

11 – THE PRIESTHOOD OF MELCHIZEDEK (HEBREWS 7:1-10)

I. Melchizedek (Hebrews 7:1-4)

A. The Encounter with Abraham (Hebrews 7:1-2a)

1. The Setting (Hebrews 7:1)

- Melchizedek was the king of the city state Salem and a priest of the Most High God.
- Melchizedek met Abraham as he was returning from the battle with the four kings.

Scripture Genesis 14:18-20 (ESV)

¹⁸ And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. (He was priest of God Most High.) ¹⁹ And he blessed him and said, "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; ²⁰ and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand!" And Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

- Melchizedek blessed Abraham.

2. The Gift (Hebrews 7:2a)

- Abraham gave a tithe or a tenth of all that he captured in the battle.

B. His Title (Hebrews 7:2b)

- The name "Melchizedek" means king of justice or righteousness.
- He is also the king of peace because the word "Salem" means peace.

C. His Origin (Hebrews 7:3)

- The writer points out that there is no genealogy or record of his death.
- Melchizedek is a type of Christ in that his priesthood is forever.
- The issue here is a contrast with the priesthood of Aaron which was depended upon a genealogy.

D. His Greatness (Hebrews 7:4)

- The writer calls the reader to consider the greatness of Melchizedek.
- It was to Melchizedek that the patriarch gave a gift.

II. The Contrast (Hebrews 7:5-7)

A. The Requirement of the Law (Hebrews 7:5)

Understanding Our Faith: The Letter to the Hebrews

- The Mosaic Law required that the Levites collect a tithe from the children of Israel.
- The Levites receive the tithe from the offspring of Abraham.

B. The Receiver of Abraham's Tithe (Hebrews 7:6)

- The writer points out that Melchizedek was not of the lineage of Levi.
- He received Abraham's tithe and blessed him.

C. The Greater (Hebrews 7:7)

- The writer presents the principle that the greater always blesses the lesser.
- Therefore, Melchizedek was greater than Abraham.

III. Melchizedek's Superiority (Hebrews 7:8-10)

A. The Argument from Morality (Hebrews 7:8)

- The Levitical priests were mortal men who died.
- Melchizedek is greater because his death was not recorded, therefore he lives on.

B. The Argument from Genealogy (Hebrews 7:9-10)

- Levi paid tithes to Melchizedek through Abraham who was the representative head.
- Even though he was not born yet, Levi was a direct descendent of Abraham.