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**Safe and Secure in Jesus' Praying Hands**  
**Heb 7:1-28**

**Intro:** Living in Real Safety. A firm in Arlington, Texas, offers a new product for protection from tornadoes known as "Safe-N-Side," a huge steel cocoon that promises to prevent the mayhem of a tornado from hurting you. It serves as an emergency in-home shelter for someone trying to hide from a storm.

Alan Weaver, manufacturer and promoter of the half-inch-thick steel boxes, was running a landscaping business in Lancaster, Texas, in 1994 when a tornado devastated the town. Debris tossed about like paper toys crashed down on helpless human beings. Many suffered serious injuries.

Weaver reasoned that people would be willing to pay for a steel box that could protect them from hard-hitting storms. The shelter comes with a light and a telephone jack. Each box is forty inches high and twenty-seven inches deep. His smallest model is twenty-seven inches long and holds a single adult. A forty-eight-inch long jumbo box holds two adults and two children. A burglar can't get inside the box. Laboratory tests show that a bullet from most handguns can't penetrate the steel. A two-by-four moving at one hundred mph can't make a hole in the box. Obtaining this peace of mind is not cheap. The small model sells for \$1678. The large model goes for \$1,985. That would be a small price, indeed, if it saved you from one of nature's most terrifying dangers.

As we face the storms of life, we need protection from harm, affliction, and compromise. We need help encouragement, and stamina. We need to know that though we stumble, we will not fall, for the LORD upholds us "**with his hand**" (Ps, 37:24).

For the storms of nature, Weaver's box offers a great deal more protection than most homes have. For the storms of life, the author of Hebrews tells us that there is one thing we need; 'our deepest need is for the protection of a Savior who prays for us and loves us despite our sin and need.

Listen to what the author says

**[Read Heb 7:24-27/pray/Dismiss Jr. Church]**

The Lord Jesus is "...**able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.**" (Heb. 7:25).

The problem these Hebrews faced was that, on the one hand they were now saved but on the other hand they still seemed to think that they needed to say under the authority of the Levitical priesthood. This concept followed the early days of the Church until finally in Acts 15 Paul, Barnabas, and certain other of them went to Jerusalem and confronted the pastor of the Church of Jerusalem and address the then accepted practice that for someone to be saved they had to become a Jew – get circumcised – after much discussion James, the brother of Jesus, and pastor of the church made this declaration, "...**we trouble not them, which from among the Gentiles are turned to God:**" It had been settled, or at least is seemed as so. But the born Jew still felt it necessary to turn back to the law and authority of the priest. The didn't feel safe out from under the authority and seeming protection of the Levitical priesthood.

**ILL:** A Christian real-estate agent trying to sale a house is asked a question and he knows that if he answers it completely he will possibly lose the sale.

So the author of Hebrews gives them, and us, three reasons why the priesthood of Christ could make them more safe and more secure that the priestly line of Aaron.

**THE FIRST REASON WE CAN FEEL SAFE AND SECURE IS BECAUSE...**

**1. JESUS' PRIESTHOOD UNCHANGEABLE** Vv. 24, 1-10, 15-17, 19a, 24, 27a, 28a

A. The priesthood of Aaron needed changed because it...

1) Was inferior Vv. 1-10

2) Was imperfect Vv. 11, 19a, 27a

- 3) Was feeble Vv. 18
    - (a) It was weak
    - (b) It was useless (unprofitable)
    - (c) Annulled
  - 4) The old law could provide a standard to evaluate moral condition, but it was too weak to provide life and spiritual vigor.
- B. The priesthood of Jesus is **Unchangeable** V 24, because it...
- 1) Is of higher order Vv. 11b-14
    - (a) Has no beginning like Melchisedec
    - (b) Has no ending like Melchisedec
    - (c) Has come from a different tribe
  - 2) Brings Hope Vv. 19b
    - (a) Because through His priesthood we can draw near to God.
    - (b) He is our surety – our guarantee
      - (1) Guarantee that through Him we are provided a more secure future.
      - (2) Guarantee that through Him we are a better covenant and a better hope

C. **ILL:** A Hindu, who had become a Christian, on his way to church one Sabbath, passed some British soldiers who thought they would joke with him. "Hello, Sammy," they called. "How's Jesus this morning?" The Hindu stopped and looked at them. "You Sahibs come from a great country that has known Jesus a long time. It is your country that has given us this Book to teach us of Him," and he held up his Bible. "You ask how Jesus is this morning. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today, and forever." Two of the soldiers could not sleep that night.

