of 1770, the contentiousness between the colonials and the British redcoats in Boston reached a boiling point; some redcoats were severely provoked by some area ruffians and were goaded into opening fire on the crowd, killing five people. The fervor of patriotism was at an all-time high in Boston, calling for the immediate execution of the soldiers involved. Amazingly at that time, a renowned patriot leader and lawyer John Adams stepped forward and agreed to defend the soldiers. At the trial, Adams proved that the commander had never given the order to fire, and that the soldiers had been under grave danger and were legally permitted to defend themselves. During this defense he uttered these famous words:

Facts are stubborn things; and whatever may be our wishes, our inclinations, or the dictates of our passion, they cannot alter the state of facts and evidence.

In other words, facts don't just go away... they stand in your face and DEMAND that you deal with them

1. How Much More God's Word!!

Psalm 119:152 Long ago I learned from your statutes that you established them to last forever.

Matthew 24:35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

2. God's Word Stands and Challenges Our Preconceived Notions

B. God Set the Table in Genesis 14 by Introducing the mysterious Melchizedek

Genesis 14:18-20 Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High, ¹⁹ and he blessed Abram, saying, "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. ²⁰ And blessed be God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand." Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

C. Then, a Thousand Years Later, God Spoke Psalm 110:4

1. Somewhere around 1000 B.C., King David wrote Psalm 110
2. It contains two BOMBSHELLS for the people of God... two insights they had never noticed before
3. First, that the Son of David (the Davidic king) would truly be David's Lord... that the Son of David was really the Son of God

Psalm 110:1 The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet."

Matthew 22:45 If then David calls him 'Lord,' how can he be his son?"

4. Second, that the Son of David (the Davidic King) would be a priest in the order of Melchizedek

Psalm 110:4 The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind: "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek."

D. The First Significance of the Statement: We Need a Priest-King

E. The First Significance of Psalm 110: The Levitical Priesthood Is Inadequate

III. Second Proof of the Change: Perfection Impossible by the Levitical Priesthood

Hebrews 7:11 If perfection could have been attained through the Levitical priesthood (for on the basis of it the law was given to the people), why was there still need for another priest to come-- one in the order of Melchizedek, not in the order of Aaron?

A. The Word "Perfect" or "Perfection" a Vital One in Hebrews

1. God Himself is perfectly holy, and He requires perfect holiness to be in His presence
2. Clear testimony

Deuteronomy 32:4 He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he.

2 Samuel 22:31 "As for God, his way is perfect; the word of the LORD is flawless.

Habakkuk 1:13 Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrong.

3. The concept of "perfection" is a powerful one in Hebrews
 - a. Christ is said to have been perfect

Hebrews 2:10 Christ was made perfect through suffering

Hebrews 5:9 Once Christ was made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation

- b. The word sometimes is translated "mature"

Hebrews 5:14 But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

Hebrews 6:1 Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity

- c. Later we will be told that the OT sacrificial system could not make our conscience “perfect”

ESV Hebrews 9:9 According to this arrangement, gifts and sacrifices are offered that cannot perfect the conscience of the worshiper

Hebrews 10:1 ¶ The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming-- not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship.

- d. In this sense we are told the law can make NOTHING perfect

Hebrews 7:19 (for the law made nothing perfect)

- e. Beautifully we are also told that Jesus’ one sacrifice DOES make us perfect

Hebrews 10:14 because by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.

- f. And in Hebrews 12, we are told that Jesus has power not only to begin our faith but to make it perfect

Hebrews 12:2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith

- g. Finally, in Hebrews 12, we are told of those whose spirits ARE made “perfect”

Hebrews 12:23 the spirits of righteous men made perfect

4. Definition of “perfection”

A.W. Pink: “Perfection means the bringing of a thing to that completeness of condition designed for it. Doctrinally it refers to the producing of a satisfactory and final relation between God and men. It speaks of that unchangeable standing in the favor and blessing of God which Christ has secured for his people.”

