

“Who Is Melchizedek”
Hebrews 7:1-10
2/15/26
Message 13

Introduction

- Title Of The Message: “Who Is Melchizedek”

- **Review**

- **Importance Of Hebrews**

- **1. Connecting the Testaments**

- Paul Quotes the OT –
- If you don’t understand the OT you will not be able to understand Hebrews

- **2. Jesus is Superior**

- Jesus is BETTER Than
 - The Prophets - Ch 1
 - The Angels - Ch 1-2
 - Moses - Ch 3
 - Joshua – Ch 4
 - The High Priest – Ch 5-9
 - The Tabernacle Ch 9
 - The Law & Sacrifices Ch 10

- **3. Encouragement - Don’t quit**

- The ultimate goal of the book

- To encourage those who are struggling with difficult times and help them to endure.

• **Last Time - “An Anchor Of The Soul” Hebrews 6:13-20**

- **Based On His GRACE v. 15**
 - Abraham was Given as an Example of God’s Grace
- **Based On His GREATNESS vv. 13-20**
 - 1. His Person vv. 13-14
 - 2. His Purpose v. 15
 - 3. His Pledge vv. 16-18
 - 4. His Priest vv. 19-20

Hebrews 6:19–20 (NKJV)

19 *This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil,*
20 *where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.*

• **Now This Morning Hebrews 7- “Who Is Melchizedek”**

- The One Who Blessed Abraham v. 1
- The One To Whom Abraham Gave A Tenth Of All He Had v. 2a
- The One Who Is Unique Among All The Priest vv. 2b-3
- The One Who Is Greater Than Abraham And All The Levitical Priesthood vv. 4-10

The One Who Blessed Abraham v. 1

• **1. His Name v. 1a**

Hebrews 7:1 (NKJV)

1 *For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him,*

- **Remember Context – Jesus is Better**

- Paul is making the CASE that Jesus is Better
 - Jesus is better than Abraham
- Because Jesus Came from Order of Melchizedek
 - Makes Melchizedek Better than Abraham
- Now to the Jewish listeners
 - How do you get better than Abraham
 - Abraham is the father of all who believe
- Even the Muslim world
 - Looks to Abraham as they are descendants of Ismael
- Christians Look to Abraham
 - He's a father to all who believe what God told him

- **2. His Names Melchizedek**

- **1. King Of Salem**
 - We're told here and in Genesis 14 that He's the king of Salem
 - Which is an Ancient **name of Jerusalem**
 - His Name v. 2
 - Hebrew Meaning = King of Righteousness
 - Also King of Salem
 - Meaning = King of Peace

- The name Salem means “peace”
- So that Melchizedek is “king of peace” as well as “king of righteousness.”
- **3. PRIEST of the Most High God**
 - Melchizedek was not just a KING
 - He had the honored title Priest of the Most High God.

Psalm 110:4 (NKJV)

4 The LORD has sworn And will not relent, “You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek.”

- **NO One in Israel’s History was allowed to KING and PRIEST**
 - **The offices were separate**
 - Any Attempts to do both where met by God with serious consequences
 - Examples
 - King Uzziah (2 Chronicles 26)
 - Puffed up by success, Uzziah entered the Temple to burn incense on the golden altar, a duty reserved strictly for Aaron's descendants. For this, he was instantly stricken with leprosy, remaining a leper until his death.
 - King Saul (1 Samuel 13)
 - Facing a dire military situation with the Philistines and with Samuel delayed, Saul impatiently offered burnt offerings himself rather than waiting for the

prophet-priest, violating the separation of offices.

- **There are only two Exceptions**

- Melchizedek & Jesus
 - Are BOTH KINGS & PRIESTS

- **4. Several views of who Melchizedek is**

- **Source – Pastor David Hocking**

- Consider the following six viewpoints about His identity

- **1. Rabbi Ismael (135 BC)**

- Thought him to be SHEM, Noah's son –
 - Also accepted by Martin Luther and many others

- **2. Origen**

- Thought him to be an Angel
 - Some argue that it was Michael the Archangel

- **3. Hierakas (end of 3rd century AD)**

- Said that he was an incarnation of the Holy Spirit.

- **4. Theodot (200 BC)**

- A greater than Messiah
 - Calling him the “original” of whom Christ was only a “copy.”

