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THE AMAZING INDESTRUCTIBLE BODY OF JESUS CHRIST

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF HEBREWS
NUMBER 50
HEBREWS 7:10-13

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We begin with "for" which comes from gar, the inferential conjunction explaining the reason for the foregoing conclusion. "He was" is an imperfect, active, indicative of eimi and it means something that was going on in past time. It is a progressive imperfect of description. Levi was still in the body of Abraham when he met Melchisedec. "Yet" is eti and is an adverb of time explaining a past situation. "In the loins" is from en osphus and refers to the reproductive organs of Abraham. "Father" is from pater and means the ancestor of Levi. "When" is from hote and refers to the historical moment when Melchisedec encountered Abraham. "Met him" is an aorist, active, indicative of sunantao and means had an encounter with him. This active voice shows that this encounter was upon the initiative of Melchisedec. He came to Abraham in the moment when Abraham was the most vulnerable.

Need For A Change

The superiority of the Royal Priesthood demands a permanent change and these permanent and lasting changes can come only from The Lord Jesus Christ. To set the stage for these changes, the author of Hebrews here gives us a very amazing explanation of how it all took place. Now why is each one of us in the Church Age a royal priest? This can be answered by six propositions. To get into the Royal Family, one must be born again. This is the work of The Holy Spirit and at the point of conversion, He takes every believer and enters him into union with Christ.

In the Levitical Priesthood the priest not only had spiritual authority he also had temporal authority. He collected the taxes and was a man of great power. The Levitical Priesthood lasted right on through the time of Samuel, and Samuel not only presided over spiritual things but also over temporal things. He appointed Saul as King and also appointed David as King. In these six propositions we are going to anticipate the things we are to study in verses 11-19.

No. 1 Proposition

Verse 11 here has a very important word--teleiosis and it is translated perfection. This "if" is a second class condition and this means that the statement is not true. Teleiosis doesn't mean perfection, but it means "the process of completion." In other words, completion cannot be produced by The Levitical Priesthood. So this statement says, "If the process of completion were by the Levitical Priesthood, and it isn't." This process of completion can only come from Christ.

No. 2 Proposition

Since completion or the process of completion cannot be produced by the Levitical Priesthood, then it cannot be produced by the Mosaic Law. The Mosaic Law is the authorizing agent for the Levitical Priesthood.

No. 3 Proposition

Since neither the Levitical Priesthood nor the Mosaic Law could produce completeness, there must be some change to coincide with the change of dispensation. This will be brought out in verse 12 later in the text.

No. 4 Proposition

The Priesthood began with Aaron and was replaced by the Priesthood introduced by Christ. The Levitical Priesthood is replaced by the Royal Priesthood. The authorizing agency for the Levitical Priesthood, which is the Mosaic Law, is replaced by the authorizing agency of the Royal Priesthood which is the Eternal Decrees of God. Psalm 110:4 states this and this anticipates verses 18 and 19 of this chapter of Hebrews.

No. 5 Proposition

The Levitical Priesthood was earthly, and was terminated by death and belonged to an interrupted dispensation. There is only one dispensation that God did not interrupt and that is the Church Age.

Dispensation No. 1 This was the Age of the Gentiles and it was interrupted by the destruction of the Tower of Babel (The first effort at internationalism).

Dispensation No. 2 This was the Age of Israel and it was interrupted by the 5th Cycle of Discipline to the Jews and the beginning of the Church Age.

Dispensation No. 3 This is the Church Age and is the only dispensation which will never be interrupted until it is finished.

Dispensation No. 4 This is the Millennium and it will be interrupted by the Gog and Magog revolution and the loosing of Satan.

