

Pastor Clifford  
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# The Book of Hebrews: Chapters 7 & 8

(Blue text is Hebrews)

## Hebrews 7

**"This Melchizedek was king of the city of Salem and also a priest of God Most High. When Abraham was returning home after winning a great battle against the kings, Melchizedek met him and blessed him. <sup>2</sup> Then Abraham took a tenth of all he had captured in battle and gave it to Melchizedek. The name Melchizedek means "king of justice," and king of Salem means "king of peace." <sup>3</sup> There is no record of his father or mother or any of his ancestors—no beginning or end to his life. He remains a priest forever, resembling the Son of God.**

**<sup>4</sup> Consider then how great this Melchizedek was. Even Abraham, the great patriarch of Israel, recognized this by giving him a tenth of what he had taken in battle. <sup>5</sup> Now the law of Moses required that the priests, who are descendants of Levi, must collect a tithe from the rest of the people of Israel, who are also descendants of Abraham. <sup>6</sup> But Melchizedek, who was not a descendant of Levi, collected a tenth from Abraham. And Melchizedek placed a blessing upon Abraham, the one who had already received the promises of God. <sup>7</sup> And without question, the person who has the power to give a blessing is greater than the one who is blessed.**

**<sup>8</sup> The priests who collect tithes are men who die, so Melchizedek is greater than they are, because we are told that he lives on. <sup>9</sup> In addition, we might even say that these Levites—the ones who collect the tithe—paid a tithe to Melchizedek when their ancestor Abraham**

paid a tithe to him. <sup>10</sup> For although Levi wasn't born yet, the seed from which he came was in Abraham's body when Melchizedek collected the tithe from him.

<sup>11</sup> So if the priesthood of Levi, on which the law was based, could have achieved the perfection God intended, why did God need to establish a different priesthood, with a priest in the order of Melchizedek instead of the order of Levi and Aaron?

<sup>12</sup> And if the priesthood is changed, the law must also be changed to permit it. <sup>13</sup> For the priest we are talking about belongs to a different tribe, whose members have never served at the altar as priests. <sup>14</sup> What I mean is, our Lord came from the tribe of Judah, and Moses never mentioned priests coming from that tribe.

## **Who is Mechizedek?**

**Genesis 14:17** "After Abram returned from his victory over Kedorlaomer and all his allies, the king of Sodom went out to meet him in the valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley). <sup>18</sup> And Melchizedek, the king of Salem and a priest of God Most High, brought Abram some bread and wine. <sup>19</sup> Melchizedek blessed Abram with this blessing: "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. <sup>20</sup> And blessed be God Most High, who has defeated your enemies for you. Then Abram gave Melchizedek a tenth of all the goods he had recovered.

### **Mechizedek**

- He had (has) no genealogy. <sup>3</sup> **There is no record of his father or mother or any of his ancestors—no beginning or end to his life. He remains a priest forever, resembling the Son of God.**
- He was both king and priest.
- He was not a priest according to Levi.
- He received a tithe.
- He blessed Abram.

**<sup>15</sup> This change has been made very clear since a different priest, who is like Melchizedek, has appeared. <sup>16</sup> Jesus became a priest, not by meeting the physical requirement of belonging to the tribe of Levi, but by the power of a life that cannot be destroyed. <sup>17</sup> And the psalmist pointed this out when he prophesied, "You are a priest forever in the order of Melchizedek."<sup>18</sup> Yes, the old requirement about the priesthood was set aside because it was weak and useless. <sup>19</sup> For the law never made anything perfect. But now we have confidence in a better hope, through which we draw near to God.**

**This new system was established with a solemn oath. Aaron's descendants became priests without such an oath, <sup>21</sup> but there was an oath regarding Jesus. For God said to him, "The LORD has taken an oath and will not break his vow: 'You are a priest forever.'"**

**<sup>22</sup> Because of this oath, Jesus is the one who guarantees this better covenant with God. <sup>23</sup> There were many priests under the old system, for death prevented them from remaining in office. <sup>24</sup> But because Jesus lives forever, his priesthood lasts forever. <sup>25</sup> Therefore he is able, once and forever, to save those who come to God through him. He lives forever to intercede with God on their behalf.**

**<sup>26</sup> He is the kind of high priest we need because he is holy and blameless, unstained by sin. He has been set apart from sinners and has been given the highest place of honor in heaven. <sup>27</sup> Unlike those other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices every day. They did this for their own sins first and then for the sins of the people. But Jesus did this once for all when he offered himself as the sacrifice for the people's sins. <sup>28</sup> The law appointed high priests who were limited by human weakness. But after the law was given, God appointed his Son with an oath, and his Son has been made the perfect High Priest forever."**

## Hebrews 8

**“Here is the main point: We have a High Priest who sat down in the place of honor beside the throne of the majestic God in heaven. <sup>2</sup> There he ministers in the heavenly Tabernacle, the true place of worship that was built by the Lord and not by human hands. <sup>3</sup> And since every high priest is required to offer gifts and sacrifices, our High Priest must make an offering, too. <sup>4</sup> If he were here on earth, he would not even be a priest, since there already are priests who offer the gifts required by the law.**

**<sup>5</sup> They serve in a system of worship that is only a copy, a shadow of the real one in heaven. For when Moses was getting ready to build the Tabernacle, God gave him this warning: “Be sure that you make everything according to the pattern I have shown you here on the mountain.”<sup>6</sup> But now Jesus, our High Priest, has been given a ministry that is far superior to the old priesthood, for he is the one who mediates for us a far better covenant with God, based on better promises.**

Melchizedek is clearly pointing to someone, he is a foreshadow of what is to come.

Because of this there must be a change in the instruction namely:

- All priests must come from the line of Levi (Aaron)
- Priests could not share in royalty
- They needed to be replaced because of mortality
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- Jesus is the better High Priest!
- Jesus was appointed after the law because He is the fulfillment of the law.
- He has made a sacrifice for sin once and for all.
- Jesus has fulfilled the eternal tabernacle that has its design and origin in heaven.

**7 If the first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no need for a second covenant to replace it. 8 But when God found fault with the people, he said:**

**“The day is coming, says the LORD,  
when I will make a new covenant  
with the people of Israel and Judah.**

**9 This covenant will not be like the one  
I made with their ancestors  
when I took them by the hand  
and led them out of the land of Egypt.**

**They did not remain faithful to my covenant,  
so I turned my back on them, says the LORD.<sup>10</sup> But this is the new  
covenant I will make with the people of Israel on that day, says  
the LORD:**

**I will put my laws in their minds,  
and I will write them on their hearts.**

**I will be their God,  
and they will be my people.**

**<sup>11</sup> And they will not need to teach their neighbors,  
nor will they need to teach their relatives,  
saying, ‘You should know the LORD.’**

**For everyone, from the least to the greatest,  
will know me already.**

**<sup>12</sup> And I will forgive their wickedness,  
and I will never again remember their sins.”**

**<sup>13</sup> When God speaks of a “new” covenant, it means he has made the first one obsolete. It is now out of date and will soon disappear.”**

- Was the Old Covenant insufficient? No, the people were.
- Who did God find fault with? The people.
- The New Covenant is better.
- He puts His instruction in our hearts.

**Matthew 5:17-18** "Don't misunderstand why I have come. I did not come to abolish the law of Moses or the writings of the prophets. No, I came to accomplish their purpose. <sup>18</sup>I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not even the smallest detail of God's law will disappear until its purpose is achieved."

Jesus did not come to abolish the instruction (law) He came to fulfill it. The instruction will persist until all has reached its intended purpose.