

The Superiority of Melchizedek

Hebrews 7:1-10

- 1) Melchizedek is superior to the **OT kings** (7:1-3)
- 2) Melchizedek is superior to **Abraham** (7:4-7)
- 3) Melchizedek is superior to **Levi** (7:8-10)

- 1) (Jesus is superior to) Melchizedek (who) is superior to the OT kings (7:1-3)
- 2) (Jesus is superior to) Melchizedek (who) is superior to Abraham (7:4-7)
- 3) (Jesus is superior to) Melchizedek (who) is superior to Abraham (7:8-10)

Questions for further application of God's Word:

GO DEEPER

Read Genesis 14:1-20 and Psalm 110:1-7. Why did Abraham give Melchizedek a tithe and reject a tribute from the King of Sodom? Why did Jesus need to be a priest in the order of Melchizedek instead of a Levitical priest? How is Jesus even better than Melchizedek as a priest and as a king? Why don't we have priests in our day who offer sacrifices for our sins?

Who is this person Melchizedek? Why is he so important in the book of Hebrews? How is he like Christ Jesus? Is he a pre-incarnate appearance of Christ? Is he an angel? Who exactly is he?

How does the author of Hebrews show that Melchizedek was superior to Abraham, Levi, and the OT priesthood? How do you think the first century Christian Jews who received this letter would have responded to his argument? Would they be shocked? Perplexed? Intrigued? Encouraged? Put yourself in their shoes, and explain how you would respond?

GET PERSONAL

How do you feel honestly about priests? How do you feel about kings? Does Melchizedek's identity as a priest-king mean anything to you? How about Jesus's identity as a priest-king in the order of Melchizedek? Why do you need a priest before God? Why do you need a king?

The author of Hebrews refers to the matter of Melchizedek as "hard to explain" in 5:11. He initially avoids speaking about this topic because some among his audience are "dull of hearing" and needing of "milk, not solid food." Do an assessment of your own spiritual life? Which category do you find yourself in—milk or solid food (or some of both)? Are you able to comprehend the arguments concerning Melchizedek in this book? Do you find them confusing, boring, or unnecessary? Why would God include so much detail on this issue in his Holy Word?

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Watch the following video on Abraham and Melchizedek:

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/abraham-and-melchizedek/>

What are some key takeaways for you from this video? Is there anything that you disagree with or are confused by? How does the video elaborate on the ideas presented in Hebrews? For more on this video, watch the Q&A with the creators:

<https://youtu.be/GOXEADdM0ZI>

ADVANCED QUESTION

Melchizedek is often referred to as a type of Christ. How does this typology work? Explore the connections between Christ and Melchizedek in Hebrews 7:1-19. See the following video on typology to help you with this question:

<https://app.vidgrid.com/view/mMRUbRJoy6Sa>

¹ For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, ² and to him Abraham apportioned a tenth part of everything. He is first, by translation of his name, king of righteousness, and then he is also king of Salem, that is, king of peace. ³ He is without father or mother or genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but resembling the Son of God he continues a priest forever.

⁴ See how great this man was to whom Abraham the patriarch gave a tenth of the spoils! ⁵ And those descendants of Levi who receive the priestly office have a commandment in the law to take tithes from the people, that is, from their brothers, though these also are descended from Abraham. ⁶ But this man who does not have his descent from them received tithes from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises. ⁷ It is beyond dispute that the inferior is blessed by the superior.

⁸ In the one case tithes are received by mortal men, but in the other case, by one of whom it is testified that he lives. ⁹ One might even say that Levi himself, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, ¹⁰ for he was still in the loins of his ancestor when Melchizedek met him.