God would never think of interrupting The Church Age, he wouldn't interrupt teleiosis. And this is the only thing in all human history that God will not interrupt. This is how the Royal Family is attained. This is the heavenly order, perpetuated beyond death by resurrection and functions under the uninterrupted dispensation called The Church. The Levitical Priesthood is limited to one family, but the Royal Priesthood includes every born again person of the Church Age and is the body of Jesus Christ in the making. The Levitical Priesthood was attained by physical birth, but the Royal Priesthood is attained by the New Birth.

No. 6 Proposition

Since the purpose of God is to complete the body of Christ, which will in heaven become the Bride of Christ, the Levitical Priesthood must be set aside. This Levitical Priesthood is deactivated and The Royal Priesthood moves in and takes its place. These six propositions anticipate the study of verses 11-19. The inferior Levitical Priesthood will give way to the superior Royal Priesthood.

Verse 10 then says--"For he was still in the reproductive organs of his ancestor father Abraham, when Melchisedec of his own initiative, encountered Abraham."

HEBREWS 7:11 "If therefore perfection were by the Levitical priesthood, (for under it the people received the law,) what further need was there that another priest should rise after the order of Melchisedec, and not be called after the order of Aaron?" We will now see the inferiority of the Levitical Priesthood. This "ei" is a second class condition and presents a statement contrary to fact. This protasis states what is untrue and unreal. "If" and it's not true. Next we have "therefore" from oun and this reaches all the way back to Hebrews 5:4 where Aaron is mentioned as the representative of the Levitical

Priesthood. The next word "perfection" comes from teleiosis and is a very important noun. With the suffix on it "sis" means the process of completion. (In English we have suffixes which are very meaningful. "Ly" as a suffix means in a manner of, like in casually. "Ment" as a suffix means the act or state as in government. "Able" as a suffix means capable of doing something, like in capable or controlable, or consolable. The suffix "sion" or "tion" means the act of being something, as contentious. The suffix "less" as in careless, or the suffix "ish" means to resemble something, like British.)

So thus far in this verse we have, "If indeed, therefore, the process of completion..."

1. Our first question is this--what is the process of completion?
2. Whatever it is, please notice the absence of the definite article in front of teleiosis. This calls attention to the great importance of the quality of this act.
PERFECTION DOES NOT MEAN SALVATION IN THIS PASSAGE. Most commentators say that it does. It rather means process of completion. It can't be salvation, for salvation is not a process.
3. The suffix "sis" indicates an active process instead of something instantaneous. Salvation comes in an instant and is not a process. This suffix shows this is a process.
4. Under the ministry of the Levitical Priesthood millions of people were saved. They were good and clear on the gospel. The use of animal sacrifices, the clear lessons drawn by every piece of furniture in the Tabernacle and the Temple, the use of feasts and holy days all taught clearly of Christ. They did perform the ministry of evangelism very well. So perfection here does not mean salvation.
5. The Levitical Priesthood not only brought people to salvation, but through the teaching of doctrine, they brought many to super grace. Take as an illustration, David.
6. Therefore the process of completion must have another significance rather than salvation and it does. It has to do with the process of completion and doesn't have anything to do with the act of salvation as such.
7. Teleiosis means process of completion and it means the completion that Jesus Christ will bring over an elapsed time and this elapsed time is the whole time it will take to complete the Church Age. And God will see to it that the Church does not fail.
8. The issue between the Levitical Priesthood or the Royal Priesthood in completing Christ is stated in Col. 2:16-17.
A literal translation of these verses in Colossians says this--
"Consequently, stop allowing anyone to judge you in eating or drinking or in matters of a feast, or in new months, or the sabbaths. (Please notice these are all Levitical priesthood functions. Verse 17. "Which keep on being a shadow of those things about to come, but (here is reality) the body is from the source of the Christ."

Now which comes first? Well, it is like this--First the cross, then the death, then the resurrection, then the ascension, and then the session at God's right hand--Now comes the body. The Levitical Priesthood could not provide a body for Jesus Christ and this body is the Royal Priesthood.

