

Hebrews 7:1-10

Week Ten

Study written by Holli Worthington



Day 1



Heavenly Father give me ears to hear and eyes to see what you have for me in your word today. Holy Spirit help me to understand and grasp the truths before me and let these truths penetrate my heart causing me to follow Jesus more closely.

- ✓ Read through the passage in each translation.
- ✓ Underline or write in the margin, themes that you see.
- ✓ Write a question you have about the passage.
- ✓ In the space below, write out a verse from our passage that stands out to you, that you can meditate on throughout the week.

Day 2- Hebrews 7:1-2a

Melchizedek has been mentioned three times so far in Hebrews, comparing his priesthood to the priesthood of Jesus. In chapter 7 we learn a little bit more about this mysterious man. Keep in mind what we know from 6:20 that Jesus is a priest of the same kind as Melchizedek.

1. What two positions did Melchizedek hold according to verse 1?

Scholar's Note: "Outside of Jesus and Melchizedek, Scripture identifies no one as both a king and priest. In fact, Israel markedly differentiated the roles of king and priest. No priest in the Old Testament could lawfully act as a king, and no king in the Old Testament could lawfully act as a priest."¹

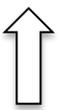
Digging Deeper: Read the following verses and answer the questions:

-How did King Uzziah sin against God?

-Why do you think it is significant that Jesus is both king and priest?

2 Chronicles 26:16-19 ¹⁶ But when he had become powerful, he also became proud, which led to his downfall. He sinned against the LORD his God by entering the sanctuary of the LORD's Temple and personally burning incense on the incense altar. ¹⁷ Azariah the high priest went in after him with eighty other priests of the LORD, all brave men. ¹⁸ They confronted King Uzziah and said, "It is not for you, Uzziah, to burn incense to the LORD. That is the work of the priests alone, the descendants of Aaron who are set apart for this work. Get out of the sanctuary, for you have sinned. The LORD God will not honor you for this!" ¹⁹ Uzziah, who was holding an incense burner, became furious. But as he was standing there raging at the priests before the incense altar in the LORD's Temple, leprosy suddenly broke out on his forehead." (NLT)

Picture and Ponder: "Now we come to the focal point of the book of Hebrews. Chapter 7 concerns the central, most significant part of Judaism—the priesthood. Without the priests, no sacrifices could be made, and without the sacrifices, no forgiveness of sins could be had. Obedience to the law was exceedingly important, but the offering of sacrifices was even more essential. And only the priesthood could offer them. It is no wonder that the priesthood was exalted in Judaism."²



Heavenly Father help me to grasp the significance of Jesus being not only my king, but my high priest forever. Thank you Jesus that you yourself are the perfect fulfillment of everything God required and promised.

2. What occurs in verse 1, between Melchizedek and Abraham?

3. What did Abraham give to Melchizedek according to verse 2a?

Critical Connection: Read the following section from Genesis and answer the question:

-What was the context of the interaction between Melchizedek and Abraham?

Genesis 14:14-20a ¹⁴When Abram heard that his nephew Lot had been captured, he mobilized the 318 trained men who had been born into his household. Then he pursued Kedorlaomer's army until he caught up with them at Dan. ¹⁵There he divided his men and attacked during the night. Kedorlaomer's army fled, but Abram chased them as far as Hobah, north of Damascus. ¹⁶Abram recovered all the goods that had been taken, and he brought back his nephew Lot with his possessions and all the women and other captives. ¹⁷After Abram returned from his victory over Kedorlaomer and all his allies...¹⁸ Melchizedek, the king of Salem and a priest of God Most High, brought Abram some bread and wine. ¹⁹Melchizedek blessed Abram with this blessing: "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth
20And blessed be God Most High, who has defeated your enemies for you. Then Abram gave Melchizedek a tenth of all the goods he had recovered." (NLT)

