

The New Melchizedek

- Opening Announcements
- Opening Prayers

Q: What's a "covenant"?

Q: What is a "tithe"?

Transition: Today, Hebrews introduces something familiar to Jewish people. It speaks about when Abraham met with King Melchizedek, the King of Salem. In that meeting, Abraham does something that we still think of and practice today. It's connected to Jesus and covenant. To read the original, look to Genesis 14:18-20.

Table Time....

READ: Hebrews 7:1-3 "For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, ² and to him Abraham apportioned a tenth part of everything. He is first, by translation of his name, king of righteousness, and then he is also king of Salem, that is, king of peace. ³ He is without father or mother or genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but resembling the Son of God he continues a priest forever."

Q: What did Abraham "do" in response to his meeting Melchizedek?

Q: What does that remind you of?

Q: According to verse 2, what does the Name "Melchizedek" mean?

Q: What does "Salem" mean?

Q: Accord to verse 3, what's interesting, strange, important about Melchizedek?

Q: Who does he "resemble"?

READ: Hebrews 7:4-10 "See how great this man was to whom Abraham the patriarch gave a tenth of the spoils! ⁵ And 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. ⁶ But this man who does not have his descent from them received tithes from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises. ⁷ It is beyond dispute that the inferior is blessed by the superior. 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. ⁹ One might even say that Levi himself, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, ¹⁰ for he was still in the loins of his ancestor when Melchizedek met him."

Q: What's the "point" of verse 4?

Q: According to verse 5, how did that initial encounter continue through Abraham's descendants?

Q: What's the point of verses 7-10?

READ: Hebrews 7:11-14 "¹¹ Now if perfection had been attainable through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need would there have been for another priest to arise after the order of Melchizedek, rather than one named after the order of Aaron? ¹² For when there is a change in the priesthood, there is necessarily a change in the law as well. ¹³ For the one of whom these things are spoken belonged to another tribe, from which no one has ever served at the altar. ¹⁴ For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, and in connection with that tribe Moses said nothing about priests."

Q: According to this section, what was the problem with the Levitical Priesthood?

Q: According to verse 14, why is it significant that Jesus came from the tribe of Judah instead of the tribe of Levi?

READ: Hebrews 7: 15- 17 "¹⁵ This becomes even more evident when another priest arises in the likeness of Melchizedek, ¹⁶ who has become a priest, not on the basis of a legal requirement concerning bodily descent, but by the power of an indestructible life. ¹⁷ For it is witnessed of him, "You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek."

POINT: Jesus is a better and NEW High Priest offering a NEW Covenant through His sacrifice!

Q: WHY is THAT important for ALL people to believe?

Big Group Debrief....

Q: How are we reminded in this "New Covenant (Testament) age" of this in our worship services?