

Both Better and Forever

Hebrews 7 Verse by Verse

Introduction

**Melchisedek's
Greatness**
7:1-10

**Melchizedek's
Priesthood**
7:11-19

**Christ's
Eternal
Priesthood**
7:20-28

Conclusions



Introduction

- For many years, Ginger's brother worked at the statehouse in Boston.
- The corridors are lined with portraits of all the governors, including John Hancock, the guy with the signature.
- Many, no doubt, served well.
- None served permanently.
- So it goes with merely human institutions.
- Christ, by contrast, will never have to give up his position.

**Previously in
Hebrews**

**What's in
Hebrews 7?**

**Our
Key Verses**

Previously in Hebrews

Hebrews 6:19-20

19 We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, 20 where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

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What's in Hebrews 7?

- In **Hebrews 7** we will see that Melchizedek was greater than Abraham.
- That means that he has a priesthood greater than that of Levi or Aaron - Abraham's descendants.
- This precedent allows Christ to come in and give us a better priesthood with a better high priest.

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Melchizedek's Greatness 7:1-10

- **The Original Setting:**
- A coalition of kings attacked the city of Sodom where his nephew Lot lived and took Lot captive along with all his possessions.
- Abraham took 318 of his own armed men and chased them down, freeing Lot and the other captives and restoring all their goods.

Genesis
14:16-20

Melchizedek
as a Type

Tithing?

Genesis 14:16-20

16 Then he [that is, Abram] brought back all the possessions, and also brought back his kinsman Lot with his possessions, and the women and the people. 17 After his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley). 18 And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. (He was priest of God Most High.) 19 And he blessed him and said,

"Blessed be Abram by God Most High,
Possessor of heaven and earth;
20 and blessed be God Most High,
who has delivered your enemies into your hand!"

And Abram gave him a tenth of everything.



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Melchizedek as a Type

- A **type** in the Bible is a foreshadowing picture.
- It is when we see an event, or a thing, or a person early on that points to something greater later on.
- For example, sacrifices in the OT point to the sacrifice of Jesus as an offering for our sins.
- Melchizedek serves as a foreshadowing of Christ in his priestly office or role.

His Names

His
Genealogy

Abraham's
Tithe

Type and
Fulfillment

His Names

- **7:2** The name **Melchizedek** means “**king of righteousness.**”
- He was king of **Jerusalem**, or “**Salem**” in **Gen 14**, which means “king of peace.”
- The original Hebrew readers would have caught those things immediately.

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His [Lack of] Genealogy

- **7:3** The Bible is inspired as much in what it doesn't say as in what it says.
- In **Genesis**, a book with several genealogies, we have no information about the heritage of the kings in **Genesis 14**.
- That includes **Melchizedek** – a point the rabbi emphasizes here.

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Abraham's Tithe

- Traditionally, the **Israelites** were required by law to pay tithes to those with “original Levi’s genes,” **the sons of Levi – the Levites.**
- **Aaron** and his sons, would then declare a blessing over the people.
- Since **Levi** wasn’t born yet, you might say he was “still in the loins of” **Abraham, his great grandfather.**
- There, in that unborn, yet-to-be-conceived state, “**One might even say (v.9)** he paid tithes to Melchizedek.
- To the original readers, Melchizedek’s blessing of Abraham and Levi paying tithes to Melchizedek were strong points that showed the superiority of Mel’s priesthood.

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Type and Fulfillment

1. We can start with the fact that he is priest of the Most High God.
2. We then add the names: King of Righteousness and King of Peace.
3. We may note his lack of genealogy or parents, making him resemble the Son of God with "neither beginning of days nor end of life."
4. We can point out the bread and wine in the Genesis story.
5. And finally, Abraham, the grandfather of Levi, paid tithes to him, while Melchizedek blesses Abraham, the one who had the promises of God.
 - Do you see a Jesus-like picture beginning to form here?

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Tithing?

- The original readers would have been very familiar with the idea of tithing - whether or not they practiced it themselves.
- A Jewish friend of mine when asked if Jewish people practice tithing, responded, "No, but it's still probably more expensive to be Jewish."
- We see from Genesis 14 that the idea was there long before the Israelites were told to give a tithe to the Levites.
- The Lord wants us to give generously to His work.
- A tithe is not clearly required in the NT, but it is not a terrible to start.



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Melchizedek's Priesthood 7:11-19

- **7:11-12** The Levitical priesthood was insufficient – it never made anyone perfect.
- Therefore **David**, prophesying in **Psalms 110:4**, says that another priest would arise “**after the order of Melchizedek**” and remain a priest forever.
- **7:13-14** Christ came, not from the tribe of **Levi**, but from **Judah**, David's royal tribe, **the tribe of the kings**.
- **7:15-17** Christ's authority doesn't come from the commandment in the law regarding Levi's priesthood, but from “**an indestructible life.**”

From Isaac
Watts

Hebrews
10:4



Isaac Watts
(1674 - 1748),
English Minister
and Hymn Writer

***Not all the blood of beasts
On Jewish altars slain
Could give the guilty conscience
peace
Nor wash away one stain.***



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Hebrews 10:4

For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.



