

JESUS AND MELCHIZEDEK

Hebrews 7:1-10

Introduction: How Were People Saved in the Old Testament?

I. Who Was Melchizedek? A Type of Christ (v.1-3)

A. Melchizedek was a Real Historical Figure

- o Genesis 14:18-20 Speaks of Melchizedek
- o Abraham was returning from war when he met Melchizedek and was blessed by him
- o Then Abraham gave Melchizedek a tithe from his wealth

B. Melchizedek was a "Type" of Christ

- o A "type" of Christ is a reference to a OT person, historical event, or institution/ceremony that foreshadows what Christ would do
 - What are some OT people that foreshadow Jesus?
 - What are some OT historical events that foreshadow Jesus?
 - What are some OT institutions/ceremonies that foreshadow Jesus?
- o This reminds us that the entire OT is all about Jesus!
 - "Then Jesus said to them, "Everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled" (Luke 24:44)

C. In What Ways was Melchizedek a Type of Christ?

- o He was a king
 - "King of Salem" or "King of peace" (v.2)
 - Name Melchizedek literally means "King of Righteousness"
 - Jesus is a "righteous" king (Isaiah 11:5) and "prince of peace" (Isaiah 9:6)
- o He was a priest
 - "Priest of the Most high God" (v.1)
 - Jesus is a priest in the order of Melchizedek (Psalm 110:1)



- No OT priest could be priest and King at same time! Why does this matter?
- o He seemed “eternal”
 - “He is without father or mother or genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life” (v.3)
 - This doesn’t mean Melchizedek had no parents, it simply means that his appearance in Scripture is so brief that it makes him seem like he had no beginning or end
 - Melchizedek’s life is one “resembling the Son of God” (v.3)

II. Why Bring Up Melchizedek? It Shows Christ’s Priesthood is Superior to the Old Testament Levitical Priesthood (v.4-10)

A. Understanding the Old Testament Priesthood

- o The Levites (descended from Jacob’s son Levi) were given the task of serving in the temple and managing the sacrificial system.
- o One of the most famous Levites was Moses’ brother Aaron. Only those descended from Aaron were allowed to be “priests” in the Temple

B. Reasons Melchizedek’s priesthood is superior to the Levitical priesthood

- o Abraham Tithed to Melchizedek
 - Normally Israelites are supposed to tithe to the Levites (v.5)
 - But Abraham, the father of Israel, tithed to Melchizedek (v.4)
 - And since Abraham represents his descendants, effectively the Levites tithed to Melchizedek! (v.9-10)
- o Abraham was blessed by Melchizedek
 - While Abraham normally would be doing the blessing, in this instance he received the blessing!
 - “It is beyond dispute that the inferior is blessed by the superior” (v.7)
 - And if Melchizedek is greater than Abraham, then he is greater than the Levites who are descended from Abraham

C. The Big Point: Christ is in the Order of Melchizedek, therefore Christ’s Priesthood is Greater than the OT Levitical Priesthood

- o Again, this shows that Jesus is *better* than anything the audience might go back to
- o If Christ is better than Abraham and Aaron then he is worth following!

Discussion Groups

1. Do you feel like you read the OT as if it were really about Christ? How does this passage help you do that better?

2. How does this passage remind you of the importance of noticing every detail in the text? How does it reassure you that the Bible is a divinely authored book?

3. How does Christ being both priest and King at the same time encourage you today? In what ways do we need Christ to fill each of those roles?