Day 3- Hebrews 7:2-3

Scholar's Note: 1. "Melchizedek is set forth as a type of Christ, and a type is *some other* person who symbolizes and anticipates the one who is to come." ³

2. "Type: A figure, representation, or symbol of something to come, as an event in the Old Testament foreshadows another in the New Testament. Types generally find their fulfillment in the person and ministry of Christ, but they sometimes relate to God, His people, or some other reality." ⁴

4. According to verse 2b, Melchizedek means-_____ and king of Salem means-_____

Critical Connection: Read the prophecy about Jesus from Isaiah and answer the question:

-How do we see Melchizedek's name and title reflect who Jesus is?

Isaiah 9:6-7

*⁶For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.*

And he will be called

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

*⁷Of the greatness of his government and peace
there will be no end.*

He will reign on David's throne

and over his kingdom,

establishing and upholding it

with justice and righteousness

from that time on and forever.

The zeal of the LORD Almighty

will accomplish this." (NIV)

5. Define righteousness-



Melchizedek, king of righteousness and king of peace, serves to point us to Jesus, the supreme King of righteousness and peace. Jesus' righteousness surpasses all others and is seen in his perfect, sinless life. The peace that Jesus offers is not temporary or superficial, but is eternal and necessary for life with God. When sinners turn from their own self-righteousness and accept Jesus' perfect record of righteousness as their own, only then can we finally have true and lasting peace with God.

- ❖ As a believer how does harboring sin in your life affect your peace with God?

- ❖ When you think of the sacrifice it took to make your relationship with God possible how does that motivate you to keep diligent in nurturing that relationship?

- ❖ If you are still basing your hope for relationship with God on your own righteousness, you can turn from that now to Jesus, the one and only Savior, who is the King of righteousness and peace, just by asking him to forgive your sins and be the King of your life. If you make this decision, let someone who will rejoice and pray with you, know.



Jesus thank you for living in me so that your righteousness is counted as mine, and your death is payment for my debt, bringing me lasting peace with God. What a wonderful Savior!

6. What is recorded of Melchizedek's lineage or birth and death according to verse 3?

Scholar's Note: "The silence of the Old Testament Scriptures concerning [Melchizedek's] parentage has a designed significance. The entire omission was ordered by the Holy Spirit ... in order to present a perfect type of the Lord Jesus."⁵

7. According to verse 3, how does Melchizedek resemble Jesus?

Scholar's Note: "The writer says that Melchizedek is "made like" (aphomoiomenos) the Son of God, not that the Son of God is like Melchizedek. Thus it is not that Melchizedek sets the pattern and Jesus follows it. Rather, the

record about Melchizedek is so arranged that it brings out certain truths that apply far more fully to Jesus than they do to Melchizedek.”⁶

8. What does it symbolize that Melchizedek had no record of his birth or death? Or to ask another way, how does this point to Jesus?

Critical Connection: Remember that the priests and those who served in the tabernacle and later in the temple all were descendants of Levi, but the priests had to be descended from Aaron, who was a specific line of Levi. Read the following verses and answer the questions:

-How was the priesthood carried on?

-How long did the priests serve?

-How important was the genealogy in determining whether one could serve as a priest?

Numbers 3:5-6, 15-16 “And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, “Bring the tribe of Levi near, and set them before Aaron the priest, that they may minister to him. They shall keep guard over him and over the whole congregation before the tent of meeting, as they minister at the tabernacle...”¹⁵ “Record the names of the members of the tribe of Levi by their families and clans. List every male who is one month old or older.”¹⁶ So Moses listed them, just as the LORD had commanded.”

Numbers 18:7 “But only you and your sons can serve as priests at the altar and in the most holy place. Your work as priests is a gift from me, and anyone else who tries to do that work must be put to death.” (CEV)

Numbers 16:40 ⁴⁰ This would warn the Israelites that no unauthorized person—no one who was not a descendant of Aaron—should ever enter the LORD’s presence to burn incense. If anyone did, the same thing would happen to him as happened to Korah and his followers...” (NLT) (The earth opened and swallowed Korah and his company.)

