

Hebrews 7:1-10, “Higher Truths”

3.10.19

Church, as we continue to climb our mountains here at MPBC...I believe many, many, many of you can say, (along with me) that we're truly desiring to see all that the Lord would have us to see and experience in our lives as we follow Him! But, I think we'd all admit that the climb is not easy...and you know what, it never will be, because we live in a sin-sick world and we also battle against our own selfish wills and fleshly hearts that so often weighs us down and we don't do much climbing. Yet, if we are going to seek the:



Better Things of following Jesus, we have to climb yoked to Him, and as we've learned over the last several weeks, to do so, we're going to have to be "all in," willing to pay the price! For you see...experiencing the power of Jesus in our lives comes at a great price. And as we've learned, it's way beyond getting a little taste a Jesus on a toothpick.



like you sample a piece of cheese at Sam's Club

No! This is pulling out the wallet and saying, "I'll pay the \$4.87/lb. I'm in!" And that's when you begin to climb. And it's powerful! But listen...when you begin to feel the pressure of the steepness of the mountain...Satan comes against us...he doesn't want us to climb...so he tempts to pull us off...and that's when you have to decide if you're willing to hurt and even suffer to go where Jesus asks you to climb...because I guarantee, He'll take you to places that's way up...where the air is thin and we've got to depend on Him...like a climber does oxygen in the Death Zone on Everest:



It's there that we lean on Jesus who is our guide! And as we saw last week, He is our anchor in the storm



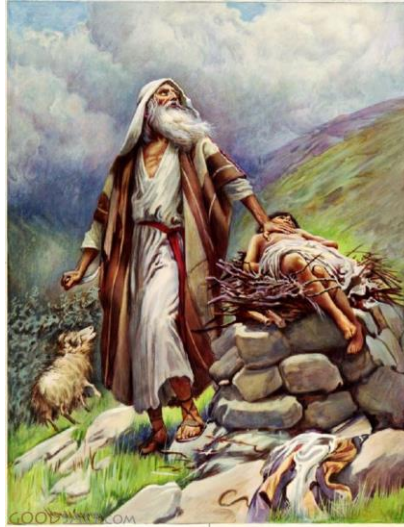
our security, our tent, our place of safety...just as He was for the first-century Christians living in the catacombs...



the tunnels under the streets Rome, as those Christians were hiding from Nero...as he was feeding them to the lions and burning them as street lamps impaled on poles...they found security and power and peace in Jesus!

So, might we do a little spiritual check-up this morning...after all... we've supposedly been seeking to climb for several weeks now. How's it going? How is it with you on the mountain, Christian? Do you feel like you're climbing? Are you climbing? I'll say it again...and I'll say it over and over...until you have surrendered your life to Jesus, you **WILL NOT CLIMB!** Oh, how I pray, **CHURCH**, that we will come to the place in our lives that we're dissatisfied with mediocrity and just limping along through life...and that we'll come to the place that we're sick of making excuses for why we aren't climbing...and we'll truly surrender everything and **PURSUE HIM WITH ALL WE'VE GOT!**

But, I've got to tell you something Christian...I've got to warn you...this isn't going to be easy. If you want to truly know and experience the Lord in the **POWER OF THE LORD**...Power that can help you defeat **SIN** in your life...you will have to die to yourself. You will have to come to the place that you're willing to sacrifice even that which is the most dear to you...like Abraham did...remember...



Abraham showed the greatest faith imaginable when he took Isaac up on the MOUNTAIN of MORIAH! What is your Moriah and what is your ISAAC? What's the saying to you?

Listen carefully, this can't be repeated enough ...if you and I expect to climb, if we're really going to grow in the Lord, then He expects us to be willing to give up everything for Him. Does that sound too strong? Isn't that what He said? He said, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."

