



Jesus, Worthy of Our Sacrifice

Hebrews 5:4-10 – In The Order of Melchizedek

Foreshadowing is a powerful literary tool where an author drops strategic hints about the unfolding storyline without really giving away what's yet to come. It adds both tension and excitement to the developing plot as the writer actually teases us with a mystery we can't wait to fully understand. Good foreshadowing compels us to read on. We must know the end of the story!

The Author of Life is a master foreshadower, and the character of Melchizedek is a fascinating (and somewhat perplexing example).

READ: Genesis 14:18-21

Q: Where did Melchizedek come from? Was he a character in the earlier part of the story? Are there any clues to his identity?

Q: How does the passage describe him? What's his title?

Q: What did Abraham give to Melchizedek? What giving practice does this remind you of?

Discuss: The name "Melchizedek" (Malkizedek) can be broken down into two different Hebrew words – Malki and tzdek. Look up the meaning of these two words and discuss who they might be foreshadowing.

READ: Psalm 110

Q: Psalm 110 is known as a "Messianic Psalm." What aspects of this passage foreshadow Christ?

Q: Jesus Himself quotes Psalm 110 in response to the Pharisees (see Matthew 22:41-45). What argument does He make for whom this Psalm is referencing?

Q: This psalm alludes to a leader with two distinct, yet combined qualities. What are those two roles?

Q: What is the most confusing aspect of these Scriptures?

Q: What do these passages help us understand about God?

life group study guide

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READ: Hebrews 5:4-10

Q: How does someone become a high priest?

Q: What does it mean to be “called” by God?

Q: What do you think God meant when he referred to Christ as a “priest forever in the order of Melchizedek?”

Suffering: While Christ offers us forgiveness, hope, life, and so many other “resurrection” promises, suffering is that uncomfortable and often confusing reality of the Christian experience that we don’t always like to talk about.

Q: What do you think this passage means when it says Jesus “learned obedience from the things that he suffered?”

Q: How has suffering played into your personal journey? What have you learned through suffering?

Q: What does it mean to you to have a Priest-King who understands your suffering?

Q: What did Jesus become as a result of His calling, his Sonship, his priesthood, and his suffering?

Q: How was Melchizedek a foreshadowing of Jesus?

We look backward to the finished work of Christ, but the Old Testament looked forward. Everything in God’s story points to the redemptive work of Jesus, the Priest-King in the order of Melchizedek.

Q: When Abraham encounters Melchizedek (Genesis 14) he gave him an offering. Why would Abraham feel the need to do this? What are some of the underlying motivations our offerings?

Q: If Jesus has already given everything on our behalf, if “it is finished” is really true, then sacrifice on our part is not what makes us right with God. So why do we sacrifice?