

# Something Better For Us

A Survey of Hebrews, Lesson #4  
7:1 – 8:13

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Jim Hoffman

Heb 7:1-10

**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," 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.**

**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.**

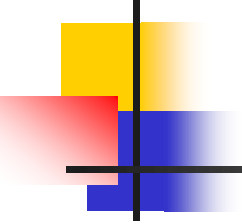
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# Heb 7:1-10

## Melchizedek, Priest of God

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- Way back in Genesis 14, way before there was ever anything named a Levite, we see a priest, Melchizedek.
- Melchizedek, was not only a priest, but a king as well; and the king of Salem (peace). Does this sound like someone else we know?
- He had no recorded genealogy, and no recorded death.



# Heb 7:1-10

## Melchizedek, Priest of God

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- Melchizedek was a 'type' of Christ.
- So what is a 'type'?
  - A person or practice in the O.T. that points to some N.T. truth.
  - Types are predictive in the sense that they serve to reveal N.T. truth in advance.
  - The sacrificial lambs, Noah's ark, the bronze serpent on the pole were all 'types' of Christ.

# Heb 7:1-10

## Melchizedek, Priest of God

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- Melchizedek was a type of Christ in these ways;
  - His priesthood was not national, but universal.
  - His priesthood was royal, he was a king.
  - His priesthood was permanent, not temporary.

# Heb 7:1-10

## Melchizedek, Priest of God

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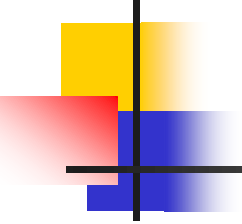
- Melchizedek also gives credence to the Bible as a divinely inspired book. How so?
  - Moses introduces him in Genesis and nothing is said of him for roughly 1,000 years.
  - David speaks of him in Psalms 110 and then nothing is said of him again for roughly 1,000 years.
  - The writer of Hebrews mentions him and reveals things about him that were never divulged before.

# Heb 7:1-10

## Melchizedek, Priest of God

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- Some have thought that Melchizedek was an angel, and some have thought him to be an O.T. appearance of Christ.
- There is no evidence to support either point of view beyond speculation.
- He is certainly mysterious enough to evoke such speculation, but in all likelihood he was a king who also happened to be a priest.
- What does it say to us that God had priests in place long before a sacrificial system came into being?



# Heb 7:1-10

## Melchizedek, Priest of God

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- Great enough that Abraham paid tithes to him in Genesis 14.
- Great enough that Levi (in Abraham's loins at the time) paid tithes to him.
- Great enough to be a superior sort of priest to the Levitical priests because, from verse #7, the lesser was blessed by the better.
- Jesus is of that better priesthood after the order of Melchizedek.



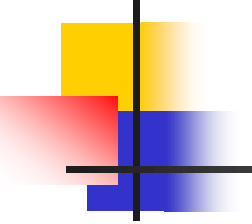
# Hebrews 7:11

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?

NKJV

- Ps 110:4 The LORD has sworn and will not relent, "You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek."  
NKJV
- When God prophesied through David (who was after the Levitical system was established) that His Anointed One would be a priest forever He clearly established that the then current system would be replaced.
- So the writer asks the logical question of those who were hanging on to the old system ..... If the old system could provide what we need, why would God have ever spoken of another priesthood?

# Hebrews 7:12-14



12 For the priesthood being changed, of necessity there is also a change of the law. 13 For He of whom these things are spoken belongs to another tribe, from which no man has officiated at the altar. 4 For it is evident that our Lord arose from Judah, of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood. NKJV

- The old system didn't complete the work that we needed for redemption and to provide victory for us over the flesh.
- Furthermore, just to prove how radically different Christ's priesthood was, had He been in the Levitical system, He would not have qualified for the priesthood since he was from the tribe of Judah, not Levi.

Heb 7:15-19

**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."**

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

**NKJV**

Heb 7:20-28

**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.**

**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. 25 Therefore 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.**

**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. 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.**

**NKJV**

# Hebrews 7:15-28

## The New Priesthood and Priest

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- The new priest was appointed by God whereas the Levitical priests simply passed down the office from generation to generation as descendants of Aaron.
- There were many priests in the old system simply because they died whereas Jesus holds His priestly office forever because His life has no end.
- Because He lives forever, He is also able to save forever. He is our ever present advocate before the throne of God. (I John 2:1-2)

# Hebrews 7:25

25 Therefore 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.

- What is this 'uttermost' stuff? Primarily it has to do with Christ's ability to save us all the way out of wherever we were and make us into showcase material. (Eph 2:10)
- So what? The so what is that no one is out of the scope of the price that was paid. No one can say, "God can't save me because I have been too bad", and no one can say that they cannot live for Christ. He lifts us out to the miry clay and sets upon feet upon the rock.
- The expectation for is that if He can forgive us of anything, then surely we can accept His gift and live like 'delivered' people.