You see, we all have "Isaacs in our lives," things or people that we don't mean to...but we place ahead of Jesus... But, if we want to grow...to climb, we have to take up our cross and die! We have to die to ourselves and that includes the sin that entangles us. We have to throw it off...we have to surrender it to Jesus...because you can't climb with sin...it's like trying to climb when you are chained to boulder...you can't do it! Why? Because God can't bless sin! He'll not let you see victory until you surrender. Please listen...if there is any known sin in your life and you refuse to abandon it...you will never climb and you'll never move forward or know peace in your heart! I pray you'll surrender!

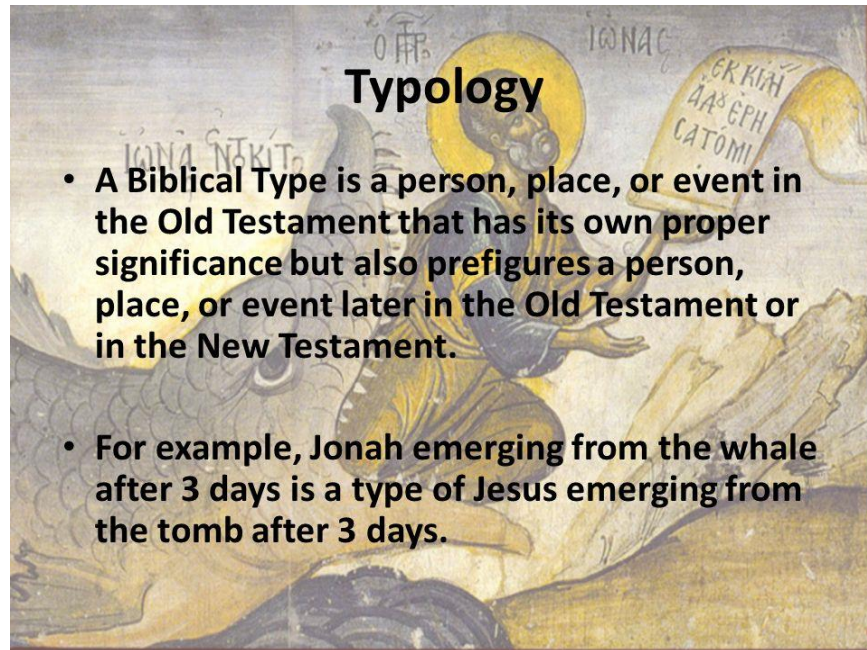
Well, we've made our way to Hebrews 7 and what we're going to do now is to seek to take more ground and climb higher. We're going to look at what we're calling "higher truths" that the Apostle Paul via the Holy Spirit offered to these 1st century Jews about a man with a funny name.

Hebrews 7:1-10

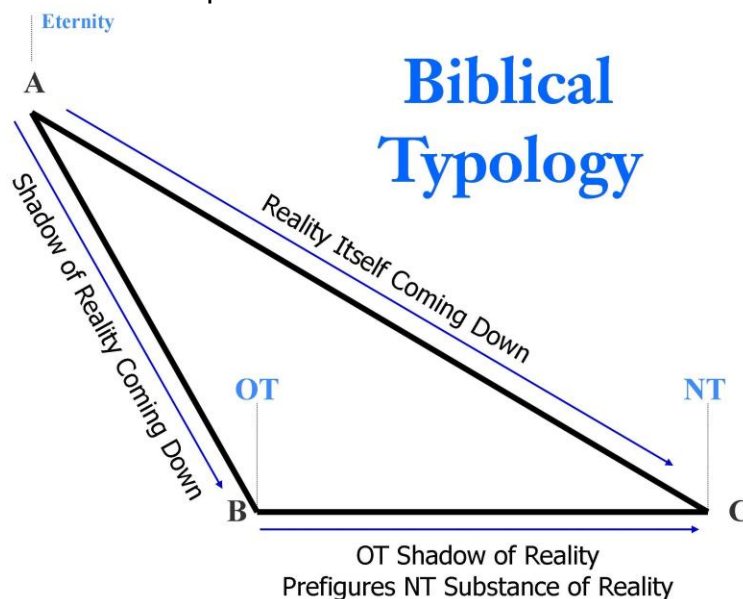
¹ For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, ²and to him Abraham apportioned a tenth part of everything. He is first, by translation of his name, king of righteousness, and then he is also king of Salem, that is, king of peace. ³He is without father or mother or genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but resembling the Son of God he continues a priest forever. ⁴See how great this man was to whom Abraham the patriarch gave a tenth of the spoils! ⁵And those descendants of Levi who receive the priestly office have a commandment in the law to take tithes from the people, that is, from their brothers,^[a] though these also are descended from Abraham. ⁶But this man who does not have his descent from them received tithes from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises. ⁷It is beyond dispute that the inferior is blessed by the superior. ⁸In the one case tithes are received by mortal men, but in the other case, by one of whom it is testified that he lives. ⁹One might even say that Levi himself, who receives tithes,