B. Perfection the Goal of the Priesthood

1. God ultimately gave the priesthood to attain perfection
2. The purpose of the Levitical priesthood was to address human sinfulness and stand as mediator between God and man

C. The Levitical Priesthood Could Not Attain Perfection

1. Simple question:

Hebrews 7:11 “If perfection could have been attained through the Levitical priesthood, why was there still need for another priest to come, one in the order of Melchizedek”?

2. Simple logic: if it’s not broken, don’t fix it!!

3. Even better, if it’s perfect, you CERTAINLY don’t fix it!

4. If all was well with what God instituted through Moses, why the prophecy of Psalm 110:4??? Why does God SWEAR AN OATH to the Son of David,

“The Lord has SWORN and will not change His mind... You are a priest FOREVER in the order of Melchizedek.”

That statement PROVES that perfection could never come by the Levitical priesthood

D. What “Perfection” then Does Christ’s Priesthood Bring In? [John Owen’s Answer]

1. Perfect Righteousness

a. Our sin made us imperfect in God’s sight

b. Perfect righteousness is required to be in God’s presence

c. The Levitical priesthood could not bring about righteousness, sin it was limited animal offerings made by sinful men who had to offer sacrifices first for their own sins

d. Christ’s sacrifice gives us perfect righteousness

2 Corinthians 5:21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2. Perfect Peace

a. Our sin made us at war with God

b. The Levitical priesthood could not cleanse our conscience... it left us still feeling guilty, knowing that the blood of bulls and goats could never take away sin

c. Christ’s death on the cross has made perfect peace with God possible

Colossians 1:20 through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

3. Perfect Light

- a. Sin had left us in darkness, no knowing God or His ways
- b. The Levitical priesthood was a mere shadow of the light that would come; in some ways it even deepened the darkness, because people trusted in the Levitical sacrifices and did not seek genuine knowledge of God
- c. Christ's ministry as our High Priest brings perfect light

John 8:12 When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

4. Perfect Access to God

- a. Our sins have blocked us out from God... kept us from entering His presence
- b. The Levitical priesthood was all about BARRIERS and RESTRICTIONS... "Thus far you may come and no farther"; the Holy of Holies in the Tabernacle and the Temple was forbidden to any but the High Priest
- c. In Jesus, freedom of access to God is clearly and perfectly established forever

Hebrews 10:19-22 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith

5. Perfect Unveiling of the Future State

- a. Whatever knowledge of eternal life, of eternal blessedness, of eternal freedom from death and sin individual saints enjoyed in Old Covenant times, it was NOT conveyed to them through the Levitical priesthood!!
- b. Rather, the true unveiling of our eternal future has come only through the ministry of Jesus Christ
- c. Before Christ came, all humanity was held in bondage through fear of death
- d. Christ released the captives and gave us total confidence of eternity beyond death by His resurrection from the dead

2 Timothy 1:10 [God's grace] has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

6. Perfect Joy

- a. It may be that Old Testament saints rejoiced greatly in God and His goodness, but it was NOT by the Levitical priesthood that that joy came!
- b. The true ground of their joy in the Old Covenant was that someday death would be swallowed up in victory (Isaiah 25:8)
- c. The ongoing ministry of blood—year after year, sheep, cattle, bulls offered on the altar by the Levitical priesthood—could never bring joy but only futility
- d. True joy comes from the ministry of our final, eternal, great high priest

Hebrews 12:2 who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Jude 1:24 [Jesus, our great high priest] is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy

7. Perfect Boasting in the Lord

- a. Self-salvation is the great enemy of the true gospel... salvation by works of the law, if it were even possible, results in sinners arrogantly BOASTING in their own achievements... they have saved themselves by their works
- b. The Levitical priesthood could have tended in that direction... creating a trampling of God's courts by arrogant sinners who think they can demand forgiveness by their works of the law
- c. But the ministry of Jesus our High Priest enables us to be totally humbled and to boast in the Lord ALONE

1 Corinthians 1:31 as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

See how perfection could NEVER have come through the Levitical priesthood... but only through the ministry of Jesus, the Great High Priest

IV. Third Proof of the Change: A Priest Like Melchizedek HAS Come!

A. This is a Historical Argument... Jesus Has Come

Hebrews 7:15-16 And what we have said is even more clear if another priest like Melchizedek appears, ¹⁶ one who has become a priest not on the basis of a regulation as to his ancestry but on the basis of the power of an indestructible life.