9. Christ was alone on the cross. He said, "My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?" He was alone because he was our substitute, because he became sin for us. (One place the King James Version says, "He winked at sin." No, that is not right. It means he held up judgment of sin until after the cross.) Just as the first Adam, so it is true of the second Adam, it was not good that Christ should be alone so God is going to see to it that the second Adam is completed just as the first Adam was completed. God manufactured the right woman for the first Adam, and God will manufacture the right body for the second Adam. The Church, as the body of Christ, will be protected by God just as carefully as he protected Jesus when he was here on this earth.
10. The Levitical Priesthood is not the body of Christ. The Levitical Priesthood could not complete Christ. The Levi group was in another dispensation and dealt with shadows. Col. 2:17
11. Therefore, there was a need for the interruption of the Dispensation of Israel. The Levitical Priesthood was able to do nothing for Christ. The only thing they did for him was to slap him when they contended that he was talking back to the High Priest. Matthew 26:62-66, John 18:19-23. this is all they could do for him. The true High Priest was Jesus Christ and they slapped the true High Priest for talking back to the pseudo High Priest.
There is in God's design one woman who will complete one man. In God's divine plan there is one Royalty that will complete Jesus Christ. Every member of the Church Age is Royalty, and this is the only body that can complete Jesus Christ. This is the true function of the Church Age. The body, once completed, will be taken by resurrection or rapture.
12. The Church Age interrupts in order to complete Christ--teleiosis is this very important word.
13. The Church Age was designed by God to complete Christ, so the church on earth is called the body of Christ. The body is teleiosis.
14. The body of Christ, after the resurrection and rapture is called THE BRIDE OF CHRIST. This means teleiosis has been completed. The Bride is completed when the church is completed. Therefore a new priesthood is necessary for teleiosis. Christ is royalty on both sides of the hypostatic union. He was royalty before he came, and he remained royalty after he came. He is royalty in both his deity and his humanity. He could not possibly be completed by those peasants, those Levites. It takes royalty to complete royalty.

THE DOCTRINE OF THE BODY OF CHRIST

1. THE TRINITY IS RELATED TO THE BODY OF CHRIST.
 God the Father placed Christ at the head of the body.
 Ephesians 1:22-23, 5:23-24, Col. 1:18
 The word for head is kephale and it means absolute authority.
 Also The Holy Spirit takes part in forming the body of Christ.
 1 Cor. 12:12-13. The Holy Spirit baptizes the new believer
 into union with Christ at the moment of conversion. We of the
 Church Age are the only ones in history who receive this spirit-
 ual appointment. We get it at the moment of salvation. It is
 a permanent appointment because of the sealing ministry of the
 Holy Spirit. We also wear a badge, which is the indwelling of
 the Holy Spirit. You can lose the indwelling of Christ (For
 he is there for fellowship) but you cannot lose the indwelling
 of the Holy Spirit (because he is in you to guarantee that the
 Devil will never possess you again).
 The Holy Spirit also sustains you. 1 Cor. 6:15 compared with
 1 Cor. 6:14-20.
2. CHRIST IS THE SAVIOUR OF THE BODY.
 Every member of the body of Christ will live with him forever
 and ever. This is because of his priestly ministry on the
 cross. Eph. 5:23-25-30.
3. CHRIST IS THE ONE WHO SANCTIFIES THE BODY.
 He was set apart as royalty, and we believe in him and we are
 set apart as royalty. Christ is said to be the one who sancti-
 fies the body in Hebrews 2:11 and 13:12. There is nothing in
 the world comparable to the royalty of the body of Christ of
 the Church Age.
4. THE BODY IS RELATED TO THE STRATEGIC VICTORY OF THE CHURCH AGE
 IN THE ANGELIC CONFLICT. Ephesians 1:22-23
 This translated literally says, "And he subordinated all demons
 under his feet, and he has given him (Christ) absolute sover-
 eignty above all believers of the Church Age which is such a
 royal quality as to be his body, the fullness of the one being
 fulfilled with reference to all, by means of all believers of
 the Church Age."
5. THE BODY INCLUDES GENTILE BELIEVERS OF THE CHURCH AGE ONLY.
 Ephesians 3:6
6. THE BODY IS THE RECIPIENT OF MANY VARIOUS SPIRITUAL GIFTS.
 Romans 12:4-5, 1 Cor. 12:27-28
7. MEMBERS OF THE BODY ARE LED TO SUPER GRACE BY DOCTRINE.
 Ephesians 3:6-8, 4:11-12
8. THE OBJECTIVE IN THIS LIFE IS FOR EACH MEMBER TO REACH SUPER
 GRACE. Ephesians 4:15-16. The objective of the body of Christ
 at the time of the rapture is to complete the body of Christ.

