

Lesson 8: Hebrews Chapter 7

If you were asked to name the most important people in the Old Testament (OT), I doubt that Melchizedek's name would be on your list. He appeared once, in Gen. 14: 17-24; and he was referred to once more, in Psalm 110: 4. But the Holy Spirit reached back into the OT and used those two passages to present a most important truth: the Priesthood of Jesus Christ is better to that of Aaron because "the order of Melchizedek is superior to "the order of Levi. (Aaron)"

Back in chapter 5, verse 10, we learned that Jesus was called by God as High Priest "according to the order of Melchizedek." What is the order of Melchizedek and who is Melchizedek? We will answer those questions this week. Let's get started!

Day 1

1. Pray!
2. Let's start by reading the historical account of Melchizedek in **Gen. 14: 17-24** and **Psalm 110: 4**, where he is mentioned again.
3. **Hebrews Chapter 7** begins a long section of this letter, showing Christ's priesthood is superior.

Read **chapter 7** and mark the **key words** you have been marking. Make sure to mark the **3 keys words found throughout the book**: *better, perfect/perfection, and eternal/forever* (or any related word).

Mark references to *Melchizedek*, in addition to the phrase "*according to the order of Melchizedek*."

Also mark, *covenant*. It will appear frequently in the next few chapter. (Covenant is one of the key concepts of the Bible)

As you study this week, keep in mind that in Hebrews 7, the writer argues that Christ's Priesthood, like Melchizedek's, is superior to the Levitical (Aaronic) priesthood in its **order**. In **verses 1-10**, the argument is **historical** in nature. In **verses 11-25**, the argument is **doctrinal** and in **verses 26-28** the argument is **practical!** You may want to mark those divisions on your worksheets.

Day 2

1. Pray!

2. Read **Hebrews 7: 1-3**. In these verses, notice all the similarities the writer points out, between Melchizedek and Jesus the Messiah.

- a. According to verse 1, Melchizedek is both _____ and _____.
- b. When Melchizedek met Abraham, what did he do? **Verse 1c**
- c. What did Abraham do? **Verse 2a** What does that show us?

3. In the Bible, names and their meanings are often important. In the Hebrew language, Melchizedek means “king of righteousness.” Salem means “peace”. (Hebrew word *shalom*) So, Melchizedek is “king of peace” and “king of righteousness.”

- a. Who does that remind you of?
- b. What does *Isaiah 9: 6-7* tell us about the future reign of the Messiah?

4. *Righteousness* and *peace* are often found together in Scripture. Look up the following verses:

Isaiah 32: 17

Psalm 85: 10

Psalm 72: 7

James 3: 17-18

Heb. 12: 10-11

5. True peace can only be experienced on the basis of righteousness.

Rom. 5: 1

Gal. 2: 21

It is only through the work of Jesus Christ on the cross that righteousness and peace could have “*kissed each other*”!

6. Melchizedek was a man. **(V4)** He had to have a mother and father. What does **verse 3** mean. He was a real king, and a real priest in a real city. But as far as the record is concerned, he was not born, nor did he die. We will discuss this in class.

6. Again, do you recognize the similarities between Melchizedek and Jesus Christ?

Day 3

In today's verses, in continuing his historical argument, the writer compares the Melchizedekian Priesthood and the Levitical Priesthood. The writer's point is that the priesthood of Jesus is after the order of Melchizedek, which is better than the order of Aaron.

1. Pray!
2. Read **Hebrews 7: 4-10**.
3. **Verse 4** begins: "*Now consider how great this man [was]...*" The Greek word for **consider** means "to have a constant contemplation with insight and discernment."
4. List the ways the Order of Melchizedek is superior or better.

V 4-5

V 6-7

V 8

V 9-10

Day 4

1. Pray!

2. Read **Hebrews 7: 11-25**. The writer finally compares the Levitical Priesthood to the Priesthood of Jesus. The writer's point is to explain why the Levitical Priesthood could not **perfect** (complete; fulfill; mature). As you read, what jumps out at you?

3. Read **verses 11-25** again. With these verses, the writer gives a doctrinal argument for why the priesthood is no longer "the order of Levi (Aaron)" but "the order of Melchizedek."

a. According to **verses 11-14**, the old priesthood and the Law were _____.

b. According to **verses 15-19**, because of being _____, the priesthood and the Law could not continue _____.

c. According to **verses 20-22**, God made an oath and it can not be _____. (See **Heb. 6: 18**)

The presence of this oath gives to the Priesthood of our Lord a greater degree of permanence and assurance. Write out **Hebrews 7:22!**

Surety means what? Look it up!

In this verse, we have the first occurrence of a very important word in Hebrews: **covenant**. It is used 21x. (Make sure you are marking it on your worksheets!) What is a covenant?

Tomorrow we will consider the fourth reason the writer gives as to why God would establish a new priesthood.

Day 5

1. Pray!

2. Read **Hebrews 7: 11-28**.

3. Review the reasons for God's changing the priesthood given in **verses 11-22**.

4. Read **verses 23-25**. Not only was the priesthood imperfect, but as men, the priests _____.

a. What do the following verses tell us about Jesus and His Priesthood.

Hebrews 13: 8

Psalm 110: 4

b. The fact that the "unchanging" Christ continues as High Priest means, logically what? (**See Heb. 7: 24**)

c. Look up the word "unchangeable".

5. The conclusion of the matter is stated in **verse 25**. Write out the verse.

a. The emphasis is on the fact that Jesus saves completely, forever, those who put their faith in Him. Because He is our High Priest forever, He can save _____.

b. The basis for this completed salvation is what? (**Heb. 7: 25c**)

6. Read **verses 26-28**. Here we have a final practical argument. How is Christ as our High Priest better than the Levitical high priests.

The application is obvious: why turn away from such an adequate High Priest? What more can you find in any other person? The men who served under the Law of Moses had human infirmities and weaknesses, and they often failed. Our heavenly High Priest has been "perfected forever" (**Heb. 7: 28**) and there is not spot or blemish in Him.