- He taught that he was the one through whom all prayers would be brought to God!

- **5. A “Type” of the Messiah**

- Many believe he is simply an historical figure about whom little is known
 - Verse 4 - Now Consider How Great this MAN is!
- He is often referred to as a “type” of the Messiah
 - Just Like the first Passover was a Type –
 - Of the one to come

- **6. Christophany**

- Or Theophany
 - A visible manifestation of God in the OT
 - A pre-incarnate appearance of Jesus Christ
 - A Theophany
 - Is an appearance of God in some sort of manifestation like fire, smoke, etc...
 - A Christophany
 - Is an appearance of the Messiah before He was born as a baby in Bethlehem
- What I Believe
 - I believe Christophany

- **2. The Nature of His Meeting v. 1b**

○ **1. Who Met Abraham Returning from the Slaughter v. 1b**

Hebrews 7:1 (NKJV)

1 For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him,

▪ **From Genesis 14**

- The Battle with the 10 kings that captures Abraham's nephew Lot
- Abe goes to rescue him

Genesis 14:12–20 (NKJV)

12 They also took Lot, Abram's brother's son who dwelt in Sodom, and his goods, and departed.

13 Then one who had escaped came and told Abram the Hebrew, for he dwelt by the terebinth trees of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol and brother of Aner; and they were allies with Abram.

14 Now when Abram heard that his brother was taken captive, he armed his three hundred and eighteen trained servants who were born in his own house, and went in pursuit as far as Dan.

15 He divided his forces against them by night, and he and his servants attacked them and pursued them as far as Hobah, which is north of Damascus.

16 So he brought back all the goods, and also brought back his brother Lot and his goods, as well as the women and the people.

17 And the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley), after his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer (ked-or-LAY-o-mer) and the kings who were with him.

18 Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High.

19 And he blessed him and said: "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth;

20 And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand." And he gave him a tithe of all.

• **He Brought Bread And Wine (Gen. 14:19a)**

○ Some say

- He just brought him some food and drink

- This was very typical hospitality in Middle East culture...always has been
- BUT Please NOTE
 - This is the first time “bread and wine” are mentioned together like this.

Matthew 26:26–28 (NKJV)

26 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, *“Take, eat; this is My body.”*

27 Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, *“Drink from it, all of you.”*

28 *For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.*

- We take communion to “look back” and remember what Jesus did on the cross for us.
- I can’t help but think that there’s a sense that Abram was “looking forward” to what Jesus would do there in that city of Salem.

The One To Whom Abraham Gave A Tenth Of All He Had v. 2a

• 1. A Tenth v. 2a

- **1. Gave a tenth part of all v. 2a**

Hebrews 7:2 (NKJV)

2 to whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all, first being translated “king of righteousness,” and then also king of Salem, meaning “king of peace,”

▪ **First Mention of a Tithe in the Bible**

- Now in Genesis 14 we have the first mention of a “tithe” in the Bible
 - (No precedent for it preceding it)

- **Second Mention of a Tithe in the Bible**

- Jacob Genesis 28:18-22
 - Jacob vows to give God a tenth of all his belongings following a divine dream

- **Note**

- This was before the Law was given

- **Now it says in Hebrews 7:4**

- “He tenth of the spoils”
 - Now in ancient times
 - When you had a victory in battle you would take all the goods and stack them up in a huge pile
 - The best stuff always went to the commander or leader and was always on the top
 - So when it says he tithed to Melchizedek it's referring to what was on the top

- **This is very interesting –**

- That proves that Melchizedek was superior to Abraham.
 - The lesser person tithes to the greater

- **2. Application**

- **Reason why Abraham Gave –**

- Response to God's blessing!

