

Jesus, Our Everlasting Priest in the Pattern of Melchizedek
Hebrews 7:1-10
Lesson by Jonathan Matías

Summary

Let's look at a mysterious Bible character named Melchizedek who plays a central role in the message of Hebrews. Who is this priest? What's the loaded meaning of his name? How does his life resemble the life of Christ? How does his life pattern point us to Christ for our comfort & encouragement? Through this figure, we see that we can rest securely in Jesus, our faithful and forever high priest who is never going away, who is always advocating for us.

The Text

Melchizedek's Identity as a Priest (vs. 1-3)

v. 1 For this

Melchizedek,

*See Genesis 14
His Roles*

king of Salem,
priest of the Most High God,

met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and *His Story*
blessed him, and

v. 2 to him Abraham **apportioned** a tenth part of everything.

He is

first, by translation of his name, **king of righteousness**, *His Qualities*
and then he is also king of Salem, that is, **king of peace**.

v. 3

He is without

father
or mother
or genealogy,
beginning of days
nor end of life,

His Partial Biography

but

See Psalm 110

he "continues a priest forever.

resembling the Son of God

Perfect passive participle

Melchizedek's Greatness as a Priest (vs. 4-10)

v. 4 See

Greatness established

how great this man was

to whom Abraham gave a tenth of the spoils!

Hebrews 7:1-10

Now that we know a lot more about Melchizedek, Hebrews 7 will make a lot more sense.

This passage breaks down into 2 sections:

7:1-3 Melchizedek's Identity as a Priest

7:4-10 Melchizedek's Greatness as a Priest

7:1-3 Melchizedek's Identity as a Priest

v. 1. What 2 roles does Melchizedek hold? King and priest

v. 1-2 What did Melchizedek give & receive from Abraham. Blessing, tithe

v. 2 What 2 character qualities does Melchizedek embody? See Isaiah 9:6-7 righteousness and peace

v. 3 What facts from Melchizedek's biography is the Scripture silent on?

His origin and his death.

Derek Kidner in *Psalms 73-150* explains:

“It emerges from these both that the name *Melchizedek* (king of righteousness) and his sphere as king of Salem...made him a fitting pointer to the one to come (Heb. 7:2); that the silence surrounding him in the narrative made him an apt symbol of one who in full reality had ‘neither beginning of days nor end of life.’” (p. 395)

v. 3 What qualities from Melchizedek's life are reflected in the life of Christ?

- Zeal for **righteousness**.

- He **gives** rather than **takes**. “For even the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” Mark 10:45

- In Jesus the nations of the world are **blessed**.

- Christ rules as king of Mount Zion—**Jerusalem** (Ps. 2:6)

- Christ, a **priest** and **king** in the order of **Melchizedek** (Ps. 110:4)

7:4-10 Melchizedek's Greatness as a Priest

The author of Hebrews explains how Jesus serves as a priest in the line of Melchizedek that is far superior to the priesthood of the line of Aaron.

From v. 4 what's the first reason Melchizedek & priests from his house are greater than priests from the house of Aaron? Even Abraham the patriarch gave a tithe to his greater, the priest Melchizedek.

From v. 5, what gift does the Tribe of Levi receive from the other 11 tribes? (see Numbers 18:21-29). A tithe.

How important was it for priests in the Old Testament to know who what family line they came from (their ancestors)?

Does Melchizedek draw his priesthood by coming from the priestly family line of Israel or is he a priest above and outside of that priestly line? (v .6)

What is the general principle that the author of Hebrews builds his case on in v. 7? The person who gives blessings & receives gifts is the greater person in the relationship.

From v. 8, in what way can the fragmentary biography of Melchizedek be said to say that Melchizedek “lives on”? Since the Bible does not reveal the circumstances of his death, Melchizedek is superficially, symbolically said to be serving as a priest in perpetuity.

From vs. 9 and 10, how are the priest of Levi said to have paid a tithe to Melchizedek as the greater figure than their priestly class?

Is there any other time in the Bible when God deals with a people as a group through their representative head? (see Romans 5:12-20)

The author is saying, you don't need to go to Old Testament rituals, ceremonies and priesthood for cleansing from sin or a mediator before God, for these have been superseded. In Christ, you have a new and better priest!

Jesus-like Melchizedek is symbolically—is a priest without beginning or ending, an everlasting priest. If you have come to him by faith, Christ is never going away from your life. He never tires of mediating for you. He's advocating for you every moment of every day before the throne. As your priest forever, there is no chance that your righteous standing with God can be lost. As a priest in the order of Melchizedek whose beginning & ending are never given, Christ, without beginning or ending, is your great high priest forever. You can rest secure in him.