

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Turn your bibles with me to Hebrews 7

We are continuing our verse by verse study through the book of Hebrews

You might remember that this book is actually a letter that was written to a group of Jewish believers that were contemplating returning back to Judaism

And so the writer – as we have seen over the last few months – is providing this group with reason after reason – using the Old Testament and the Law to demonstrate to them that Jesus is greater than anything they were thinking about going back to

This is the probably the most important chapter in the book of Hebrews – if you grasp ch 7, you will have no problem with the rest of the letter.

Let's pray...

Before we get in Hebrews 7

Turn to Gen 14 –

Here in Genesis 14 –

We are told that the kings of the region were at war with each other, and Abram receives word that his nephew Lot somehow got wrapped up in the mess and was taken captive these kings

So Abram gathers together 318 of his trained servants and he goes after his nephew and gets him back.

This is where Melchizedek pops up

[Gen 14:18-20 NKJV] 18 Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he [was] the priest of God Most High. 19 And he blessed him and said: "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; 20 And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand." And he gave him a tithe of all.

We really don't know much about Melchizedek – except that he was a priest, and he was a king

He is the first priest that is mentioned in all the scriptures

Some people say Melchizedek is a Christophany – where Jesus makes an appearance in the Old Testament

And some people say that Melchizedek was simply an individual who was a priest and a king of a town and that he simply is a type or a shadow that points to Jesus.

I know we there has been this build up to Melchizedek over the last few weeks

But I am here to tell you this evening that this text is not about who Melchizedek was – it is about who Jesus is.

Remember – everything is done in context

Keep in mind who the writer is writing to???

It is not going to benefit them one bit to know who Melchizedek is –

He wants them to truly understand who Jesus is -

[Heb 7:1-28 NKJV] 1 For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, 2 to whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all, first being translated "king of righteousness," and then also king of Salem, meaning "king of peace,"

So here in ch 7, the writer begins by providing a correlation between Melchizedek and Jesus Christ

The name Melchizedek is translated as king of righteousness while ruling over Salem which comes from the Hebrew word shalom which we should know means “peace”

The apostle Peter called Jesus “the Holy and **Righteous One or Just One**” (Acts 3:14).

And the scriptures tell us that by satisfying the righteousness of God as our divine substitute, Jesus Christ provides perfect peace with God for all who believe on Him.

[Rom 5:1 NKJV] 1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

[Eph 2:14 NKJV] 14 For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation,

Jesus Christ is our righteousness, He is our peace

The writer continues -

3 without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, remains a priest continually.

Once again, in context – the writer continues to make the correlation between Melchizedek and Jesus – I don't believe that he is concluding that Melchizedek is eternal, I believe the writer is stating that bible never recorded his birth or his death or his parents name – so in a sense, he has no genealogy

To the Jews, if it wasn't recorded – it didn't exist

If you didn't have a record of your birth or genealogy – you didn't exist

The book of Genesis – as one reads it, it is genealogy after genealogy. We can track how we got from Adam all the way Abram to Isaac to Jacob and to Judah

Yet – nothing is recorded about Melchizedek

So why is the writer making these correlations Melchizedek and Jesus

Here is the reason –

Very important -

He is trying to convey to them the understanding, that the old priesthood – which was done under the law – has been done away with

And a new priest has risen on our behalf, and that is our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

–
not after the old order (the Levitical or Aaronic order) but after the order of Melchizedek

Turn your bibles with me to Psalm 110 –

Here is the only other mention of Melchizedek in the scriptures besides Gen 14 and Hebrews

Psalm 110 is a Messianic Psalm – it is about Jesus

[Psa 110:1-4 NKJV] 1 A Psalm of David. The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool." 2 The LORD shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion. Rule in the midst of Your enemies! 3 Your people [shall be] volunteers In the day of Your power; In the beauties of holiness, from the womb of the morning, You have the dew of Your youth. 4 The

LORD has sworn And will not relent, "You [are] a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek."

