Hebrews 7:1-10

Review…

- As the author continues to show Jesus is BETTER than EVERYONE and EVERYTHING…
  - BETTER than the Prophets – at giving us the Word of God…
  - BETTER than the Angels – He is the eternal creator who will rule over all…
  - BETTER than the servant Moses – as Jesus is the BUILDER and the Son…
  - BETTER Rest – because ONLY in Jesus can we have victory of sin!
- BETTER High Priest – **Hebrews 4:14-6:20**!
  - In light of Jesus being our High Priests - the THIRD warning – do NOT be immature…
  - The Author wanted to talk MORE about Melchizedek – but it was HARD to explain…
  - The listeners had never MATURED – still needing the MILK of the Word – basics of the FAITH…
  - Which was DANGEROUS – because they might FALL AWAY!
- They needed an ANCHOR – to keep them FIRM in Christ…
  - The PROMISE of salvation – example of Abraham - PATIENT and FAITH in the PROMISE…
  - The OATH – the GUARANTEE of the Holy Spirit – God will finish what He started…
  - The ANCHOR – for our SOUL – Jesus our Great High Priest after the order of Melchizedek!

Melchizedek… (3 points)

- **1st – Who was Melchizedek… vs. 1-3**
  - 1st – For this Melchizedek… vs. 1
    - ONLY mentioned TWICE in the Old Testament – **Genesis 14:18 / Psalms 110:4**
    - Looking at Jesus as a BETTER High Priest – His name has already come up THREE times…
    - First mentioned in **Hebrews 5:6** – the author said he had much to say about him…
    - Now – finally – the author is going to give us those details…
    - He will mention the name Melchizedek – SEVEN times – in this chapter alone!
  - 2nd – He was a KING… vs. 1-2
    - Melchizedek [מַלְכִּי־צֶדֶק]– KING [מַלְכִּ] of RIGHTEOUSNESS [צֶדֶק]…
      - RIGHTEOUSNESS [צֶדֶק] – to do what is RIGHT – do what is JUST…
      - The KING who sets the EXAMPLE of the RIGHT way to live!
      - The world is FULL of ideas about how to live our lives…
      - But there is only ONE way to live a RIGHTEOUS life – follow the KING…
      - Jesus is the KING that shows us the way of RIGHTEOUSNESS!
      - **Revelation 19:16** – "KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS."
    - Melchizedek was a KING – he ruled over the city of SALEM – short for Jerusalem…
      - **Psalm 48:2** – "[Jerusalem is] The city of the great King."
      - SALEM – [שָׁלֵם] – the PLACE of PEACE – safety – perfection – completion…
      - He was the KING of PEACE – where you go to FIND PEACE!
      - We tend to spend a lot of time worrying / fearful – the opposite of PEACE…
      - The problem is worrying about problems does not help – it makes things worse…
      - Worry is the opposite of TRUST – we are worried because we are not trusting in God!
      - PEACE is not found in our circumstances – or a place – it is found in a PERSON!

- **Ephesians 2:14 –** "For [Jesus] is our PEACE…"

- 3rd – He was a PRIEST… vs. 1
  - God had divided the responsibilities of ministering to the His people…
    - The KING was to protect and provide for the people practically…
    - The PRIEST was to act as guides to lead the people spiritually…
    - That way the people would never learn to depend on ONE man…
    - King Uzziah was one of the greatest Kings of Judah – **II Chronicles 26**
    - But in his later years he went into the temple to offer incense before the Lord…
    - God struck him with leprosy – and he lived out his last years in isolation!
    - But Melchizedek was both King and Priest – a PICTURE of Jesus Christ…
    - Because HE is the only one who is able to be ALL we need in life!
    - I have often been accused of giving people the SAME answer…
    - No matter what the question – my response does not change – Jesus…
    - Because Jesus is the ONLY answer to EVERY problem – ONLY He is both KING and PRIEST!
  - PRIEST of the MOST HIGH God…
    - MOST HIGH God [אֵל עֶלְיוֹן] – name of God first mentioned - **Genesis 14:18**
    - It literally means the HIGHEST God – there is no one above Him!
    - People will come to us looking for answers and help…
    - Because men would much rather look to someone they can touch and see...
    - The problem is we are limited – and cannot help those who look to us…
    - We are called to be like Melchizedek – priests who point people to the MOST HIGH God…
    - He is the only answer that we need to give to those who are in need!
- 4th – Greater than ABRAHAM… vs. 1-2
  - Melchizedek met Abraham returning from the SLAUGHTER [only here] of the kings…
    - Lot – who was living in Sodom - had been captured by the kings of Babylon – **Genesis 14**
    - Abraham took 318 men born in his house – and slaughtered the kings of Babylon…
    - Upon his return from battle with the WORLD – Melchizedek went out to meet him!
  - Melchizedek blessed Abraham…
    - **Genesis 14:18-20** – "Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine;
      he was the priest of God Most High. And he blessed him and said: 'Blessed be Abram of God
      Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; And blessed be God Most High,
      Who has delivered your enemies into your hand.' And he gave him a tithe of all."
    - Abram gave him a TENTH of all he had – he gave his TITHE…
    - Abram knew Melchizedek was a greater man than he was…
    - **Hebrews 7:7 –** "The lesser is blessed by the better."
    - Abraham - the FATHER of the CHOSEN people – FATHER of FAITH – **Romans 4:12**
    - What made Melchizedek GREATER than the FATHER of FAITH!
  - Melchizedek gave Bread and Wine out for Abraham…
    - These TWO elements should seem VERY familiar to us – COMMUNION…
    - Melchizedek gave Abraham COMMUNION - after his victory over the WORLD…
    - Foreshadowing how we can also have VICTORY – through the cross of Christ!
    - **Luke 22:20** – "This cup is the new covenant in My blood…"
    - Abraham was the FATHER of FAITH – but his FAITH was in the MOST HIGH God…
    - Jesus Christ who came to take away our sin – give us VICTORY!