paid tithes through Abraham,¹⁰ for he was still in the loins of his ancestor when Melchizedek met him.

This morning, as we seek to understand what the Apostle Paul was saying to these first century Hebrews/Jews, turned Christians...we must remember that they're enduring and living in very difficult and trying circumstances. So, we've got to understand some things that made perfect sense to the Jews...but, might not to us, since we don't have Jewish backgrounds. One of these areas is in regards to something known as : "Typology." Melchizedek is a "type of Christ." See the screens:



Let me show you another chart to help make this a bit more clear...



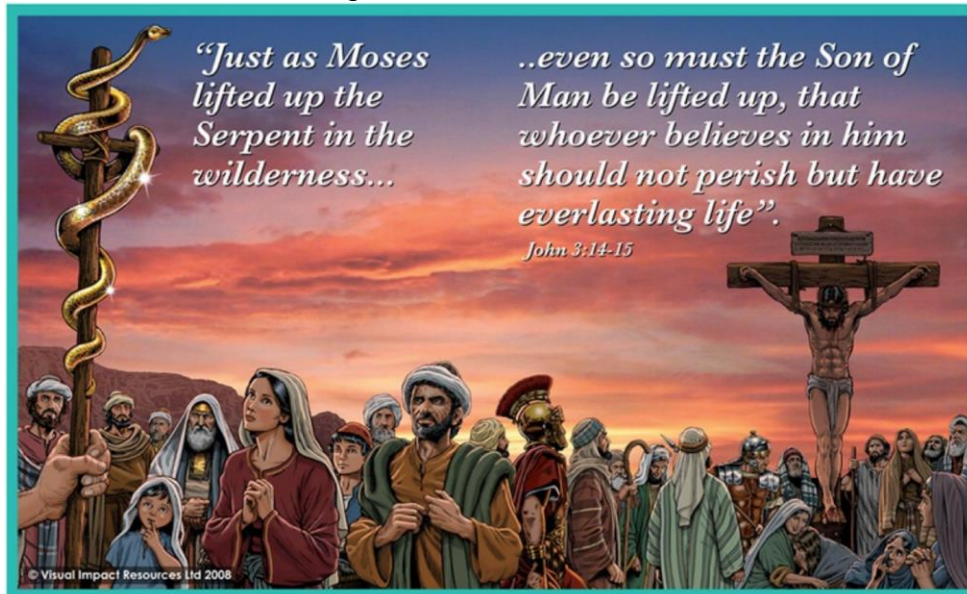
You have a triangle, w/points: A, B and C. Start out with point A, top-left, which is ETERNITY and go down to point B... see where it says "OT," that's Old Testament and it says along the side, between A and B: "Shadow of Reality Coming Down." Melchizedek is a shadow of Jesus to come.

Now go from point B to C (from OT to NT, New Testament). It says: "OT Shadow of Reality Prefigures NT Substance of Reality." Melchizedek did just that in the days of Abraham from his throne in Salem. Now go back to point A (eternity) and go down to C, "Reality Itself Coming Down," that's Jesus coming down from Eternity, heaven. He is the substance or the reality of the OT shadow.

