

STUDYING THE BOOK OF HEBREWS
IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Lesson 12 - Melchizedek the Priest - Hebrews 7:1-10

Read the following verses in the New International Version or a translation of your choice. Then discuss the questions that follow. Questions should be studied by each individual before your discussion group meets.

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HEB 7:1 This Melchizedek was king of Salem and priest of God Most High. He met Abraham returning from the defeat of the kings and blessed him, [2] and Abraham gave him a tenth of everything. First, his name means "king of righteousness"; then also, "king of Salem" means "king of peace." [3] Without father or mother, without genealogy, without beginning of days or end of life, like the Son of God he remains a priest forever.

HEB 7:4 Just think how great he was: Even the patriarch Abraham gave him a tenth of the plunder! [5] Now the law requires the descendants of Levi who become priests to collect a tenth from the people--that is, their brothers--even though their brothers are descended from Abraham. [6] This man, however, did not trace his descent from Levi, yet he collected a tenth from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises. [7] And without doubt the lesser person is blessed by the greater. [8] In the one case, the tenth is collected by men who die; but in the other case, by him who is declared to be living. [9] One might even say that Levi, who collects the tenth, paid the tenth through Abraham, [10] because when Melchizedek met Abraham, Levi was still in the body of his ancestor.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 12 - Melchizedek the Priest - Hebrews 7:1-10

118. Who was Melchizedek? (7:1)
119. How was Melchizedek associated with Abraham? (7:1)
120. What did Abraham give to Melchizedek? (7:2)
121. What does the name Melchizedek mean? (7:2)
122. What is significant about the title, "king of Salem"? (7:2)
123. What about the Genesis record of Melchizedek's life foreshadowed or anticipated the priesthood of Christ? (7:3)
124. How do we know that Melchizedek was "great"? (7:4)
125. How did the Mosaic law ensure that the Levitical priests were provided for? (7:5)

126. Why was it unusual for Melchizedek to receive a tithe from Abraham? (7:6)
127. What did the ancient practice of one person blessing another say about the two parties involved? (7:7)
128. How did the tithe collected by Melchizedek differ from the tithes collected by the Levites? (7:8)
129. How did Levi—the yet-unborn collector of tithes—pay tithes to Melchizedek? (7:9-10)
130. In what ways is Jesus like Melchizedek?

Lesson 13 - Jesus Like Melchizedek - Hebrews 7:11-28

HEB 7:11 If perfection could have been attained through the Levitical priesthood (for on the basis of it the law was given to the people), why was there still need for another priest to come—one in the order of Melchizedek, not in the order of Aaron? [12] For when there is a change of the priesthood, there must also be a change of the law. [13] He of whom these things are said belonged to a different tribe, and no one from that tribe has ever served at the altar. [14] For it is clear that our Lord descended from Judah, and in regard to that tribe Moses said nothing about priests. [15] And what we have said is even more clear if another priest like Melchizedek appears, [16] one who has become a priest not on the basis of a regulation as to his ancestry but on the basis of the power of an indestructible life. [17] For it is declared:

"You are a priest forever,
in the order of Melchizedek."

HEB 7:18 The former regulation is set aside because it was weak and useless [19] (for the law made nothing perfect), and a better hope is introduced, by which we draw near to God.

HEB 7:20 And it was not without an oath! Others became priests without any oath, [21] but he became a priest with an oath when God said to him:

"The Lord has sworn
and will not change his mind:
'You are a priest forever.' "

[22] Because of this oath, Jesus has become the guarantee of a better covenant.

HEB 7:23 Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office; [24] but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. [25] Therefore he is able to save completely* those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

HEB 7:26 Such a high priest meets our need--one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. [27] Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself. [28] For the law appoints as high priests men who are weak; but the oath, which came after the law, appointed the Son, who has been made perfect forever.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 13 - Jesus Like Melchizedek - Hebrews 7:11-28

131. Why did a new priest from the order of Melchizedek come along to replace the order of Aaron? (7:11)
132. What does a new priesthood require? (7:12)
133. What made Jesus unique as a member of His tribe? (7:13-14)
134. From what tribe did Jesus Christ come? (7:13-14) How is this significant?
135. What connection did Jesus' tribe have to the Jewish priesthood? (7:14)
136. On what basis did Christ become a priest? (7:15-16)
137. Why is the new covenant superior to the old covenant of law? (7:18-19)
138. How is Jesus unique among the priests who represented Israel before God? (7:23-25)
139. What does Jesus do for those who come to God through Him? How? (7:25)
140. What is Jesus, our high priest, like? (7:26-27)
141. What did the Levitical priests have to do before they offered sacrifices for the sins of the people? (7:27)
142. How did Jesus perform His function as high priest when he was on earth? (7:27)
143. How does it make you feel to know that Jesus is praying for you at this very moment?

144. In what way can Christ's priesthood give us confidence to draw near to God?