

# Lesson Three

## Hebrews 5, 6 & 7

The author of Hebrews is slowly but surely arguing to the Hebrews that Jesus Christ is superior to those things that an ancient Hebrew held dear. The first focus was the superiority of Jesus to angels, then to Moses and Joshua. The Jewish priesthood with its sacrificial system is the next institution that the was foundational to the Jewish way of life. The author will be proving that Jesus is superior to the high priest and turns his focus to a mysterious ancient biblical character named Melchizedek.

1. Read Exodus 28:1, Exodus 29:44-45 and Numbers 14:7-20 along with Hebrews 5:1-6. How do you see Jesus taking the role of High Priest while on earth? Read Hebrews 5:7-10 with John 12:27 and Matthew 16:37-42. How do you relate these to Jesus' role as High Priest? Can you think of other times in the ministry of Jesus that He took on the High Priest mantle?
2. Read Hebrews 7:1-22 with Genesis 14:17-20 and Psalm 110 which is a messianic prophecy. What do you notice about this mysterious Melchizedek? Compare Jesus and Melchizedek.  
  
Hint    v.1-2    Similar names; king and priest.  
  
          v.3        No genealogy, Jesus at creation. Resurrected eternal life.  
  
          v.4-10    Abraham tithe given to Melchizedek, lesser gives to greater. Priesthood of Levi, ancestor of Abraham, lesser by his being a descendent of Abraham.  
  
          v. 11-22 The Law and Levitical priesthood not perfect. Needed new and better priest not by lineage but by an oath made by God.
3. Read Hebrews 7:23-28. How is Jesus better than the High Priests ordained through Moses?
4. Read Hebrews 5:11-6:3 with Ephesians 4:1-3,11-15. (See also 1 Corinthians 3:1-3). How important is it to make a conscious effort to move into a maturity of faith? How do we accomplish this?
5. Read Hebrews 6:4-8. This is a much-debated passage that I will cover in lecture. We know that once we come into a relationship of faith with Jesus Christ, we cannot lose our salvation. This statement comes on the heels of the need to strive for a maturity of faith. What do you think these verses mean? See also Matthew 7:21-23.

**Prayer** Gracious Father, you have each of us in the palm of your hand. From the beginning, you designed a plan to redeem us by the amazing sacrifice of your Son. May we grasp the reality of that sacrifice and move towards an ever-deepening faith so that we may reach the "measure of all the fullness of God". That fullness involves knowing the love of Christ. Open our hearts to go deeper in your love and deeper in our faith so that we may serve the King of Kings, Jesus. Amen.