- Melchizedek blessed Abraham - and he responded by giving a tithe:
 - Tithe = 1/10 / 10 %
- It was a response to God's love!
 - God had been faithful and strong on Abraham's' behalf
 - Giving was his way of saying thanks!
- **Reason why We GIVE**
 - This is not a church that spends a bunch of time talking about giving
 - Our Philosophy where God Guides, He will provide
 - We TRUST the Lord
 - Ministries always asking for Money – UGH ☹
 - But we will address this issue when we come upon it
 - FYI
 - I don't know who gives or how much people give
 - I am completely out of that loop
 - WHY we Give - Jesus has greatly blessed us!
 - Pulled us out of a pit gave us life giving to the Lord is one way saying thanks
 - Note a few things about giving
 - **1. Giving Remodels you!**

- God is a giver!
 - John 3:16 - Gave his Son - He gives grace!
- We Need to Be Givers
 - We can be greedy and selfish by nature!
 - God has a cure for covetousness
 -
 - Called "Giving"
 - Every time I give I am being cured a little bit more of my selfishness, my covetousness, my greediness
- **2. Reveals Me!**
 - Where your treasure is...
 - Giving can really reveal where my heart is and my interests are!
 - Where I am investing is where my heart will be?
- **3. Giving Prepares you**
 - Faithful in a little...
 - One of the principles that we see continually mentioned in scripture is if faithful in little things exalted in much

- What we do now with what we have prepares us for what the Lord has for us in the future

- Trust HIM

Malachi 3:8–10 (NKJV)

8 “Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, ‘In what way have we robbed You?’ In tithes and offerings.

9 You are cursed with a curse, For you have robbed Me, Even this whole nation.

10 Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this,” Says the LORD of hosts, “If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it.

- The Lord says in effect put me to the test & see if you are not blessed
 - Might mean materially
 - Might be spiritually
 - Might even be in eternity

○ **4. Give Cheerfully**

2 Corinthians 9:6–7 (NKJV)

6 But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

7 So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.

- God doesn't need our money...

The One Who Is Unique Among All The Priest vv. 2b-3

- **1. As To The Description Of His Position v. 2b**

Hebrews 7:2 (NKJV)

2 to whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all, **first being translated “king of righteousness,” and then also king of Salem, meaning “king of peace,”**

- **King of Righteousness and King of Peace**
 - Already Covered
- **Both these attributes point to the Messiah**
 - In the Scriptures, a man's name stands for what he is.
 - We learn about Melchizedek's name and his title
 - His name means “king of righteousness”
 - His title (king of Salem) means “king of peace.”
 - It is not without meaning that Righteousness is mentioned first - Then Peace.
 - There cannot be peace unless first there is righteousness.
 - We see this clearly in the work of Christ.
 - At the cross, “Mercy and truth ... met together; righteousness and peace ... kissed” (Ps. 85:10).

Psalm 85:10 (NKJV)

10 Mercy and truth have met together; Righteousness and peace have kissed.

- **Because the Savior met all the righteous demands of God against our sins!**
 - **We can have peace with God!**

• **2. As To His Descendants v. 3a**

Hebrews 7:3 (NKJV)

3 without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, remains a priest continually.

○ **Without father, without mother, without genealogy**

- There's no genealogical line given concerning Melchizedek
 - Isn't that interesting?....

• **3. As To His Divinity v. 3b**

Hebrews 7:3 (NKJV)

3 without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, remains a priest continually.

○ **1. That's clearly saying He's eternal**

- And if you're Jewish,
 - What would they be thinking of when it said Melchizedek was "like the Son of God"
 - Did Jews, at the time of the writing of Hebrews, believe that God has a Son? Absolutely they did
 - Psalm 2 is a passage dealing with this

Psalm 2:6–12 (NKJV)

6 "Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion."

7 "I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.

8 Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession.

9 You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.' "

10 Now therefore, be wise, O kings; Be instructed, you judges of the earth.

11 Serve the LORD with fear, And rejoice with trembling.

12 Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, And you perish in the way, When His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.

- **4. As To Duration v. 3c**

Hebrews 7:3 (NKJV)

3 without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, remains a priest continually.

- **Hebrews 5:6 says “You are a priest forever”**
 - So putting it all together... Sure Sounds like a Christ
 - And there was no priest who lived forever
 - What God said about Melchizedek
 - Doesn't match anything said about any priest whatsoever in the Bible

- **Support for Christophany / Theophany**

- **1. King and Priest**
 - Melchizedek was King and Priest! (Only Jesus hold that office)
 - Very unique:
 - There was no priest in the OT ever called a king
 - No one in Jewish history held both offices being a King and Priest made him superior to Aaron
- **2. Hebrews 7:3 – No Records**
 - There was priest in the OT that never had a genealogy (they charted it carefully)
 - No background, no record of parents, birth, death
- **3. Made like Son of God**

