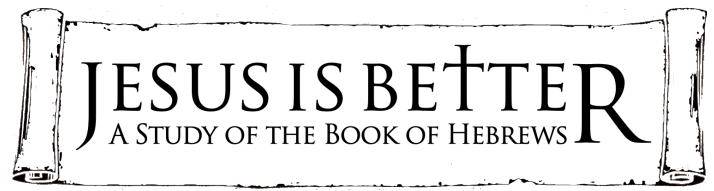


11: Our Perfect, Permanent High Priest Heb 7

Today we learn about Melchizedek, an ancient personage pointing to **our Perfect, Permanent High Priest** - the One who was foretold to establish a New Covenant that brings people into right relationship with God.



teachingnotes

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* All Scripture is from CSB (Christian Standard Bible)

Picking Up Where We Left Off

Hebrews 6:19-20 We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain. **Jesus has entered there on our behalf** as a forerunner, because He has become a **high priest forever** according to the order of Melchizedek.

WHO IS this man called **Melchizedek**?

Hebrews 7:1 For this **Melchizedek, king** of Salem, **priest** of God Most High, met Abraham and blessed him as he returned from defeating the kings,

Melchizedek was both a **king** and a **priest**. Abraham met Melchizedek **as he returned from defeating the kings**. *What's that all about?* Go read more in Genesis 14. Here's the synopsis:

- **Genesis 14:8-12** tells of Lot (Abraham's nephew) and his family, who were taken as slaves along with many others during a time of war.
- **Genesis 14:13-16** explains how Abraham (known as Abram at the time) went to get his family back - taking his 318 trained men and attacking at night. After defeating and pursuing the enemy, Abraham and his small army brought back all the goods and people carried off, including his nephew, Lot.

Genesis 14:18-20 **Melchizedek**, king of Salem, brought out bread and wine; he was **a priest to God Most High**. He blessed him and said: Abram is blessed by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth, and blessed be God Most High who has handed over your enemies to you. And Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

Abraham didn't give the priest **a tenth of everything** because it was a requirement. (The "tithe" or tenth was given to Moses...and Moses didn't exist until over 500 years later.) Abraham gave to the priest of God Most High out of thankfulness for God's blessing in conquering his enemies and restoring the people and goods that were taken.

Hebrews 7:2 and Abraham gave him a tenth of everything. First, his name [Melchizedek] means **king of righteousness**, then also, king of Salem, meaning **king of peace**.

- Melchizedek's name means "**king of righteousness**," (Hebrew *melek* = "king" and *sedeq* = "righteousness").
- He was **king of Salem** from the Hebrew *shālom*, meaning "**peace**". (This place was later called Jerusalem.)

Melchizedek was **the king of righteousness and peace** - *a vivid word-picture of who Jesus is.*¹ The author is showing *the similarities between Melchizedek* - this king & priest - *and Jesus, our Perfect, Permanent, High Priest*, the "King of kings" - the one to whom every person will one day bow before (Phil 2:9-10, Rev 17:14, 19:16).

TAKE SOME NOTES HERE!

¹ Some think this to be a pre-incarnate Jesus, although the Scripture gives us no cause to think so.

The Mystery of Melchizedek

Hebrews 7:3 Without father, mother, or genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but **resembling the Son of God**, he remains **a priest forever**.

The Scriptures don't tell us of Melchizedek's family tree, so the writer seizes on this opportunity and mystery to point to the similarity with Jesus as **a priest forever**.

How is Melchizedek different from other Priests?

Hebrews 7:4-5 Now **consider how great this man was**: even Abraham the patriarch gave a tenth of the plunder to him. The sons of Levi who receive the priestly office have a command according to the law to collect a tenth from the people—that is, from their brothers and sisters—though they have also descended from Abraham.

Over 500 years after this meeting between Abraham and Melchizedek, God commanded that those who served at the tabernacle must come from the lineage of **Levi** and receive **a tenth** from their family members, all of which had been born through Father Abraham.

The People from tribe of Levi served as assistants to the priests, those in the family of Aaron (brother of Moses).

Hebrews 7:6-7 But one without this lineage [*Melchizedek is not in Levi or Aaron's family*] collected a tenth from Abraham and blessed the one who had the promises. Without a doubt, the inferior [*Abraham*] is blessed by the superior [*Melchizedek*].

The family that followed Abraham (including the Levitical priests) were **inferior** to Abraham. Abraham *is the father of the nation*. But Abraham was **blessed** by Melchizedek, showing that Melchizedek was **superior** to Abraham.

❓ Do you see the picture the author of Hebrews is drawing?

➡ As great as Abraham was, Melchizedek is Better, and since *Melchizedek resembles Jesus* (Heb 7:3), **Jesus is Better than Abraham!**

If Jesus > Abraham and Abraham > Levites, then Jesus > Levites

Hebrews 7:8-11 In the one case, men who will die receive a tenth [*Levites*], but in the other case, Scripture testifies that he lives [*Melchizedek, who represents Jesus*]. And in a sense Levi himself, who receives a tenth, has paid a tenth through Abraham, for he was still within his ancestor when Melchizedek met him. Now if perfection came through the Levitical priesthood (for on the basis of it the people received the law), what further need was there for another priest to appear, said to be **according to the order of Melchizedek** and not according to the order of Aaron?

THE PROBLEM. *How could Jesus be the perfect high priest if He doesn't come from the tribe of Levi and the family of Aaron?* To counter that problem, the author asks a great question and then quotes a powerful Scripture.

- **The Question.** *Did perfection come through the Levitical priesthood?* NOPE. Priests died and had to be replaced. Sacrifices had to be offered over and over again, year after year.
- **The Scripture.** The author of Hebrews quotes Psalm 110, the #1 most quoted Old Testament passage of the early church, pointing to Jesus as the ONE who fulfills the Old Testament Scriptures.

