

# 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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οἱ	μέν	γάρ	χωρίς	ὀρκωμοσίας,	εἰσιν	ἱερεὺς	γεγονότες
G3588	<b>were</b>	<b>(For</b>	<b>without</b>	<b>an oath</b>	G1526	<b>art a priest</b>	<b>made</b>
	G3303	G1063	G5565	G3728		G2409	G1096
ὁ	δὲ	μετὰ	ὀρκωμοσίας,	διὰ	τοῦ	λέγοντος	πρὸς
G3588	<b>but</b>	<b>this with</b>	<b>an oath</b>	<b>by</b>	G3588	<b>him that said</b>	<b>unto</b>
	G1161	G3326	G3728	G1223		G3004	G4314
αὐτόν·	Ὡμοσεν	κύριος	καὶ	οὐ	μεταμεληθήσεται·	Σὺ	
<b>him</b>	<b>sware</b>	<b>The Lord</b>	<b>and</b>	<b>not</b>	<b>repent</b>	<b>Thou</b>	
G846	G3660	G2962	G2532	G3756	G3338	G4771	
ἱερεὺς	εἰς	τὸν	αἰῶνα	κατὰ	τὴν	τάξιν	Μελχισεδέκ
<b>art a priest</b>	<b>for</b>	G3588	<b>ever</b>	<b>after</b>	G3588	<b>the order</b>	<b>of Melchisedec</b>
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 Melchisedec.