



## Lesson 34

**Theme:** Jesus Christ, Our High Priest, Continues Forever

**Scripture:** Hebrews 7:1-10

### Where we have been:

- Jesus is superior to the prophets (Hebrews 1:1-3)
- Jesus is superior to the angels (Hebrews 1:4-2:18)
- Jesus is superior to Moses (Hebrews 3:1-6)
- Jesus is superior to Joshua (Hebrews 4:1-13)
- Jesus our High Priest (Hebrews 5:1-10)
- A series of warnings and exhortations (Hebrews 5:11-6:20)

### Warnings in the Book of Hebrews:

1. **DANGER** of Neglect (Hebrews 2:1-4)
2. **DANGER** of Unbelief (Hebrews 3:7-4:13)
3. **DANGER** of Not Maturing (Hebrews 5:11-6:20)
4. **DANGER** of Drawing Back (Hebrews 10:26-39)
5. **DANGER** of Refusing God (Hebrews 12:25-29)

### Introduction to Melchizedek

- In Hebrews 5:5-10, the writer introduces us to Melchizedek and shows that Christ, our High Priest, is "according to the order of Melchizedek".
- He then tells us that he has much to say about Melchizedek that is **HARD** to explain (Hebrews 5:11)
- After giving a **SERIOUS WARNING** of not maturing and turning away (5:12-6:8), he encourages those who persevere to the end (6:9-20), and then picks up again on the theme of Melchizedek in chapter 7.
- In Hebrews 6:20 we learn that Jesus has become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek. In Hebrews 7 the writer is going to tell us in detail who Melchizedek is.

## Who is Melchizedek? (vv.1-3)

- Melchizedek is king of Salem.
- Melchizedek is priest of the Most High God.
- He met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him.
- Abraham gave him a tenth part of all.
- First by translation Melchizedek means "king of righteousness."
- And after that also king of Salem, which is, "king of peace."
- "Without father", "Without mother", "Without genealogy" - this means that there is NO RECORD of Melchizedek's genealogy in the Old Testament. "without genealogy" ἀγενεαλόγητος agenealogetos {ag-en-eh-al-og'-ay-tos} is nowhere else found in Biblical Greek or Greek literature. The reason is that it doesn't make sense – everyone has a genealogy.
- **THE POINT:** Melchizedek's genealogy meant **nothing** to his priesthood. Whereas to the Levites' genealogy was important.
- "Having neither beginning of days nor end of life"
- "But made like the Son of God, remains a priest continually"

## Now let's CONSIDER how great this man was (v.4)

To CONSIDER is to ponder intensely; behold diligently; weigh thoroughly; fix one's eyes or mind upon; consider attentively.

- As diligent disciples we are exhorted to consider all the things that have been said about Melchizedek from Hebrews 7:1-3

So little, yet so much...

- Melchizedek is first mentioned in Genesis 14:18-20. There we have only three verses about him.
- He is then mentioned again (at least a thousand years later) by David in Psalm 110:4 (one verse).
- Then, again some thousand years later, he is mentioned in the book of Hebrews!
- YET, though little is said, this man plays an amazing role in God's plan.
- **LESSON: NOTHING IN THE SCRIPTURES IS TRIVIAL!**
- From Genesis 14:18-20 we learn that:
  - ❖ Melchizedek is a man. Only men could be priests (Hebrews 5:1-4; 2:17; Exodus 28:1)
  - ❖ Melchizedek: KING of RIGHTEOUSNESS (the meaning of the word "Melchizedek") and KING of PEACE ("Salem" meaning "peace" and an ancient name for Jerusalem. Psalm 76:2)

- ❖ His very names being instructive, Righteousness first, and Peace afterwards, as it is with our divine Lord, who has brought in everlasting righteousness, and speaks peace to guilty men.
- ❖ Melchizedek was KING and PRIEST.
- ❖ He was a priest of El Elyon - God, the MOST HIGH. (MEDITATE)
- ❖ He was a priest of the Possessor of heaven and earth. (Psalm 24:1; 50:10; 115:16; Matthew 11:25; Luke 10:21)
- ❖ He was a priest of the ONE who "delivers" enemies into the hands of His people.
- ❖ Melchizedek was a priest *before* the Law.
- ❖ Melchizedek blessed "Abram of God Most High" (Hebrews 7:1, 7)
  - Melchizedek blessed Abraham! (the patriarch, the progenitor, the father of all who believe, the friend of God, the one who carried the promises) MEDITATE!
  - The GREATER blessed the LESSER. (John 8:51-58)
  - This makes the Levitical priesthood (still in Abraham) LESSER than the Melchizedek order!! (Hebrews 7:5-10)
- ❖ Abraham gave a tithe of all. (v. 2) Abraham gave tithes before the Law.
  - Abraham gave tenth (tithe) to Melchizedek! (vv. 4-10)
  - Abraham gave **the best** of the spoils! (ἀκροθίνιον akrothinion {ak-roth-in'-ee-on} – the best; the top of the heap)
  - **LESSON for US:** We are to give GOD the FIRST and the BEST - not leftovers!
  - Abraham KNEW that he was to give unto this priest!
  - Jews gave their tithes to the Levites.
  - If Abraham, the Levites' father, gave to Melchizedek that makes Melchizedek superior!

## Melchizedek, A Picture of Jesus Christ, Our High Priest

- As Melchizedek's priesthood was universal, Christ's is to both born again Jews and Gentiles. Christ came into the WORLD to save men and women from every nation.
- As Melchizedek was KING and PRIEST, Christ is the King of kings and our High Priest. It was prophesied that the Messiah would be both KING and PRIEST. See Zechariah 6:12-13.
- As Melchizedek's genealogy had nothing to do with him being a priest of the Most High God, Christ's genealogy had nothing to do with him being our High Priest. He was chosen for who He was!
- As Melchizedek's priesthood was "eternal" in type, so too, our High Priest, Jesus Christ, lives forever.

- As Melchizedek received TITHES from Abraham (the father of all who believe), so too, Christ receives our tithes and gifts.
- As Melchizedek was KING of righteousness and KING of PEACE, Christ is OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS and OUR PEACE. He is the RIGHTEOUSNESS of GOD and He is the PRINCE of God's peace.

**Final NOTE:**

- The order of RIGHTEOUSNESS and PEACE is significant!
- We must be RIGHTEOUS before we can have PEACE with God.
- Christ accomplished this for us - see Romans 5:1
- Christ has made us kings and priests to God - Revelation 1:4-6; 5:10; 1 Peter 2:5,9