

# A Greater Guarantee

Jesus is Greater #12 - Pastor Gary Combs - October 13, 2024 - Hebrews 7:18-28

**INTRO:** Good morning church! We are continuing our series entitled, “JESUS IS GREATER: An Exposition of Hebrews.” Remember our theme verse is:

Hebrews 1:4 (NLT) This shows that the Son is far greater than the angels, just as the name God gave him is greater than their names.

Today, we delve into the profound truth found in Hebrews 7:18-28, exploring the theme "A Greater Guarantee." The author of Hebrews, writing to believers with a Jewish background, emphasizes that Jesus is not just a new figure in their faith but the ultimate guarantee and fulfillment of it. In a world where assurances often falter and guarantees can be broken, we find that Jesus offers a promise that is steadfast, eternal, and perfect.

**Need:** We live in world filled with guarantees, lifetime warranties, insurances, promises and so on. Our culture knows full well that we the consumer are looking for things that last, things that have been guaranteed to succeed for us. We will likely feel more comfortable buying a product with a lifetime warranty or a vehicle with 100k mile powertrain warranty. We are even comforted knowing that this life insurance policy will help our families even though we will see no fulfillment of that, we are comforted merely by faith in their policy.

But what about the small print, what about the end of the commercial where the guy starts talking 100 mph about all the things that it won't cover and all the side effects, how about when the vehicle breaks at 101k miles ... what if the job that promised you a raise fires you instead, what if he doesn't stick around until death do you part, what if the operation that had a 95% success rate fails? We have lots of guarantees in this life, but lots of broken ones too. Many of us are painfully living through many unfulfilled guarantees and desperate for someone to follow through.

**Trans:** Wouldn't you be pleased to discover that in your area of greatest need, you have a guarantee that is totally certain? Our salvation, our spiritual access to the living God, our communion with Him is made certain, guaranteed by our savior Jesus Christ.

**BODY:** In Hebrews 7:18-28, the author explained to the Jewish background believers that Jesus is a greater guarantee of salvation. We can understand that Jesus is a greater guarantee of salvation. Why is Jesus a greater guarantee of salvation? The text gives three reasons why Jesus is a greater guarantee of salvation.

**Read text:** Hebrews 7:18-28 (ESV) <sup>18</sup> For on the one hand, a former commandment is set aside because of its weakness and uselessness <sup>19</sup> (for the law made nothing perfect); but on the other hand, a better hope is introduced, through which we draw near to God. <sup>20</sup> And it was not without an oath. For those who formerly became priests were made such without an oath, <sup>21</sup> but this one was made a priest with an oath by the one who said to him: "The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind, 'You are a priest forever.'" <sup>22</sup> This makes Jesus the guarantor of a better covenant. <sup>23</sup> The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office, <sup>24</sup> but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. <sup>25</sup> Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them. <sup>26</sup> For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. <sup>27</sup> He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself. <sup>28</sup> For the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.

## JESUS IS A GREATER GUARANTEE OF SALVATION...

### 1. Because Jesus is our promised guarantor.

**EXP:** (18-22) Look at v.22. Circle “guarantor.” Jesus is our promised guarantor, fulfilling the covenant God made with His people. The author draws a stark contrast between the Old Covenant and the New Covenant established through Christ. The law, while good, was unable to save; it could not provide true access to God. The former priests were flawed human beings offering a weak and useless system for salvation.

“**Guarantor**” (22) (ἔγγυος, *enguos*) - a surety, a bondsman. Occurs only once in the NT. The guarantee is better because the guarantor, the bondsman, is the son of God and not another human priest.

“**Former commandment**” (18) (προάγω, *proagō*) - preceding, prior in time, previous. An explanation of v.12 “For when there is a change in the priesthood, there is necessarily a change in the law as well.”

“**Set aside**” (18) (ἀθέτησις, *athetēsis*) - abolition, disannulling, put away, rejection. Why? 3 reasons:

(1) “**Weakness**” (18) (ἀσθενής, *asthenēs*) - impotent, sick, without strength, weak(-er, -ness.)

(2) “**Uselessness**” (18) (ἀνωφελής, *anōphelēs*) - unprofitable, useless

(3) “**Law made nothing perfect**” (19) (τελειώω, *teleiōō*) - to make perfect, complete, finish, bring to an end.

## A Greater Guarantee

Jesus is Greater #12 - Pastor Gary Combs - October 13, 2024 - Hebrews 7:18-28

Galatian 3:23-25 (NLT) <sup>23</sup> Before the way of faith in Christ was available to us, we were placed under guard by the law. We were kept in protective custody, so to speak, until the way of faith was revealed. <sup>24</sup> Let me put it another way. The law was our guardian until Christ came; it protected us until we could be made right with God through faith. <sup>25</sup> And now that the way of faith has come, we no longer need the law as our guardian.

