



Melchizedek the Great

Lesson Twenty-One • Hebrews 7:4-10

Where Are We in the Book of Hebrews?

Hold Fast to Our Confession with Confidence: “Jesus is the Greater Melchizedek!” [See Book Chart!]

Where Are We in Hebrews 7?

Melchizedek: The Man of Mystery & the Meaning of His Ministry as a Priest “Forever” [See Melchizedek • Hebrews 7 Chart]

➤ The Historical Appearance of Melchizedek. (7:1-3)

1. The Manhood of Melchizedek. (v. 1a)
2. The Ministry of Melchizedek (v. 1b-2)
3. The Mystery of Melchizedek (v. 3) *“but made like the Son of God, he remains a priest perpetually”*

*What Melchizedek was **LITERARILY** in the inspired Scriptures, Jesus is **LITERALLY** in His incarnation, resurrection, and exaltation to God’s right hand as the King-Priest forever!*

➤ The Logical Importance of Melchizedek. (7:4-10)

What Makes Melchizedek So Great?

“Now observe how great this man was...” (7:4a)

1. Melchizedek the Man Was Greater than ABRAHAM. (7:4-7)

➤ Abraham is GREAT. (7:4, 6)

PATRIARCH of God’s people (v. 4) and POSSESSOR of God’s promises (v. 6).

➤ Melchizedek was GREATER as a Type of Christ. (7:4b-7)

Two Reasons Melchizedek Is Greater

1. Abraham the patriarch GAVE Melchizedek a tithe of his spoils. (v. 4)

When did he do it? (v. 1) *“and blessed him, to whom also Abraham apportioned a tenth part of the spoils”*

How did he do it? (v. 2) *“Abraham apportioned a tenth part,”*

Why did he do it? (v. 4) *“gave a tenth of the choicest spoils.”*

To whom did he give it? (v. 4) *“Now observe how great this one was to whom Abraham the patriarch gave.”*

Logical Importance of Abraham’s Giving When It Comes to Greatness

- Abraham gave even though his descendants through Levi were commanded to *repeatedly and continually collect the tithe* (present tense) from their fellow Israelites by the Law. (v. 5)

- But Melchizedek who has no genealogy connected to Levi (or even Abraham!) *collected the tithe* from Abraham with lasting consequences (perfect tense). (v. 6a)

2. Melchizedek **BLESSES** Abraham the possessor of the promises. (v. 6b-7)

Logical Importance of Abraham's Being Blessed When It Comes to Greatness

Beyond any dispute the lesser is blessed by the greater! (v. 7)

2. Melchizedek the Man Was Greater than LEVI and His Priesthood. (7:8-10)

Two Reasons Melchizedek Is Greater

➤ Levitical priests *literally* **DIED** but Melchizedek *literarily* **LIVES** forever. (v. 8)

"of whom it is witnessed" points back to the inspired text of *Genesis 14:18-20* and *Hebrews 7:3!*

- **Literarily** Melchizedek appears "without father, without mother"
- **Literarily** Melchizedek appears "without genealogy"
- **Literarily** Melchizedek appears "having neither beginning of days or end of life"

"but made like the Son of God, he remains a priest perpetually"

Logical Importance of Living When It Comes to Greatness

Living forever is greater than staying dead!

➤ Levi whose sons presently receives tithes had **ALREADY** paid tithes to Melchizedek. (vv. 9-10)

Logical Importance of Timing When It Comes to Greatness

The lesser paid tithes in the past even though collecting tithes in the present!

"Melchizedek the Great" Means that Jesus Our High Priest According to the Order of Melchizedek Is the GREATEST!

Greater than Even Melchizedek and Any Earthly Priesthood or Heavenly Mediation of Mortal Men or Women!

1. Jesus is greater than any blood ties to Abraham the patriarch or anyone else! Jesus was *not merely Jewish* but also *God Himself!*
2. Jesus is greater than receiving the promises of the Abrahamic Covenant! Jesus did not *merely possess God promises* but *He fulfills them in His person and work!*
3. Jesus is greater than any priest or "apostolic" succession or priestly hierarchy! Jesus is not merely *a high priest* but *died for sinners* as their sinless Sacrifice and *rose from the dead* as their perfect Substitute and eternal Mediator!

Jesus is perfectly qualified like no other to be our eternal high priest who ministers forever in the very presence of God! (7:11-28)

Book of Hebrews

Begins like a Sermon but Ends Like a Letter!
Background to This "Sermon-Letter" Is Not Revealed!
Like Melchizedek, it is *without* father, mother, or genealogy. So, the focus is on **TODAY** God is speaking. Christ is meditating, and the Spirit is convicting. Be quick to *hear*, quick to obey from the heart by faith in hope with love!

