

## DAY 20 THURSDAY

### HEBREWS 7:20-28 NOW, ALWAYS AND FOR EVER

<sup>20</sup> *And it was not without an oath! Others became priests without any oath, <sup>21</sup> but he became a priest with an oath when God said to him: “The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind: ‘You are a priest forever.’ ” <sup>22</sup> Because of this oath, Jesus has become the guarantee of a better covenant.*

<sup>23</sup> *Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office; <sup>24</sup> but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. <sup>25</sup> Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.*

<sup>26</sup> *Such a high priest meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. <sup>27</sup> Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself. <sup>28</sup> For the law appoints as high priests men who are weak; but the oath, which came after the law, appointed the Son, who has been made perfect forever.*

In this disposable culture in which we exist, it is particularly difficult to grasp how an event 2100 years ago, that is claimed to have fulfilled the stipulations of a covenant made over 1000 years before that, could have any effect on me today. After all, the cell phone I purchased 6 months ago is “so yesterday,” and I am constantly having to upgrade my software just to keep up with my e-mail. How is it that an event on a weekend in Jerusalem in 33 A.D. could affect me today in North America in 2009?

Most of us would agree that one of the tenets of the Christian faith is that God is both timeless and absolutely constant. At any given moment in our time, God is the same. So if God declares that Jesus is the ultimate high priest, then he simply is – “is” as in present every possible moment in time. Remember, God revealed his name to Moses as “I am” (Exodus 3:14) and Jesus said of himself, “...before Abraham was, I am” (John 8:58). The eternal *I am* is both always present and always consistent. Whatever *I am* does, he always does. However effective/efficient *I am* is, he always is. When it comes to salvation and divine love, we do not have to look back to the glory days of Israel or forward to the consummation of God’s kingdom, we can bask in the present reality every moment of every day of our lives. Because he is I am saved and loved by God.

**Lord God, you are not only everlasting but ever present to me. Remind me every moment of my life of your sacrifice for me that I might live a life of obedience out of gratitude for your saving love. Help me to live fully into the present because you are always with me. Amen.**