“**Better hope**” (19) (ἐλπίς, *elpis*) - more useful, more excellent; confident expectation

“**Introduced**” (19) (ἐπεισαγωγή, *epaisagōgē*) - a bringing in besides or in addition to

“**Draw near to God**” (19) (ἐγγίζω, *engizō*) - to bring near, to draw or come near to, to approach

“**Oath**” (20, 4x) (ὄρκωμοσία, *horkōmosia*) - affirmation made on oath, the taking of an oath, an oath, asseveration on oath. “**Sworn**” (21) (ὀμνύω, *omnuō*) - to swear, to affirm, promise, threaten, with an oath

“**Will not change His mind**” (21) (μεταμέλομαι, *metamelomai*) - KJV says “will not repent.”

“**Priest forever**” (21) (αἰών, *aiōn*) - for ever, an unbroken age, perpetuity of time, eternity

“**Better covenant**” (22) (διαθήκη, *diathēkē*) - a disposition, a testament or will; a compact, a covenant.

**ARG:** **Jesus is the only mediator between God and humanity.**

1 Timothy 2:5 (ESV) For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.

**ILL:** My father worked for Sears and Roebuck. He loved Craftsman tools. I have his metal tool box. He always told me that he bought Craftsman because they had a lifetime guarantee.

In 1927, Sears bought the rights to the name Craftsman from the Marion-Craftsman Tool Company for \$500. That same year they introduced a lifetime warranty on a substantial number of Craftsman products like hammers, pliers, screwdrivers, wrenches, ratchets, and so on. However, that guarantee looked really uncertain when Sears went from the world's largest retailer, with nearly 3500 stores, to now only 10 stores. In 2017, Sears sold Craftsman to Stanley Black & Decker for \$900 million. Today, retailers like Lowes are required to honor the lifetime warranty in order to carry the product.

**APP:** You see, the guarantee is only as good as the guarantor. If the company goes under, typically the guarantee dies with them. So the guarantee of law was conditional and imperfect because its guarantor was likewise imperfect, but church know this ... your guarantee is in the Son of God! Jesus is our promised guarantor. We can trust in Him completely, knowing that He is the ultimate promise of salvation.

## 2. Because Jesus is our eternal priest.

**EXP:** (23-25) Notice the words “permanently” and forever” (24) and “always lives” (25). The former priests were many because they were mortal and could not continue in their roles indefinitely. But Jesus is our eternal priest, who lives forever to save us and intercede for us.

“**Former priests**” (23) (ἱερεὺς, *hiereus*) - prior, before, former. The Levitical priests.

“**Many in number**” (23) (πλείων, *pleiōn*) - greater in quantity.

“**Prevented by death**” (23) (κωλύω, *kōlyō*) - Death prevented them from being a priest forever. Mortal.

“**Permanently**” (24) (ἀπαράβατος, *aparabatos*) - unviolated, unchangeable, no need for a successor.

**Four features of the greater guarantee for a better covenant in Jesus Christ:**

(1) “**Able to save**” (25) (δύναμαι, *dunamai*) - to be able, strong and powerful; to save, keep safe.

(2) “**Draw near to God**” (25) (προσέρχομαι, *proserchomai*) - come near, access.

(3) “**Always lives**” (25) (πάντοτε, *pantote*) - at all times, always, ever. “

(4) **Make intercession**” (25) (ἐντυγχάνω, *entugchanō*) - to go to for supplication; to pray, intercede for.

# A Greater Guarantee

Jesus is Greater #12 - Pastor Gary Combs - October 13, 2024 - Hebrews 7:18-28

**ARG:** The eternal priest of the new covenant is Jesus, He is the only mediator for us:

Hebrews 4:14-16 (ESV) <sup>14</sup> Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. <sup>15</sup> For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. <sup>16</sup> Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

**Because of Christ, our eternal priest, we now have access to God (We can draw near):**

Romans 5:1-2 (ESV) <sup>1</sup> Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>2</sup> Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

**ILL:** “How, then, were Old Testament saints eternally saved, born again, and sealed for heaven? The Bible makes it clear that eternal salvation has always come by grace through faith (Rom. 4:1-15). Eternal salvation has never been earned by works, by obeying the Law (Gal, 2:21), or by animal sacrifices (Heb. 10:4). Rather, eternal salvation has always been based on the atoning work of Christ (Rom. 3:21-26).