All the other priests were according to the order of Levi

One had to be from the tribe of Levi to be a priest and a descendant of Aaron to be the high priest

But here in the psalms – which happens hundreds of years after the law was given, God makes an oath that Jesus will be a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek

What is the order of Melchizedek –

It is a lasting priesthood

A priesthood without a beginning or an end

Remember, Jesus came to fulfill the OT

He fulfilled the law (Matt 5)

He fulfilled the priesthood by becoming a priest according to the order of Melchizedek

4 Now consider how great this man [was], to whom even the patriarch Abraham gave a tenth of the spoils. 5 And indeed those who are of the sons of Levi, who receive the priesthood, have a commandment to receive tithes from the people according to the law, that is, from their brethren, though they have come from

the loins of Abraham; 6 but he whose genealogy is not derived from them received tithes from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises. 7 Now beyond all contradiction the lesser is blessed by the better. 8 Here mortal men receive tithes, but there he [receives them], of whom it is witnessed that he lives. 9 Even Levi, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, so to speak, 10 for he was still in the loins of his father when Melchizedek met him.

So the writer here is saying that the tribe of Levi – remember, they didn't get an inheritance because God choose them to do His work in the temple

And therefore, under the law, they were to be supported by the tithes that the people would bring to the tabernacle and the temple -

Levi paid tithes to Melchizedek

How?

because he was inside of Abraham

We could say that Levi was in Abraham's genes (joke) 😊

The point that the writer is making is that Melchizedek is higher than Abraham and higher than his descendants

Therefore the priesthood under the order of Melchizedek is higher than the Levitical priesthood because Levi paid tithes to Melchizedek

So the precedent of the priesthood is not Levi – but Melchizedek

11 Therefore, if perfection were through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need [was there] that another priest should rise according to the order of Melchizedek, and not be called according to the order of Aaron? 12 For the priesthood being changed, of necessity there is also a change of the law.

There are some Christians today who still believe that in order to be a true believer that we must keep many of the things that we find in the law.

There are some today who say that we must keep the Sabbath / keep the feasts

And there are other elements of the law that people try to bring into our faith in Christ

But here the scriptures point out that the law was not perfect or complete.

The writer is not saying that the law was bad – he is saying that it couldn't help you completely

For example – when we get up in the morning

We walk over to the bathroom and we look in the mirror

The mirror reveals to us what we need to work on or what we need to cover up

However, the mirror cannot help us

We can't take the mirror and have the mirror clip the hairs coming out of the ears

The same thing with the law –

The law only reveals to me that I fall short of the glory of God but the law cannot help me with my sin

You see – when we look at the OT sacrificial system – some of us think that in order for someone to be forgiven in the OT – all they had to do was bring an animal to get sacrificed and all their sins were forgiven

That is not the case –

The OT sacrificial system was not meant to forgive sins

The OT sacrificial system was meant to point people to what forgiveness was ultimately going to take.

It was going to take a sacrifice whereby one would have to die on their behalf

All the sacrifices in the OT – they were a constant reminder of something that was coming in the future –

And that something was the coming of Jesus Christ, on the cross, dying for our sins

Think about this –

If the blood of goats and rams and bulls could get the job done – why didn't it just continue????

It couldn't get the job done – it just covered the sins and pointed to the One would take our sins upon His shoulder.

The Levitical priesthood was imperfect/incomplete but the priesthood of Melchizedek is perfect – because we have forgiveness of sin through Jesus Christ.

The priesthood has been changed – we are no longer under the law

That means we can have bacon and cheeseburgers and walk in His grace

13 For He of whom these things are spoken belongs to another tribe, from which no man has officiated at the altar. 14 For [it is] evident that our Lord arose from Judah, of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood. 15 And it is yet far more evident if, in the likeness of Melchizedek, there arises another priest 16 who has come, not according to the law of a fleshly commandment, but according to the power of an endless life. 17 For He testifies: "You [are] a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek."

