

## A STUDY OF HEBREWS

### *Melchizedek the Priest-King- Chapter 7:1-10*

#### I. Review of Chapters 1-6

##### A. Jesus Christ is the greatest and final Prophet and enthroned Son of God.

1. Therefore we must pay closest attention to His Gospel... (1:1-2:18)

##### B. Jesus Christ is infinitely greater than Moses and gives eternal, not just temporal, rest.

1. Therefore we must persevere in faith lest we fall like those in the wilderness... (3:1-4:13)

##### C. Jesus Christ is our Great High Priest who sympathizes with us in our suffering and temptation.

1. Therefore we who have profound needs must fly to God's throne of grace... (4:14-5:10)

##### D. A SHORT DETOUR due to the dullness of hearers (5:11-6-20)

1. Warning against apostasy (6:1-12)
2. Assurance of God's promise (6:13-20)

**Author's Last Point at the End of His Detour:** *"We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, <sup>20</sup> where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek."* (Heb 6:18-19)

#### II. Text: Hebrews 7:1-10 – The Man From Snowy River

For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, <sup>2</sup> and to him Abraham apportioned a tenth part of everything. He is first, by translation of his name, king of righteousness, and then he is also king of Salem, that is, king of peace. <sup>3</sup> He is without father or mother or genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but resembling the Son of God he continues a priest forever.

<sup>4</sup> See how great this man was to whom Abraham the patriarch gave a tenth of the spoils! <sup>5</sup> And those descendants of Levi who receive the priestly office have a commandment in the law to take tithes from the people, that is, from their brothers, though these also are descended from Abraham. <sup>6</sup> But this man who does not have his descent from them received tithes from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises. <sup>7</sup> It is beyond dispute that the inferior is blessed by the superior. <sup>8</sup> In the one case tithes are received by mortal men, but in the other case, by one of whom it is testified that he lives. <sup>9</sup> One might even say that Levi himself, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, <sup>10</sup> for he was still in the loins of his ancestor when Melchizedek met him. (Heb 7:1-10)

#### Recognizing "Typology" in the Bible

Defined: the interpretation of earlier events, persons, or institutions in biblical history (the 'type') which anticipate later events, persons, or institutions (the 'antitype')

#### Requirements for Genuine Typology:

- (1) The meaning to the original audience must be known and it must show an organic relationship to what comes later (i.e., Passover lamb → Lord's Supper, King David → Christ)
- (2) The nature of the 'type' must lie in the main message of the material and not in some incidental detail (i.e., Rahab's scarlet thread)
- (3) The fulfillment ('antitype') must be greater than the 'type.'

**Abraham Meets Melchizedek:** *So the [four kings] took all the possessions of Sodom and Gomorrah, and all their provisions, and went their way. <sup>12</sup> They also took Lot, the son of Abram's brother, who was dwelling in Sodom, and his possessions, and went their way. <sup>13</sup> Then one who had escaped came and told Abram the Hebrew... <sup>14</sup> When Abram heard that his kinsman had been taken captive, he led forth his trained men, born in his house, 318 of them...and defeated them...<sup>16</sup> Then he brought back all the possessions, and also brought back his kinsman Lot with his possessions, and the women and the people... <sup>18</sup> **And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. (He was priest of God Most High.)** <sup>19</sup> And he blessed him and said, "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; <sup>20</sup> and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand!" **And Abram gave him a tenth of everything.** (Gen 14:11-20)*

1. What is the significance of Melchizedek’s name? How does this relate to what we know of Christ?

2. What is significant about Melchizedek’s vocation? Why do you think some in the past have considered Melchizedek an early manifestation of Christ Himself? Why should we not?

*For thus says the LORD: **David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne** of the house of Israel, <sup>18</sup> **and the Levitical priests shall never lack a man in my presence** to offer burnt offerings, to burn grain offerings, and to make sacrifices forever." (Jer 33:17-18)*

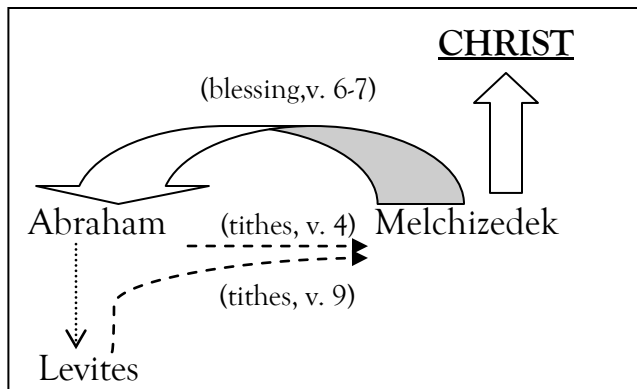
*And say to him, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, "Behold, the man whose name is the Branch: for he shall branch out from his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD. <sup>13</sup> It is he who shall build the temple of the LORD and **shall bear royal honor**, and shall sit and rule on his throne. **And there shall be a priest on his throne**, and the counsel of peace shall be between them both.'" (Zec 6:12-13)*

3. What is the significance of what is not said about Melchizedek? How does the author of Hebrews draw upon Scriptural silence to magnify the glory of Christ?

*And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain... <sup>9</sup> And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation... <sup>13</sup> And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!" (Rev 5:6-13)*

*"There can be no vacancy in this priesthood, no hour nor moment in which the people are without a priest to negotiate their spiritual concerns in heaven. Such a vacancy might be very dangerous and prejudicial to them; but this is their safety and happiness, that this ever-living high priest is able to save to the utmost-in all times, in all cases, in every juncture-all who come to God by [Christ]." - Matthew Henry*

4. What are the two ways in which the author of Hebrews demonstrates the superiority of Melchizedek to Abraham?



5. What is the author’s ultimate point concerning the priesthood of Levi and the priesthood of Melchizedek/Christ?

6. How do we as Christians experience the five ways Christ transcends Melchizedek (i.e., in righteousness, peace, perpetuity, receiving tithes, blessing)?