# Hebrews 7:15-28

## The New Priesthood and Priest

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- Jesus lives forever and intercedes for us continually. Since His life has no end, neither does His intercession.
  - Where is Jesus today? (*at God's right hand*)
  - What is He doing? (*praying for us*)
  - Can you imagine God the Father not answering the prayers of God the Son?

# Hebrews 7:15-28

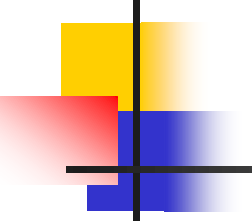
## The New Priesthood and Priest

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- The O.T. priests had to offer sacrifices for themselves first before they could mediate for others.
- Jesus sacrificed himself so that he could become the one mediator between God and man. (I Timothy 2:5)
- The Levitical priests were temporary, and sinful, but Jesus is sinless and permanent; He is our anchor and forerunner.



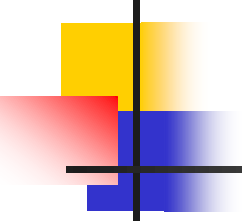
# Hebrews 8:1-2



Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, 2 a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man. NKJV

- The end of chapter 7 pointed to a high priest who was perfect.
  - Holy
  - Harmless
  - undefiled
  - Sinless
  - Appointed by God

# Hebrews 8:1-2



Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, 2 a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man. NKJV

- Here is great news! The perfect high priest is not a dream, but the reality of who Jesus is.
- He just doesn't approach God occasionally, He sits beside Him at His right hand.
- And He doesn't minister in a rudimentary tabernacle on the earth, but in the true tabernacle in heaven built by God, and not by man.

# Hebrews 8:3-6

A better priest with a better covenant established upon better promises.

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- If Jesus were on earth He wouldn't be qualified to offer gifts and sacrifices according to the law. (not a Levite)
- The Levitical priests and even the furnishings of the tabernacle were mere copies and shadows of what God had in mind.
- Verse #5 makes it clear then when God gave Moses instructions about building the earthly tabernacle that He was using the real as the pattern.

# Hebrews 8:3-6

A better priest with a better covenant established upon better promises.

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- A mediator is one who stands between two parties for the purpose of bringing them together.
- He must represent both parties; in many false religions there are 'priests' that are supposed to mediate for sinners to be reconciled to God.
- However, while these earthly priests can represent man and offer all sorts of defenses for our actions, they cannot represent God. (I Tim 2:5)



# Hebrews 8:7-13

## A New Covenant

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- Jer 31:31-34 Foretold of a new covenant ..... "Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah — 32 not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD. 33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. 34 No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more." NKJV



# Hebrews 8:7-13

## A New Covenant

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- The new covenant may have surprised the nation of Israel, but it should not have.
- They were not only told that there would be one, but the reason for it was also pictured for them day after day after day.
- The very fact that the Levitical priests never sat down and that the people had to keep coming back spoke clearly that the old system was ineffective.



# Hebrews 8:7-13

## A New Covenant

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- Notice please that just like the old covenant was made with Israel, so is the new covenant made with Israel.
- Gentiles benefit from the new covenant just like they were able to benefit from the old, but the new covenant is not with the church and not with any other people than Israel.
- Heb 8:10 'For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD'  
NKJV



# Hebrews 8:7-13

## A New Covenant

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- The new covenant is nothing like the old covenant; it is in fact radically different.
- The new covenant is much more like the Abrahamic covenant where God graced Abraham with righteousness based upon his faith.
- The old covenant was a promise to bless Israel for obedience, and was never intended to be a means of salvation.





# Hebrews 8:7-13

## A New Covenant

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- The new covenant is not written on tablets of stone, but is written on our hearts.
- External laws have to do with what can be seen and judged and are obeyed out of necessity.
- The work of the Spirit in us causes us to obey God out of love and that difference is what separates Christianity.
- Nearly all other forms of religion deal with outward conformity and ignore the larger problem of the sin nature.



# Hebrews 8:7-13

## A New Covenant

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- All covenants are contracts containing promises.
- In the new covenant, God promises to forgive us based upon a payment made to himself by himself.
- It seems our redemption is too important to allow us the opportunity to mess it up.



# Hebrews 8:7-13

## A New Covenant

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- In this text we also can see just how special the Hebrew people are.
- God sent His son as a Hebrew, and authored most of His word by Hebrews.
- They have been temporarily set aside due to their disobedience and their rejection of Jesus, but the day will come when the scales will fall from their eyes and all Israel will be saved in a day. (Romans 11:26)



# Truths that Transform

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- We have a high priest who lives forever and ministers in the true holy of holies.
- Our high priest is able to save us to the uttermost, all the way out of sin.
- Since Jesus is at the right hand of the Father interceding for us can you imagine God the Father not answering the prayers of God the Son?