1. The author is talking about what God has now done by sending Jesus

2. He is not quoting scripture but (for them) recent history
3. He is speaking of the significance of

B. Jesus' Credentials Line Up with Psalm 110

1. He is a King in the Line of David
2. He is a Priest whose Sacrifice Atones for Sin
3. He is the Son of God as Attested to by His Miracles
4. His ETERNAL Priesthood is attested to by His Personhood as the Resurrected Son of God
 - a. Jesus' right to be the priest-kind is based on the power of His indestructible life
 - b. Jesus in and of Himself is the Son of God

C. In the Fullness of Time, God Has Fulfilled His Promises

1. The appearance of such a man in space and time validates the obscure prophecy of Melchizedek
2. Jesus fits the pattern perfectly: a priest-king who rules forever and who offers His own blood as a final sacrifice to make his people holy

D. If Not, Psalm 110:4 Would be Completely Obscure... and the Clearer Light of the Levitical Priesthood Must Continue

1. If Jesus hadn't come, would there have even been a question about the Levitical priesthood?
2. Even with His astonishing life and ministry, this lesson was blasphemous to some, very difficult to accept for others
3. How could something that God Himself instituted at Mount Sinai, and which has been running for 1500 years now be obsolete?
4. Even after the exile, the top priority for the returning Jews was the reestablishment of the temple and the animal sacrificial system
5. This was MEAT, not milk... the coming of Jesus means the end of the sacrificial system

E. Furthermore, God Has Attested to the End of the Sacrificial System

1. The Curtain in the Temple was Torn

2. Messengers Have Proclaimed the End
 - a. Stephen
 - b. Paul
 - c. The Author to Hebrews
3. Now... two thousand years later, it is CLEAR...
 - a. The temple was destroyed in AD 70 by the Romans
 - b. Animal sacrifice ended right there and then
 - c. Modern day Jews have no idea who the Levites are... that system could never be reestablished
 - d. And it all ended around the time of Jesus
 - e. A new priesthood has been established

V. The Staggering Implications of the Change: the Law Must Also Change

A. This is the Whole Point of the Book of Hebrews

1. The Old Covenant has become OBSOLETE with the coming of Jesus!
2. The Jews CANNOT go back to what God Himself has dismantled... this is NO VIABLE OPTION
3. The Jews cannot waffle between the two... they cannot serve BOTH Moses AND Jesus... the Levitical priesthood has done its job in prefiguring the priestly work of Christ... but it was merely a type and a shadow; there is NO SAFE HAVEN there ever again for Jews... the time has come to leave the Mosaic sacrifices behind FOREVER

B. The Need for the Change of the Law Clearly Stated

Hebrews 7:11 the Levitical priesthood (for on the basis of it the law was given to the people)

Hebrews 7:12 For when there is a change of the priesthood, there must also be a change of the law.

1. There is an intimate link between the Law of Moses and the Levitical Priesthood

2. From Exodus 25-40, the account covers nothing but the establishment of the Tabernacle, the implements for the sacrifices, and the garments and duties of Aaron, the High Priest
3. The Author tells us that “on the basis of the Levitical priesthood” the Law of Moses was given

C. The Reason for the Change Laid Out

Hebrews 7:13-14 He of whom these things are said belonged to a different tribe, and no one from that tribe has ever served at the altar. ¹⁴ For it is clear that our Lord descended from Judah, and in regard to that tribe Moses said nothing about priests.