Numbers 8:23-25 “²³ The LORD also instructed Moses, ²⁴ This is the rule the Levites must follow: They must begin serving in the Tabernacle at the age of twenty-five, ²⁵ and they must retire at the age of fifty.” (NLT)

Ezra 2:61-63 ⁶¹ Three families of priests—Hobaiah, Hakkoz, and Barzillai—also returned... ⁶² They searched for their names in the genealogical records, but they were not found, so they were disqualified from serving as priests. ⁶³ The governor told them not to eat the priests’ share of food from the sacrifices until a priest could consult the LORD about the matter by using the Urim and Thummim—the sacred lots.” (NLT)

9. With the above context in mind, what is remarkable about Melchizedek’s priesthood?



It’s hard for most of us to understand how crucial the priesthood was to God’s people. God established the office of priest with Aaron, Moses’ brother, during the wilderness wandering. At this point a man named Korah, who was a Levite, but not from the line of Aaron, disputed the system that God had set up and decided that it wasn’t enough for him to serve in the tabernacle, but that he was good enough to serve as a priest. This was so serious that God opened up the ground and it swallowed Korah and his followers. The people weren’t too happy to see 250 of their friends swallowed up, so they foolishly protested and rebelled. Now the people were in danger of being wiped out completely because of their rebellion against God. We see in Numbers 16:46-48 what happens next...

⁴⁶ And Moses said to Aaron, “Take your censer, and put fire on it from off the altar and lay incense on it and carry it quickly to the congregation and make atonement for them, for wrath has gone out from the LORD; the plague has begun.” ⁴⁷ So Aaron took it as Moses said and ran into the midst of the assembly. And behold, the plague had already begun among the people. And he put on the incense and made atonement for the people. ⁴⁸ And he stood between the dead and the living, and the plague was stopped.”

Without the priest making atonement for the sins of the people, they would all perish in the face of God’s holiness and wrath against sin. This is why the author of Hebrews is showing his original readers and us how Jesus is our

ultimate high priest – we need no one else! With Jesus as your priest you will not be consumed by the wrath of God for your sin.

“²³ For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard. ²⁴ Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. ²⁵ For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood.” Romans 3:23-25a (NLT)

- ❖ Why do we need a high priest?

- ❖ How did Jesus stand between sinners and God’s wrath against sin?

- ❖ Why is Jesus the only priest we need?

Day 4- Hebrews 7:4-6

Having established that the life of Melchizedek is a *type* of Christ – anticipating and pointing to Jesus’ life and ministry, the author now lays out the points that show the supremacy of Melchizedek’s priesthood over the Levitical priesthood.

10. Look up the word *tithe* and write the definition:

- 11. Abraham was the father of the Jewish nation. If the honored patriarch of the whole nation was tithing ten percent of everything he had won from his enemies to Melchizedek, what does this say about the man to whom he was giving the tithe?

Scholar's Note: "...that Abraham is addressed as a "patriarch" is another important detail in this verse. In the New Testament, the word patriarch does not appear many times, but it is a word of unique importance in the history of Israel. Patriarch denotes the highest level of honor in Jewish life. Men like Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are considered some of Israel's most significant patriarchs. They were the foundation of Israel's identity. These patriarchs are recognized as figures through whom God acted in salvation history in order to set the stage for what he accomplished in Christ." ⁷

Critical Connection: Read the following verse and answer the question:

-Why did the people pay a tithe to the Levites even though they were all descendants of Abraham?

