

Letter to the **Hebrews**



Lesson 7-The Great Promised High Priest!

Focus: Hebrews 7:1-28

- **A priest like Melchizedek (v.1-4)**
 - The story of Melchizedek comes to us from Genesis (See Genesis 14:17-20). Also look at the battle that had taken place and the kings who were mentioned as being there (Gen. 14:1,2). There were 4 kings against 5 kings, but there was no king of Salem mentioned. The “king of Salem” is just kind of thrown into the story between v.17 and v.21. The king Sodom had come out to meet Abraham and was talking with him. Then we see that Abraham met with the King of Salem, another character!
 - Some believe these references were to Christ Himself. They could have been. Certainly Christ did appear to a number of people in the days of old! (Example, Gen. 32:30; 18:22).
 - There was no record of this man’s written past. No beginning, no end. Christ also was from everlasting! (Psalm 90:2; Micah 5:2).
- **An important priest to whom tithes were paid by Abraham and even Levi (v.5-10)**
 - The Levitical priests even paid tithe to this Melchizedek in one sense. They paid homage to him by being still in the loins of Abraham. Abraham their father paid tithes to this high priest of God. **Christ Jesus is also to receive homage from every priest of Levi and even from every person who has ever lived and who will serve Him.** So, Christ’s ministry as High priest is FAR above the Levitical priesthood.
 - (v.7) To the Jewish mind, being a son of Abraham was almost synonymous with Salvation (See **Matthew 3:8,9 and John 8:53**). **Who could dare to be greater than Abraham? Yet, Christ was!!** Melchizedek too! (See also John 8:54-58).
- **The need for bringing in a new priest who had Everlasting Life (v.11-19)**
 - (v.11-15) Our Lord arose from Judah, not Levi, as was *promised (Isaiah 11:1-4; Genesis 49:10)*. We can see that the Levitical priesthood was not without fault. There was a weakness because they were mere men who faced death! God’s promise however was pointing us down to one who would come after the order of Melchizedek, one who could be a “priest forever,” having everlasting life (Psalm 110:4). Therefore, this promise necessitated the bringing of a change to the Levitical system of law. God was going to change the priestly and sacrificial order of things by bringing in Christ Jesus, the Messiah, God’s own Son. God had promised in His word that such an adjustment would come. **It was NOT an adjustment to the moral law**—such has never been done, nor would ever need to be done—What’s right is right and what’s wrong is wrong! That has never changed—it is perfect (Psalm 19:7; 105:8). The only thing that was to change was God’s system of dealing with the sin problem—yet even that did not change so much, for the first system was a shadow of the second. The first was pointing to the second,

that is, the sacrificial and priestly system of old was pointing to the sacrifice and priesthood of Christ that all would experience after His first Advent!

- (v.17) Christ is established as our great high priest! This is His rightful place! God promised that He (*Messiah*) would become our High Priest forever (**Psalm 110:1,2,4**)! **The Jews clearly understood this Psalm (Ps.110:1,4) to be pointing to the Messiah, and indeed it was!** (See also what Christ said to the Jews in His day. Compare **Matthew 22:41-46** and Psalm 110:1). The author of Hebrews was taking us back to this famous Psalm (Ps. 110, written by King David), that clearly revealed the work of the coming Messiah as our new, One and Only, High Priest! This promise showed that God was planning to change the system and order of things away from the Levitical priesthood to something that was new and better—the new order under Messiah!
- (v.16-19) We draw near through a better hope! That is, we draw near to God through Christ His son! The Divine check of Messiah's blood has been cashed and paid now! We are no longer waiting on that promise, but are now experiencing the fulfillment of it! Praise be to God!
- (v.18,19) Only Christ could make a man perfect, not the Levitical law. Those types pointed us to Christ. Look at all the prophecies pointing to Christ! (See Daniel 9:25-27). The Bible was telling us that Christ would replace the old covenant system. Then He would **confirm the New Covenant with us, by His blood!** (Compare Dan. 7:27 and Mark 14:22-25). Now, the Bible tells us that even Abraham saw Christ's day. How is it that this could happen? Surely it was revealed to Him! (John 8:56). You know even Melchizedek revealed the "bread and the wine" to Abraham (in this way too, Christ's day was also seen by Abraham).
- **Christ continues forever and was sworn in by the oath and promise of God Himself (v.20-25)**
 - Christ is our prophesied, sworn, and ordained High priest! He can save us to the "uttermost!" He takes our sins and casts them into the depths of the sea (Micah 7:19).
- **God has now appointed a perfect High priest, rather than weak men (v.26-28)**
 - The word of the **oath** is an unchangeable promise and prophecy (Psalm 110:1,2,4). This Messiah was to be God's true and only high priest forever! It was promised that He would take such a position! And certainly, He has!

Question (s) for the Heart:

Will you put your faith in the living Messiah and High priest who paid for our sin with His own blood?