The next day they went to the Hindu. They said, "We could not rest until we gave ourselves to Jesus. You brought us to him.

- D. All of this adds up to one absolute fact...we can be **safe and secure in the praying hands of Jesus because His priesthood is Unchangeable.**

**THE SECOND REASON WE CAN FEEL SAFE AND SECURE IS BECAUSE...**

**2. JESUS' PRIESTHOOD IS UNENDING** Vv. 25

- A. Unlike the priest of the line of Aaron who were unable to actually save the people from the penalty of sin Jesus is "**...able...**" Vv. 25a
- 1) Able to "**...save...**"
    - (a) "**No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.**" John 6:44
    - (b) "**For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.**" Acts 2:39
  - 2) Able to "**...do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us...**"
  - 3) Able to transform lives—Unlike the priests of Aaron who often were ungodly men Jesus can transform lives.
    - (a) Salvation is more than a fire escape from Hell!
    - (b) As we come to Christ, not only does He save our souls, but He changes our lives!
    - (c) Jesus is able to change our lives! And He will!
  - 4) The priests of Aaron were weak in their humanness He is able in His holiness.
- B. He is not only able to save, but He is "**...able to save them to the uttermost...**"
- 1) **Uttermost** means **completely**.
    - (a) The priests of Aaron could only cover sin for a season with the blood of an animal
    - (b) Jesus' sacrifice was complete and total
    - (c) His salvation is complete and total—He saves permanently
  - 2) The Lord Jesus is an **Unending** priest, unlike any other who has ever aspired to such office.
  - 3) "**Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them**" (7:25), He is the only priest we need.
- C. Not only is He able to save to the uttermost, **He...ever liveth to make intercession...**
- 1) This means that He lives to pray for you, making intercession on your behalf.

- (a) The Holy Spirit is the agent that makes intercession for us when we are incapable to know how to pray
- (b) But Jesus is always at the throne of God making intercession for our weaknesses and our short comings.
- 2) Jesus prays for us even when we ignore Him and forget Him—if we are saved His always right there to pray for us.
- D. I want you to pay special attention to the phrase between, “...**able to save them to the uttermost...**” and “...**he ever liveth to make intercession for them.**”
  - 1) Who is it that He is able to save and lives to make intercession for?
  - 2) Those “...**that come unto God by him...**”
  - 3) Unlike the modern philosophy that says only bad people go to hell; if you don't come to God through Jesus you give up two very important things:
    - (a) First you don't have a high priest praying for you
    - (b) Second your soul will not be saved
- E. And all of this He does forever because; most importantly He is not only able but **He is Unending**
  - 1) It will “...**continueth ever...**” V. 24
  - 2) It is “**made...after the power of an endless life.**” – V. 16
  - 3) He is “...**priest for ever...**” – V.17
- F. **ILL:** Luther was once found, at a moment of danger and fear, when he had need to grasp unseen strength, sitting in an preoccupied mood, tracing on the table with his fingers the words: "Vivit! Vivit!" "He lives! He lives!"

This is our hope for ourselves, and for His truth, and for mankind; He lives!. Men come and go; leaders, teachers, thinkers, speak and work for a season, and then fall silent and impotent. He abides. They die, but He lives. They are lights kindled, and therefore sooner or later quenched; but He is the true light from which they draw all their brightness, and He shines for evermore. --Maclaren

- G. This means that we can be **safe and secure in the praying hands of Jesus because His priesthood is Unchangeable and Unprecedented.**

**THE THIRD REASON WE CAN FEEL SAFE AND SECURE IS BECAUSE...**

**3. JESUS' PRIESTHOOD IS UNPARALLELED Vv. 26-27**

**A. He was Unlike any other –**

- 1) He was *Undefiled* – No other priest ever had the testimony like His:
  - (a) **Godward**, He was holy, fully satisfying all the righteous claims of a holy God.
  - (b) **Manward**, He was guileless, free from all malice and craftiness and duplicity.
  - (c) **Selfward**, He was undefiled, without any taint of sin.
- 2) His whole life was consecrated to the ministry for which He had come into the world and for which He has now ascended higher than the heavens.
- 3) He mingled with sinners, but he was separate from them.
- 4) Now He is enthroned, never again to be assailed by evil men.