Numbers 18:21 "As for the tribe of Levi, your relatives, I will compensate them for their service in the Tabernacle. Instead of an allotment of land, I will give them the tithes from the entire land of Israel." (NLT)

12. Knowing that the Israelites were required to pay a tithe to the Levites, why is it unusual that Abraham paid a tithe to Melchizedek according to verse 6? (See NLT)

Day 5- Hebrews 7:6b-10

13. How is Abraham described in verse 6b when he is blessed by Melchizedek?



Because Jesus is our High Priest we are the ones who have the promises of God! What priceless treasure these are! Not only do we have the promise of eternal life with God in the future, but we also have his marvelous promises to lean on each day through the difficulties and challenges of this life. Living by

faith on God's promises is the way we operate in his strength and power instead of our own. When we ask God for help, trust a specific promise and then step out in faith and act, we tap in to God's power and help! Like Abraham, we are blessed and privileged to have the promises of God. Don't neglect this gracious resource God has given us for living by faith!

- ❖ Check out these promises: Is.41:10, Luke 12:11b-12, Phil. 4:19, 2 Cor. 9:8, 12:9, Heb. 13:5-6, Ps. 84:11, 23:6, 50:15, 56:9, 2 Chron. 16:9, Matt.6:33, Ja. 4:7, Rom.8:32,
- ❖ Make a list of God's promises that you can go to quickly each day as needs arise.

14. What truth is expressed in verse 7?

Critical Connection: Our Hebrews author is really driving home the fact that Melchizedek was greater than Abraham; and as one commentator put it, "since the Levitical priests descend from Abraham and Melchizedek surpasses Abraham, the Melchizedekian priesthood must be superior to the Levitical priesthood." ⁸ The point of this is to show that "the Levitical priesthood was always meant to give way to something greater."⁹

-Read the verses from Leviticus that describe the Levitical priests offering sacrifices for sin. Then read the verses from the New Testament and write down the ways that Jesus is the "something greater" that the Levitical priesthood pointed to.

Leviticus 4:32-34, 35b "If he brings a lamb as his offering for a sin offering, he shall bring a female without blemish and lay his hand on the head of the sin offering and kill it for a sin offering in the place where they kill the burnt offering. Then the priest shall take some of the blood of the sin offering with his finger and put it on the horns of the altar of burnt offering and pour out all the rest of its blood at the base of the altar... And the priest shall make atonement for him for the sin which he has committed, and he shall be forgiven."

John 1:29 “The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, ‘Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!’”

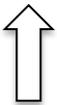
1 Peter 1:18-19 “...knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.”

1 Peter 3:18a “For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God...”

Hebrews 10:14 “For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.”

Romans 5:9 “Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.”

Revelation 1:5b “To him [Jesus] who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood...”



Jesus I thank you that by your righteous life and perfect sacrifice you have made me righteous and brought me to God. Only you, the perfect high priest could accomplish this for me!

One Thing: Look back over this week’s study. Pick one thing that God was stirring in your heart, convicting you about, or something new that you learned and write it here.

How will knowing this impact the way you think and act?

¹ Mohler, R. Albert. Exalting Jesus in Hebrews (Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary) (p. 99). B&H Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.

² MacArthur, John F.. Hebrews (MacArthur Bible Studies) (p. 51). Thomas Nelson. Kindle Edition.

³ Richard D. Phillips. Hebrews (Reformed Expository Commentary) (Kindle Location 2820). Kindle Edition.

⁴ MacArthur, John F.. Hebrews (MacArthur Bible Studies) (p. 52). Thomas Nelson. Kindle Edition.

⁵ Pink, Arthur W. An Exposition of Hebrews (Arthur Pink Collection Book 21) (Kindle Location 6302). Priscilla Publishing. Kindle Edition. as quoted in F. Richard D. Phillips. Hebrews (Reformed Expository Commentary) (Kindle Locations 2852-2853). Kindle Edition.

⁶ Morris, Leon. Expositor's Commentary

⁷ Mohler, R. Albert. Exalting Jesus in Hebrews (Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary) (p. 102). B&H Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.

⁸ Mohler, R. Albert. Exalting Jesus in Hebrews (Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary) (p. 103). B&H Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.

⁹ Ibid.

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