

Hebrews, Part 6

Chapter one: Jesus is BETTER than angels

Chapter two: Jesus was made “a little LOWER than the angels”

Chapter three: Jesus is BETTER than Moses (law)

Chapter four: Don't go back and miss out on the REST Jesus gives

Chapter five: Jesus is BETTER than Aaron (priesthood)

Chapter six: Don't go back and miss out on the PROMISE Jesus gives

In chapter seven, we are introduced to a somewhat mysterious character that, other than the book of Hebrews, is only mentioned twice in the Bible. The author goes back almost 4000 years to make his next point:

Genesis 14:18-20 And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God. And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all.

Psalms 110:4 The Lord hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.

Long before there was a Law given by Moses, long before there was a Priesthood beginning with Aaron, long before there was a Tabernacle, or a Temple, or a Promised Land, or a Jerusalem, or a nation called Israel, there was a man named Melchizedek who was a type of Jesus Christ ...

Hebrews 7:1-4 For this Melchisedec, king of Salem, priest of the most high God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him; To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace; Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually. Now consider how great this man was, unto whom even the patriarch Abraham gave the tenth of the spoils.

MELCHIZEDEK:

- His name means “king of righteousness” AND “king of peace”
- Both a king AND a priest
- He received TITHES from Abraham
- No record of his genealogy (it looks like he is STILL SERVING!)
- He was a MAN (v.4), but also a TYPE of Jesus (v.3 – “like unto”)

What is the point of using this obscure OT character as a type of Christ?

Hebrews 7:5-10 And verily they that are of the sons of Levi, who receive the office of the priesthood, have a commandment to take tithes of the people according to the law, that is, of their brethren, though they come out of the loins of Abraham: But he whose descent is not counted from them received tithes of Abraham, and blessed him that had the promises. And without all contradiction the less is blessed of the better. And here men that die receive tithes; but there he receiveth them, of whom it is witnessed that he liveth. And as I may so say, Levi also, who receiveth tithes, payed tithes in Abraham. For he was yet in the loins of his father, when Melchisedec met him.

LEVITICAL PRIESTHOOD:

- The OT system demanded “righteousness before God” but could never provide “peace with God”
- Aaron and his descendants were ONLY priests, never kings
- The OT priesthood received TITHES from the people of Israel
- Each of these OT priests came from the same lineage and DIED
- Aaron and his descendants were in the loins of Abraham (yet unborn) when their forefather paid tithes to Melchizedek

v.7 – **And without all contradiction the less is blessed of the better.**

Melchizedek blessed Abraham – the less is always blessed by the BETTER – Abraham acknowledged Melchizedek's SUPERIORITY by paying tithes to him – by extension, ALL the unborn generations of Aaronic priests bowed with their ancestor before Melchizedek – Jesus is an High Priest after the ORDER of Melchizedek, not Aaron – so all the Aaronic priesthood of necessity must bow before HIS priesthood!

NOT ONLY IS MELCHIZEDEK'S PRIESTHOOD GREATER THAN AARON'S, IT HAS ACTUALLY REPLACED AARON'S PRIESTHOOD!

Why did God make such a radical change?

1. OT priesthood and law were imperfect so we needed another way

Hebrews 7:11 If therefore perfection were by the Levitical priesthood, (for under it the people received the law,) what further need was there that another priest should rise after the order of Melchisedec, and not be called after the order of Aaron?

2. With law changed, someone from the tribe of Judah could be a priest

Levi = “joined” (Aaron from this tribe)
Judah = “praise” (Jesus from this tribe)

Hebrews 7:12-14 For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law. For he of whom these things are spoken pertaineth to another tribe, of which no man gave attendance at the altar. For it is evident that our Lord sprang out of Juda; of which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priesthood.

3. OT priesthood and law couldn't continue forever, but Jesus does!

Hebrews 7:15-17 And it is yet far more evident: for that after the similitude of Melchisedec there ariseth another priest, Who is made, not after the law of a carnal commandment, but after the power of an endless life. For he testifieth, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

4. OT law couldn't change the heart of man, but Jesus does!

Hebrews 7:18-19 For there is verily a disannulling of the commandment going before for the weakness and unprofitableness thereof. For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God.

5. Only Jesus' priesthood was ever established by God's own oath

Hebrews 7:20-22 And inasmuch as not without an oath he was made priest: (For those priests were made without an oath; but this with an oath by him that said unto him, The Lord sware and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec:) By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament.

6. OT had many priests (they all died), but NT has only one – Jesus!

Hebrews 7:23-25 And they truly were many priests, because they were not suffered to continue by reason of death: But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

7. OT high priests were sinners, but our high priest is God Himself!

Hebrews 7:26-28 For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself. For the law maketh men high priests which have infirmity; but the word of the oath, which was since the law, maketh the Son, who is consecrated for evermore.

CHAPTER EIGHT IS THE SUMMARY OF CHAPTER SEVEN'S POINTS

Hebrews 8:1-3 Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man. For every high priest is ordained to offer gifts and sacrifices: wherefore it is of necessity that this man have somewhat also to offer.

“RIGHT HAND” – not a physical position, but a place of power!

Jesus is a high priest – what sacrifice did He offer? HIS OWN LIFE!

If Jesus was still on earth, He could be a King (tribe of Judah) but not a priest (tribe of Levi) – but He ministers in a heavenly tabernacle of which the earthly one was just a shadow – and a different order governs there!

Hebrews 8:4-6 For if he were on earth, he should not be a priest, seeing that there are priests that offer gifts according to the law: Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount. But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.

The Old Covenant could DECLARE God's standard but could not PROVIDE the power needed for us to live up to God's standard!

Hebrews 8:7-12 For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second. For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest. For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.

The New Covenant can't be ADDED to the Old Covenant – it must REPLACE it. The New Covenant is wrapped up in JESUS – to have its blessings you must have HIM! The old has gone, the new has come!

Hebrews 8:13 In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.