- 5th – No Genealogy… vs. 3
  - Melchizedek had no father – mother – or genealogy…
    - A reference to the fact we are NOT given any history for Melchizedek…
    - In the THREE short verses that mention him - **Genesis 14:18-20** – no genealogy is given!
  - This is in CONTRAST to the LEVITICAL priesthood…
    - When Israel rebelled – Golden Calf – all of Levi stood with the Lord – **Exodus 32:26**
    - As a result - God chose the Tribe of Levi to serve Him – **Numbers 18:2**
    - But ONLY the sons of Aaron were to serve as Priest to the Lord – **Numbers 18:1**
    - And ONLY the first-born son in the line of Aaron was High Priest – **Exodus 29:29**

- 6th – No beginning or end… vs. 3
  - Having [present] neither beginning of days nor end of life…
    - We are NOT told when Melchizedek was BORN – or when [if] he DIED…
    - The suggestion is that he was NOT born and NEVER died!
    - He may have been Jesus Christ - a CHRISTOPHANY – a preincarnate appearance of Jesus…
    - We do know that Abraham did meet Jesus – **John 8:56**
  - Made LIKE the Son of God…
    - Made LIKE [perfect] – only here NT – to be a copy or similar to…
    - Jesus was NOT like the Son of God – He is the Son of God – **John 20:31**
    - It is more likely Melchizedek was just a MAN – who was a PICTURE of Jesus…
    - It is possible that he was Shem – the godly son of Noah – forefather of Abram...
    - Shem lived some 150 years after Abram was born!
    - The KEY is that he represented a PRIESTHOOD that was GREATER than Aaron!
    - **Psalm 110:4** – "The LORD has sworn and will not relent, 'You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek."

- **2ND – BETTER THAN ABRAHAM… VS. 4**
  - 1st – Abraham gave a TENTH… vs. 4
    - CONSIDER [imperative] – how GREAT this man was…
      - GREAT – 2x in NT – how HUGE – very LARGE…
      - Even the PATRIARCH Abraham gave a TENTH – **Genesis 14:20**
    - This was the FIRST mention in the Bible of the idea of giving a TENTH!
      - TENTH – [δεκάτην] 10x in NT (*three forms*) – where we get the word TITHE…
      - SEVEN of the TEN times the word TITHE is mentioned are found here - **Hebrews 7:1-10**
      - The NEW TESTAMENT idea of TITHING is ONLY found in relation to Melchizedek…
      - Like Abraham – we give to Jesus – because He is GREATER than we are…
      - It is easy to forget that God is the one who provides - start to take credit for our success…
      - Yet He is the one who gave us our talents – orchestrates all of our circumstances...
      - Everything we have - no exceptions - is a gift that comes from the Lord...
      - Therefore - we give back to the Lord as a way to remember He is GREATER!
      - **Deuteronomy 14:22-23** - "You shall truly TITHE… that you may learn to fear the LORD your God always."
    - The other THREE times TITHE occurs in NT - HYPOCRISY of the Pharisees!

- **Matthew 23:23** – "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay TITHE… [but] have neglected the weightier matters of the law." also **Luke 11:42 / 18:12**
- The Pharisees tithed because they wanted others to see how GOOD they were!
- Yet the ignored the more important matters such as JUSTICE – and LOVE!
- **Matthew 6:2** – "When you give [subjunctive] …do NOT do as the hypocrites do… call attention to their acts…" [NLT]
- King Jehoash took a wooden box – with a hole cut into the top – **II Kings 12:9**
- He set it on the side as people came into the house of the Lord…
- The purpose of the box – let the people give anonymously to the Lord…
- Do not let your left hand know what you right hand is doing!
- When a church passed an offering plate people tend to make a show of their gift...
- But they are not giving to God - they are giving for the recognition of other men!
- Jesus says - they have their reward - the temporary praises of others...
- That is why we have a BOX – and do NOT pass an offering plate - give anonymously!