Following the word teleiosis in verse 11 we have the word "were" and this is the imperfect, active, indicative of eimi. This is progressive action in past time. This is the progressive imperfect of duration. In other words, there never was a time when the Levitical Priesthood functioned as a completor of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Levitical Priesthood is not the Lord's right woman. They can't function that way. It is an absolute impossibility. They were never related to teleiosis, the process of completion. They belonged to the Age of Israel and they were pushed aside so Christ could have a body. But the Levitical Priesthood was never qualified to be the pleroma (the completion, the full measure) of Christ.

The Dispensation of the Gentiles was interrupted because of the evils of the satanic system of the first United Nations (Gen. 11). The Dispensation of Israel was interrupted by the 5th Cycle of Discipline because there was nothing in Israel that would complete Christ. No process of completion. The Millennium was interrupted by the Gog and Magog revolution and the release of Satan for a short time. But the Church Age was never interrupted and will never be until it is completed. (Jesus said it--"I will build my church.")

This is a second class condition here and it says, "If this completion were from the Levitical Priesthood, but it was not."

Summary

1. The priesthood must relate to its own dispensation. The family priesthood is related to the Dispensation of the Gentiles. The Levitical Priesthood is related to the Age of Israel. The Royal Priesthood is related to the Church Age.
2. The Levitical Priesthood was characterized by physical birth. All in one tribe the tribe of Levi, and one had to be born in that tribe to be a Levitical Priest. This line of authority was passed down by physical birth.
3. The clear characteristic of the Church Age is the priesthood of every believer, based on regeneration and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. The believer is preserved by the Holy Spirit.
4. The interruption of the Jewish Age demands a new priesthood, and the new priesthood must be compatible with the new dispensation. 1 Peter 2:9
5. Next in this verse comes a parenthesis of great importance.
6. Since the process of completion in the Church Age cannot be produced by the Levitical Priesthood, it cannot be produced by the authorizing agency of this priesthood which is the Mosaic Law.
7. Therefore this parenthesis related the Mosaic Law to the Levitical Priesthood. Even the King James Version calls attention to this parenthesis. It separates the protasis of this second class condition from the apodosis.

We don't have any parenthesis in greek but the little word "for" from gar and this little particle alerts us that this parenthesis is coming up. The words "under it" are from epi plus the intensive pronoun autos and means "on the basis of the Levitical Priesthood." Next we have "the people" referring to the people of the Age of Israel. Next we have "received the enactment of the law" and this is a dramatic perfect, passive, indicative of nomotheteo. So this second class condition not only covers the Levitical Priesthood but it also covers the Mosaic Law, which was the authorizing agency of the Mosaic Law. They both go together. They both hang together. Next we have "what further need" from tis chreia. The words "another priest" comes from heteros and it means another priest of a different kind. It really means "another of a different category of priest." "To arise" is the present, middle, infinitive of anistemi and it means "to be brought on the scene." Then we have "according to the order of Melchisedec." "And not be designated after the order of Aaron" is actually what the next phrase says.

