

# The Preeminence of Christ's Priesthood

Text: Hebrews 7:1-10

Date: 8-4-24

## I. The picture of Melchisedec (Heb. 7:1-3)

Who was Melchisedec?

- King of Salem
- According to Gen. 14 a battle ensued between 4 Eastern kings and 5 kings of the Jordan Valley near the Salt (Dead) Sea (14:1-3).
- Two kings met Abram that day: the King of Sodom and this one named Melchisedec (14:17-18).
- In Gen. 14:18 we have confirmation that Melchisedec is both a king and a priest of the most high God. His name means *king of righteousness*. *Salem* or *shalom* means *peace*.
- We have proof that Melchisedec came before Aaron. His priestly line is older than Aaron's line.
- Melchisedec was a real, historical person recognized by Abraham as both a priest and king.
- Since Melchisedec was blessed by Abram, and Melchisedec is both priest and king, he is a type of Christ.
- Melchisedec as a priest and king foreshadowed Jesus Christ as the Perfect Priest and Perfect King.

Thus we find that prior to the nation of Israel and the giving of the law, a person existed who worshipped God and also offered sacrifices as a priest outside of the law. The Jews who heard this powerful argument during the time of the writing of Hebrews were able to understand more of who Melchisedec was because of their knowledge of who Jesus Christ was and his non-Levitical line. To the Jews, their knowledge and beliefs centered on the Levitical priesthood, but this linking Jesus with Melchisedec would become a powerful argument for a higher priest and a greater priesthood.

Through Jesus Christ the Jewish nation and the world is told of a King with a throne forever and a Priest forever after a different order.

“Jesus Christ was chosen as a priest because of His personal worth, His quality. He was chosen because of who He was, not because of where He came from genealogically”.<sup>1</sup>

Melchisedec's priesthood remains forever. Contrast that to a priest in the Mosaic Law who could only serve for a set amount of years from 25 until he was 50 (Num. 8:24-25). Not only that, the Levitical priesthood ended with the Temple's destruction in AD 70.

We have Jesus Christ, the fulfillment of Melchisedec: righteous, royal, peace, line forever, and sovereign.

## II. The preeminence of Melchisedec (Heb. 7:4-10)

**\*\*Superior to Abraham (Heb. 7:4)**

**\*\*Superior to Levi and his priestly descendants (Heb. 7:5)**

**\*\*Superior to the whole Jewish priestly system (Heb. 7:6-7)**

The person whose genealogy is not traced received tithes from the one who has a whole system of priests, authority, and structure. By Abraham paying a tithe to Melchisedec we have proof of the superior line of the latter.

**\*\*Superior priesthood (Heb. 7:8-10)**

## **Conclusion**

Despite the fact that the Levitical system came after the Melchizedecian system chronologically, this does not mean the former replaced the latter. The argument is clear for the Jews: despite Abraham and his line, despite the importance of the promises given to Abraham and the Jewish nation, despite the strong patriarch descendants and OT system, despite the Levitical priesthood, Jesus Christ is part of a superior priesthood. This once again proves that the believers of that day should hold strong to the faith in Jesus Christ. He is the true and great High Priest. He is eternal, His throne is forever, and He lives today demonstrating a living priest is better than a dead one. He is the only Priest that can bring reconciliation and peace to mankind. Through His sacrifice, sinners can be declared righteous.