**Stay Fixated on Christ's Greater Glory
to Hold Fast & Move Forward Until We Enter God's Rest!**

"fixing our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfector of faith, who for the joy, set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." (12:2) "Therefore, partners of a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of our confession." (3:1) "Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession." (4:14) "Therefore let us be diligent to enter that rest, so that no one will fail, through following the same example of disobedience." (4:17)

NO GREETING		HOLD FAST		MOVE FORWARD	
1:1 STAY FIXATED on Our Calling in Christ! "You are My Son!" (1:5)		4:14 to Our Confession with Confidence! "You are a priest forever like Melchizedek!" (5:6)		13:8 with conviction in Community! "Jesus is the same, yesterday, today, and forever!" (13:8)	
1:1 – 2:18 GREATER than Prophets & Angels Messengers of the Law		4:14 – 10:18 GREATER than Aaron, Abraham & Levi's Priesthood Ministry of the Law		13:1-19 With LOVE that LABORS	
SON of GOD Full Divine Nature (1:1-1:14) God's Final Revelation Flawless Radiance Firstborn Ruler WARNING! (2:1-4) SON of MAN Full Human Nature (2:5-18) Our Family Representative: The Better Last Adam Firstborn Representative: The Better Big Brother Faithful Representative: The Better High Priest		GREATER than AARON Greater Priestly Qualifications (4:14–5:10) WARNING! (5:11–6:20) GREATER than LEVITICAL PRIESTHOOD Greater Priestly Order Like Melchizedek (7:1-28) Portrait of Melchizedek (1-3) Preeminence of Melchizedek Abe & Levi (4-10) Perfection Greater than Melchizedek (11-28) Greater Priestly Ministry by Christ (8:1-10:18) Better Covenant New! (8:1-13) Better Sanctuary: Heavenly! (9:1-10) Better Sacrifice: Himself (9:11-28) Better Outcome: Transformation! (10:1-18)		LET US... DRAW NEAR Confidently (19-22) HOLD FAST Continually (23) ASSEMBLE Consistently (24-25) Even More as the Day Draws Near! WARNING! (26-39)	
GREATER than MOSES Look! (3:1-6) Consider Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of Our Confession. Hold Fast to the End! GREATER than JOSHUA Listen: WARNING! (3:7-4:13) Today Don't Harden Your Heart and Not Enter His Rest. Fear Someone Won't Enter!		LIVE by FAITH Defined (1-2) Demonstrated (3-38) Prepared Creation Pre-Flood: A-E-N Patriarchs: A-S-I-J Prophet: Moses Powerful Exodus & Conquest: Rahab Persevering to Escape or Endure Suffering: Many Men & Women Delayed (39-40)		LOOK UP to JESUS Striving to Finish Well (1-2) Suffering to the Death (3-11) Strengthening One Another (12-13) WARNING! (14-29) By Identifying (9-14) By Sacrificing (15-16) By Obedying (17) By Praying (18-19)	
GOSPEL LOGIC: SUPERIORITY of the FIRSTBORN SON!		GOSPEL LOVE: SINCERITY of the FIRSTBORN SONS!			
WOEFUL WARNINGS		APOSTATIZING: The Danger of Denying Faith in the Triune God		BETTER BLESSING	
1. NEGLECTING Danger of Drifting 2:1-4		2. HARDENING Danger of Distrusting 3:7–4:13		3. STAGNATING Danger of Delaying 5:11-6:20	
3. FORSAKING Danger of Departing 10:26-39		4. REFUSING Danger of Defying 12:14-24 / 25-29			
"Progression Increases with a "slow fade" as the punishment intensifies, but the pattern's instructive for pastoral exhortation of potential apostates!"					
God's Son		He is LIKE Us! (2:16-17a)		He is FOR Us! (2:17b)	
"Since we have a great high priest..." 4:14		"We have such a high priest..." 8:1		"And since we have a great priest over the house of God..." 10:21	
By WHOM? WE DON'T KNOW! Speculations: Paul, Luke, Apollos, Barnabas, Silas, Peter, Philip, Jude, Priscilla, etc. Some likely, others not. We do know: Male, Jewish, Greek-culture (LXX), synagogue-familiar, well-educated, eloquent speaker, not an apostle(?), pastor-teacher's heart. Apollos is a great guess (Acts 18:24-28) favored by Martin Luther.		To WHOM? WE DON'T KNOW! Begins like a sermon, ends like a letter! So, no greeting from author to recipients with their location. We do know: Largely Jewish Christians who heard the gospel from others who heard it from Jesus (2:3). Saved long enough should be disciples yet had endured persecution (10:32-35) and were facing more, perhaps death (12:4). Were beginning to fall away from Christ and forsake worshipping together to avoid suffering. Risked being like the wilderness generation that heard God's voice but refused to enter God's rest. Not knowing reminds us that we are all weary pilgrims who must trust and obey the Son through our present wilderness until we all enter God's future rest!		WHERE? WE DON'T KNOW! Perhaps to Jewish Christians in Rome (13:24). But this could mean the writer was in Rome writing to Jewish Christians in Palestine! We do know: There was an expulsion of Jews, including Jewish Christians, from Rome by Claudius (AD 49). And later a more deadly persecution under Nero (AD 64). Not knowing keeps the Bible in the foreground and forces us to compare Scripture with Scripture which is done throughout this "sermon-letter"!	
WHEN? WE DON'T KNOW! Likely after AD 62 or 65 since Timothy is released from prison (13:23) and it's never mentioned in Acts or by Paul. But likely before AD 70 when the Temple was destroyed and sacrifices ceased. So, between AD 65-70? Or before Nero's persecution AD 60-65? Not knowing keeps the focus on "TODAY" (1:5; 3:7, 13, 15; 4:7; 5:5; 13:8!)		Great Shepherd			
1. LOOK UP the context of the OT quotes. Read the entire chapter, sometimes the one before it and the one after it as well. 2. LISTEN TO the warnings to either repent with an obedient faith if lost or recommit with an obedient faith if saved. 3. LEAN IN to the better things that accompany salvation in Christ. The Son became Son for us as exalted Prophet, Priest, King.		3-FOLD FOCUS in HEBREWS			
3 HELPS for READING HEBREWS					

