

Chapter Seven - Mysterious Melchizedek

Hebrews 7:1-28

Introduction: If you were asked to name the most important people in the Old Testament, I doubt that Melchizedek's name would be on your list. He appeared once, in Gen. 14:17-24; and he was referred to once more, in Ps. 110:4. In spite of their many failures, the priests of Aaron's day had served God for centuries; but now the writer has affirmed that their priesthood has ended! To prove this he gives three arguments.

1. The HISTORICAL Argument: (Heb. 7:1-10)

The writer of Hebrews mentions several facts about this mysterious man, Melchizedek.

He Was Both King And Priest (vs. 1). In the Old Testament, the throne and the altar were separated. But here is a man who had both offices—king and priest!

His Name Is Significant (vs. 2b). Melchizedek means "king of righteousness". The word Salem means "peace", so that Melchizedek is "king of peace" as well as "king of righteousness."

He Received Tithes From Abraham and Had Authority To Do So (vs. 2a, 4-10). The greatness of Melchizedek is seen in the fact Abraham acknowledged his authority. Melchizedek blessed Abraham; "the less is blessed of the better" (Heb. 7:7).

His Family History Is Different (vs. 3). There is no record of his genealogy in the Old Testament; It seems he was a real man, a real king, and a real priest in a real city. As far as the record shows, he was not born, nor did he die. In this way, he pictures the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God.

2. The DOCTRINAL Argument: (Heb. 7:11-25)

Melchizedek is greater than Aaron and he replaced him! Why the change?

Because both the priesthood and the Law were imperfect (vv. 11-14) and they could not continue forever (vv. 15-19). Because God's oath cannot be broken (vv. 20-22). Because, being men, the priests died (vv. 23-25). An unchanging priest means an unchangeable priesthood. "*Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, and today, and forever*" (Heb. 13:8).

3. The PRACTICAL Argument: (Heb. 7:26-28)

No matter how devoted and obedient the Aaronic priests were, they could not always meet the needs of all the people. But Jesus Christ perfectly meets all of our needs. "For such an High Priest became us" means "He was suited to us; He meets our needs completely." Because of their sins, some of the Old Testament priests not only were unable to serve the people, but actually abused them. This could never happen with Jesus Christ and His people. Jesus is:

- *Holy/Harmless/Separate From Sinners/Undefined/Made Higher Than The Heavens/Who needeth not daily... to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's*

The application is obvious: why turn away from such an adequate High Priest? What more can you find in any other person? The men who served under the Law of Moses had human infirmities and weaknesses, and they often failed. Our heavenly High Priest has been "consecrated [perfected] forevermore" (Heb. 7:28) and there is no spot or blemish in Him. Such a High Priest "suits us perfectly"!

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