

# Hebrews 6

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- Basic structure of this chapter
- The order of Melchizedek
- Go back to then see what the apostles concern is
- See whether his concerns may still be concerns for present day believers

# Chapter structure:

## New American Standard Bible:

- Vs. 1-8 the danger of falling away
- Vs. 9-20 better things for you

Famous quote: People assume that with age comes wisdom. Sometimes....



## J.B. Phillips:

- Vs. 1-3 Can we not leave spiritual babyhood behind—and go on to maturity?
- Vs. 4-8 Going back to the foundations will not help those who have deliberately turned away from God
- Vs. 9-20 We want you to make God's promise real through your faith, hope and patience

# The order of Melchizedek

Questions, questions, and more questions:

- What was it about Melchizedek over any other priest?
- What is it about Melchizedek's priesthood (by inference) that made it better than any other who held title of high priest?
- How could Melchizedek be a priest if there was no law by which to be priest over?

# The order of Melchizedek

Observations: 3 main places his name shows up

What do we learn from Genesis?

- Priest of righteousness (his name), King of peace (Salem)
- What tribe was he from? (trick question <sup>None</sup> 😊)
- What did Melchizedek “serve” or bring forth to Abram? <sup>Bread and wine</sup>
- Abram tithed voluntarily, not compulsorily as under the law

What do we learn from Psalms?

- 100:4 The Lord has sworn and will not change His mind, “You are a priest forever According to the order of **Melchizedek**.”
- David – also king of Salem – compare 1 chron 16 event

# The order of Melchizedek

## Lessons to draw:

- God intended that the Levitical priesthood would last a short time...and be replaced
- The order of Melchizedek meant that it was before giving of the law, meaning he is not bound by its rules regarding priesthood
- This allows Jesus to also serve as High Priest before God
- Rather than an intercessor who could only do so once a year, the covenant mediated by the order of Melchizedek can be performed constantly next to God.

# Back to the beginning – chapter 6

Therefore – leaving (behind) the elementary teachings – vs. 1

Seems like 6 foundational slipping points (JB Phillips):

- Repentance from the deeds that lead to death
- Believing in God
- baptism
- and laying on of hands
- Belief in the life to come (resurrection of the dead)
- The final judgement



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The writer is imploring the reader that they are in danger of slipping back into spiritual childhood:

- 5:11 you are dull of hearing
- 5:12 you should be teaching, instead you still require teaching
- 5:12 and not just teaching but elementary principles
- 5:12 you've lapsed back to needing milk and can't take solid food
- 5:12 you're not accustomed to the word of righteousness, being an infant



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Now comes the therefore:

- Let us press to maturity

What does it mean to “lay again a foundation of repentance from death works?” vs 1

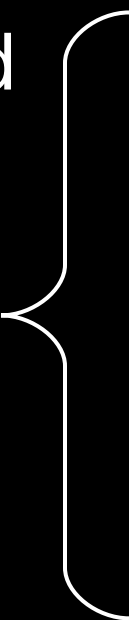
- animal sacrifice vs. the Lord’s sacrifice

They wanted to go back to the law – was familiar but produced dead works

Vs 6 concluded – if that’s you, it’s impossible to renew to repentance

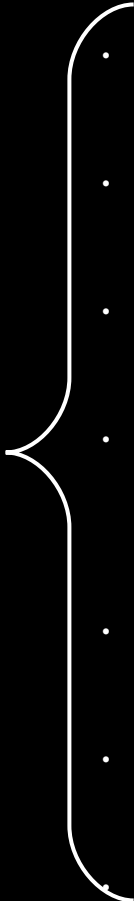
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## J.B Phillips :

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- Vs 4 You've already been blessed (enlightened) and tasted the gift of God [under grace and Christ's sacrifice]
  - Vs 6 But if you've turned away from it, it'll be very difficult to turn back
  - Vs 7 you've had much opportunity to bring forth fruits, and till the soil
  - vs. 8 but instead you've neglected it and your ground produces worthless weeds

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- vs 9 beloved – there is so much better for you, things which accompany salvation
  - vs 10 God can forgive, and doesn't forget your previous love towards others
  - vs 11 get back that diligence you once had in full assurance of hope
  - vs 12 shake off the sluggishness and imitate other faith and patience – to inherit the promises
  - vs 13-15 be patient like Abraham to wait for Gods promise
  - Vs 18 let us take up refuge and encouragement in the hope set before us That we might be fixed – so we never drift again!

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