

Hebrews 7:1-28

Session	Chapter	Topic
1	Hebrews 1:1-4	Introduction to Hebrews
2	Hebrews 1:5 – 2:4	Jesus is Greater than the Angels
3	Hebrews 2:5 – 3:6	Jesus' Sonship is Greater than Moses' Servanthood
4	Hebrews 3:7 – 4:13	Jesus' Rest is Better than Joshua's Rest
5	Hebrews 4:14 – 5:10	Jesus Christ, Our Great Appointed High Priest
6	Hebrews 5:11 – 6:20	Exhortation to Persevere in Light of God's Promise
7	Hebrews 7:1-28	Jesus, a High Priest in the Order of Melchizedek

After urging his readers to persevere on in their faith and talking about the certainty of God's promise, the author returns to tell his readers about Jesus becoming a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek. Melchizedek is first mentioned in Heb 5:10 without any elaboration. In Hebrews 7, the author takes the time to exegete Genesis 14:18-20, which is where Melchizedek is first mentioned in the Old Testament. In this chapter, the author begins to explain many of the ideas and themes that he has introduced earlier on.

To help us better understand Hebrews 7, let us first look at what Genesis 14 says about Melchizedek.

Launch

- 1) Who or what do you think are the modern-day equivalent of priests in the Old Testament?

Melchizedek in the Old Testament

Read Genesis 14:14-21

- 2) What are the two important roles that Melchizedek plays in Gen 14:18-20?
 - a. What did he do to Abraham? (v19-20)
 - b. What does it show about the status between Abraham and Melchizedek by Abraham giving Melchizedek a tenth of everything?
- 3) What else do we know about Melchizedek in Genesis? (Do a search on your Bible app or Bible Gateway for Melchizedek) Should we find that surprising? Why or why not?
- 4) Based on your search in question 3, where else in the Old Testament do we read about Melchizedek?
 - a. Read the whole Psalm. What does it say about him? What is surprising in the Psalm?

- 5) Summarise what we have found out about Melchizedek in the Old Testament.

Gen 14:18-20 and Psalm 110 Melchizedek Timeline



Jesus and Melchizedek in Hebrews

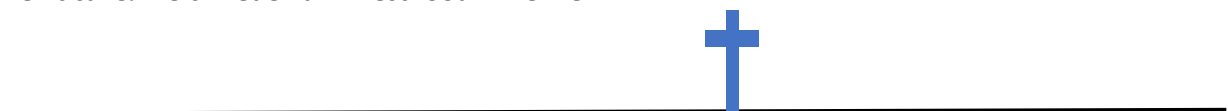
Read Hebrews 7:1-10

- 6) What does the author say about Melchizedek in v1-2a?
- 7) What additional information do we learn about Melchizedek in v2b?
- 8) What do you think he means by v3? (Consider your answer to question 3)
- 9) Explain the reasoning that the author gives in v4-8 about how great Melchizedek is. (Consider your answer to question 2b)
- 10) According to the author in v9-10, which priesthood is the greater priesthood? Why?

Read Hebrews 7:11-22

- 11) With the promise of the Melchizedekian priesthood, what is the author saying about the Levitical priesthood in v11?
 - a. What elements/themes of Old Testament worship that are connected to the priesthood?
 - b. Based on your question in question 11b, what will happen if you changed the priesthood?
 - c. What does the author say specifically about the law and the priesthood in v12?

Levitical & Melchizedekian Priesthood Timeline



12) Which tribe is our Lord Jesus from? What does the author say about that tribe serving at the altar? (v13-14)

13) Which priesthood then did Jesus become and on what basis was that done? (v16-17)

14) What was set aside and what was introduced? Why? (v18-19)

15) The author said that Jesus became a priest with an oath from God. What passage does the author quote?

Read Hebrews 7:23-28

16) Compare and contrast the Levitical priesthood and Melchizedekian priesthood from v23-28.

Levitical Priesthood	Melchizedekian Priesthood

Application

17) What can we learn about the process by which the author reads and interprets passages in the Old Testament?

- a. Why do you think the author spends such a large portion on the exegesis of OT passages on Melchizedek? (consider the temptations of the original readers)

18) What comfort can we draw from knowing that we have a perfect and eternal high priest before God?

Conclusion

The figure of Melchizedek is shrouded in mystery. He is first introduced in Genesis 14:18-20, as the king of Salem and priest of God most high. Given his status as king-priest (and priest of *God most high*), it is surprising that he is not recorded in any of the genealogies in Genesis. Even Abraham, who is considered as the patriarch of the people of God, paid a tithe to this Melchizedek. This further cements how important Melchizedek is. However, there is nothing else said of him in the rest of the Old Testament until Psalm 110. Thus, he resembles the Son of God. (Heb 7:3)

In Psalm 110, the prophesied Messiah is said to be the Davidic king and also a priest in the order of Melchizedek. This is significant because it implies that the current Levitical priesthood was not meant to last forever. With a change in priesthood, it also means that everything associated with Old Testament worship is to change as well, i.e. law, temple, sacrifices etc. (Heb 7:12).

Taking all of that in mind, the author shows how utterly significant and unique Jesus is as the Melchizedekian high priest. In fact, he became the high priest with an oath from God. He is the only one who is "holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens" (Heb 7:26). Because of this, we know that he is able to save completely those who come to God through him. The author will go on to discuss in great lengths about the high priestly sacrifice of Jesus in Hebrews 8 – 10.