



Message Series Guide

Nothing Greater

Part 5 – Jesus is Greater (Melchizedek)

Hebrews 5 & 7

History is full of good mysteries. One of the most mysterious people in the Bible is the King of Peace, Melchizedek. Genesis 14 tells us that he ruled as the King of Salem and served as the high priest of the Jewish temple. Melchizedek appeared one day in the life of Abraham, but then was never heard from again. However, what happened that day has been remembered throughout history, and eventually became a subject in the book of Hebrews chapters 5 & 7. The writer of Hebrews paints a picture of Jesus as the eternal Son and High Priest in the order of Melchizedek who rules in heaven, allowing believers to draw near to God under the new covenant. Although Melchizedek is a person of mystery in the Bible, it is not a mystery that Jesus is greater - greater than the law, greater than Moses and greater than Melchizedek. Jesus is our High Priest and King who paid the price for our sins and now reigns forever and ever on high!

READ:

Hebrews 5:5, 7:1-26 | Genesis 14:17-20 | Psalm 110 | Romans 5:14 | Hebrews 4:14-16

- What was the role of the high priest? From whose descendants did Jewish priests typically come from in the Old Testament? What family line did Jesus come from? Why is this significant?
- Who appointed Christ as high priest? Why is it important that Christ did not choose His role as high priest for Himself? Remembering the theme of Hebrews (Christ's supremacy), how does God appointing Christ as high priest fit into this overarching theme?
- Who was Melchizedek? Compare his two titles/positions to that of Jesus today? What does it mean that Christ is a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek?
- What was Melchizedek's interaction with Abraham in Genesis 14? 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? Why is the one who gives the blessing superior over the one who receives it?
- Compare and contrast the old covenant verses the new covenant. Why did God have both an old and new covenant? What is the "better hope" that we have today?

DISCUSS:

- As a high priest (mediator) and king (ruler), what does Jesus do for those who come to God through Him? What does Jesus' superiority to other priests mean for our salvation?
- How does it make you feel to know that Jesus is a sympathetic high priest who is praying for you at this very moment?
- In what way does Christ's priesthood give us confidence to draw near to God? Which attribute of Jesus' priesthood is most meaningful to you and why?

PRAY:

Spend time praying that you will draw near to Jesus everyday as your great King and high priest.

RESPOND:

Because of Jesus' finished work on the cross, we can live from a place of gratitude and hope. In what ways can you express your gratitude to Jesus this week?