**B. His sacrifice is Unrepeatable –**

- 1) The Lord's sacrifice on the Cross of Calvary is of such eternal significance that, although He intercedes daily, He never has to renew the sacrifice.
- 2) The OT Priest had to, but not so Jesus, our priest—His sacrifice was one for all and, in His word, “...**it is finished...**”
- 3) This is one of the superior provisions of Calvary.
- 4) That is why we should never settle for good enough because we have a better high priest.

**C. He was Unselfish –**

- 1) The OT priest had to offer sacrifice for their own sins because they were defiled by sin but Jesus was undefiled by sin and didn't need to offer a sacrifice for Himself because He was sinless.
- 2) He needed only to offer a single sacrifice once for all
  - (a) Heb 10:10 says, “**By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.**”
  - (b) He offered himself for sinful human beings, and He needed to offer no repetition.
- 3) It may have been a little shocking at this point to the Hebrew Christians, to introduce the idea that Jesus offered himself.

- (a) No high priest offered himself—nor could he have
- (b) He offered a substitute animal sacrifice.
- (c) The total unselfishness and commitment of Jesus appeared in this offering of himself.
- (d) Jesus had said that he came to offer his life a ransom for many (Mk. 10:45)
- (e) All who have come to Jesus for salvation have found him to be a powerful and sufficient and undefiled savior.

D. Jesus as our high Priest is ***Undefiled***.

We desperately need spiritual safety. In Jesus we have a High Priest who takes us into God's presence. Jesus himself provides holiness and purity He persistently prays for us. His ministry to us is permanent. His character operating for us is without sin or blemish. We could not be in better hands than to be in the praying hands of Jesus. With Jesus as our Savior and Lord, we can live in real safety.

***UNCHANGABLE, UNMAGANABLE, and UNPARALLELED!*** These three features make Jesus a perfect representative for stumbling sinners. We need someone of spotless character and superior position to represent us before God with stability. Thank God. We have this in Jesus.

God appointed the house of Aaron from the tribe of Levi to represent his Old Testament people before him. The laws that Aaron and his priests administered could point out mistakes and sins, but they could not provide power for holy living. The priests who followed Aaron became greedy, immoral, self-centered, and powerless to help others. They could not help the people to practice godliness because they were not godly.

God saw this problem and gave us an entirely new representative. He established Jesus in a new priestly order patterned after an Old Testament priest-king named Melchizedek. In serving as our High Priest, Christ brought with him to the position a prominence and power enabling him to do a superb job. He assumed a position of predominance. He was God's Son. Just as the Old Testament priest-king Melchizedek received honor and recognition from Abraham (7:4—10), Christ received honor and glory from God's angels (Heb. 1:6). Jesus' greatness qualified him to be a great representative for us before God.

In serving as our High Priest, Christ also served permanently. The Aaronic high priests died generation after generation. Often the replacement for a priest was less godly than his predecessor. Just as Melchizedek remained a priest forever, Jesus serves us as priest forever. He has assumed a permanent priesthood, and he will never require a replacement. His permanent priesthood allowed him to give us the complete salvation we desperately need (Heb. 7:25). His permanent priesthood allows him to present himself one time for the sins of his people. His single sacrifice permanently accomplishes the job of bringing us to God.

In serving as our High Priest, Christ also brought with him purity. No one could uncover sin in Jesus. His own friends witnessed of him, "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth" (1 Pet. 2:22). Even his enemies remained silent when he challenged them to point out sin in his life (John 8:46). Those who found fault with Jesus accused him of associating with sinners (Mark 2:15—17). We glory in Jesus' ability to heal people who are morally sick and make them righteous. In Jesus we have a Savior who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens (Heb. 7:26).