1. The Law of Moses made it plain, in the ways we have laid out, that the priestly class had to come from one tribe—Levi—and in particular, one family from that tribe, the Sons of Aaron
2. The Kingship was established with David (“by a covenant of salt”), and David was of the tribe of Judah... God made a covenant with David that one of his sons would sit on the throne FOREVER
3. The Messiah would definitely be born the “Son of David”
4. Jesus came from the tribe of Judah, fulfilling the promise made to David
5. But what of the priesthood?
 - a. Under the Law of Moses, no Son of David could ever serve at the altar
 - b. As we have often mentioned before, when King Uzziah boldly tried to offer incense at the altar, he was stopped by Azariah the priest and 80 other courageous priests

2 Chronicles 26:18 They confronted him and said, "It is not right for you, Uzziah, to burn incense to the LORD. That is for the priests, the descendants of Aaron, who have been consecrated to burn incense. Leave the sanctuary, for you have been unfaithful; and you will not be honored by the LORD God."

When King Uzziah raged back at Azariah, steeped in pride, he began to throw the incenser at Azariah... but before he could, God struck him with leprosy; at that point, Uzziah lost all his arrogance and was quickly led out of the holy place

This is a lesson from history that the Law of Moses FORBADE a Son of David from entering the temple to do the work of a priest

- c. For Jesus to serve as a priest, it had to be in a new order of priesthood, and that required a change in the Law

Hebrews 7:12 For when there is a change of the priesthood, there must also be a change of the law.

d. Jesus is not arrogant toward His Father; He would never seize from His Father what He Father was unwilling to give

e. But

God has SWORN and will not change his mind, “You are a priest forever in the order of Melchizedek.”

6. Thus it is clearly stated that the Law of Moses separating the Kingship from the Priesthood is ABOLISHED FOREVER... and a new order of priesthood is established by which Jesus is our great high priest

7. Since the Law of Moses is abolished, we need never offer animal sacrifices again... indeed we MUST NOT!!!

It would be the HEIGHT of arrogance now to reestablish the animal sacrifices and Levitical priesthood

8. Only God could have abolished what He established... but that is precisely what He has done in Jesus!!

9. Note also the great mercy of God in all this

VI. The Superiority of the Priesthood of Jesus: Eternal Life

Hebrews 7:16-17 one who has become a priest not on the basis of a regulation as to his ancestry but on the basis of the power of an indestructible life. ¹⁷ For it is declared: “You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.”

A. The Basis of the Levitical Priesthood: A “Carnal” Law

1. Literally a “fleshly command”

2. This is related to mere genealogy... the firstborn son of the present High Priest would become the next High Priest... it was all based on the FLESH

B. The Basis of Jesus’ Priesthood: The Power of an Indestructible Life

1. Not merely his human life: He was chosen to be the true priest of God’s people before the foundation of the world

2. The whole pattern of Melchizedek was determined by God before the world began

Revelation 13:8 ... the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world.

3. He is the eternal Son of God, without beginning, without end
4. At the right time, He became human by the will of God
5. After His death, He was resurrected and can NEVER DIE AGAIN; death no longer can have any mastery over Him
 - a. AND Jesus' resurrection proves that He can never die, and is thus a fitting priest for us... fulfilling the word "Forever" in the prophecy

Psalm 110:4 "You are a priest FOREVER in the order of Melchizedek.."

Hebrews 7:23-25 Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office; ²⁴ but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. ²⁵ Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

VII. Applications

A. Praise God for His Mercy in Giving Us Such a Priesthood!

1. See the superiority of this great High Priest, whose ministry is based on His indestructible life
2. See how Jesus constantly lives to intercede for you

B. Thank God that We Have Been Freed Forever from the Law of Moses

John Owen: "It was a great mercy to give the Law, and a greater mercy to take it away!"

1. Its regulations were strict and difficult
2. The Law was a constant feature in the Jewish life
3. It was completely ineffective in addressing the guilty conscience
4. Thank God that the blood of Jesus will never lose its power to cleanse a guilty conscience!!

C. Thank God for the Power that the Law of Moses Still Has, Though Obsolete, to Instruct Us

1. We can still read the Law of Moses and learn its lessons
2. We can understand the need for a blood sacrifice to make us perfect
3. We can see the meticulous care with which God set up the Levitical system, with all of its marvelous symbolism and its pilgrimages and its constant flow of blood

4. We can see how it all points to Jesus so clearly

D. Flee to Christ for the Forgiveness of Sins!!