

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 [מֶלְכִּי־צֶדֶק] – KING [מֶלֶךְ] 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!
- o 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!
- o 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**

- o 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
 - o 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 they 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 Jehoshaphat 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 your 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!
 - o 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 of 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!