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Christ's Eternal Priesthood 7:20-28

- God never guaranteed that the Levites would serve forever in their priestly role.
- That promise was given to the Messiah.
- Like all institutions involving mere mortals, the Levitical priesthood experienced a 100% turnover rate over time.
- This priesthood was only a foreshadowing - we might even say it was another kind of **type** - of the priesthood of Jesus Christ.

Better

Our
Key Verses

Offering
Once for
All

Better

- **7:22 better** This Greek word appears more times in Hebrews than in the rest of the New Testament put together.
- See also v. 18, where we have a **better hope**.
- It is not as if the Old Covenant (Old Testament) arrangement was bad and the New Covenant is good.
- The Old Covenant was good, and ordained by God for its time, but **the New Covenant is better**.



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Romans
8:33-34

From Leon
Morris

Romans 8:33-34

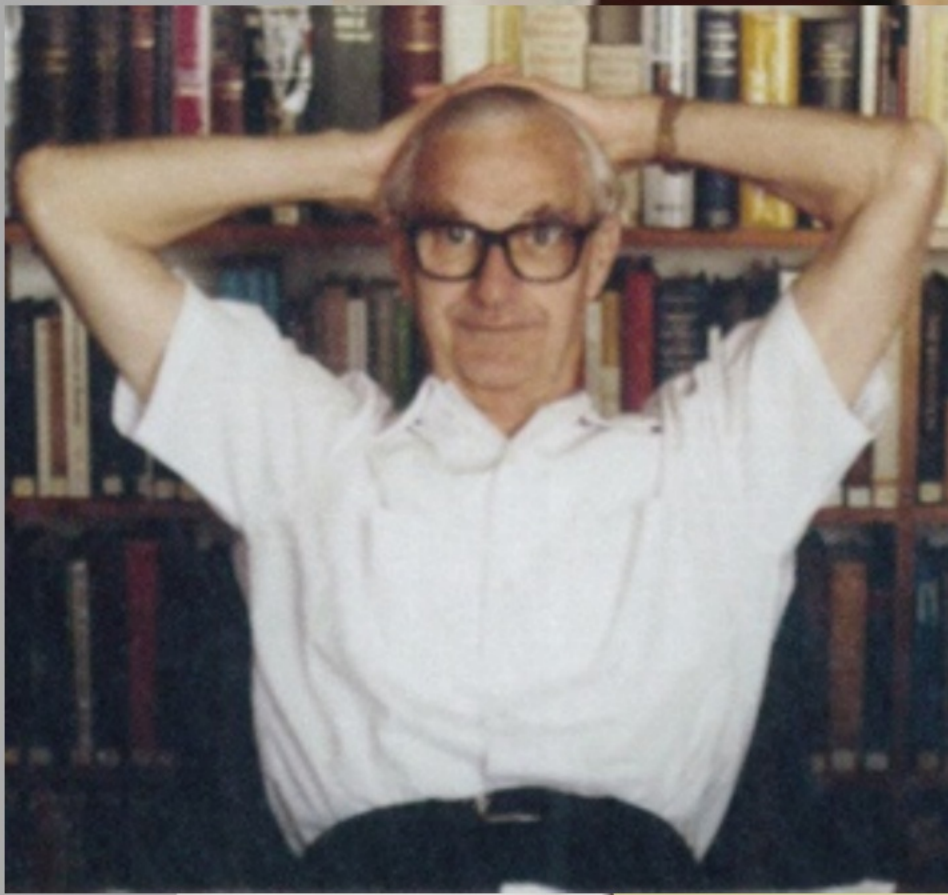
33 Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is to condemn? **Christ Jesus is the one who died**—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, **who indeed is interceding for us.**

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Leon Morris
(1914 - 2006), Australian
New Testament Scholar

The verb 'to save' is used absolutely, which means that **Christ will save in the most comprehensive sense;** he saves from all that humanity needs saving from.

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Offering Once for All

- **7:27-28 once for all** We might also say this, “once and for all,” or “once and only once.”
- Jesus stands out from the earthly priests:
 - He has no need give an offering for His own sin, because He is sinless.
 - He has no need to continually offer anything for the sins of others, because His one sacrifice perfectly completed this work.



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- That meant that he has a priesthood greater than that of Levi or Aaron - Abraham's descendants.
- This precedent allows Christ to come in and give us a better priesthood with a better high priest.
- Nothing we can hope for in any imaginable form of religion can ever surpass what God has given us in Christ.

Key Verses

A Final Prayer

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Heavenly Father,

- We thank you for Jesus Christ, our faithful and great High Priest. We thank you for looking upon our sins and loving us and sending Jesus to meet us at our point of greatest need.
- Help us to rely fully upon him, serving you out of love, rather than out of a sense of merit, as if we could ever impress you with our goodness.
- And help us to fulfill our role in the priesthood of all believers by offering our prayers, knowing that Jesus stands in your presence even now.
- In Christ,
- Amen.

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