- But made like the Son of God
- Something special - Neb, Shad, Meshack, Abednego - 4th - like Son of God = Jesus!
- There was no priest who was ever said to be like the Son of God

○ **4. Remains Priest continually**

- Remains a priest continually
- Priest forever - if he was actual person who died - how could he remain a priest?
- There was no priest who didn't have a beginning or an end to His life
- And there was no priest who lived forever

○ **6. Now Add John 8**

John 8:53–59 (NKJV)

53 *Are You greater than our father Abraham, who is dead? And the prophets are dead. Who do You make Yourself out to be?"*

54 *Jesus answered, "If I honor Myself, My honor is nothing. It is My Father who honors Me, of whom you say that He is your God.*

55 *Yet you have not known Him, but I know Him. And if I say, 'I do not know Him,' I shall be a liar like you; but I do know Him and keep His word.*

56 *Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad."*

57 *Then the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?"*

58 *Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM."*

59 *Then they took up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.*

- Your Father Abraham rejoiced to see my day and he saw it and was glad! When?

- Genesis 14

- This is a part of the continuing argument of Hebrews
- That the Messiah is greater than angels, than prophets, than Moses, and greater than Abraham
- **7. Bread and Wine**
 - This is the first time “bread and wine” are mentioned together like this.
 - This might simply be a common token of hospitality by Melchizedek, but it is interesting that Jesus set aside “bread and wine” as something special, to be the things that were to remind us of His death for our sins
- **8. Abram Gave a Tithe**
 - Why would he give a tithe if this was not Christ

The One Who Is Greater Than Abraham And All The Levitical Priesthood vv. 4-10

• **1. Abraham's Response To His Greatness v. 4**

Hebrews 7:4 (NKJV)

4 Now consider how great this man was, to whom even the patriarch Abraham gave a tenth of the spoils.

- **The word “gave” is an aorist tense (one-time act) and there is no record of giving before or after**
 - It was purely voluntary on his part
- **But there is one thing no one can ignore is the reason Abraham did it**
 - He recognized the greatness of Melchizedek

• **2. The Responsibility Of Levitical Priests v. 5**

Hebrews 7:5 (NKJV)

5 And indeed those who are of the sons of Levi, who receive the priesthood, have a commandment to receive tithes from the people according to the law, that is, from their brethren, though they have come from the loins of Abraham;

- **1. They Are Not Greater Than Abraham**

- “Come from the loins of Abraham”

- **2. They Receive Tithes Because It Is A Commandment Of God**

- The writer knew that Levi did not literally pay tithes to Melchizedek
- But on the principle that an ancestor is greater than his descendants,
- Abraham’s act affirmed Melchizedek’s superiority even to the Levitical priests themselves.
- Melchizedek thus has a greatness which the Old Testament record clearly attests.

- **3. The Recognition Of The Greatness Of Melchizedec vv. 6-7**

Hebrews 7:6–7 (NKJV)

6 but he whose genealogy is not derived from them received tithes from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises.

7 Now beyond all contradiction the lesser is blessed by the better.

- **Received tithes from Abraham**

- The Greek text says “has tithed” – it was just one tenth,
 - Not several like the Levitical priesthood received from the people

- **In Terms Of The Act Of Blessing**

- “the lesser is blessed by the better”

- Melchizedek is better than Abraham

- **4. The Realization That The Priesthood Of Melchizedec Was Not Replaced By The Levitical Priesthood vv. 8-10**

- **1. Based on a Contrast between the two priesthods v. 8**

Hebrews 7:8 (NKJV)

8 Here mortal men receive tithes, but there he receives them, of whom it is witnessed that he lives.

- The Greek text refers to the fact that they “die” –
 - But Melchizedek “lives” “of whom it is witnessed that he lives”
 - He is still alive!

- **2. Based On A Connection Between Levi And Abraham vv. 9-10**

Hebrews 7:9–10 (NKJV)

*9 Even Levi, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, so to speak,
10 for he was still in the loins of his father when Melchizedek met him.*

- Levi never did receive any tithes – only his sons did
 - But he “paid tithes through Abraham”
 - When Abraham gave a tithe
 - Levi, as a descendant paid through Abraham

Closing

- Abraham
 - Gave his best
 - So should we