

Hebrews 7

Hebrews 7.1-3

V1 – Where was Melchizedek the king? In “Salem” = peace

-**Significance?** A city of peace (for the Prince of Peace)

-**What was his position before God?** Priest of the Most High God

-**When do we read about Melchizedek?** When Abraham was returning from the battle against the kings (*Genesis 14:18-20*)

V2 – What did Abraham give to Melchizedek? Ten percent of the spoils of the battle

-Interesting: Ten percent before the Law of Moses went into effect – a good standard for our giving today (although not required to be 10% or limited to 10%)

-**What is our standard under the New Testament? Read 1 Cor. 16.1-2**

-Notice that it was ten percent of “all” the spoils – gross, not net, giving (not after deductions)

V3 – A very confusing verse to many people, but remember that the Jews of the First Century put incredible importance on a person’s genealogy, especially for priests, rabbis, etc.

-Everything centered around a person’s genealogy

-**But what about Melchizedek?** No record of his genealogy

-**In fact, any record of his birth?** No record of his birth or death

-So his priesthood was, in a sense, endless

-**How did Melchizedek violate the Jews’ view of priesthood?** Before Aaron, no genealogy, no details on his life, not even a Jew (before Judah was even born)

-We see the same attitude today in dogs which have no pedigree; they are “worthless” in the eyes of some people, but with a pedigree, they are worth thousands of dollars

V4 – What does the writer say about Abraham? A great man and a patriarch

-**Why did he say those things?** Because Abraham was the hero of the Jews in the First Century

-**What did Abraham give to Melchizedek beyond ten percent?** The choicest of the spoils

V5 – The author anticipated the next argument: “But the descendants of Abraham still pay ten percent to the Levitical priests”

-**What is the first objection to the argument?** “You are talking about the descendants of Abraham”

V6 – The next argument? Abraham voluntarily paid ten percent Melchizedek and was blessed by Melchizedek

V7 – Who is greater: the one who blesses or the one who is blessed? The one who blesses

-For example, the king blesses his people, the president blesses the country, and a father blesses his children

V8 – Who lives on? Jesus Christ, according to the order of Melchizedek

V9-10 - Where was Levi when Abraham paid ten percent to Melchizedek? Still four generations

away (Abraham-Isaac-Jacob-12 sons) – so Levi was still in the loins of Abraham (the seed for Levi)

-Conclusion? Levi paid ten percent to Melchizedek – what incredible reasoning! Just stunning!

-The conclusion of this passage? Melchizedek was superior to Levi

Hebrews 7.11-19

V 11 – **Why did the writer use the word “if”?** Because the Jews believed that the Law of Moses was perfection

-The Hebrews Christians were therefore being tempted to go back under the Old Testament

-What is the question that the writer is asking? If the Law of Moses was perfect, then why was there this other priesthood in the Old Testament (outside the family of Aaron)?

V 12 – **Since there were two priesthoods in the Old Testament, what does this imply?** That there were two systems of law in the Old Testament (both approved by God) – therefore, the Law of Moses was not perfect; it was not the final answer of God to sin

V 13 - **Who is the one the writer is speaking of?** Jesus Christ

-What tribe was he from? Judah (not Levi)

V 14 – **Did Moses say anything about priest’s coming from the tribe of Judah?** No

V 15 – **What is the final proof that the Levi priesthood was not God’s final answer for the human race?** Because another priesthood arose according to Melchizedek

V 16 – **What was necessary for a man to become high priest under the Law of Moses?** To physically be a descendant of Aaron and Levi

-But what was necessary for a man to become a priest according to Melchizedek? Live forever (have an indestructible life)

V 17 – **What proof did the writer use to support this argument?** *Psalm 110:4* – the prophecy was that the Most High (Jesus Christ, the Son of God) would be a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek

-Notice that the writer is using the Old Testament to destroy the reasoning of those Jews!

V 18 – **What did the writer say about the Law of Moses?** It was not perfect (blasphemy to the Jews of the First Century), but it was the truth (based on the argument of these verses)

-Why was the Law of Moses done away with? Because it had weaknesses and was useless

V 19 – Notice that the Law of Moses did not make anyone perfect with all that bloodshed, but sins were not permanently forgiven under the Old Testament, just rolled forward until the coming of Jesus Christ.

-What did the New Testament present to the people? A better and perfect hope - it allows us to draw near to God – again, just incredible reasoning!

Hebrews 7.20-25

V 20 – What did God make for the priesthood of Levi? An oath

V 21 – What was the oath that God took for the priesthood of Melchizedek? God swore that the priesthood of Melchizedek was forever

-Did God ever say something like that about the priesthood of Aaron and Levi? Never

V 22 – What therefore is the conclusion about Jesus? We can know for certain that he has brought in a new and better covenant

V 23 – How many priests were there in Levi? Many

-Why were there so many? Because they kept dying and had to be replaced

V 24 – But how long will Jesus be a priest according to Melchizedek? Forever and permanently

V 25 – How is Christ able to save people forever? Because he lives forever (reference to resurrection of Jesus)

Hebrews 7.26-28

V 26 – What words are used to describe Jesus? Holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners, exalted above the heavens

-Which of those words also described the Levitical priests? None

V 27 – What did the Levitical priests have to do before they could offer sacrifices for the sins for the people? Offer a sacrifice for themselves (also sinners)

-How did Jesus offer a sacrifice for the people? He offered himself

-How many times did he do that? Only once

-This verse destroys the doctrine of the Roman Catholic Church mass (where Jesus is supposedly recrucified)

-It also destroys the belief in intelligent life elsewhere in the universe, since Jesus would have had to go there also to die for their sins (but he died only once for all time for us here on earth)

-Thus far there is absolutely no evidence whatsoever of intelligent life elsewhere in the universe

-But if evolution is correct, there should be life everywhere in the universe!

-For more information, see the book by John Ankerberg, *The Facts on UFOs and Other Supernatural Phenomena* (1992)

V 28 – What kind of men were made priests under the Law of Moses? Weak men

-When did the fulfillment of *Psalm 110:4* come about? After the Law of Moses (when Jesus was made a priest)

-The writer is putting new links in the chain that will completely destroy their faith in the Law of Moses (his goal)