

Hebrews 7

Jesus

Jesus our forerunner entered the Holy of Holies by His blood
We now have free and unlimited access to the Throne of Grace...

Jesus became our High Priest forever
According to the Order of Melchizedek...

I. King of Righteousness and Peace

1 For this **Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God**, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, 2 to whom also **Abraham gave a tenth** part of all, first being translated "**king of righteousness**," and then also **king of Salem**, meaning "**king of peace**," 3 without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the **Son of God**, remains a **priest continually**.

Hebrews 5:10 [Jesus was] called by God as High Priest "**according to the order of Melchizedek**," 11 of whom we have much to say, and hard to explain, since you have become **dull of hearing**.

Hebrews apparently now perked up
Time to talk about Melchizedek

- **King of Righteousness**
- **King of Salem**
- **King of Peace** [Jeru-Salem=Shalom=Peace]
- **Priest of Most High God**

1. Met w/Abraham 2000 BC
2. Received tithes from Abraham
3. W/out father/mother/genealogy
4. No beginning/No end to His life...

Made like the Son of God/A Priest continually

First mention: Melchizedek met w/Abraham 400 yrs before Moses

Genesis 14:5 In the fourteenth year Chedorlaomer and the [3] kings that were with him came and attacked the **Rephaim** in Ashteroth Karnaim, the **Zuzim** in Ham, the **Emim** in Shaveh Kiriathaim, 6 and the Horites in their mountain of Seir... 7 Then they turned back and...attacked all the country of the Amalekites, and also the Amorites...

IOWs 4 Kings of the north are out for blood

Attack the Nephilim who rose again after Noah's flood...

Genesis 6:4 [Pre-flood] **There were giants on the earth** in those days, **and also afterward** [Post-flood]

Nephilim attacked/Continue on attacking the Amalekites/Amorites

Head south toward Sodom where Abram's nephew Lot resides...

Genesis 14:8 And the **king of Sodom**, the king of **Gomorrah**, the **king of Admah**, the **king of Zeboiim**, and the **king of Bela** went out and joined together in battle in the Valley of Siddim 9 against Chedorlaomer king of Elam, Tidal king of nations, Amraphel king of Shinar, and Arioch king of Ellasar—**four kings against five**. 10 Now the Valley of Siddim was full of asphalt pits; and the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled; some fell there, and the remainder fled to the mountains. [Rockefeller's rationale for drilling oil] 11 Then [the 4 Kings of the North] took all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah, and all their provisions, and went their way. 12 **They also took Lot**, Abram's brother's son who dwelt in Sodom, **and his goods, and departed**. 13 Then one who had escaped came and told Abram the Hebrew ... Now when Abram heard that [Lot] was taken captive, he armed his three hundred and eighteen trained servants who were born in his own house, and went in pursuit as far as Dan. 15 He divided his forces against them by night, and he and his servants **attacked them** and pursued them as far as Hobah, which is north of Damascus. 16 **So he brought back all the goods**, and also **brought back his brother Lot** and his goods, as well as the women and the people...

Abram now resting after victory

Enter Melchizedek...

Genesis 14:18 Then **Melchizedek king of Salem** brought out **bread and wine**; he was the priest of God Most High. 19 And **he blessed [Abram]** and said: "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; 20 And **blessed be God Most High**, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand." And [Abram] gave [Melchizedek] a tithe of all.

▪ **Melchizedek:**

5. Lit. King of Righteousness
6. King of Salem/Jerusalem/King of Peace
7. Priest of the Most High God
8. Met w/Abraham 2000 BC
9. No father/mother
10. No beginning/No end of life
11. Communed w/Abe
12. Brought Bread/Wine
13. Blessed Abram
14. Gave glory to the Father
15. Received tithes from Abe's spoils

What did Abe/Mel discuss over Bread/Wine? Hint...

In next Ch. Gen 15 Abram receives the Unilateral Promise of Children/Land/
Salvation

4 Now consider **how great this man was**, to whom even the patriarch Abraham gave a tenth of the spoils.

Consider the greatness of Melchizedek

IOWs as great as Abraham was...Melchizedek is far greater

5 And indeed those who are of the **sons of Levi**, who receive the [earthly] priesthood, have a commandment to receive tithes from the people according to the law, that is, from their brethren, though they have **come from the loins of Abraham**; 6 but he whose genealogy is not derived from them **received tithes from Abraham** and **blessed him** who had the promises.