You see there were all kinds of OT shadows of Jesus. Like this:



The Ark. How so? Jesus is our ark of safety. He saves us from certain destruction and from judgment. Here's another one... You might not be as familiar with this one:

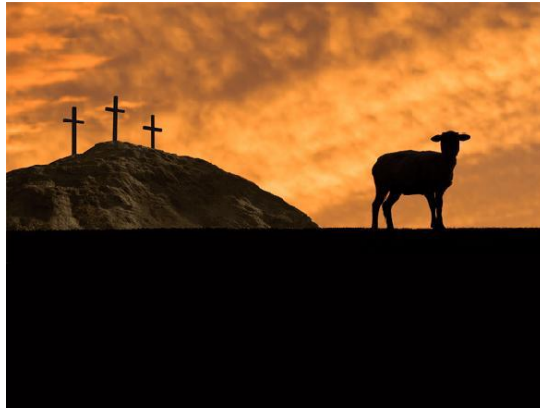


Remember when God told the Children of Israel to go take the Promised Land and they sent in spies, and 10 of the 12 said they couldn't do it because there were giants in the land, and they didn't go in? In fact, they mounted a rebellion against Moses and so, God judged the people for their unbelief...and snakes came into the camp and the people began to die. Moses cried out to God on their behalf and God answered and told Moses to fashion a bronze snake on a pole and if the people looked at it, they would live. See the screens:

John 3:14-16

¹⁴ And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶ "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

The ark is a type, the serpent is a type, how about this, what is this.



The lamb is the OT type, the OT shadow of the perfect LAMB OF GOD, Jesus Christ, who would come and be lifted up to take away the sins of those who would look to Him and believe on Him.

You see, as you and I read the OT...there are many, many shadows (TYPES)...of the forthcoming of the reality of Jesus. One more...see the screens...the Five OT OFFERINGS are TYPES as well. Here they are:

Five Key Jewish Offerings			
OFFERING	PURPOSE	SIGNIFICANCE	CHRIST THE PERFECT OFFERING
BURNT OFFERING Lev. 1 - Voluntary	To make payment for sins in general	Showed a person's devotion to God	Christ's Death was the perfect offering
GRAIN OFFERING Lev. 2 - Voluntary	To show honor and respect for God in worship	Acknowledged that all we have belongs to God	Christ was the perfect man, who gave all of himself to God and others
PEACE OFFERING Lev. 3 - Voluntary	To express gratitude to God	Symbolized peace and fellowship with God	Christ is the only way to fellowship with God
SIN OFFERING Lev. 4 - Required	To make payment for unintentional sins of uncleanness, neglect, or thoughtlessness	Restored the sinner to fellowship with God; showed the seriousness of sin	Christ's death restores our fellowship with God
GUILT OFFERING Lev. 5 - Required	To make payment for sins against God and others. A sacrifice was made to God, and the injured person was repaid or compensated	Provided compensation for injured parties	Christ's death takes away the deadly consequences

We won't take time to go through all of these, but they all represent Jesus. The burnt offering, the grain offering, the peace offering, the sin offering, the guilt offering, all of these were shadows and symbols of the perfect offering, JESUS CHRIST, who would come in REALITY, in the FLESH. This is Colossians 2:17.

Colossians 2:17

¹⁷These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.

And so, Church Family, that's Typology and the reason we've talked so extensively about it is because the next four chapters will be all about Typology! We start TODAY with Melchizedek, and we'll go even deeper next week with even more discussion about him, and eventually we'll get to the OT types of the Tabernacle and the OT Sacrifices as we look at Hebrews 9 and 10.

So, who is this Melchizedek? How is he a type of Christ and why is this important? Now, you'll remember, many of these Jews, now turned Christians, were still hung up about this guy...



They were used to having a High Priest and when they heard that Jesus was the Ultimate and Greatest High Priest of all...some raised an objection. Remember our chart...

