

HEBREWS

The Superiority of Jesus Christ

Stonebriar Community Church

Marathon Fellowship

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Great Is Thy Faithfulness

- **Verse 1**

Great is Thy faithfulness,
O God my Father;
There is no shadow of
Turning with Thee;
Thou changest not,
Thy compassions, they fail not;
As Thou hast been,
Thou forever will be.

- **Chorus**

Great is Thy faithfulness!
Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning
New mercies I see.
All I have needed
Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness,
Lord, unto me!

- **Verse 2**

Summer and winter and
Springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars
In their courses above
Join with all nature
In manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness,
Mercy and love.

- **Chorus**

Great is Thy faithfulness!
Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning
New mercies I see.
All I have needed
Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness,
Lord, unto me!

- **Verse 3**

Pardon for sin and
A peace that endureth
Thine own dear presence
To cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and
Bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine,
With ten thousand beside!

- **Chorus**

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Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning
New mercies I see.
All I have needed
Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness,
Lord, unto me!

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The Superiority of Jesus Christ

I. The Superiority of Jesus Christ: Doctrinal (1:1–10:18)

- A. Christ's Superiority in His Person (1:1–4:13)
- B. Christ's Superiority in His Priesthood (4:14–10:18)

II. The Superior Christian Life: Practical (10:19–13:25)

- A. Life of Faith (10:19–11:40)
- B. Life of Patient Endurance (12:1-29)
- C. Life of Love and Good Deeds (13:1-21)
- D. Conclusion (13:22-25)

The Superiority of Jesus Christ in Hebrews

1. Jesus > Angels Jesus' Revelation > OT Law (Heb. 1:1–2:18)
2. Jesus > Moses Jesus' Rest > OT Rest (Heb. 3:1–4:13)
3. Jesus > Aaron Jesus' Priesthood > Aaronic Priesthood
(Heb. 4:14–10:18)
 - His superior priesthood (4:14–7:28)
 - His superior covenant (8:1-13)
 - His superior sanctuary (9:1-12)
 - His superior sacrifice (9:13–10:18)

The 5 Warning Passages in the Book of Hebrews

1. Warning #1 (2:1-4): THE PERIL OF NEGLECT

➤ *The path to glory is the path of suffering*

2. Warning #2 (3:7–4:13): THE PERIL OF DISOBEDIENCE

➤ *The path to rest is the path of trusting*

3. Warning #3 (5:11–6:20): THE PERIL OF IMMATURITY

➤ *The path to growth is the path of obeying*

4. Warning #4 (10:26-31): THE PERIL OF REJECTION

➤ *The path to reward is the path of enduring*

5. Warning #5 (12:25-29): THE PERIL OF REFUSAL

➤ *The path to holiness is the path of discipline*

4 Views on the Warning Passages

- 1. Christians who lose their salvation**
- 2. Professing “believers” who abandon their profession**
- 3. Hypothetical situation for genuine believers who abandon their faith**
- 4. Christians who are in danger of willfully rejecting Christ by returning to the safe haven of Judaism**

The Superiority of Jesus Christ in Hebrews

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3 Reasons for the Superiority of Jesus' Priesthood over the Aaronic Priesthood in Hebrews 7

1. Jesus' priesthood is superior to Aaron's because Melchizedek was superior to Abraham (Levi) (vv. 1-10)
 - Melchizedek > Abraham (Levi)
 - Jesus > Levi (Aaron)
 - Jesus' priesthood > Aaronic priesthood

Melchizedek in Jewish Literature

—Beyond the Old Testament references, the figure of Melchizedek is mentioned in the following:

Dead Sea Scrolls, *Melchizedek* (11QMelch), where Melchizedek, similarly to the archangel Michael, performs eschatological judgment upon the righteous and the wicked.

Philo, *Allegorical Interpretation* 3.25-26, where he is referred to as “worthy of God’s own priesthood.”

Josephus, *Jewish Antiquities* 179-182, where he is referred to as “priest of God.”

Babylonian Talmud, *Sukkah* 52b, where he is linked with Elijah.

—Melchizedek also appears in gnostic texts. In an apocalyptic text named *Melchizedek* from Nag Hammadi (Codex IX, 1), Melchizedek is identified with Jesus. Mention of Melchizedek also is found in *Pistis Sophia*. An earlier Melchizedek is mentioned in *2 Enoch* 71-72, in this case a priest taken by the archangel Michael to paradise, where he remains eternally.

—Donald A. Hagner, *Encountering The Book of Hebrews: An Exposition*, Encountering the Biblical Studies, ed. Walter A. Elwell (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2002), 98.

3 Reasons for the Superiority of Jesus' Priesthood over the Aaronic Priesthood in Hebrews 7 (cont.)

2. Jesus' priesthood is superior to Aaron's because the Levitical priesthood was set aside (vv. 11-19)
 - I. It couldn't bring perfection (v. 11)
 - II. It was associated with the Law (v. 12)
 - III. It was based on legal ancestry from Levi (vv. 13-17)
 - IV. It was weak & useless, and made nothing perfect (vv. 18-19a)
 - V. It didn't enable people to draw near to God (v. 19b)

3 Reasons for the Superiority of Jesus' Priesthood over the Aaronic Priesthood in Hebrews 7 (cont.)

- 3. Jesus' priesthood is superior to Aaron's because He Himself is a better priest (vv. 20-28)**
 - i. He was confirmed by an oath—Ps. 110:4 (vv. 20-22)**
 - ii. He lives forever—permanent priesthood (vv. 23-24)**
 - iii. He Himself is sinless—He is able to meet our need (vv. 25-26)**
 - iv. He offered Himself once for all—therefore, there is no need for daily sacrifice (vv. 27-28)**

The Superiority of Jesus Christ in His Priesthood (Heb. 4:14–10:18)

1. His superiority to Aaron (4:14–7:28)
2. His superior covenant (8:1-13)
3. His superior sanctuary (9:1-12)
4. His superior sacrifice (9:13–10:18)