Earthly Priests received tithes as per the Law
Received tithes from Melchizedek BEFORE THE LAW; i.e. Before tithes were required

7 Now beyond all contradiction **the lesser is blessed by the better.** 8 Here mortal men receive tithes, but there he [Melchizedek] receives them, of whom it is witnessed that he lives.

The lesser is blessed by the greater
Abram was blessed by Melchizedek

Gen. 14:19 "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth"

The lesser *is blessed by* the greater
The lesser *pays tithes to* the greater...

9 Even Levi [Aaronic priests], who **receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham**, so to speak, 10 for he was still in the loins of his father when Melchizedek met him.

- **Earthly priests received tithes** from the people
- **Earthly priests also paid tithes** to Melchizedek with through Abe. **How?**

400 yrs after Bread/Wine meeting all OT priests were descendants of Abraham
They *in essence* also tithed to Melchizedek because they came from Abe's loins

- **Summary vv 1-9**

1. Melchizedek: Greater than Abraham
2. Melchizedek: Greater than/all OT priests of the Law

Since all OT earthly priests after Abram proved themselves lesser than Melchizedek the Eternal Priest by tithing to Him with/through Abram, they set themselves under He who was

before the Law/before the earthly priesthood. IOWs they recognized the Law was inadequate to save because of their inadequacy and looked to something/Someone greater. [NJC]

II. Need for a New Priesthood

11 Therefore, **if perfection were through the Levitical priesthood** (for under it the people received the law), what further need was there that another priest should rise according to the order of Melchizedek, and not be called according to the order of Aaron?

If/Since the OT High Priests were insufficient
Something needed to change for souls to be saved/sins forgiven

12 For the priesthood **being changed, of necessity** there is also a **change of the law**. 13 For He of whom these things are spoken [Jesus] **belongs to another tribe**, from which no [mortal] man has officiated at the altar. 14 For it is evident that our **Lord arose from Judah**, of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood.

If it's not broke don't fix it...If it is broke **then fix it**
The Law required a priest from the Tribe of Levi. It was broke.

Author of Hebrews: Jesus is our High Priest from the Tribe of Judah
Yet...The Hebrews were "hung up" on Jesus not being of Levi but Judah

They knew Messiah would be from Judah...

Genesis 49:10 The **scepter shall not depart from Judah**, Nor a lawgiver from between his feet, **Until Shiloh comes**; And to Him shall be the obedience of the people.

Micah 5:2 But you, Bethlehem, Though you are little among the thousands of **Judah**, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, **From everlasting**.

They knew Messiah would be from Judah...

They did not know the Messiah would fill all three offices: King/Priest/Prophet
Gold/Frankincense/Myrrh

The One to save us would not be from the Tribe of Levi as per Law
This One who arose to save us is the same One who arose from the dead

15 And it is yet far more evident **if, in the likeness of Melchizedek**, there arises another priest [Jesus] 16 who has come, **not according to the law of a fleshly commandment**, but **according to the power of an endless life**. 17 For He testifies: **"You are a priest forever** According to the order of Melchizedek."

OT Priests were temporal: Chosen from Levi according to the Law
Our High Priest is Eternal as per the Promise of God

Psalms 110:4 [Of Jesus] The Lord has sworn And will not relent, **"You are a priest forever** According to the order of Melchizedek."

No beginning/No end/No genealogy
Able to be our High Priest forever as per His Resurrection from the dead

The priests and the Law could not save us...

Romans 8:3 For **what the law could not do** in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by **sending His own Son...**

Galatians 3:21 Is the law then against the promises of God? Certainly not! For **if there had been a law given which could have given life**, truly **righteousness would have been by the law**.

18 For on the one hand there is an **annulling of the former commandment** because of its **weakness** and **unprofitableness**, 19 for **the law made nothing perfect**; on the other hand, there is the bringing in of a **better hope**, through which we **draw near to God**.

- **Law of God**

1. Weak
2. Unprofitable
3. Made nothing perfect due to our weakness

Romans 3:20 Therefore **by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified** in His sight, for by the law is the **knowledge of sin.**

Romans 7:7 What shall we say then? **Is the law sin? Certainly not!** On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law.