Melchizedek
(lived at the same time as Abraham)



Abraham → **Isaac** → **Jacob** →
"Israel"

- 1) Asher
- 2) Benjamin
- 3) Dan
- 4) Gad
- 5) Issachar
- 6) Joseph
 - Ephraim (son of Joseph)
 - Manasseh (son of Joseph)
- 7) **Judah** → **David** → **Jesus**
- 8) **Levi** → **Aaron** → **Priests**
- 9) Naphtali
- 10) Reuben
- 11) Simeon
- 12) Zebulun

They said Jesus was not from the family line of Levi (#8). He was from the family line of Judah (#7). But, the Holy Spirit, (through Paul), showed the people that Jesus was before the Mosaic Law...and he went all the way back to Melchizedek.

Hebrews 7:1-3

¹ For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, ²and to him Abraham apportioned a tenth part of everything. He is first, by translation of his name, king of righteousness, and then he is also king of Salem, that is, king of peace. ³He is without father or mother or genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but resembling the Son of God he continues a priest forever.

Now, Melchizedek is such an interesting guy! The Bible describes that he is "without a father or mother or genealogy" and he has "neither beginning of days nor end of life," therefore some have taken this to mean that he's just some guy that appeared out of thin air. Well, that's impossible, because verse 3 also says that he "resembles the Son of God." This literally means "having been made like the Son of God," and we know Jesus was born of Mary...so, Melchizedek can't be someone who just appeared. But some have said, "Well, then he must be Jesus." No, that can't be

true either, because vs 3 says, “He resembles the Son of God.” It didn’t say he WAS the Son of God.

Listen, Melchizedek NOT having a genealogy means he doesn’t have a RECORDED HISTORY **and this has a specific purpose**: *the priesthood of Melchizedek is a shadow of the priesthood of Jesus...one that has not beginning or end*. That’s the TYPOLOGY we talked about earlier.

Let me show Melchizedek. We won’t be able to cover all the similarities of the typology of Jesus and Melchizedek today, we’ll go even deeper next week. As you are turning to Genesis 14, understand we’re going to go back almost 3,100 years ago to the days of Abraham. And it’s right after a battle that we see Abram (Abraham) and Melchizedek.

Now let me set the scene. Abraham had a nephew named Lot. Lot was always struggling...remember, he ended up with the wife that turned into a pillar of salt...in fact, as we come to Genesis 14, Lot and his family has been hauled off by the neighboring kings and good ole UNCLE Abraham went after him with his own army...and rescued Lot and at the same time brought back the spoils of the war...he had a haul of loot! **Now watch this...**

Genesis 14:17-20

¹⁷ After his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley). ¹⁸ And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. (He was priest of God Most High.) ¹⁹ And he blessed him and said, “Blessed be Abram by 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 him a tenth of everything.

So, here’s this man, Melchizedek, who is a KING...in this case of a town named Salem...(which is the forerunner to Jerusalem... Salem means: “peace”) and not only is Melchizedek the King of Salem, He’s also the Priest.

Now church, to the Jew, this never happened. A king was not allowed to be Priest. But, this is what we see in Melchizedek and it’s why the Holy Spirit points back to him as a forerunner of Jesus. Aaron, who was the High Priest after the Law was given to Moses, was not allowed to be King. But, Melchizedek came before Aaron...some 450 years earlier.

And so, what happens when Melchizedek and Abraham meet is that Mel brings out bread and wine... How about that? What does that symbolize? Communion...the Lord’s Supper...the broken body and poured out blood...and Melchizedek blesses Abraham. And so, to the JEW...that makes sense...because Abraham is THE MAN...HE IS THE FATHER OF THEIR FAITH. More on this in a moment. I want you to see something else...

Something very interesting... It’s how Melchizedek described God. He said, “GOD MOST HIGH” (verses 19 and 20). And you say, “So???” Well, here’s the thing...names mean something...and that phrase, “GOD MOST HIGH” is broken down into two Hebrew words for “GOD.” The first Hebrew word for “God” that’s used there is this word: “Elohim, Possessor (Creator) God.”

