

# Hebrews 7:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

(For those priests were made without an oath; but this with an oath by him that said unto him, The Lord sware and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec:)

## Analysis

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Quoting Psalm 110:4 directly: 'The LORD has sworn and will not repent: You are a priest forever.' The phrase 'will not repent' (Greek 'ou metamelēthēsetai') means God won't change His mind or regret His decision. This establishes Christ's priesthood as absolutely permanent. The eternal duration ('forever') means Christ's priestly benefits continue uninterrupted. Reformed theology sees this as guaranteeing eternal security - Christ's intercession never ceases.

## Historical Context

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The oath formula 'The LORD has sworn' appears throughout the OT at crucial moments (Genesis 22:16, Psalm 110:4, Isaiah 45:23). God binds Himself to His word, providing maximum assurance of fulfillment.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. What comfort does the unchangeableness of Christ's priesthood provide in your walk with God?
2. How does Christ's eternal priesthood differ from temporary human religious leadership?

## Interlinear Text

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οἵ μέν γάρ χωρίς ὄρκωμοσίας, είσιν ιερεὺς γεγονότες  
G3588 were (For without an oath G1526 art a priest made  
G3303 G1063 G5565 G3728 G2409 G1096

ό δὲ μετὰ ὄρκωμοσίας, διὰ τοῦ λέγοντος πρὸς  
G3588 but this with an oath by G3588 him that said unto  
G1161 G3326 G3728 G1223 G3004 G4314

αὐτόν· Ὄμοσεν κύριος καὶ οὐ μεταμεληθήσεται· Σὺ  
him sware The Lord and not repent Thou  
G846 G3660 G2962 G2532 G3756 G3338 G4771

ιερεὺς εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα κατὰ τὴν τάξιν Μελχισεδέκ  
art a priest for G3588 ever after G3588 the order of Melchizedek  
G2409 G1519 G165 G2596 G5010 G3198

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 110:4** (Repentance): The LORD hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.

**Hebrews 7:17** (Parallel theme): For he testifieth, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.