Jesus, Our Everlasting Priest in the Pattern of Melchizedek Hebrews 7:1-10 Lesson by Jonathan Matías

Summary

Let's look at a mysterious Bible character named Melchizedek who plays a central role in the message of Hebrews. Who is this priest? What's the loaded meaning of his name? How does his life resemble the life of Christ? How does his life pattern point us to Christ for our comfort & encouragement? Through this figure, we see that we can rest securely in Jesus, our faithful and forever high priest who is never going away, who is always advocating for us.

The Text

Melchizedek's Identity as a Priest (vs. 1-3)			
v. 1 For this			
Melchizedek, See			See Genesis 14
	king of Sale	<mark>m,</mark>	His Roles
	met Abraham retu blessed him, and	• Most High God, rning from the slaughter of the king	<u> </u>
v. 2	to him Abraham a	oportioned a tenth part of everyth	iing.
<u>He is</u>		of his name, king of righteousne king of Salem, that is, king of pe	
v. 3 <u>He is</u>	without	father or mother or genealogy,	His Partial Biography
	having neither	beginning of days nor end of life,	
	but		See Psalm 110
<u>he</u> " <mark>co</mark>	ontinues a priest fore resembling the Se		fect passive participle
Melchizedek's Greatness as a Priest (vs. 4-10)			
v. 4	See		Greatness established
how great this man was to whom Abraham gave a tenth of the spoils!			

the patriarch

v. 5

And

Levites Received Tithe See Numbers 18:21-29

those descendants of Levi

who receive the priestly office have a commandment in the law to **take tithes** from the people, that is, from their brothers, though these also are descended from Abraham.

Melchizedek Gives and Receives

v. 6 But this man

who does not have his descent from them **received tithes** from Abraham

blessed him who had the promises.

v. 7 It is beyond dispute that

the inferior is blessed by the superior.

v. 8 In the one case tithes are received by mortal men,

but

in the other case, by one of whom it is testified that he lives.

v. 9 One might even say that Melchizedek Receives Levites' Tithe Levi himself, paid tithes through Abraham, who receives tithes,
 v. 10 for he was still in the loins of his ancestor when Melchizedek met him.

In the Order of Melchizedek

In Hebrews, how many times does "in the order of Melchizedek appear? What is the author accomplishing by repeating this phrase?

1:1-4 Prologue
1:4-2:18 Jesus, Better than Angels
3:1-6 Jesus, Better than Moses

3:7-4:13 First Warning

4:14-5:10 Jesus, Our High Priest

"in the order of Melchizedek (5:6)
"In the order of Melchizedek" (5:10)
5:11-6:20 Second Warning
"in the order of Melchizedek" (6:20)

7:1-28 Jesus, a Priest in Melchizedek's Order (7:1)

"in the order of Melchizedek" (7:15)
* "in the order of Melchizedek" (7:17)

8:1-13 Jesus Brings a New and Better Covenant

Principle

The Story of Melchizedek in Genesis 14:17-24

Melchizedek the priest of God

Worships ______ (God Most High) Name means ______ (king of righteousness) Holds the offices of _____ (king of Jeru-Salem) And _____ (priest of God) Gives _____ (a blessing) Receives _____ (a tithe)

Who does Melchizedek worship? What are his beliefs? (vs. 18-19)

"God Most High" (El Elyon)

Who else worships God Most High (v. 22)? Abraham

What does Melchizedek's name mean? "King of righteousness" (Heb. 7:2) What two roles or offices does Melchizedek hold?

a king (v. 18) and a priest (also v. 18).

What city does Melchizedek rule as king?

Salem, ancient name for Jeru-salem. Associated with the word shalom (peace).

What does he give to Abraham on the heels of his successful rescue mission? A meal and a blessing

What other royal figure prepares a meal with bread and wine? Matthew 26:26-27

In response, what does Abraham give to Melchizedek, and why? a tenth (v. 20).

Does this passage indicate that Melchizedek is an angel, the pre-incarnate Christ, or a human king? The passage treats him as an ordinary human king. What are the competing values that the King of Salem and King of Sodom embody? Giving vs. taking. Greed vs. generosity. Righteousness vs. evil. Blessing others vs. hoarding.

