

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 07 Sep ..... Hebrews 1:1-14 ..... Who Is Jesus?
- 2) 14 Sep ..... Hebrews 2:1-13 ..... Pay Attention
- 3) 21 Sep ..... Hebrews 2:14-18 ..... Why One of Us?
- 4) 28 Sep ..... Hebrews 3:1-19 ..... Watch Out!
- 5) 05 Oct ..... Hebrews 4-5 ..... Secured with Confidence
- 6) 12 Oct ..... Hebrews 6:1-20 ..... Don't Walk Away
- 7) 19 Oct ..... Hebrews 7:1-28 ..... Only Jesus Saves
- 8) 26 Oct ..... Hebrews 8:1-13 ..... Only Jesus Transforms
- 9) 02 Nov ..... Hebrews 9:1-28 ..... The Perfect Offering
- 10) 09 Nov ..... Hebrews 10-11 ..... Faith Defined
- 11) 16 Nov ..... Hebrews 12:1-7 ..... The Discipline of Suffering
- 12) 23 Nov ..... Hebrews 12:18-29 ..... A New Kind of Community
- 13) 30 Nov ..... Hebrews 13:1-25 ..... Living Out the Faith

INTRODUCTION

- The priesthood of Christ (after the order of Melchizedek) assures us of our salvation, which promotes boldness in service, since we have nothing to lose and everything to gain
- **Remember** – The author is moving us away from the basic teachings of our faith which only grounds us but does not mature us, such as 1) Repentance, 2) Dead Works, 3) Faith, 4) Baptism, 5) Laying on of Hands (for service); and 6) Resurrection and Judgment
  - ♦ Chapter 7 addresses the next topic that promotes spiritual maturity – the Priesthood of Christ
  - ♦ If we can fully grasp this concept of why it is important for us to realize Christ continuously intercedes for us as our High Priest, we would be emboldened to serve Him continuously with contagious enthusiasm
  - ♦ The vast majority of spiritually mature topics address how Christ intercedes for us, how He completes our sanctification process, and how our faith in Him allows us to accomplish anything for His Kingdom

Passage	Comments
7:11-24	<p><b>The Levitical Priesthood was not Good Enough</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v11-17. The author nails it with a line of reasoning that sets up a another argument of how the Messiah, who came from the kingly tribe of Judah, could assume the priesthood:                             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Levitical priesthood was not perfect since sacrifices had to be repeated, necessitating a priesthood that was perfect and perpetual without continuous sacrifices</li> <li>2. The Law had to change to move from an temporal “physical requirement” that was weak &amp; ineffective to one with an “indestructible life” that would be sufficient for all eternity</li> <li>3. The Law was only a shadow of the “better hope” that was planned</li> <li>4. And the eternal Priesthood would be based on an un-breakable promise/oath from God</li> <li>5. Jesus, the perfect Sacrifice, the perfect King, and the perfect Priest, would be the guarantee of this new covenant</li> </ol> </li> <li>• vv18-19. “<i>The Law made nothing perfect</i>” – So what good is the LAW? And what is this “<b>Better Hope</b>”?                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Jewish Christians were becoming aware that the MOSAIC LAW was a “Shadow” of God’s Grace through Christ, and of better blessings to come ..... Col 2:17</li> <li>♦ This shadow will be elaborated on in Chapters 8 &amp; 10</li> <li>♦ The Law was part of God’s Progressive Revelation LAW (OT) → GRACE (NT) → HEAVENLY REWARDS</li> </ul> </li> <li>• vv20-21. God never did promise the Levites an eternal job as He did with Christ, who would ensure our salvation through His eternal Priesthood                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ BUT, God did promise the sons of Zadok a place of honor among the Levites for their faithfulness during Israel’s idolatrous times. The sons of Zadok would minister to the Lord by offering “the fat and the blood,” most likely during the Millennial reign of Christ ..... Ezekiel 44 &amp; 48</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
7:25-28	<p><b>Jesus – New King and Priest for all Eternity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The line of reasoning continues:                             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Being the perfect Sacrifice, Priest, and King, He can save to the “utmost” (or save forever) those who choose to draw near to God – BECAUSE He makes continuous intercession for them                                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1Peter 1:5 says we are “KEPT” or “PROTECTED” by the Power of God</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Being perfect, Jesus, unlike the Levites, does not need to make daily sacrifices, since He did it once for all on the CROSS</li> <li>3. ...and the final argument – the Law appointed High Priests who are weak; but the “word of the oath,” which came after the Law, appoints a Son, made perfect forever</li> </ol> </li> </ul>

Passage	Comments
Hebrews 7:1-10	<p><b>Melchizedek – King and Priest of Salem Forever</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Several attributes of Melchizedek’s priesthood are highlighted to set up a powerful argument of why the Messiah became a High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek as prophesied in Psalms 110:4 and reiterated 6x in Hebrews (5:6; 5:10; 6:20; 7:11; 7:15; 7:17):                             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. He was identified as the King of Salem / King of Peace / King of Righteousness ..... vv1-2</li> <li>2. He was also identified as the Priest of the Most High God</li> <li>3. No earthly lineage depicted – BUT Melchizedek was NOT a Christophany (an OT appearance of Christ) ..... vv3, 6</li> <li>4. He received a Tithe offering from God’s chosen Patriarch of the nation of Israel, which means he is greater than Abraham ..... vv2, 6, 8, 9</li> <li>5. Melchizedek blessed Abraham, which also means he is greater than Abraham ..... vv1, 6, 7</li> <li>6. Levi, still in the loins of Abraham (so to speak) gave tithes to Melchizedek, indicating Melchizedek, as a Priest, is greater that ALL the Levitical Priests ..... vv9-10</li> </ol> </li> </ul>
The Morphing of Kings and Priests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prior to God establishing the line of Aaron as Levitical Priests, the family patriarch (Father, Grandfather, etc.) performed the role of intermediary between God and man, performing the sacrifices of animals to appease God</li> <li>• As the family grew to be a tribe, the oldest patriarch became the “king” as well as the tribal priest, thus a King-Priest</li> <li>• OT Examples of non-Levitical Priests: Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Job, and Melchizedek (who was a King and a Priest)</li> <li>• <b>Hebrew tradition says that Shem was Melchizedek.</b> Noah’s son, Shem, was still alive in the days of Abraham, &amp; was possibly the oldest living man at the time (src Haley’s Bible Handbook, pg 652). Shem even outlived Abraham. See link to <a href="#">Patriarch Longevity</a> diagram)</li> <li>• When God established the nation of Israel he gave the priestly role to Levi, and the kingly role to the tribe of Judah</li> <li>• Jesus became the final King-Priest, thereby merging the 2 roles for all eternity</li> <li>• Jesus was not only the Priest - He was also the final sacrifice</li> </ul>

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS / BENEFITS

- Biblical topics that promote spiritual maturity are not related to knowing how many angels fit on the head of a pin; or if we are Pre-Trib, Post-Trib, or Mid-Trib; or if we understand Calvinism; or if we can work miracles
  - ♦ ...BUT how well do we comprehend the “riches of God’s glory upon us” (Rom 9:23) through Christ; and that the “reproach of Christ is of greater wealth than all the treasures of Egypt” (Heb 11:26); and how “worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, riches, wisdom, might, honor, glory, & blessing” (Rev 5:12).
  - ♦ Our spiritual maturity, in other words, is totally wrapped up in Christ

**NEXT WEEK: Hebrews 8.** Jesus assumes a “more excellent ministry” by becoming the mediator of a New Covenant with better promises & blessings