MELCHIZEDEK • HEBREWS 7

The Man of Mystery & the Meaning of His Ministry as a Priest “Forever”

Melchizedek Mentioned: **Genesis 14:18 (1x)** → **Psalms 110:4 (1x)** → **Hebrews 5:6, 11; 6:20; 7:1, 10-11, 15, 17 (8x)**

His Person Only 3x: **Gen 14:18; Heb 7:1, 10** but His Priestly Order 7x: **Ps 110:4; Heb 5:6, 11; 6:2; 7:11, 15, 17**

Hebrews 7:1-10 → Genesis 14:18-20

Hebrews 7:11-28 → Psalms 110:4

MANHOOD of MELCHIZEDEK (7:1-3)	MAJESTY of MELCHIZEDEK (7:4-10)	MYSTERY of MELCHIZEDEK'S PRIESTHOOD (7:11-28)
HIS PERSON (vv. 1-3)	HIS PREEMINENCE (vv. 4, 7)	HIS PICTURE of PERFECTION (vv. 11, 19, 28)
HISTORICAL APPEARANCE <i>Textual First Mention</i>	LOGICAL IMPORTANCE <i>Theological Foreshadowing</i>	CHRISTOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE <i>Typological Fulfillment</i>
MELCHIZEDEK is GREATER <i>than Abraham Whom He Blesses and Receives a Tithe</i>	MELCHIZEDEK is GREATER <i>than Abraham the Patriarch with the Promises and Levi's Priesthood by Law in Abram's Loins</i>	JESUS is GREATEST <i>Melchizedek's Person and Priesthood Foreshadows Another Priest Who Will Appear and Arise The Lord Jesus Who Is Both Royal King and Eternal High Priest, a Son made perfect forever</i>
POINTING to the SON of GOD "Without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but MADE LIKE the SON of GOD, HE REMAINS a PRIEST PERPETUALLY. " (v. 3; cf. 10:12, 14)	PREPARING for ANOTHER PRIEST to ARISE "No observe how great THIS ONE was to whom Abraham, the patriarch, gave a tenth of the choicest spoils." (v. 4) But THE ONE whose genealogy is not traced from them collected a tenth from Abraham and blessed the one who had the promises." (v. 6) "In this case mortal men receive tithes, but in that case ONE receives them, of whom it is witnessed that HE LIVES ON. " (v. 8) "For [Levi] was still in the loins of his father when MELCHIZEDEK met him." (v. 10) Note: No mention of "Melchizedek" until v. 10, no mention of his priestly order, and no mention of Jesus. This section links the historical appearance (vv. 1-3) to the Christological significance (vv. 11-28). "This one" in the past who was a historical person with a perpetual priesthood foreshadows "the One" in the future who will "appear" and "arise" to <i>literally</i> hold His priesthood permanently like Melchizedek does his <i>literarily</i> !	PERFECTED by the RISEN LORD, JESUS the EXALTED SON: The ETERNAL KING-PRIEST by GOD'S OATH! "Now if PERFECTION was through the Levitical priesthood (for on the basis of it the people received the Law), what further need was there for ANOTHER PRIEST TO ARISE according to the order of Melchizedek, and not be designated according to the order of Aaron?" (v. 11) "For it is evident that our LORD arose from Judah, of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood." (v. 14, NKJV) "And this is clearer still, if ANOTHER PRIEST RISES according to the likeness of Melchizedek" (v. 15) "For the Law made NOTHING PERFECT , and on the other hand there is a bringing in of a BETTER HOPE , through which we DRAW NEAR to God. And inasmuch as it was NOT WITHOUT an OATH (for they indeed became priests WITHOUT an OATH , but He WITH an OATH through the One who said to Him "The Lord has sworn and will not change His mind, 'You are a priest forever'"); so much the more also JESUS has become the GUARANTEE of a BETTER COVENANT. " (vv. 19-22) "but JESUS , on the other hand, because He continues forever, HOLDS HIS PRIESTHOOD PERMANENTLY " (v. 24) "but the WORD of the OATH , which came after the Law appoint a SON MADE PERFECT FOREVER. " (v. 28; cf. 1:2; 2:10))

JESUS IS OUR GREATER MELCHIZEDEK!

The ETERNAL HIGH PRIEST by God's UNCHANGING OATH Who Is the RESURRECTED, EXALTED, and PERFECTED SON of GOD and SON of DAVID!