Of course, the Old Testament saints under the Mosaic covenant didn't have the full story that came with the revelation of Jesus Christ in the Incarnation, Crucifixion, and Resurrection. However, they had prophecies, promises, and pictures of the ultimate salvation that would come through the future Messiah (Rom. 1:1-4; 1 Pet. 1:10-12). They could therefore exercise simple, childlike faith in God's goodness, mercy, and promises (Gen. 15:6; Rom. 4:3). Their salvation, like ours, was by grace through faith, not by works.

As theologian Charles Ryrie famously put it, “The basis of salvation in every age is the death of Christ; the requirement for salvation in every age is faith; the object of faith in every age is God; the content of faith changes in the various dispensations.” — Swindoll, *Living Insights: Hebrews*, pg. 117

In that sense, Christ is and has always been the priest for God's people. Jesus is the eternal priest of the past, present and future.

**APP:** In a world where relationships can fade and support systems may fail, we can rest in the truth that Jesus is always there for us. His intercession is a constant reminder that we are never alone in our struggles or challenges. He is our eternal priest, advocating for us every day.

## 3. Because Jesus is our perfect sacrifice.

**EXP:** (26-28) Notice that Christ has “been made perfect” (28). He offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for our sins. While the law “made nothing perfect” (19), Christ's sacrifice is perfect because He is “holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, exalted above the heavens” (26) and “He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself” (27).

“Indeed fitting” (26) (πρέπω, *prepō*) - to stand out, be eminent, becoming, seemingly, fit.

- “Holy” (26) (ὅσιος, *hosios*) - undefiled by sin, pure, holy.
- “Innocent” (26) (ἄκακος, *akakos*) - without guile or fraud, harmless, free from guilt,
- “Unstained” (26) (ἀμίαντος, *amiantos*) - not defiled, unsoiled,
- “Separated from sinners” (26) (χωρίζω, *chōrizō*) - to separate, apart from.
- “Exalted” (26) (ὑψηλός, *hypsēlos*) - high, lofty, exalted on high; eminent, exalted in influence and honor

“No need” (27) (ἀνάγκη, *anagkē*) - no necessity, imposed either by law or circumstance.

“To offer sacrifices” (27) (θυσία, *thusia*) - to put upon the altar, to bring to the altar, to offer sacrifice.

“He offered up himself” (27) (ἑαυτοῦ, *heautou*) - Christ placed Himself on the altar once and forevermore.

## A Greater Guarantee

Jesus is Greater #12 - Pastor Gary Combs - October 13, 2024 - Hebrews 7:18-28

“Appoints” (28, 2x) (καθίστημι, *kathistēmi*) - to set one over a thing (in charge of it); to appoint on.

“Perfect” (18, 28 - 2x) (τελειόω, *teleioō*) - where the law was imperfect the Jesus the Word is perfect.

**ARG:** Jesus is our sacrifice, making us right with God.

Ephesians 5:2 (ESV) And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

**Why did Jesus offer Himself? It was because of love!**

1 John 4:10 (NIV) This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

**Remember what Jesus said at the Last Supper?**

Luke 22:20 (ESV) And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, “This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.

**ILL:** So many of us are striving for perfection, some are so driven by it that we created a term for them: perfectionists. “A perfectionist sets extremely high standards for themselves and others, striving for flawlessness in everything they do.” Many in this boat have also realized the impossibility of accomplishing this and that can be very crushing.

The fact is that we have lived lives that are far from perfect. You might be able to control your tongue on the outside but inside you are letting them have it. You might never act out in adultery but the lust of your eyes tells another story. You may never steal but you are furiously jealous that they got the promotion you wanted. Perfection is impossible! And my friends, that’s the rub ... perfection is required. It always was and that is why Jesus was not only desired but absolutely necessary. Perfection is required and fulfilled in Him.

**APP:** We often carry the weight of our mistakes, feeling unworthy or inadequate. But the truth is that Jesus’ perfect sacrifice has covered all our sins. We do not need to strive for acceptance; we have it through Christ. His sacrifice is the ultimate guarantee of our salvation, freeing us from the burden of guilt and shame.

**CONCLUSION:** As we reflect on Hebrews 7:18-28, we see that Jesus is indeed "A Greater Guarantee."

We can look to Him as

- 1) Our promised guarantor,
- 2) Our eternal priest,
- 3) And our perfect sacrifice.

In a world full of uncertainties, we can confidently rest in the assurance that Jesus guarantees our salvation. Let us draw near to God, trusting in this greater guarantee, knowing that we are secure in Christ forever. May we hold fast to this promise, sharing it with others who need to hear of the hope found in our Savior.

Let’s pray.