  - 2nd – What Abraham gave… vs. 4
    - Abraham gave the SPOILS – only here NT – the best of the crop – the first fruits…
    - If we go out and eat chicken BBQ – we save the bones for the dogs…
    - We give them the leftovers we do not want – showing we think they are LESS than us!
    - I am always amused when people donate things to the church…
    - We tend to get the things people could not even give away...
    - So often when people give to Jesus – it is almost as an afterthought / the leftover…
    - But what does that say about what we think of Jesus / He is less than us…
    - We should be giving our BEST to the Lord – the FIRST FRUITS!

- **3rd – Better Priesthood… vs. 5-10**
  - 1st – What the LAW says to TITHE… vs. 5
    - The sons of LEVI who receive the priesthood…
    - Have a commandment to receive TITHES from the people according to the law…
    - According to the Law there were THREE different TITHES people were required to give…
    - **Numbers 18:21-24** – the Levitical TITHE to provide for those who served the Lord…
    - **Deuteronomy 14:22-26** – the feast TITHE – 10% of the harvest – eaten before the Lord…
    - **Deuteronomy 14:28-29** - the poor TITHE – was every THREE years…
    - In all the people were required to TITHE about 23% of their income each year!
    - And that did not include offerings – which were free will gifts above the TITHE!
    - I am always amused by those who teach giving 10% to the church (*should be 23%*) ...

- They take this one Law from the OT and teach it like it belongs in the NT...
- The Law is not a buffet line - you cannot pick and choose what laws you like...
- Those who teach giving 10% to the church - must also teach the rest of the Law!

- 2nd – A better TITHE… vs. 6-8
  - Melchizedek was not from Abraham…
    - He whose genealogy is not derived from them received [perfect] tithes from Abraham…
    - And blessed [perfect] him who had the PROMISES – **Genesis 12:2-3**
    - Melchizedek was not one of the DECEDENTS of Abraham…
    - But He received a TITHE from Abraham and BLESSED him…
    - Which mean that Melchizedek was GREATER than FATHER Abraham!
  - Beyond all contradiction the LESSER is blessed by the BETTER…
    - **Hebrews 7:7** – "The priests who collect TITHES are men who die, so Melchizedek is greater than they are, because we are told that he lives on." [NLT]
    - The Old Testament TITHE was given to men flawed frail men…
    - But the TITHE of Melchizedek – is given to a High Priest who is ETERNAL…
    - Therefore - the TITHE given to Melchizedek is a better TITHE!
    - Often today people give out of a sense of obligation - they give but do NOT want to…
    - It may even be taught an OLD TESTAMENT way of giving...
    - Give to the CHURCH – otherwise we ROB God – **Malachi 3:8**
    - But our High Priest does NOT need anything – He created everything – **Colossians 1:16**
    - The better TITHE – says give whatever we want - as little or as much as is on our heart...
    - Whatever we give - we are to do it with a hilarious heart - a cheerful giver...
    - If we give out of obligation - it counts for nothing - God does NOT want it!
    - **II Corinthians 9:7** – "[We] must each decide in your heart how much to give. And do not give reluctantly or in response to pressure. For God loves a person who gives cheerfully."
- 3rd – Levi paid TITHES… vs. 9-10
  - Levi – who receives [present] TITHES…
    - According to the law – the Levites did NOT pay any TITHES…
    - Because they did not get any inheritance in the Promised Land – **Joshua 13:33**
    - Instead - the Lord was their inheritance – they would serve Him and receive the TITHES!
  - Yet they – paid TITHES [perfect] through Abraham – so to speak…
    - Abraham was the Father of Isaac – grandfather or Israel - great grandfather of Levi…
    - Before Levi was even born – Abraham TITHED to Melchizedek…
    - In a sense – Levi then also TITHED – through his great grandfather…
    - Even the LEVITICAL priesthood – which came from Levi – TITHED to Melchizedek…
    - Therefore – the priesthood of Melchizedek is BETTER than Levi!
    - Which is what we will see next – Jesus is a BETTER priesthood!
  - Closing thought…
    - Abraham TITHED – and his great grandchildren became priests…
    - God does not need our money – He is the creator of all heaven and earth…
    - But when we invest in the Lord – there are real blessing that come to us – and our kids!
    - God wants us to invest in Him / His work – **Luke 12:34**

- Because wherever we put our treasure - is where our heart will also be!
- We tend to think we invest in the things that are important to us…
- But our heart follows our investments – our choices dictate what our heart wants!
- That is why we should never follow our heart – it is deceptive – **Jeremiah 17:9**
- Instead - we need to be wise – and invest our treasures in the Lord!