

A Better Hope

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"For **He** testifies, '**You** are a Priest Forever after the order of Melchisedec.' For there is truly an annulling of the former commandment because of its weakness and unprofitableness. For the Law perfected none, but the bringing in of a Better Hope did; through which we draw near unto God; and in as-much it was not without an oath. But those priests were made without an oath. **But He** with an oath by Him who said unto **Him**, 'The LORD swore and will not repent, 'You are a Priest forever after the order of Melchisedec.' ' Thus, by so much more **was Jesus** made the Guarantee of a Better Covenant." (Hebrews 7:17-19-22)

Better: from the Greek word ***kreittonos*** (***kreittón***) which means: better, more excellent; stronger, greater, more advantageous; in context refers to **what** is better able to accomplish something which could not be accomplished by what precede **it**, because **it** is more fully developed to achieved the desired goal of perfection.

Hope: from the Greek word ***elpidos*** (***elpis***) which means: hope, expectation, confidence; properly, expectation of what is sure (certain). Expectation of good,; and in the Christian sense, joyful and confident expectation of eternal salvation.

Perfected: from the Greek word ***etelei sen*** (from ***teleioó***) which means: to bring to the end (goal) proposed; to perfect to complete. to consummate; to carry through completely; to accomplish, to finish.

None: from the Greek word ***ouden*** (***oudeís***) which means: no-one, none, or nothing, by definition it categorically excludes, declaring as a fact that no valid example exists; it is a powerful negating conjunction. It rules and leaves no exceptions.

The opening verses with highlights and (explanatory notes):

"For He (God the Father) testifies, 'You (Jesus) are a Priest Forever after the order of Melchisedec.' For there is truly an annulling of the former commandment because of its weakness and unprofitableness. For **the Law** perfected none (no one), but the bringing in of a Better Hope did (i.e. it did perfect many); through which (or through Whom) we draw near unto God; and in as-much it (the Better Hope) was not without an oath. But those (former) priests were made (priests) without an oath. **But He (Jesus)** (was made a Priest) with an oath by Him (the Father) who said unto **Him**, 'The LORD swore and will not repent, '**You (Jesus) are a Priest forever** after the order of Melchisedec.' ' Thus, by so much more was Jesus made the Guarantee of a Better Covenant." (Hebrews 7:17-19-22)

The Mosaic Law, of the previous Covenant, which included all the commandments to be obeyed, and the whole sacrificial system, could not make any person perfectly holy and righteous; and as such was weak and ultimately unprofitable for those people who lived under that previous Covenant; as it says, "For the Law perfected no one." However, the weakness and unprofitableness of the Mosaic Law, I believe, did not really reflect an internal weakness, but rather was a reflection of the weaknesses within the hearts of the fallen of mankind themselves. The laws of sacrifice for sin could never perfect people who were forever disobeying some aspect of the Mosaic Law. It was as it was said:

"Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. (1 Samuel 15:22-23)

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and again:

"Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a New Covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah; and not according to the Covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; **because they did not continued in My Covenant,**" (Hebrews 8:8-9)

"Therefore by the deeds **of the Law** there shall no flesh be justified in His sight: for by the Law is the knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God without the Law is manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the prophets; even **the righteousness of God which is through faith in Jesus Christ** unto all and upon all those who believe: for there is no difference. **For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;** being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus; whom God has set forth to be a propitiation through faith in His blood, to declare His righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; to declare, I say, at this time His righteousness: that He might be just, and the **Justifier** of him who believes in Jesus. Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? No; **but by the law of faith.** Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law." (Romans 3:20-28)

Thus the need for a **Better Hope** for mankind was needed and provided! Jesus is that **Better Hope**, and He is Guarantee of a new and **Better Covenant** between us and the Father!

Jesus is a Better Hope: consider the following:

"But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, by as much as He also is the mediator of a **better Covenant**, which was established upon **better Promises**. For if that first (covenant) had been faultless, there would have been no place sought for a second (covenant). For finding fault with them, He (the Father) said,

'Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a New Covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah; not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; **because they continued not in My covenant**, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord. For this is the Covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them God, and they shall be to Me a people; and they shall not teach every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know Me, from the least to the greatest. For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.' In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first obsolete. (quote from Jeremiah 31:31-34)

Now that which decays and waxeth old is ready to vanish away." (Hebrews 8:6-13)

"And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission. It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with **better** sacrifices than these. For Christ has not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us. Nor yet that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest entered into the holy place every year with blood of others; for then He must often have suffered since the foundation of the world; but now once in the end of the world He has appeared **to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.** And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment; So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto those who look for Him shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation! (Hebrews 9:22-28)

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Some of Our Better Hopes in Christ Jesus:

- Our Better Hope in Jesus is that we we draw near unto God through Jesus! (Hebrews 7:19)
- Our Better Hope in Jesus is that we are by grace saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God! (Ephesians 2:8)
- Our Better Hope in Jesus is that we are not justified by the works of the law, but by faith Jesus Christ! (Galatians 2:16)
- Our Better Hope in Jesus is that we are justified by faith, and have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ! (Romans 5:1)
- Our Better Hope in Jesus is that we have the righteousness of God which is through faith in Jesus Christ! (Romans 3:21-22)
- Our Better Hope in Jesus is that we have a better country, a heavenly country, a City of God prepared for us! (Hebrews 11:16; and Revelation 21)
- Our Better Hope in Jesus is that we are perfected in Christ Jesus! (Hebrews 7:19)
- Our Better Hope in Jesus is that He is our Guarantee of a Better Covenant! (Hebrews 7:22)
- And many, many more!

Finally consider these promises of Better Hope in Christ Jesus:

“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ; through whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also; knowing that tribulation works patience; and patience, experience; and experience, **hope**; and **hope does not disappoint**; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who is given unto us.” (Romans 5:1-5)

“For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope; for what a man sees, why does he still hope for it? But if we hope for what we do not see, then do we with patience wait for it.” (Romans 8:24-25)

“Now may the **God of Hope** fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13)

Jesus is Our Better Hope

In Christ Jesus we have been set free from the bondage of the Law!
In Christ Jesus we have been set free from the dependence on priests and sacrifices!
In Christ Jesus we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus!

In Christ Jesus we now have eternal Life, in an eternal home in His Kingdom!
In Christ Jesus we abound in a better hope – because Jesus is our Better Hope!

Thank You Father for bringing in a Better Hope for our salvation!
Thank You Lord Jesus for Being Our Better Hope!

Lord Jesus I look forward with hope and expectation of Your Second Coming!
Amen! And Amen!