

# Hebrews 7 – 19 May 2024

## “Will The Real Priest Please Stand Up”

### Introduction

\*Chap 1-2 showed our superior “greater than angels” God using His power to save lowly man...as a man

\*Chap 3-4 show s Jesus as superior to the Law yet He uses it to bring us into rest and peace

\*Chap 5 begins to press into the depths of how Jesus fulfills the role God’s always intended for a priest

\*But in midst, Paul stops for Chap 5b-6 to explain what it takes to handle the depths of God’s Word

\*Let’s open w/ account of Mel (Turn to Gen 14:14-20)

\*Now who is this priest Mel? (Read John 8:56-58)

\*When did Abraham see Jesus? Could it be here?

\*Notice, Mel gave Abraham bread and wine

\*Interesting that this is the only occasion of the elements of our communion w/ Jesus being used in the Bible outside of communion itself

\*Or Mel is just a man that we’re given limited info about on purpose in order to shadow Jesus to come

**So today, we’ll see the capabilities of 3 different priest – Melchisedek being one of them**

# #1 – Melchisedek: Completely separate from Levi, Moses & Aaron (Chap 7:1-10)

Read Vs 1-2

1. Mel lived in Abram's days, 100s of yrs before God established Israel & the Aaronic priesthood
2. Mel was known as a priest for God & a king
  - a. Later for Israel, combining civil & religious authority is outlawed - Men can't handle power
  - b. He's king of Salem [Jerusalem (see Psm 76)]
  - c. His name means king of righteousness
3. Paul here highlights the meaning of his name and his title are intended to portray his character
  - a. He IS righteous and a man of peace

Read Vs 3

1. Not that he has no beginning or no end, but that we've only been given partial info on purpose
  - a. Read *Frank W. Boreham Essays "Hebrews 5:10 The Order of Melchisedek – From When the Swans Fly High III"*

- b. Mel was brought into Genesis for a purpose other than to learn of him
2. “Made like unto the Son of God”
  - a. Just as a shadow is foggy/cloudy, so is Mel
  - b. But he points us to learning of Jesus
3. There’s no reason to speculate whether Mel was another known person like Seth or Job – we’re to use his small Biblical footprint to learn of Jesus
4. We’ll look at ‘Abe paying Mel tithe’ next

## Read Vs 4

1. A tenth part is literally the word tithe
2. There are principles in the OT’s Mosaic Law that are only in the Law designed to point us to Jesus
  - a. I.e. The Sabbath Day, Jewish Feasts
3. Then there are principles in the OT that are well beyond, before & after the Mosaic Law
  - a. I.e. The Design of Marriage and Tithing
    - i. Read Luk 11:42
    - b. These principles remain for us today
4. How great was Mel?
  - a. Lessor always gave tithes to greater

Read Vs 5-7

1. The priesthood of Aaron's descendants received tithes of the people of Israel
2. Mel received tithes of Abraham
3. Now how do they relate to one another?

Read Vs 8

1. The Levitical priesthood was made of men that die and pass on the priesthood to another
2. Priesthood of Mel is pic of one who never dies
3. Jesus is a priest forever like Mel

Read Vs 9-10

1. 'Silver bullet' that Mel > Aaronic priesthood = Aaron paid tithes to Mel thru Abraham

**#2 – Aaron & Family: Priesthood not capable b/c of human sin and death (Chap 7:11-19)**

Read Vs 11

1. The question asked is, 'Why would David in Psm 110 mention the order of Mel if the Aaronic priesthood was enough to bring perfection?'

2. The Law was perfect, but the use of it by man was imperfect, not b/c of the Law but b/c of man
  - a. No man could be a perfect complete priest

Read Vs 12-14

1. The Law speaks only of priests coming from the Tribe of Levi
  - a. If God uses another priesthood, that shows the Law must be changed or overridden
2. Jesus is king b/c of the tribe of Judah, but He is priest b/c of being of the order of Mel

Read Vs 15-17

1. It's 'far more evident' an eternal priest would come after Mel b/c David told us that in Psm 110
2. The Lord was preparing us all that a better priesthood was coming thru David

Read Vs 18-19

1. On the one hand the Law has been abolished b/c it was weak and useless for us

2. On other hand the Law did usher in a better confidence
3. We have great confidence drawing near to God now than under the Law, b/c our priest ever lives

### **#3 – Jesus Christ: Superior in commission, longevity & immutability (Chap 7:20-28)**

Read Vs 20-21

1. Aaronic priests became one by heredity
2. Jesus was made a priest directly by God's oath
3. God choose Jesus specifically and personally for this

Read Vs 22

1. Jesus Himself became the guarantor for us receiving the New Covenant

Read Vs 23-25

1. Another reason Christ's priesthood is superior is b/c Christ never dies, so it never changes

2. This enables all those in Christ to be saved *until the full end* or *until completion*
  - a. Billy Sunday preached how Jesus saved him *‘from the gutter-most to the uttermost’*
3. It’s ours to come to God
  - a. Once we are in Christ, there is no need of changing the priest or go-between

Read Vs 26-28

1. Jesus was in the world as a man, but not of it
  - a. Aaronic priests didn’t have the character of Christ
2. B/c Jesus ever-lives, this is the “one & done” sacrifice
3. Notice Jesus is both priest AND sacrifice
  - a. What does this mean?
  - b. The sacrifice was **WILLING!**

## Conclusion

So...will the real priest please stand up? You have 3 to choose from.

1. **Melchizedec: A completely separate priest than that of Levi, Aaron and his descendants**
2. **Aaron & Family: Their priesthood isn't capable b/c of human sin and death**
3. **Jesus Christ: He's superior in commission, longevity and immutability**

I want to leave you with these 2 takeaways:

1. Let nothing be an intellectual hangup that we can't press into and find the answers
2. You have a way to God thru Jesus that is permanent and will never let you down