# A SUPERIOR HIGH PRIEST



# Hebrews 7:1-10 Review

In <u>7:1-10</u>, the author <u>establishes the superiority</u> of Melchizedek's priesthood over the Levitical priesthood:

- Melchizedek's name means "king of righteousness" and "king of peace", foreshadowing the Messiah (v.2)
- His priesthood is depicted as <u>eternal</u>, without beginning or end (v.3)
- Abraham, the patriarch, <u>paid tithes to Melchizedek</u>, showing his greater status (vv.4-6)

# Hebrews 7:11-19 Review

In <u>7:11-19</u>, the author argues that the prophecy in <u>Psalm 110:4</u> about a priesthood in the "order of Melchizedek" implies <u>the</u> <u>Levitical system was inadequate</u>:

- God's oath instituting a new priesthood like Melchizedek's requires a <u>change in the law</u> (v.12)
- The Levitical priests could not make anyone perfect, but the hope is realized through Christ's superior priesthood (v.19)
- Christ, from the tribe of Judah, ushers in <u>a better covenant</u> with God (vv.13-16)

Hebrews 7, A Superior High Priest The benefits of this new priest...

(vv.20-22) Jesus is the guarantor of a better covenant. (vv.23-25) Jesus lives forever, therefore, has an eternal priesthood.

Two Important Keys (v.25)

**1.** Jesus completely saves those who draw near to God through Him

2. Jesus is able to completely save because he always lives to intercede

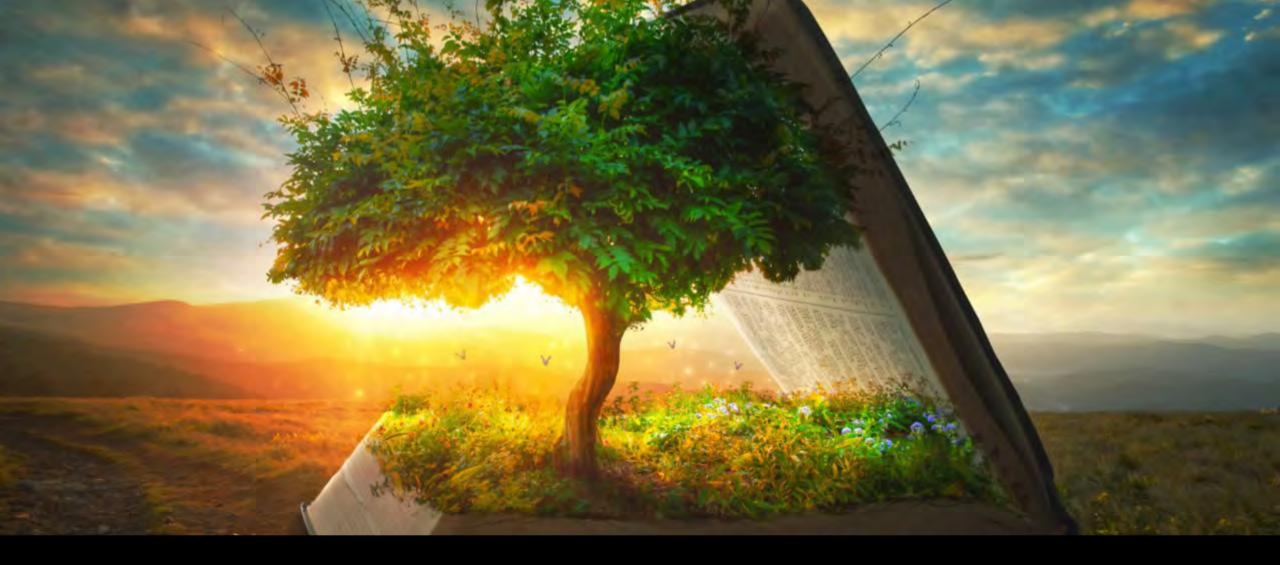
Jesus is the <u>King of Righteousness</u> the <u>King of Peace</u>! Jesus is the <u>permanent High Priest</u> that God promised.