If we were still under the law – then Jesus could not be a priest.

He was from the line of Judah, from the line of David

But God has established a new way of doing things through this new order of grace.

And the writer provides a contrast here between the Aaronic priests and Melchizedek

The Aaronic priests were priests based upon their genealogy – if you were a descendant of Aaron – you would be priest – that is a commandment that God established

However, Jesus became priest because of who he is

He became priest because He is eternal

I had you make a note of the phrase, endless life –

That means indestructible

And we see that through the power of His resurrection

It is the power of Jesus living forever that we have a priest forever

18 For on the one hand there is an annulling of the former commandment because of its weakness and unprofitableness,

We all know what the word annul means –

We hear the word annulment, and we think of a marriage being annulled – meaning that it never happened

Here is what the writer is telling this group of Jewish believers and us today –

We are so set free from the law it is as if it never took place.

We are not bound by the law –

It is as if we were never under it – and in reality, we have never been under it

As someone who puts their faith and trust in Jesus Christ – the moment we go to be with the Lord – God is not going to shame us by showing us all the things we did.

God is going to say, “I don’t remember your sin anymore”

It is washed away

God remembers it no more

We are no longer under the law in any way shape or form because it has been annulled

19 for the law made nothing perfect; on the other hand, [there is the] bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God.

Under the law – there was no intimacy with God

Remember, only the High Priest was allowed behind the veil – one time a year

So you would bring your sacrifice and walk away

The law kept you at a distance from God

But now, as believers – it is all about knowing Him

[Jhn 17:3 NKJV] 3 "And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

It is about knowing Him

It is about having a relationship with Him

It is about drawing near to Him

We have a better hope by which we draw near to God

20 And inasmuch as [He was] not [made priest] without an oath 21 (for they have become priests without an oath, but He with an oath by Him who said to Him: "The LORD has sworn And will not relent, 'You [are] a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek' "), 22 by so much more Jesus has become a surety of a better covenant.

When all the Levites were chosen to be priests – none of them were brought into office with an oath

But now, God swears an oath about this new priest – and once again the writer quotes Psalm 110

23 Also there were many priests, because they were prevented by death from continuing. 24 But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood.

The Levitical priests –

They served and then they died

And sometimes you might get a bad priests with bad character

However, Jesus has an unchangeable priesthood.

Jesus will never die and He has a permanent priesthood.

Jesus – right now – is interceding on our behalf before the Father

25 Therefore (because He is a permanent priest)

He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

So far in this chapter – the writer has made the point that the law was weak, unprofitable and imperfect –

Yet He is also able to save to the uttermost

If we call out to Him – Jesus will forgive our sins.

It doesn't matter what we have done -who we have hurt – He will extend grace to us

26 For such a High Priest was fitting for us, [who is] holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; 27 who does

not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.

The Aaronic high priests, before they could enter the Holy of Holies, they would have to bring a sacrifice to cover their own sin – and then they would be able to sprinkle the mercy seat with the blood to cover the sins of the nation.

And then they would have to do it every year in the Day of Atonement

However, Jesus sprinkled the mercy seat with His own blood – once and for all

It is finished

In context – remember, the writer is writing to his group of Jewish believers

The writer is saying to them – do you really want to go back to being under the law???

Do you really want to go back to the sacrificial system???

Year after year after year

Don't you understand the superiority of what Jesus has done for us on the cross.

He died for our sins and He poured out His blood and it never has to be done again

28 For the law appoints as high priests men who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the law, [appoints] the Son who has been perfected forever.

When God set up the Levitical priesthood, it made men priests who were weak. But when God set up the priesthood of Jesus, He did it with an oath, and it was a perfect priesthood.

Perfect for how long? Forevermore.

Let's pray...

To Receive Christ do the following:

Admit, "I am a sinner."

Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.

Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.

CALVARY
Santa Cruz

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I

accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

[Num 6:24-26 NLT] 24 '

May the LORD bless you and protect you.

May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you.

May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.'

