

Hebrews Chapter 7

Theme: Jesus — Our Eternal High Priest in the Order of Melchizedek

Purpose of Hebrews 7:

To demonstrate the superiority of Jesus' priesthood by comparing Him with Melchizedek and contrasting Him with the Levitical priesthood. The chapter underscores Jesus' eternal role as High Priest and the foundation of a better covenant.

Section 1: The Greatness of Melchizedek (Hebrews 7:1–10)

- 1 For this Melchizedek—king of Salem, priest of the Most High God—met Abraham and blessed him as he returned from defeating the kings,
- 2 and Abraham gave him a tenth of everything. First, his name means king of righteousness, then also, king of Salem, meaning king of peace.
- 3 Without father, mother, or genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but resembling the Son of God, he remains a priest forever.
- 4 Now consider how great this man was: even Abraham the patriarch gave a tenth of the plunder to him...

Key Greek Words & Phrases:

- **Μελχισεδέκ (Melchisedek)** – “King of Righteousness”
- **βασιλεὺς Σαλήμ (basileus Salēm)** – “King of Salem / Peace”
- **ἀπαύτωρ, ἀμήτωρ, ἀγενεαλόγητος** – “Without father, without mother, without genealogy” (symbolizing eternal nature)
- **δεκάτην (dekatēn)** – “Tenth,” a tithe symbolizing submission

Exegesis & Background:

Melchizedek is a mysterious figure from Genesis 14:18–20 who appears without lineage but is called both king and priest—a rare combination. The fact that Abraham tithed to him and was blessed by him indicates his superiority. Theologically, Melchizedek foreshadows Jesus—eternal, righteous, and peaceful.

Old Testament Reference:

Genesis 14:18–20 (CSB):

“Melchizedek, king of Salem, brought out bread and wine... Abram gave him a tenth of everything.”

Application:

Melchizedek's role points us to Jesus, who holds both kingly and priestly offices eternally. Our allegiance belongs to Him—not religious systems or rituals.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is it significant that Abraham, the patriarch, gave a tithe to Melchizedek?
 2. How does Melchizedek serve as a picture of Christ?
 3. What does this teach us about the nature of true spiritual authority and leadership?
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Section 2: The Superiority of Christ's Priesthood (Hebrews 7:11–19)

11 Now if perfection came through the Levitical priesthood... what further need was there for another priest...?
14 It is evident that our Lord came from Judah, and Moses said nothing about that tribe concerning priests...
17 For it has been testified: You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.
18 So the previous command is annulled...
19 but a better hope is introduced, through which we draw near to God.

Key Greek Words & Phrases:

- τελείωσις (teleiōsis) – “Perfection” or “completion”
- ἀθέτησις (athetēsis) – “Annulment” or “setting aside”
- ἐγγίζομεν (engizomen) – “We draw near”

Exegesis & Background:

The Levitical system could never truly make people perfect or give them direct access to God. Jesus, from the tribe of Judah (not Levi), fulfills the priesthood by divine oath and eternal life—not by ancestry. This signifies a radical change from law to grace and from ritual to relationship.

Old Testament Reference:

Psalm 110:4 (CSB):

“The Lord has sworn... ‘You are a priest forever according to the pattern of Melchizedek.’”

Application:

Christ offers a “better hope”—direct access to God not based on religious ritual but on a living relationship through Him. Christians must rely on Jesus, not performance, for nearness to God.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why couldn't the Levitical priesthood bring perfection?
 2. What is the significance of Jesus being from the tribe of Judah?
 3. What does it mean to “draw near to God” today, and how does Jesus make that possible?
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Section 3: Christ—The Eternal High Priest (Hebrews 7:20–28)

20 None of this happened without an oath...
22 Jesus has also become the guarantee of a better covenant...

24 But because he remains forever, he holds his priesthood permanently.

25 Therefore, he is able to save completely those who come to God through him...

27 He did this once for all time when he offered himself.

28 ...the promise of the oath... appoints a Son, who has been perfected forever.

Key Greek Words & Phrases:

- ἔγγυος (**engyos**) – “Guarantee” or “surety”
- ἀπαράβατος (**aparabatos**) – “Unchangeable,” “permanent”
- σώζειν εἰς τὸ παντελές (**sōzein eis to panteles**) – “Save completely / to the uttermost”
- ἐντυγχάνειν (**entygchanein**) – “To intercede,” ongoing pleading on our behalf

Exegesis & Background:

Unlike the Levitical priests who died and needed successors, Jesus’ priesthood is unchanging and eternal. His once-for-all sacrifice is sufficient for all sin, and His ongoing intercession assures continual salvation and access to God.

Application:

Jesus is our constant High Priest—always praying, always interceding. We don’t need new sacrifices, rituals, or mediators. We can rest in the security of His once-for-all work.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean that Jesus is “able to save completely”?
2. How does His ongoing intercession strengthen your faith?
3. How can we live daily in light of Christ’s once-for-all sacrifice?

Summary & Final Application:

Hebrews 7 presents Jesus as our eternal High Priest, greater than Melchizedek, superior to the Levitical system, and the only one who can bring us permanently into relationship with God. His priesthood is unchanging, His sacrifice final, and His intercession continual.

Key Takeaways:

- Jesus is the fulfillment of the Melchizedek-type priesthood: righteous, peaceful, and eternal.
- He mediates a better covenant—one based on relationship, not ritual.
- His once-for-all sacrifice brings total and lasting salvation.
- He continually intercedes for believers.

Final Discussion Prompts:

- How does Hebrews 7 encourage your confidence in Christ’s ability to save?
- What personal “priestly systems” do people today rely on instead of Christ?
- How can you draw near to God this week, trusting in Jesus’ eternal priesthood?