

MELCHIZEDEK

Hebrews 7:1-28; Genesis 14:18-20; Psalm 110:4

I. Orders of Priesthood

A. Levitical Priesthood—Tribe of Levi, descendants of Aaron

1. **National**—limited sphere of authority, specific to Israel
2. **Institutional Authority**—*authority in the office, not the person*
3. **Appointed by Inheritance** (Ex 29:29)—descendants of Aaron; automatic transfer of title, not earned.
4. **Provisional**—*not eternal, not given by oath; it was revocable*

B. Melchizedek's Priesthood—greater than Levitical priesthood

1. **Universal**—for the entire world; outside Levitical system
 - a. **Preceded** Levi (Jn 1:15)—came **before**
 - b. **Independent** of the regulations given to Moses.
 - c. **Superseded** the greatness of Abraham, Levi and Aaron
2. **Personal Authority**—he **is** the authority; not conferred by law or dependent upon an institution
 - a. **Not Inherited**—not granted because of father
 - b. **Recognized**—apparent that God has chosen, set apart
3. **Appointed By Oath**—*personal oath stronger than tradition*
4. **Eternal**—no term limits, no end of days

II. The Identity of Melchizedek (3)—different guesses; only 4 verses in the OT

A. Pre-Incarnate Christ (Jn 7:27)—literal interpretation of Hebrews passage, not just literary comparison

B. Shem (Gen 6:10 and 11:10-11)—righteous firstborn son of Noah

III. **A Type of Christ**—type is a symbol, foreshadowing, picture of something greater (Melchizedek is a prophetic foreshadowing of Jesus)

A. **Superior to Abraham** (Jn 8:58)—Abe *tithed to Mel* and was *blessed by* him

B. **His Titles**—*both king and priest*, not possible for a Levitical priest (Judah is tribe of Davidic kings; Levi is the only tribe for priests)

1. **Melchizedek** (Jer 23:6)—“king of righteousness” (name or title)

2. **King of Salem** (Isa 9:6,7)—Salem means “peace”

3. **Priest of the Most High God** (Isa 53)

C. **Uniquely Appointed by God**—the promised Chosen, Anointed One not from within established Levitical system but appointed directly by God (like Mel)

D. **Eternal Priesthood**—Not time-bound, no term limit, for always

IV. **The Guarantee of Better** (22)

A. **Old Covenant Priesthood** (11-18)—inadequate, religious ritual

1. **Weak and Useless** (18)—ineffective to *fix* the problem

a. **Multiple Imperfect Priests** (23, 27, 28)—weak, mortal, sinful

b. **Repetitive Daily Sacrifices** (27)—reminds of our sin but can't cure

2. **Set Aside** (11, 18,19)—no longer necessary or in use; obsolete

B. **Our New Covenant Priest** (22)—Jesus provides *actual* salvation

1. **Powerful and Effective** (25)—saves to the uttermost!

a. **One Perfect Priest** (26, 28)—Jesus Christ

b. **Once-for-All Sacrifice** (27)—Himself on the cross; “It is finished!”

2. **Eternally Enduring** (25)—perfect, priestly intercession in Heaven on our behalf that will never end

Listen to “**Before the Throne of God Above**” (Selah)

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