

Hebrews 7:1-28

LESSON 14

The Order of Melchisedec

1. 6:19-7:3 – Melchisedec

- a. In 6:12-20 - Hebrews is confirming the promises made to the fathers (Rom 15:8)
- b. Their hope is in the heavenly temple with Jesus - 1 Pet 1:3-4, Heb 1:3, 4:14, 6:18-19
- c. Melchisedec mentioned 3x so far – Heb 3:1, 5:6, 5:8-10 (plus Gen 14:18, Ps 110:4)
- d. Psa 110:4 describes the Messiah being a king and priest for ever, but not after Levi
- e. Without Psalm 110:4, “who was Melchizedec?” would be meaningless
- f. People dispute if he is a theophany, a man, or an angel, or Jesus – Heb 7:3
- g. What is necessary to know is told us in Hebrews 7 about the order of this king/priest

2. 7:4-28 – Changes for the Better

- a. The better things for the Hebrews: priest, temple, sacrifice, covenant, blood
- b. 7:4-7 - Melchisedec was better than the father of all Levites – Abraham
- c. 7:8 – Melchisedec received tithes while still alive – Christ, their priest, is still alive
 - i. Melchisedec was made like unto the Son of God, not vice versa
- d. 7:9-10 – Melchisedec was before the law, and so received tithes of Levi
- e. 7:11-12 – Perfection requires a change of priesthood and a change of the law
- f. 7:13-14 – Messiah came from the kingly tribe of Judah – Gen 49:10, 2 Sam 7:12-16
 - i. Melchisedec was a king *and* priest – Isa 61:6, 1 Pet 2:9, Rev 1:6, 20:6
- g. 7:15-17 – Messiah is made a priest after the power of endless life “for ever”
- h. 7:18-19 – Messiah’s priesthood disannuls the law for perfection, brings a better hope
- i. 7:20-22 – Messiah was made priest with an immutable oath (unlike the Levites)
- j. 7:23-24 – Only one priest is needed if he lives forever in an unchanging priesthood
- k. 7:25 – Salvation can be to the uttermost through his eternal life – Heb 5:9
- l. 7:26-28 – A priest without sin need only offer one sacrifice not two, and not daily
- m. 7:28 – The word of the oath (promise) – makes the Son Israel’s far better high priest

3. A Tithing Issue

- a. Law tithing from Mal 3:9-10 put people in the church under a curse
- b. The law had not been given in Gen 14, the people in Hebrews still have a law
- c. Christ has become a curse for us (Gal 3:13), and we are not under the law -Rom 6:14
- d. Does Abram’s tithe justify the church tithing to the local pastor? No, of course not.
- e. Abram tithed, because of Melchizedek’s priesthood; there are no priests today!
- f. The church is instructed to be generous, not of necessity – 2 Cor 9:7

Why Abram's Tithe is Not a Pattern for the Church

1. **Abraham tithed in response to a unique blessing by Melchizedek.** Gen 14:18-19 states that the king brought bread and wine and blessed Abram. You did not receive the blessing from Melchizedek, nor were your "enemies delivered into thy hand."
2. **Abram tithed only of all the spoils** (Heb 7:4). Abram did not tithe of his income.
3. **It was a one time tithe.** Abram never paid another tithe to Melchizedek.
4. **There is no command to follow Abram's pattern.**
5. **Melchizedek's tithe was not a Jewish law tithe.** It is not subject to the same tithing laws.
6. **Melchizedek was a king and priest.** There are no kings and priests in the body of Christ.
7. **Christ is the priest of Israel not of a carnal commandment.** Christ's priesthood was like Melchizedek in that it is without end, and not by the carnal commandment. His similitude was not to collect tithes of carnal things (Heb 7:16).
8. **Your pastor is not the High Priest.** Jesus Christ alone claims this high priestly office.
9. **The tithe from Abram proved a greater priesthood than the Levitical.** So then, why would pastors claim to be spiritualized priests like the Levites over Israel?
10. **The law was insufficient.** This includes the continual required law tithe which was only needed because the priests' work was never done. The Melchizedek priesthood proves that the law with its Levitical priesthood and other requirements was insufficient. It could not make perfect (Heb 7:12).
11. **Christ's priestly tabernacle is not earthly and built with hands** (Heb 9:11). It may be a sure guarantee that the pastors who teach tithing are doing so to pay for an earthly hand-built building.
12. **Christ's priestly function was performed for the Hebrews.** The book about Christ's priesthood is addressed to the remnant Hebrews who were participants in the new covenant. We are not Hebrews under the covenants.
13. **Christ is not collecting tithes.** His one-time priestly work for the Hebrews is finished (Heb 7:27, Heb 9:28). Those who pretend to collect for him are doing so without authority.
14. **The new covenant was for Israel and Judah** (Heb 8:10). It replaced the old to the same people. Gentiles were and are strangers from Israel's covenants of promise.
15. **Our Head is Christ, our pattern is Paul...** and Paul did not tithe to a local church – 2 Cor 12:15
16. **You are the body of Christ.** Our complete position in Christ precludes us from an obligated tithe to another member of the body. We are all members of each other. Not one of us is above another.

In no way does Abram tithing to Melchizedek place us under required tithing instead of grace giving as we purpose in our hearts according to 2 Cor 9:7.