

The Guarantor of Salvation

Michael Woody | Hebrews 7:20–25

Jesus is our guarantor of salvation by His calling, because He is able to save, and because He lives to intercede.

WHY THIS PASSAGE

1. This is the second time in this passage where the author/Paul has quoted Psalm 110:4.
2. This falls within a passage where we have Jesus being identified as a superior priest of a superior priesthood.
3. The immediate context of our passage today is found in verses 18-19 from the CSB

So the previous command is annulled because it was weak and unprofitable (for the law perfected nothing), but a better hope is introduced, through which we draw near to God

4. The great promise of this passage is found in Hebrews 7:25
5. There are three promises in this passage
 - a. Jesus is the guarantee of our salvation by His calling (v. 20-22)
 - b. Jesus is the guarantee of our salvation because He is able to save (v. 24-25)
 - c. Jesus is the guarantee of our salvation because He lives to intercede (v. 25)

JESUS IS THE GUARANTEE OF OUR SALVATION BY HIS CALLING(V. 20-23)

1. The author of Hebrews has started off showing that Jesus priesthood is a superior priesthood: after all, Abraham paid tithes to Melchisedek and wasn't the Messiah a High Priest, forever, after that order of Melchisedek - Psalm 110:4?
3. Psalm 110 is all about the Messianic king who would come save His people.
3. Phillips notes, Both of these oaths have reference to God's dealings with Abraham. In the one case God promised to bless Abraham, and in the other he promised the Messiah that he would be a priest in the order of the priest-king Melchizedek. It stands to reason that these two oaths, so closely related in terms of God's covenant to Abraham, serve similar functions—namely, to give assurance to those who look to God with the faith of Abraham.
4. Oaths served as a seal of the promise
 - a. The oath to Abraham sealed God's intention to bless him; God swore by himself that he would do it.
 - b. The oath to the Messiah in Psalm 110:4 sealed the means by which God would accomplish that intention, the sending of a Savior to accomplish what God had promised.
5. It is by the means of the incarnation of Christ, and His completed work, that God fulfilled the promises to Abraham. The oath in Psalm 110:4 guarantees He will accomplish what He promised to Abraham.
6. Jesus, the second Person of the Godhead, fulfilled all of the promises and the New Covenant has replaced the Old with better promises and a better High Priest.
7. This word surety/guarantor/guarantee only occurs here in our New Testament, it means a person of sufficient means who offers his belongings, freedom, or often his life as an assurance that another person will meet certain

specifications or requirements; especially in a financial context of debt repayment.

8. The insufficiency of the Old Covenant was replaced by the better High Priest who not only pleases God in all things, but also lives forever and will always guarantee our relationship with God.

JESUS IS THE GUARANTEE OF OUR SALVATION BECAUSE HE IS ABLE TO SAVE (V. 24-25)

1. This first promise, of our guarantor, guarantees salvation in Him because of His calling, but how does His ministry actually save us?
2. Verse 25 starts with one of my favorite Greek words - ὅθεν, which is a statement of logic.
3. ὅθεν links together this eternal priesthood of Christ and His ongoing intercession. He is not just sitting in Heaven, He actively intercedes for us.
4. This word for intercede is a present active infinitive - it is an ongoing intercession by an interceder (the use of an infinitive is characteristics of a noun and a verb).
5. Catch the grammatical links here: He is able to save because He lives to intercede.
6. Phillips makes this vital comment around inferences from this, Jesus' intercession is not because the Father sits in hostility toward us, and is only begrudgingly placated by the labors of his Son. It is true that we are worthy of God's complete disdain. But never let us forget that Jesus here fulfills the office to which the Father appointed him. We are saved because the Son does the will of his Father for us, opening the way for our full reconciliation as God's beloved children. It is God himself who "so loved the world that he gave his only Son" (John 3:16).

JESUS IS THE GUARANTEE OF OUR SALVATION BECAUSE HE LIVES TO INTERCEDE (v. 25)

1. This passage highlights the superiority of Christ in many ways
 - a. We cannot save ourselves but He ever lives to make intercession for us
 - b. Sin brings upon us guilt - guilt for not doing as we ought and shame for not being able to do more. The promise in 1 John 2:1-2
 - c. Paul captures these same truths in Romans 8:1,34
 - d. He intercedes for you and He has given His life, His righteousness and His sinlessness to you; He has guaranteed that you will be found righteous before the Father's eyes and He ever lives to guarantee that promise.
 - e. Our confession does not actually remove our sin, what removes our sin is not something we do but what he did once for all on the cross, an all-sufficient redemption that now is on display in heaven and will be forever.
2. And you might say, I have confessed but how will I ever make it to the end!
 - a. I find great comfort in Peter's restoration by our Lord in Luke 22:31-32
 - b. John 17 is that great High Priestly prayer of Jesus - He prays this for us!

CALL TO GRACE

The call to grace in this passage is because He live He has accomplished salvation for His people, and because He lives He is able to save, and because He lives to He intercedes in behalf of those who are trusting in Him.

1. Romanism and Mormonism and other false religions offer you no comfort, no assurance and no guarantee. Ask those followers if they are guaranteed of eternity in Heaven - they have nothing to offer.
2. What our passage today has to offer you is not trusting in what you have done, you can rest in Christ who has accomplished it.