

GREATER THAN

A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF HEBREWS

HEBREWS

7:1-10

A PRIEST IN THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK

1For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham as he was returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him,

2to whom also Abraham apportioned a tenth part of all the spoils, was first of all, by the translation of his name, king of righteousness, and then also king of Salem, which is king of peace.

3Without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, he remains a priest perpetually.

4Now observe how great this man was to whom Abraham, the patriarch, gave a tenth of the choicest spoils.

5And those indeed of the sons of Levi who receive the priest's office have commandment in the Law to collect a tenth from the people, that is, from their brethren, although these are descended from Abraham.

6But the one whose genealogy is not traced from them collected a tenth from Abraham and blessed the one who had the promises.

7But without any dispute the lesser is blessed by the greater.

8In this case mortal men receive tithes, but in that case one receives them, of whom it is witnessed that he lives on.

9And, so to speak, through Abraham even Levi, who received tithes, paid tithes,

10for he was still in the loins of his father when Melchizedek met him.



DIGGING IN

Read Hebrews 7:1-10

DISCUSS

- What is the significance that Melchizedek was king of righteousness and king of Salem?
- What does it mean that he was without father or mother? Without genealogy?
- What differences are there between Aaron's priesthood and Melchizedek's?
- Why would Moses not record more information about Melchizedek in the Old Testament, considering that he is a rather important character?
- What conclusion does the author make based on the fact that Abraham tithed to Melchizedek?
- Which part of the spoils did Abraham give to Melchizedek? Why? What lesson can we learn from this?
- What point is the author making in verses 5-6? What similarity is mentioned between Melchizedek and the Levitical priesthood?
- So from verse 7, who is greater? Why is this significant? How does this show the superiority of Christ? (Abraham/Levites < Melchizedek < Christ = Christ is supreme)
- What does it mean that he lives on? (Verse 8)
- What conclusion does he reach in verses 9-10? What does this show us about Melchizedek, and by extension, Christ?