I. Slide#1 Announce:
   A. Slide#2 Baby Dedication 2nd - Joshua & Kristyn Suemnick, Jeremiah Jensen.
   B. Slide#3 Concert next Sun eve - Kel
   C. Slide#5 Women’s Christmas Celebration - Kel
   D. Slide#6 TOTG - Sat - Jan24 - register at takingoffthegloves.org or in info booth today.
      1. Our culture has abandoned men, claiming they are unnecessary. But rather than give in or look to our culture for answers, we turn instead to the call of the Father that says BEING A MAN MATTERS.
   E. Slide#7 Gifts for Eternity - The last 3 years we’ve had a Christmas Catalog of diff opp of partnering with ministries we support. This yr we decided to help with Scripture Translation.
      1. Slide#8 Over a billion people are still Bibleless. Take a moment. Let that sink in.
         a) My fav bible verse is Jer.20:9 & to 200 mill people it sounds like this....(long pause)
      2. Slide#9 This Christmas we are partnering with The Seed Company & taking part in the Jari Project. The Jari name is an invented name to protect those working on this project in a hard access country in S/E Asia to keep the translators safe.
      3. We will be funding 8 books of the bible: 1&2 Pet, Eph, Rom, Titus, Philip, Col & Ex.
      4. Slide#10 Details: $106,000 to complete their whole project. So we thought we’d help to at least get them 1/2 way there. So w/8 books, that’s 2500 ornaments @ $20 ech
         a) Your $20 includes total cost for: Translators, equip, national helpers, living expenses, resources, everything it takes to do the full translation of Scripture into a local language.
      5. Slide#11 4 to choose from on the Xmas Tree in Foyer: Bible book’s name is on back.
   F. Slide#13,14 auto Congratulations to our CM Warriors: Football Team & Girls Var VB & Jr High VB, are the South Valley League Champs!

II. Intro:
   A. Slide#15 It seems like the author of Hebrews would define religion as “Having access to God’s presence as friends, with nothing between us & Him.” William Barclay
      1. The OT Jewish religion was designed to produce that fellowship in 2 ways:
         [1] By perfect obedience to the Law [2] or, since that was out of the question, the sacrificial system came in.
         a) So, man would breach God’s law, a sacrifice was to heal that breach.
b) But, there was also a problem with the **priesthood**.

B. Way back in David’s time God promised a **“new priesthood”**. Ps.110:4 (Heb’s brings up 5x’s)

1. **But, a change of the priesthood, means** the whole **legal system** on which the **Levitical institutions** were predicated...also had to be **changed**.

2. This former regulation **(Law) has been replaced because of its inherent weakness and uselessness.** What has replaced it is the new priesthood which constitutes a **better hope**...by which we **draw near to God**.

3. The Law which made **nothing perfect** was replaced by a priestly institution which can accomplish its objectives in those who approach God through it.
   a) Here the author is affirming Paul’s statement, **For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.** Rom.6:14

C. **Slide#16 So now the author lists the various characteristics of Jesus, who, according to the Father’s decree, is That Priest, after the order of Melchizedek. Thus, his priesthood would be:**

1. **Royal**, as was that of Melchizedek (7:1) **Superior**, to Levi/Aaron priesthood (4-10).

   - **Guaranteed** [The Father himself took an oath concerning this] (20-22). **Continuous** (23).
   - **Permanent** (24). **Holy** (26). **All-sufficient** (18,19, 25, 27). **Flawless** (28).

III. **Slide#17 A NEW PRIESTHOOD (11-19)**

A. **Slide#18 INSUFFICIENCY OF ONE PRIESTHOOD (11-14)**

B. The death & res. of Jesus introduced a **new & permanent** priesthood that brings the Levitical priesthood to an **end**, along with its **Law**.

C. Vs.11 Let’s us know that the **law** was given to support the **priesthood** & not vice-versa.

1. **The priesthood & the tabernacle w/its sacrifices** were the **means** God employed to render the sinful people acceptable to Himself.

2. **Then**, the **Law** was given w/its sharp demands to awaken the people to their true condition...so that they might avail themselves of the sacrifices.

3. The **Law** was simply **a schoolmaster** to lead us to Christ.
   a) **Slide#19** Sir Philip Sidney wrote, "Laws are not made like...nets to catch...but rather like seamarks to guide." [seamark = a conspicuous object distinguishable at sea, to guide or warn sailors in navigation]

4. This all must have been just appalling to the Jews listening, thus they would say to Stephen & Paul, **for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and change the customs which Moses delivered to us.** (Acts 6:14)

5. **But if perfection** could have been achieved by the Law & Priesthood, then why would the prophecy of David come, regarding a **“new priesthood”**?
6. The Law was an excellent institution...the real problem was that man was sinful.
   a) Mt.5:17 Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.