· Hebrew Names of God ·

אלהים

ELOHIM - CREATOR GOD

And the words “Most High” is “El Elyon:

· Hebrew Names of God ·

אל עליון

EL ELYON - THE MOST HIGH GOD

You say, “Great! But, I still don’t get it!” Well, listen carefully...this is beautiful! The names that Melchizedek used to describe God are the names indicating that He is the CREATOR GOD OF THE UNIVERSE...owner and possessor over ALL THINGS! He didn’t use the name Yahweh...or Jehovah...the names that the Jews would use for God... He used the universal names for God: Elohim and El Elyon...meaning He is the God of ALL who will believe and trust in Him, not just the Jews! Do you see it...do you see the typology... Jesus came to bring salvation to all...not just to the Jews! That’s why Jesus is in the order of Melchizedek, not Aaron. **Aaron was priest to the Jews...Melchizedek priest to all!**

Take a look at the screens and see this chart. It will help explain this. It’s the difference between the Old Covenant and the New Covenant:

	Old Covenant	New Covenant
Priesthood	Levitical (7:11)	Melchizedek (7:1-22)
High Priest	High Priests (Aaron, etc.)	Jesus Christ
Tenure of High Priest	Death Limits Term (7:23)	Forever (7:17)
Kind of Sacrifice	Blood of Bulls and Goats (9:13, 10:4)	Blood of Jesus (9:14, 10:10)
Location of Sacrifice	Earthly Tabernacle (9:1-8)	Heavenly Sanctuary (9:24)
Frequency of Sacrifices	Continual (10:1, 11)	Just Once (9:28, 10:12)
Effect	Annual Reminder of Sins (10:3)	Permanent Forgiveness of Sins (10:18)
Purpose	Ceremonial Cleanness (9:10)	A Cleansed Conscience / A New Heart (9:14/10:16)

Isn't that BEAUTIFUL!!!

But, there's something else that's very significant that we can't miss that happened between Melchizedek and Abraham. What did Abraham do to Melchizedek? Did you catch that in verse 20?

Genesis 14:20b

And Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

He gave him a tithe of all that he got from those marauding kings when he rescued Lot! And this is the same thing that the Holy Spirit says through Paul in **Hebrews 7:2**.

Hebrews 7:2a

² and to him Abraham apportioned a tenth part of everything.

What does this mean? Listen, you give tithes to someone greater than you. You make offerings, which a tithe is, to someone greater than you! The word "tithe" used there is: DEKATE (dee-ku-tay) and it means the top of the spoils. When you defeated an army, you piled up the loot and you gave the top of the spoils to the King.

Listen, when you give your tithes to the Lord, you are giving off the top...that means you write His check first, when you get your paycheck, because you honor Him as King of your life! And what's even more interesting...is that we see tithing even before the Mosaic Law was given. Abraham tithed to Melchizedek indicating the greatness of Melchizedek as the Priest/King! This is powerful imagery!

But you might say, "Pastor Kevin, what does this have to do with me?" Well, here's what it has to do with you...you have a King and Priest that you should be willing to bow too. Why? Because He did more than just bring out some bread and wine...OH...He gave His life for you. He shed his blood and He gave EVERYTHING for you...

Do you know...as I studied...I saw another type...this is how I saw this... See picture...



The Good Samaritan is a type of Christ. He stopped and helped the man who was helpless. That's us folks...we're helpless...there's no hope for us apart from Jesus. That's you lying there. That's me. And Jesus comes along and says, "I'll help you. I'll pay the price to make you well."

But, you and I must let Him. So, I'll ask you one last time, as we close...Are you climbing? Have you surrendered your life? Have you offered up your Isaac or your Mount Moriah. Listen, until you do, you will muddle through this life and you'll be up and down like a yo-yo. And some of you are living that right now. You are up and down like a yo-yo...

Oh, how I pray today, that you'll come to the place that you're dissatisfied with that kind of life...that kind mediocrity...just limping along...and you'll stop making excuses for why you're not climbing...and you'll truly surrender everything you've got to Him and PURSUE HIM WITH ALL YOU'VE for when you do...you'll will know Jesus... You will know Him in a way that is satisfying that nothing...no sin...no temptation can handle to Him. I pray you'll surrender to Jesus and call on His wonderful name!
