

The Promise: Jesus, Superior to Melchizedek
Hebrews 7:1-10

INTRODUCTION:

- Reminder to read “Radical”
- Commissioning of Spring Break mission teams
- Greet each other (teams return to seats)

I. The Person of Melchizedek (vv.1-3)

A. His Identity

1. **Genesis 14:18-20**
2. **Psalm 110:4**
 - a) References back to the promise and oath made by God to Abraham to make him the father of many nations
 - b) Ties to the future revelation of Christ Jesus
3. King of Salem
4. Priest of God, who blessed Abraham and received tithes from him

B. His Name

1. King of righteousness (by definition)
2. King of Salem (that is, peace)

C. His Nature

1. A Christ type (anything more?)
2. No lineage recorded
3. No birth or death recorded
4. He is like Christ, as He continues as priest due to no record of his death

II. The Position of Melchizedek (vv.4-10)

A. Superior to Abraham

1. Received a tithe of Abraham’s spoils
2. And all of his descendants are subject to him via Abraham

B. Superior to Levitical Priesthood

1. They gave a tithe to Abraham
2. All priests served, by type and image, the reality of the Christ

III. The Purpose of the Teaching on Melchizedek

A. Jesus is Superior to Levitical Priests (like Melchizedek)

1. By nature
 - a) The point, here, is not that Christ is argued as being higher than Melchizedek. Rather, that Christ most pointedly is greater than the Levitical priesthood (like Aaron) -- It wouldn’t make sense to argue that Christ is greater than such an obscure figure. However, it makes perfect sense to the argument and the text that His supremacy is in relationship to Aaron’s line.
 - b) His Identity -- as a Son (**Hebrews 3:5-6**)
 - c) His Name -- the Prince of Peace (Isa. 9:6)
 - d) His Nature -- we know His origin, yet He has none, and He remains and will always

e) It is in this way that Jesus is superior to Melchizedek, but it is Jesus Melchizedek was pointing to, and this is the greater point of the text. Jesus is superior because He has always been the point of the text, even all the way back to Melchizedek.

2. By work

a) **Hebrews 7:26-28**

b) Superior as Priest in position and work

c) NOTE: Next week look at Jesus being superior in priestly work.

B. Jesus is our resting place

1. As a superior person in nature, we can **rest assured** that God's promise of salvation, the creating of a spiritual nation through Christ, is sure due to His name, His character, His nature being on the line. HE WILL NOT FAIL!

2. Knowing, then, that His work of redeeming His own is tied to His character, every bit of His birth, life, death, burial, resurrection, ascension, and reign secures for us eternal life. THIS IS ASSURANCE! HE WILL NOT FAIL!

IV. Living Like Christ is Superior in Person

A. Imitation

1. Abraham is to be our example (6:11-13)

2. In our being steadfast, we are to emulate Abraham's faith

3. In being inferior to Melchizedek, we cannot ignore the example in Abraham's relationship

a) Giving Christ everything by regularly literally giving up a portion

b) In every battle waged, waste nothing, it is for Christ

B. Humility

1. We are not superior to anyone

2. We are to live like everyone else is superior

3. We are to worship like subjects worship a king; like children adoring a father; like those who own nothing, but are stewards of everything

4. Centrality of the Word in our lives, but making sure we don't read it wrongly. This passage reminds us that the Scriptures are about Christ, and not us. We can look for life verses, and take obscure passages to make decisions, but we must realize that the Scriptures are about Christ, His nature and work. Therefore, wherever you find yourself in the text, you find that you are either the object of God's great affection through grace, or an object of God's wrath through justice unless you turn from your prideful pursuit, turn around, and trust His finished work for you.