# Hebrews 7:1-10

## Review...

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

## **MELCHIZEDEK...** (3 POINTS)

- 1<sup>st</sup> Who was Melchizedek... vs. 1-3
  - o 1<sup>st</sup> 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!
  - o 2<sup>nd</sup> He was a KING... vs. 1-2
    - Melchizedek [מֱלְכֵּי־צֶדֶק] KING [מֱלְכַּ] of RIGHTEOUSNESS [מֱלָכַּי־צֶדֶק] ...
      - RIGHTEOUSNESS [צָדֶק] 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 [שַׁלֵם] 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..."
  - o 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 [אַל עַלְיִוֹן] 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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."

## • 2<sup>ND</sup> - 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 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!

- 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!

#### • 3<sup>RD</sup> - Better Priesthood... vs. 5-10

- o 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!
- o 2<sup>nd</sup> 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."
- o 3<sup>rd</sup> 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!