D. Slide#20 SUFFICIENCY OF MELCHIZEDEK PRIESTHOOD (15-19)
E. (the Law was) Weak & unprofitable/useless – How?
   1. Since it cannot cleanse from sin or provide power to obey.
F. Slide#21 The law is the light that reveals how dirty the room is, not the broom that sweeps it clean.
G. The law is a dentist’s mirror that shows decay, not the instruments needed to fix the cavity.
H. The law is a flashlight that guides you in the dark to the electrical panel, but doesn’t help you trip the breaker.
I. The law is a plumb-line, a framer used to see if something was true to vertical, but he never uses it to square the wall.
   1. So, The law points out the problem of sin; it doesn’t provide a solution.

J. Despite the Jews longings...access was limited to God.
   1. The Old Cov. made man keep his distance...The New Cov. brings man near.
K. A better hope is brought in to replace it which will do what the Law & the priesthood could not do...enable us to draw near to God.
   1. Slide#22 Access was seen as the highest good. Access presupposes a right relationship. Access would mean acceptance before God & the forgiveness of sin. Access would also involve an exposure to the glory of his holiness.
      a) During the Civil War, there was a young Union soldier who had lost his father and older brother in the war. He went to Washington, D.C., to see if he could get an exemption from military service so that he could go back home and help his mother and sister with the spring planting. When he approached the White House and asked to see the president, he was turned away. Totally disheartened, the soldier sat down on a park bench nearby.
      Slide#23a/b A little boy approached him and said, “You look unhappy, soldier. What’s wrong?” After the soldier shared his story, the little boy took him by the hand. He led him through the back door of the White House, past the guards, and into the president’s office itself. President Lincoln looked up and asked, “What can I do for you, Tad?” Tad said, “Daddy, this soldier needs to talk to you” - and the soldier was not turned away.

2. Slide#24 Jesus simply says, “Abba, this is someone who needs to talk to You.”

IV. Slide#25 A NEW PRIEST (20-28)

1 Progress Magazine, December 12/13, 1992
A. Slide#26 PLEDGED PRIEST (20-22)

B. Many things we buy today have on them a warranty or guarantee. *It is the manufactures promise that the item sold will fulfill the buyer’s expectations.*

   1. The author now focuses in on **God’s oath.**

C. (22) A surety/guarantee – He not only mediates the covenant but guarantees it.

   1. **A mediator** would offer the covenant but it would be up to the believer to receive it. **A guarantor** however, sees to it that the covenant is fulfilled...even though the believer resists & stumbles at times.

D. Slide#27 PERMANENT PRIESTHOOD (23-25)

E. Because he is a **priest forever,** He saves forever.

F. (25) **To the utmost** – means completely, perfectly, forever.

   1. So we are secure as long as He lives...& He lives eternally :)

G. He always lives to make intercession for them –

   1. Spurgeon, “If Christ appears in heaven for us, be glad to appear on earth for Him. **If Christ pleads w/God for men, let us plead w/men for God. If He by intercession saves us to the uttermost, let us hasten to serve Him to the uttermost. If He spends eternity in intercession for us, let us spend our time in intercession for His cause.”

H. Slide#28 PERFECT PRIEST (26-28)

I. (27) **Once for all** – he provided a *1-time sacrifice* sufficient for all people, for all time.

J. He offered up Himself – how much more should we respond by offering up ourselves for Him?

K. Slide#29,30 2 hunters noticed on the horizon a cloud of smoke. Soon he could hear crackling as the wind shifted. He realized a brushfire was advancing, so fast they couldn’t outrun it. Rifling through his pockets, he soon found what he was looking for - a **book of matches.** He lit a small fire around the two of them. Soon they were standing in a circle of blackened earth, waiting for the fire to come. They didn’t have to wait long. They covered their mouths with handkerchiefs and braced themselves. The fire came near - and swept right past them. But they were completely unhurt, untouched. Fire would not pass where fire already had passed.

   1. **The law is like a brushfire.** I cannot escape it. But if I stand in the burned-over place, not a hair of my head will be singed. Christ’s death has disarmed it.

L. Slide#31 “Such then is our Melchizedek, God’s provision for help in our daily life, incomparable in greatness, inexhaustible in resource, infinite in patience, infallible in wisdom & interested in all that concerns us.” Ray Stedman pg.86

M. Communion:

   1. Bread -
   2. Cup -