

TEXT- Hebrews 7:1-28 *For this Melchisedec, king of Salem, priest of the most high God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him; 2 To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace; 3 Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually. 4 Now consider how great this man was, unto whom even the patriarch Abraham gave the tenth of the spoils.*

INTRO- This chapter introduces us to the major second section of Hebrews.

I. A Superior Person: Christ (1-6)

- A. Christ compared to the prophets (Heb_1:1-3)
- B. Christ compared to the angels (1:4-2:18)
- C. Exhortation: Let us not drift from the Word (Heb_2:1-4)
- D. Christ compared to Moses (3:1-4:13)
- E. Exhortation: Let us not doubt the Word (3:7-4:13)
- F. Christ compared to Aaron (4:14-6:20)
- G. Exhortation: Let us not grow dull toward the Word (5:11-6:20)

II. A Superior Priesthood: Christ and Melchizedek (7-10)

- A. A better order: Melchizedek, not Aaron (Heb_7:1-28)

III. A Superior Principle: Faith (11-13)

This shows that the priesthood of Christ is better than that of Aaron's (Aaron's successors were at that time ministering on earth, Heb. 8:4 His priesthood is of a superior order Heb. 7:1-28.

It is ministered under a superior covenant Heb. 8:1-13,

In a superior sanctuary Heb. 9:1-28,

Because of a superior sacrifice Heb. 10:1-39.

The key figure in Heb. 7:1-28 is that mysterious king-priest, Melchizedek, who appears but twice in the entire OT Gen. 14:17-20,

Psa. 110:4 *The LORD hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.*

Three arguments prove the superiority of Melchizedek over Aaron.

I. The Historical Argument: Melchizedek and Abraham Heb. 7:1-10

A. Melchizedek is identified as a type of Christ **Heb. 7:3, Heb. 7:15.** He was both king and priest, and so is Jesus. No priest in Aaron's line ever sat on a throne.

B. Melchizedek was king of Salem, which means "peace"; and Jesus is our King of Peace, our Prince of Peace. The name "Melchizedek" means "king of righteousness," a name which applies to Christ, God's Righteous King. So, in his name and his offices, Melchizedek is a beautiful likeness of Christ.

But Melchizedek also resembles Christ in his origin.

The Bible contains no record of his birth or his death. Of course, this does not mean that Melchizedek had no parents or that he never died.

Melchizedek, like Christ, is "without beginning of days or end of life" — his priesthood is eternal. His priesthood did not depend on earthly successors, while the Aaronic priests had to defend their office by family records. Every high priest that descended from Aaron died, but Christ, like Melchizedek, holds His priesthood permanently **Heb. 7:8, 16, 24-25.**

Having identified Christ with the order of Melchizedek, the writer now explains that Melchizedek is superior to Aaron, for Aaron paid tithes to Melchizedek while yet unborn in the loins of Abraham. This event clearly showed the inferiority of the Aaronic priesthood.

II. The Doctrinal Argument: Christ and Aaron Heb. 7:11-25

Having clearly established the historical foundations for the superiority of Melchizedek over Aaron, the writer now shows that Melchizedek is also superior from a doctrinal point of view. Here he uses the quotation from **Psa. 110:4** as the basis for the argument, and he presents three facts:

A. Aaron was replaced by Melchizedek Heb. 7:11-19.

When God said to Christ in **Psa. 110:4**, "*Thou art a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek,*" He was actually setting aside the Levitical priesthood founded in Aaron. It is impossible for two divine priesthoods to operate side by side. The fact that God established the new order proves that the old order of Aaron was weak and ineffective; and it also meant that the Law under which Aaron functioned was likewise set aside: "**The Law made nothing perfect**" **Heb. 7:19.** Consequently, the priesthood made nothing perfect **Heb. 7:11, 19** and the sacrifices these men offered made nothing perfect **Heb. 10:1.**

The Hebrew word for *perfect* means "*having a perfect standing before God*" Aaron was made priest by a carnal commandment, but Christ's priesthood functions "after the power of an endless life" **Heb. 7:16** because, unlike Aaron, Christ will never die.

B. Aaron was not ordained by an oath Heb. 7:20-22

While God acknowledged Aaron and his successors in the elaborate ceremonies, we have no record of a divine oath that sealed their priesthood. In fact, God would not seal their order with an oath because He knew that their work would one day come to an end. But when He ordained Christ to be a priest, He confirmed it with an unchanging oath.

C. Aaron and his successors died, but Christ lives forever Heb. 7:23-24.

The Law was holy and good, but it was limited by the frailties of the flesh. Aaron died; his sons after him also died. The priesthood was as good as the man, and the man did not last forever.

But Christ lives to die no more! He has an unchanging priesthood because He lives by the power of an endless life. He “continues forever” to make intercession for God’s people and thus is able to save them (God’s people) “to the uttermost.” Heb. 7:25 its main application is to the saved, those for whom Christ intercedes daily. The point here is that those whom He saved are saved forever, for eternity!

III. The Practical Argument: Christ and the Believer Heb. 7:26-28

Heb. 7:26 *For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;* He was fitting for us— that is, suits us, meets our needs. No descendant of Aaron could fit the description given of Christ in these verses. These men were not “holy, harmless, undefiled.” Aaron made a golden calf and led Israel into idolatry! And Eli’s sons were guilty of gluttony and immorality **1 Sam. 2:12**.

We have a perfect High Priest: He is holier and higher than any priest on earth, for He is ministering in the heavenly tabernacle in the very presence of God.

Aaron and his sons had to offer daily sacrifices, for themselves first, and then for the people. Christ is sinless; He needs no sacrifices. And the one sacrifice that He offered settled the problem of sin for all eternity. Furthermore, He offered *Himself*, not the blood of bulls and goats.

CONCL – The order of Melchizedek is superior to the order of Aaron.

- This point has been proved historically, Because Abraham honored Melchizedek above Levi;
- It has been proved doctrinally, for **Psa. 110:4** definitely states that God created a new order of priesthood in the Law
- It has been proved practically, for no man could ever qualify to be High Priest except Jesus Christ.

There is no need for us to look beyond Christ — He is all that we need.