The law made nothing perfect

Let all legalists mark this: The Law made nothing perfect. Let the Seventh Day Adventists mark: The Law made nothing perfect. Let all those who dream of the Law as a rule of life remember: **The Law made nothing perfect.** [Newell]

Acts 13:39 ...everyone who believes is justified from all things from which you **could not be justified by the law of Moses.**

Galatians 2:21 I do not set aside the grace of God; for **if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain.**

IOWs The New Covenant of Grace annuls the Old Covenant of the Law

To the Hebrews: God has annulled the Old Covenant of the Law/Aaronic priesthood

- **Annul:** gr. *ath-et'-ay-sis*. Abolish, put away, reject. rt. to set aside

This should temper our excitement about the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem. The small bands of dedicated Jews absolutely committed to rebuilding the temple have an exciting place in God's prophetic plan. But anyone who restores the Aaronic priesthood and resumes Levitical sacrifice especially for atonement of sin denies the superior priesthood and ultimate sacrifice of Jesus. [Guzik]

Now by Grace we enter into a Better Hope/New Relationship. No plates in the air
A Perfect Righteousness Apart from the Law

Romans 3:21 But now **the righteousness of God apart from the law** is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, 26 to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

A righteousness apart from the Law just like Abraham
Justified before God by the blood of Christ...Just as if we never sinned!

Galatians 2:16 ... a man is not justified by the works of the law **but by faith in Jesus Christ**, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be **justified by faith** in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law **no flesh shall be justified**.

Through Jesus we have free and unlimited access to the Father

Romans 5:2 [Jesus] **...through whom also we have access** by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Ephesians 2:18 **...through Him** we [Jew/Gentile] **have access** by one Spirit to the Father.

Hebrews 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly to the **throne of grace**, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

How? Believe and See
Jesus blood washed away your sin!

III. Greatness of our High Priest

20 And inasmuch as He was not made priest without an oath 21 (for they have become priests without an oath [*by heredity*], but **Jesus with an oath by Him** who said to Him: "The Lord has sworn And will not relent, 'You are a

priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek' "), 22 by so much more **Jesus has become a surety [guarantee] of a better covenant.**

God swore an oath regarding Jesus in Psalms 110

You are a priest forever

If God swore by Himself we can take it to the bank

We have an Eternal High Priest/Entered in by His blood on our behalf

Jesus established/abolished the temporal Old Covenant of Law

Jesus established and will never abolish the Eternal New Covenant of Grace

Q. Wont people go wild if we preach Grace?

A. No. Grace Changes Everything

Romans 6:1 What shall we say then? **Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?** 2 Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? 3 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?

Those who die to self are the only ones who can really live to God

God's promise of Jesus our High Priest forever was confirmed by His resurrection

23 Also there were many priests, because they were prevented by death from continuing. 24 **But Jesus, because He continues forever,** has an unchangeable priesthood. 25 Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost [lit. Completely or Forever]those who come to God through Him, since **He always lives to make intercession for them.**

Jesus is the last/only High Priest required for our Salvation today and forever

Jesus sustains us eternally...Jesus intercedes for us today

Jude 24 Now to Him who **is able to keep you from stumbling,** And to **present you faultless** Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy...

Jesus always has/Always will make intercession for His own

Luke 22:31 [E.g. pre-ascension] Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. 32 But **I have prayed for you**, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.

1 John 2:1 My little children these things I write to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an **Advocate with the Father**, Jesus Christ the righteous.

26 For such a High Priest was **fitting for us**, who is holy, harmless [innocent], undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens...

Fitting for us

Jesus had become like us. Perfect fit to represent us

- **Fitting:** To stand out, be conspicuous, be eminent, suitable

16. **Harmless:** Innocent before men/God

17. **Holy:** Set apart to God

18. **Undefiled:** Set apart from sin

IOWs Separate *from sin* yet interceding *for sinners*

Jesus has become our High Priest higher than the heavens!

Philippians 2:8b ...He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. 9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that **Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

Jesus freely laid down His life for us

We now have free/unlimited access to the Father because of Jesus...

27 ...who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself. 28 For the law appoints as high priests men who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the law, appoints the Son who has been perfected forever.

Jesus offered up Himself

A once and for all sacrifice by He who has No beginning/No end

So, who is Melchizedek?

Genesis 14:18 ...Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High.

What did they talk about? How long did they commune?