What does Abraham's choice to associate with the King of Salem and not the King of Sodom say about his faith and values?

Psalm 110:1-4

How do we know that David's descendant would combine the offices of king & priest in one person? v. 2 (scepter) and v. 4 "you are a priest."

How do we know that this descendant is no ordinary person but is divine? V. 4 "forever." This king would reign eternally.

How does Psalm 110 pick up the story of Melchizedek from Gen. 14? The Holy Spirit enlightens David to anticipate a greater king–the Messiah–will come from his house who combines the role of king and priest into one person and serves forever in the priestly line of Melchizedek.

Hebrews 7:1-10

Now that we know a lot more about Melchizedek, Hebrews 7 will make a lot more sense.

This passage breaks down into 2 sections: 7:1-3 Melchizedek's Identity as a Priest 7:4-10 Melchizedek's Greatness as a Priest

7:1-3 Melchizedek's Identity as a Priest

v. 1. What 2 roles does Melchizedek hold? King and priest

v. 1-2 What did Melchizedek give & receive from Abraham. Blessing, tithe

v. 2 What 2 <u>character qualities</u> does Melchizedek embody? See Isaiah 9:6-7 righteousness and peace

v. 3 What facts from Melchizedek's biography is the Scripture silent on? His origin and his death.

Derek Kidner in Psalms 73-150 explains:

"It emerges from these both that the name *Melchizedek* (king of righteousness) and his sphere as king of Salem...made him a fitting pointer to the one to come (Heb. 7:2); that the silence surrounding him in the narrative made him an apt symbol of one who in full reality had 'neither beginning of days nor end of life."" (p. 395)

v. 3 What qualities from Melchizedek's life are reflected in the life of Christ? - Zeal for righteousness.

- He **gives** rather than **takes**. "For even the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Mark 10:45

- In Jesus the nations of the world are **blessed**.

- Christ rules as king of Mount Zion-Jerusalem (Ps. 2:6)

- Christ, a priest and king in the order of Melchizedek (Ps. 110:4)

7:4-10 Melchizedek's Greatness as a Priest

The author of Hebrews explains how Jesus serves as a priest in the line of Melchizedek that is far superior to the priesthood of the line of Aaron.

From v. 4 what's the first reason Melchizedek & priests from his house are greater than priests from the house of Aaron? Even Abraham the patriarch gave a tithe to his greater, the priest Melchizedek.

From v. 5, what gift does the Tribe of Levi receive from the other 11 tribes? (see Numbers 18:21-29). A tithe.

How important was it for priests in the Old Testament to know who what family line they came from (their ancestors)?

Does Melchizedek draw his priesthood by coming from the priestly family line of Israel or is he a priest above and outside of that priestly line? (v .6)

What is the general principle that the author of Hebrews builds his case on in v. 7? The person who gives blessings & receives gifts is the greater person in the relationship.

From v. 8, in what way can the fragmentary biography of Melchizedek be said to say that Melchizedek "lives on"? Since the Bible does not reveal the circumstances of his death, Melchizedek is superficially, symbolically said to be serving as a priest in perpetuity.

From vs. 9 and 10, how are the priest of Levi said to have paid a tithe to Melchizedek as the greater figure than their priestly class? Is there any other time in the Bible when God deals with a people as a group through their representative head? (see Romans 5:12-20)

The author is saying, you don't need to go to Old Testament rituals, ceremonies and priesthood for cleansing from sin or a mediator before God, for these have been superseded. In Christ, you have a new and better priest!

Jesus–like Melchizedek is symbolically–is a priest without beginning or ending, an everlasting priest. If you have come to him by faith, Christ is never going away from your life. He never tires of mediating for you. He's advocating for you every moment of every day before the throne. As your priest forever, there is no chance that your righteous standing with God can be lost. As a priest in the order of Melchizedek whose beginning & ending are never given, Christ, without beginning or ending, is your great high priest forever. You can rest secure in him.