

¹For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of God Most High, met Abraham and blessed him as he returned from defeating the kings,

²and Abraham gave him a tenth of everything. First, his name means king of righteousness, then also, king of Salem, meaning king of peace.

³Without father, mother, or genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but resembling the Son of God, he remains a priest forever.

⁴Now consider how great this man was: even Abraham the patriarch gave a tenth of the plunder to him.

The sons of Levi who receive the priestly office have a command according to the law to collect a tenth from the people — that is, from their brothers and sisters — though they have also descended from Abraham.

⁶But one without this lineage collected a tenth from Abraham and blessed the one who had the promises.

⁷Without a doubt, the inferior is blessed by the superior.

⁸In the one case, men who will die receive a tenth, but in the other case, Scripture testifies that he lives.

⁹And in a sense Levi himself, who receives a tenth, has paid a tenth through Abraham,

¹⁰for he was still within his ancestor when Melchizedek met him.

¹¹Now if perfection came through the Levitical priesthood (for on the basis of it the people received the law), what further need was there for another priest to appear, said to be according to the order of Melchizedek and not according to the order of Aaron?

¹²For when there is a change of the priesthood, there must be a change of law as well.

¹³For the one these things are spoken about belonged to a different tribe.

No one from it has served at the altar.

¹⁴Now it is evident that our Lord came from Judah, and Moses said nothing about that tribe concerning priests.

¹⁵And this becomes clearer if another priest like Melchizedek appears,

on a legal regulation about physical descent but based on the power of an indestructible life.

¹⁷For it has been testified: You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

¹⁸So the previous command is annulled because it was weak and unprofitable

¹⁹(for the law perfected nothing), but a better hope is introduced, through which we draw near to God.

None of this happened without an oath. For others became priests without an oath,

²¹but he became a priest with an oath made by the one who said to him:

The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind,

"You are a priest forever."

²²Because of this oath, Jesus has also become the guarantee of a better covenant.

²³Now many have become Levitical priests, since they are prevented by death from remaining in office.

²⁴But because he remains forever, he holds his priesthood permanently.

²⁵Therefore, he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, since he always lives to intercede for them.

²⁶For this is the kind of high priest we need: holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens.

²⁷He doesn't need to offer sacrifices every day, as high priests do — first for their own sins, then for those of the people. He did this once for all time when he offered himself.

²⁸For the law appoints as high priests men who are weak, but the promise of the oath, which came after the law, appoints a Son, who has been perfected forever.

1. Better King

2. Better Priest

3. Better Sacrifice

4. Better Covenant