Now we get a correct translation of this amazing verse--

"Now if therefore a process of completion of Christ, was through the Levitical Priesthood, but it was not, for on the basis of the Levitical Priesthood the people had received the law--what further need would there be for a different category or different battalion of priests to be activated according to the battalion of Melchisedec and not be assigned according to the battalion of Aaron?"

In other words, why not use Aaron? His line is still there. BUT A NEW AGE HAS DAWNED.

HEBREWS 7:12 "For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law." The Levitical Priesthood is now out--what next is coming? "For when the priesthood is changed." We know the word "when" should be here for this is a temporal participle. The word for priesthood is hierosune and this refers to the priestly office authorized by the Mosaic Law. "Changed" is a present, passive, temporal participle of "metatithemi" and means change or replace. The Levitical Priesthood and the Mosaic Law stood together. Next we have "from necessity" from the words ek anagke there must be a change of the law. The word "change" is metathesis.

1. Metathesis refers to a change in the authorizing agency. The Sabbath was for them and it too was changed to the first day of the week. There is no place for sabbath observance in the Church Age and that means the Seventh Day Adventist is out of line. He is beating a dead horse.
2. The strategic victory of Christ interrupted the Jewish Age.
3. Therefore Christ is the end of the law for the believer.
Romans 10:4
4. A new authorizing agency has replaced the Mosaic Law.
(That song says, "When we climb the stairs we never knock for nobody's there.") In the Church Age we knock and the Levitical Priest is gone and we have a new priesthood and a new higher law than the Mosaic Law. The Levitical Priesthood served nobly but they are gone. 1 Peter 2:9

5. The authorizing agency in the Church Age is related to the entire ministry of God The Holy Spirit, to the Royal family, and to the Church Age.
(The Mosaic Law came in a time of history, but the decrees of God came from eternity past.) The Royal Priesthood is a forever document and this is a forever decree. David was Royalty in time, but we are royalty forever.
6. While God the Holy Spirit regenerated every person who has ever been saved, once in the Church Age does God the Holy Spirit baptize every believer into union with Christ.
7. Members of the Royal Family operate under a much higher authorization. Romans 8:2-4
8. The indwelling Holy Spirit is a sign or royalty.
9. By reason of positional truth every believer of the Church Age lives in the royal palace. We will always be royalty.
10. Hence we have a Royal Priesthood. Spirituality for the Church Age took a sudden change.

So this verse says, "For when the priesthood is changed or replaced from necessity a change in the law (the authorizing agency) must occur also."

HEBREWS 7:13-14 "For he of whom these things are spoken pertaineth to another tribe, of which no man gave attendance at the altar. For it is evident that our Lord sprang out of Juda; of which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priesthood." A royal high priest demands a new authorizing agency. Royalty comes in and cleans house. This is an absolutely new administration.

Verse 13 begins with the words "For he of whom" and should be "for the one toward whom" and it refers to the Lord Jesus Christ.

1. This verse begins with a direct reference to Jesus Christ.
2. Jesus Christ and Melchisedec were both royalty before they were priests.
3. Jesus Christ was born physically into royalty. He was of the Tribe of Judah and the family of David. Melchisedec acquired his royal status through conquest.
4. Neither Jesus Christ nor Melchisedec became royalty through the new birth. Melchisedec was born again before he became a king. Christ didn't have to be born again for he hadn't committed any sins and didn't have an old sin nature.
5. But we in the Church Age became royalty through the New Birth. Gal. 3:26. We are the only permanent royalty in history.

There are three categories of the Royal Priestly Battalion.

1. Melchisedec, born again, became a king by conquest, and became High Priest by ruling Salem and by God's appointment.
2. Jesus Christ was born a king and became High Priest by eternal decrees.
3. Believers of the Church Age become royal priests by the baptism of the Holy Spirit and therefore, become members of the body of Christ. 1 Peter 2:5.

We will take up the doctrine of the royal family next time.