

# Hebrews Part One

## Lesson #27, Chapter 7:1-10

Read all of Chapter 7 before beginning this lesson.

In Chapter 5 verse 11 the writer of Hebrews declared he had much to say about Jesus Christ as high priest according to the order of Melchizedek, but he needed to teach his readers in some important areas before tackling the subject. With that done, he is now ready to continue the instruction about Jesus Christ as high priest. Keep in mind, the purpose of Chapter 7 is to show the superiority of the priesthood through Melchizedek, which ultimately shows the superiority of Christ as a means of salvation.

1. What do you learn about Melchizedek according to vs. 1-2?
2. Eager Beaver: Do a little checking and see what you can discover about the city of Salem mentioned in vs. 1.
3. Describe the circumstances around Abraham's meeting with Melchizedek in Gen. 14:1-20.
4. This is important to note for later: What did Abraham do for Melchizedek? See Heb. 7:2 and Gen. 14:20.
5. Some interesting details are added about Melchizedek in vs. 3. What do you learn about him from that verse? In what ways is he like Jesus Christ?
6. Now we know all mortal men have a mother and a father, it's just how things work. So, when the author of Hebrews says Melchizedek is "without father, without mother, without genealogy" what point is he trying to make? Remember,

- he is comparing the priesthood of Aaron with the priesthood of Melchizedek. What do you learn about Aaron from the following verses: Num. 3:1-10; 33:38-39?
7. Does Jesus come from the family of Levites who were appointed as priests from generation to generation? See Matt. 1:1-17 and Luke 3:23-38.
  8. Just to confirm, does Melchizedek come from Aaron's priestly line? See Hebrews 6:20; 7:3, 11-12.
  9. Try to summarize what you have learned by completing the following sentence: The priesthood according to Aaron \_\_\_\_\_, while the priesthood of Christ and Melchizedek \_\_\_\_\_.
  10. Verse 4 is the author's purpose statement for the next paragraph. What does the author of Hebrews intend to show us in the verses to come according to vs. 4? Why is Abraham's act of giving significant?
  11. Abraham, the patriarch, had many sons, one of whom was Levi. The family of Levi was set aside for the priesthood to serve the Lord. What were their rights as priests according to vs. 5?
  12. Why did the Levites receive tithes? See Num. 18:21, 23-26; Neh. 12:44.

13. Though the tribe of Levi, descended from Abraham, had the right to receive tithes, what happened in the case with Melchizedek? See vs. 6.
  
14. Who is the “lesser” and who is the “greater” in vs. 7?
  
15. Why is verse 7 a key thought to understand in the argument for the superiority of Melchizedek’s priesthood?
  
16. In the middle of Heb. 7:8 the author states, *but in that case* [ESV, NIV *in the other case*; NKJV *there*]. What “case” is he referring to? See 7:4, 6.
  
17. Now identify what *in this case* [ESV, NIV *in the one case*; NKJV *here*] is referring to at the beginning of vs. 8. See verse 5. Note that it is a system that is still intact.
  
18. What is the significant difference between *mortal* men receiving tithes and the one who lives on receiving tithes? See also 5:6 and 6:20.
  
19. Which is better, to give tithes to someone who will die or to give tithes to someone who lives forever? Why?
  
20. How did Levi pay tithes according to vss. 9-10?

21. That explanation (from verses 9-10) takes us back to the key thought of the paragraph stated in vs. 7, *But without any dispute the lesser is blessed by the greater*. How does all this (vss. 1-10) set the stage to prove we can entrust ourselves to Jesus Christ as high priest?
22. Much of this week's lesson lays the foundation for the important lessons to come in this chapter. Yet even in this preparatory message there are blessings for us to meditate upon. Without a doubt, the author intends to reveal Jesus Christ as the final and perfect high priest in whom we can place our trust for salvation. In verses 1-10, he lays the groundwork in connecting Christ to Melchizedek.
- a. The Levites could not hold the office of both priest and king. They were set aside for the priesthood only. What do we learn about Melchizedek from vs. 1? What do we know of Jesus? See Zech. 6:12-13; Ps. 11:4.
  - b. Melchizedek's name means "king of righteousness." What do we know of Jesus? Ps. 45:6-7; Is. 9:7; Jer. 23:5-6.
  - c. Melchizedek was King of Salem; Salem means "peace," so he is the King of Peace. What do we know of Jesus? See Is. 9:6; Rom. 5:1; Col. 1:20.
  - d. Verse 3 states that Melchizedek has no beginning or end because there is no record of his genealogy. How is that like Christ? See Micah 5:2; Jn. 1:1; Rev. 1:8; 22:13.
  - e. Finally, we see because Jesus Christ is high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek, we can have a hope that is sure and steadfast, an anchor for our souls. How should that truth impact your life?

Praise Him! Praise Him!

By Fanny Crosby

Praise Him! Praise Him! Jesus, our blessed Redeemer!  
Sing, O Earth, His wonderful love proclaim!  
Hail Him! Hail Him! Highest archangels in glory;  
Strength and honor give to His holy Name!  
Like a shepherd, Jesus will guard His children,  
In His arms He carries them all day long:

Praise Him! Praise Him! Jesus, our blessed Redeemer!  
For our sins He suffered, and bled, and died.  
He our Rock, our hope of eternal salvation,  
Hail Him! Hail Him! Jesus, the Crucified.  
Sound His praises! Jesus who bore our sorrows,  
Love unbounded, wonderful, deep and strong.

Praise Him! Praise Him! Jesus, our blessed Redeemer!  
Heav'nly portals loud with hosannas ring!  
Jesus, Savior, reigneth forever and ever.  
Crown Him! Crown Him! Prophet, and Priest, and King!  
Christ is coming! Over the world victorious,  
Pow'r and glory unto the Lord belong.