#### **Hebrews 7, A Superior High Priest**

- Melchizedek's unique priesthood prefigures Christ's; both are eternal and superior to the Levitical order (v. 1-10)
- Levitical priesthood's limitations highlighted, necessitating a new priestly order (v. 11-14)
- Jesus' priesthood, confirmed by an oath, is perfect and everlasting (v.15-22)
- Christ's unending priesthood ensures His perpetual intercession for us (v.23-28)

#### Implications

- Transition from the old to the new covenant, with Christ as the eternal high priest
- Jesus' perfect priesthood assures ongoing mediation & access to God



# **HEBREWS CHAPTER 7 REVIEW**

#### **<u>7:1-10 MAIN POINT</u>**:

To demonstrate the superior nature and greater authority of Melchizedek's priesthood in comparison to the later Levitical priesthood.

- 1. List the ways that Melchizedek was greater than those of the Levitical priesthood.
  - <u>**Precedence</u>** Melchizedek's priesthood predated the Levitical priesthood</u>
  - <u>Blessing</u> Melchizedek blessed Abraham, the father of the Israelites – Levitical priesthood
  - <u>**Tithe</u>** Abraham, the patriarch, paid a tithe to Melchizedek, acknowledging Melchizedek's higher priestly status</u>
  - <u>Endurance</u> Melchizedek's priesthood is depicted as eternal, unlike the temporal Levitical priesthood

- 2. Why is the statement in verse 3 *"without father, without mother, without genealogy"* important?
  - It's important because it suggests <u>Melchizedek's priesthood</u> was not dependent on ancestry or the Mosaic law, unlike the Levitical priests.
  - This points to the eternal, superior nature of Melchizedek's priesthood.

#### **7:11-19 MAIN POINT:**

Why the priesthood had to be changed from the Levitical order to the order of Melchizedek.

- 3. Why was the priesthood changed from the Levitical order to the order of Melchizedek?
  - The priesthood was changed from the Levitical order to the order of Melchizedek because <u>the Levitical priesthood was</u> <u>insufficient to provide the ultimate perfection and salvation</u>

that was needed.

 The fact that God established a new priesthood "in the order of Melchizedek" <u>implies the Levitical priesthood could</u> <u>not accomplish what was required</u>.

- 4. Why was the law weak and unprofitable? What purpose did the law have, according to the text?
  - <u>It could not bring people to perfection before God</u>.
  - The law had the purpose of <u>pointing people to their need</u> for a better covenant and a better priest who could remove sin and provide full access to God.

- 5. According to this section of text, what about Christ and His priesthood are better than the Levitical priesthood? What is unique about His priesthood?
  - It <u>can truly save and perfect</u> those who draw near to God through Him.
  - His priesthood is unique in that <u>it is eternal and established</u> <u>by God's oath</u>, unlike the temporary Levitical priesthood.

#### **7:20-28 MAIN POINT:**

# To explain the benefits and superiority of Christ's eternal high priesthood.

- 6. Why does the writer keep emphasizing that Jesus was not made a priest without an oath? (Other priests were not made priests with an oath.)
  - It shows that <u>His priesthood carries more authority and</u> <u>permanence</u> than the Levitical priesthood, which was not established with an oath.

- 7. What is meant by, "He is able to save to the uttermost?"
  - It means that <u>Jesus is able to completely and fully save</u> those who draw near to God through Him.
  - His eternal priesthood provides the <u>perfect and final</u> <u>solution for removing sin</u> and <u>giving full access to God</u>.

- 8. According to this text, give a list of all the things that are better about the priesthood of Christ (vs. Levitical)?
  - It is established by God's oath (7:20-21)
  - It guarantees a better covenant (7:22)
  - It is permanent and eternal (7:23-25)
  - It can completely save those who draw near to God (7:25)
  - Jesus is holy, innocent, unstained, and did not need to offer sacrifices for his own sins (7:26-27)

#### TRANSFORMATION

What do you learn about God from this chapter? How does this change the way you see God and how does this change your life? How does this encourage us to stand in the faith?

- It reveals the depth of God's love for us, that He would establish such an amazing High Priest (far exceeds the limitations of the Levitical system) to make intercession on our behalf.
- This should fill us with awe, gratitude, and confidence to draw near to God through Christ.
- This encourages us to stand firm in our faith, knowing that Jesus has done everything necessary to secure our salvation.