Psalm 110:1 This is the declaration of the LORD (YaHWeH) to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies your footstool."

The author of Hebrews specifically quotes Psalm 110:4.

Psalm 110:4 The LORD (YaHWeH) has sworn an oath and will not take it back: "**You are a priest forever according to the pattern of Melchizedek.**"

The final high priest had to match the pattern of Melchizedek, but didn't have to be from tribe of Levi nor family of Aaron. The priesthood of Melchizedek existed long before the tribe of Levi and the family of Aaron did.

TAKE SOME NOTES HERE!

Jesus is the ONE who fits the pattern of Melchizedek

Hebrews 7:12-17 For when there is a change of the priesthood, there must be a change of law as well. For the one these things are spoken about belonged to a different tribe. No one from it has served at the altar. Now it is evident that our Lord came from Judah, and Moses said nothing about that tribe concerning priests. And this becomes clearer if another priest like **Melchizedek** appears, who did not become a priest based on a legal regulation about physical descent but based on the power of an indestructible life. For it has been testified: **You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.**

- We need a **HIGH PRIEST** who can rightly mediate between sinful people and the Most Holy God!
 - We need a **PERMANENT HIGH PRIEST** rather than a revolving door of priests who pass away.
 - We need a **PERFECT, PERMANENT HIGH PRIEST** who experienced human life, who lived without committing any sin.
- ✓ **JESUS is our Perfect, Permanent High Priest**, who follows the pattern of Melchizedek. Jesus is the King of Righteousness & Peace - the Eternal One who truly has no beginning and no ending, the One who has conquered sin.

New Covenant > Old Covenant

Hebrews 7:18-22 So the previous command is annulled because it was weak and unprofitable (for the law perfected nothing), but **a better hope is introduced, through which we draw near to God.** None of this happened without an oath. For others became priests without an oath, but he became a priest with an oath made by the one who said to him: *The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind, "You are a priest forever."* Because of this oath, **Jesus has also become the guarantee of a better covenant.**

Jesus is **a better hope** and is the **guarantee of a better covenant** - a more complete way to **draw near to God.**

Jeremiah, the Old Covenant prophet, foretold of the superiority of the New Covenant that was to come.

Jeremiah 31:31-34 "Look, the days are coming"—this is the LORD'S declaration—"when **I will make a new covenant** with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. This one will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt—My covenant that they broke even though I am their master"—the LORD'S declaration. "Instead, this is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after those days"—the LORD'S declaration. "I will put my teaching within them and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will one teach his neighbor or his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for **they will all know me, from the least to the greatest of them**"—this is the LORD'S declaration. "For **I will forgive their iniquity and never again remember their sin.**"

- While **the Old Covenant** invited people to come near to God, there was always a curtain/veil & an imperfect priest that stood between God and people. Sacrifices had to take place again and again, year after year.
- **The New Covenant** was a **better covenant** that removed the veiled separation between people and God - because of the work of our Perfect, Permanent High Priest! Look what the Synoptics (Matthew, Mark, & Luke) say regarding what happened when Jesus died on the cross:

Mark 15:37-38 Jesus let out a loud cry and breathed his last. Then **the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.**

- ✓ *The separation between God and man was removed, because the SIN that separated man from God was removed!*

Able to Save Completely!

Hebrews 7:23-25 Now many have become Levitical priests, since they are prevented by death from remaining in office. But because He ^[Jesus] remains forever, **He holds his priesthood permanently.** Therefore, **He is able to save completely those who come to God through him,** since He always lives to intercede for them.

Jesus didn't take us part of the way and expect us to make it the rest of the way by ourselves. He is able and offering to **save completely those who come to God through Him!** Jesus came to earth to **intercede** for people in a way none other has ever done, including Melchizedek.

TAKE SOME NOTES HERE!

WHO is Jesus and WHAT has Jesus done for us?

Hebrews 7:26-28 For this is the kind of high priest we need: **holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens.** He doesn't need to offer sacrifices every day, as high priests do—first for their own sins, then for those of the people. **He did this once for all time when he offered himself.** For the law appoints as high priests men who are weak, but the promise of the oath, which came after the law, appoints **a Son**, who has been **perfected forever.**

Of all the priests from Melchizedek to the men serving in Jesus' day, NONE compared to Jesus.

✿ 1500 years before Jesus walked the earth, Abrahams grandson (Jacob - aka "Israel") dreamed of angels coming down to earth and going up to heaven on a ladder/stairway (Gen 28:12). He named that place **Bethel**, meaning "house (*beth*) of God (*El*)" (Gen 28:19).

📖 1500 years later when Jesus meets Nathanael, He uses this same imagery to show who He is.

John 1:51 Then He said, "Truly I tell you, you will see heaven opened and **the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.**"

That's Jesus! ***Our Perfect, Permanent High Priest...our King of Righteousness & Peace*** - Who makes the way for people to be in right relationship with God; the One who makes a New Covenant with those who turn from sin and trust Him!

TAKE SOME NOTES HERE!

Where does this find YOU today?

✓ ***Thank & Seek Our Perfect, Permanent High Priest who gave His life for you!***

heretoserveyou

Have questions and need some help? ...real soon...how about now? Please **call** or **text** us soon!

- * Contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Justin** (704-618-6144), **Christy** (673-9764), or another follower of Jesus soon!
- * Or call our **deacons & wives**: Alan & Christy Androski (464-1428), Steve & Debbie Bass (673-7952), Tim & Joni Hughey (464-1156), Mark & Dot Mancil (253-5405), Boss & Amelia Mulkey (464-6717), Jim & Derita Pinkard (464-6188), Fain & Linda Poppell (464-1282), or Tom & Martha Waddail (973-0011).