



## **Jesus: Eternal Guarantor**

### **Hebrews 7:1-25**

Thanks Noel for reading our Scripture this morning. Let's summarize those 25 verses – the big picture and the main point is of

Christ's superior priesthood over the Old Testament priests of the tribe of Levi. The words "hence" or "therefore" in verse 25 are the main point. That means this is the great conclusion from all the preceding truth about Christ's priesthood:

*Christ is able to save forever, He always lives to make intercession for us and this eternal intercession and eternal salvation are for those who draw near to God through Christ.*

What is this telling us? It is extremely important. It says that He is able to save us forever . . . *since* (or *because*) He always lives to make intercession for us. In other words, our future eternal salvation hangs on Christ's future eternal intercession for us.

Let's look at the court system. There is a Judge who presides over the various cases brought before them. The judge considers all the information and determines what punishment is required. God does the same as He is the Judge of all humanity. I realise that some people find it difficult to accept that God has the right to take His wrath out on us – thinking this contradicts a Loving God. But that cannot be further from the truth. We all have to take responsibility for our actions and face the consequences. If we disobey God and refuse to repent, then we will lose our salvation and eternal life.

God does not want this – He wants everyone to be saved so He sacrificed His Son, Jesus Christ to take the “fall for us.” Jesus offered Himself once and for all and we will be made perfect in conformity with Jesus.

So imagine we are sitting in God’s court – our sins have been exposed and we are told to stand to hear the sentence. Just as God is about to bring His gavel down, in steps Jesus and stops the proceedings.

Jesus is our guarantor – the Greek word *erigyos* is a legal term referring to someone who has assumed an obligation in place of another.

Now the Old Testament Priests could have stepped in, but they could only provide a stay on our punishment for one year. So it is like we are sitting on death row – waiting. Will we continue to have a stay of punishment next year? The writer says that this Levitical system does not have the ability to produce perfection – as he says – the law made nothing perfect.

Jesus is the New Covenant and He steps in to take our sins upon Himself and enable us to maintain a relationship with God. So Jesus intercedes for us, reminding God of how He took on all of our sins – past, present and future – through His death and resurrection. He reveals His scars and wounds to the court. God’s gavel comes down and He says – not guilty for your punishment has already been paid in full. Plenty of people have a position of authority but are ineffective. Jesus not only has the position, He has the power to change our lives. The Old Testament priests were ineffective, they could not help God’s people to become fully mature.

Our future salvation depends on the active work of Christ forever and ever, not just on the past work of Christ or on our past decisions and commitments. It says that Christ is able to save forever . . . *since* He always lives to make intercession for us. In other words, He would not be able to save us forever if He did not go on interceding for us forever.

This means our salvation is as secure as Christ's priesthood is indestructible. This is why we needed a priest so much greater than any human. Christ's deity secures His indestructible priesthood for us.

So our salvation is not something we did once and Christ did something once when He died and rose again, and that's all there is to it. That's not all there is to it. This very day I am being saved by the eternal intercession of Jesus in heaven. Jesus is praying for us and that is our salvation. Jesus prays for us and His prayers are answered because He prays perfectly on the basis of His perfect sacrifice.

An unknown author wrote: Greatest man in history is named Jesus.  
He had no servants – yet they called Him Master.  
He had no degree - yet they called Him Teacher.  
He had no medicines – yet they called Him Healer.  
He had no army – yet kings feared Him.  
He won no military battles – yet He conquered the world.  
He committed no crime – yet they crucified Him.  
He was buried in a tomb – yet He lives today.

Unlike the Old Testament Priests, Jesus not only has the position of authority, He has the power to make a real difference. He has the power to change your life if you let Him.

If you want to grow up as you grow old, if you want to go on to maturity, then depend on Jesus – the permanent priest. Depend on Jesus – the superior priest. Depend on Jesus – the powerful priest.

With all the works going on I noticed a sign that I would like on my gravestone. It said – end of construction – thank you for your patience. Someday, Jesus will finish His construction work on you. Just keep trusting Him.

**Closing Prayer:** Thank you for your great love and blessing over my life. Thank you that your favour has no end, but it lasts for my entire lifetime.

I am sorry God to admit that many times I have been guilty of grumbling and griping about all my problems and trials. I have failed to be thankful and to remember that You are at work in my life, even through all these troubles.

Please forgive me God. I want to be the person who keeps their eyes on You and praises You, no matter what comes my way. I know You are in control. I know You love me and work all things together for my good. I ask that I would walk in your blessing and goodness today. That Your face would shine on me. That You would open the right doors for my life and for my loved ones. That You would close the wrong doors and protect me from those I need to walk away from.

Bring to fulfillment all that you have given me to do in these days. I pray that You would make my way purposeful and my footsteps firm out of your goodness and love. Give me a heart of wisdom to hear your voice, and make me strong. I choose to trust You, Lord. Teach me to be a “praiser” who always finds the good... and not a complainer who always finds the bad. In Jesus' name, Amen.