

## Change of Jurisdiction

*12 For when the priesthood is changed, the law must be changed also.*

Hebrews 7:12

**NUGGET** – You’ve heard of a ‘change of venue’ when it comes to often high-profile criminal cases. The idea behind it is that with a change of location, a change of where the potential jurors are drawn from, that there can be a more fair or impartial jury pool. The hope is that there is a greater chance for justice to prevail by simply moving the location.

There may be some connection to that idea in today’s nugget verse. But in the nugget verse it isn’t simply geography that’s involved, it’s that the ‘location’ of the law has changed. The law has moved when the priest is changed. With a new priest comes a new order of things.

Much is said in this chapter about Melchizedek and who he was and how he is a ‘type’ of Jesus. He was one who helped pave the way to understand the work of the Christ. But there is also mentioned Levi, Judah, Abraham and Moses, all of whom also were ‘types’ of Christ. But the writer of Hebrews uses these types to make clear that they were only doing the job of preparing for the coming of Christ (verse 28). All of these men and their work were important both in their day and in the coming day of the Lord.

*18 The former regulation is set aside because it was weak and useless 19 (for the law made nothing perfect), and a better hope is introduced, by which we draw near to God.* The new hope comes from the change of priest. All the former types and people are superseded when the Jesus comes. Even Melchizedek, with all he brings to this chapter, is seen to fade because of what Jesus Christ has come and accomplished.

The new location of the new covenant, the new law, is Jesus Christ. He is the new place where justice is found. That’s because He has taken the punishment of the old law. The guilt and shame of the transgressions under the old order have been meted out upon Him. It is not the former law that made anything perfect; it is the new law, which is found in Jesus Christ alone! That is where the ‘better hope’ is now located.

And just as in court, you give an oath to bear true witness, so also Jesus, with an oath by God the Father (verses 20-22) is made the ‘guarantor’ of the new and better covenant or law. Of course that is the law of love. The law that sets free not binds. His sacrifice was done once for all (verse 27). That’s because His priestly sacrifice is perfect.

### **APPLICATION -**

1. God has given us a better covenant in Jesus Christ because He has fulfilled all righteousness for all time. As the new priest He brings the new law. We all live under the laws of the land where we dwell. Perhaps when we’re reminded of our local laws at, say, tax time or when we see a policeman with someone pulled over, we can be reminded of the fulfillment of the law that Jesus Christ has done for all people for all time. He brings the new law, of love.

**PRAY** – Dear Jesus, You are the new Priest forever and You bring the new covenant of peace. Guide us to follow You in the ways of peace, justice and mercy. In Your name we pray, amen.