

Today we continue considering Melchizedek. Hebrews uses Melchizedek as the prototype of Christ's priesthood, showing that Christ's priesthood is superior to the Levitical priesthood under the Old Covenant law.

1. Hebrews 7:4-10 shows Melchizedek's superiority to Abraham and Abraham's descendants through the
 - i. Giving of tithes
 - ii. The giving and receiving of a blessing.
2. Jesus compared to Melchizedek 7:11-22
 - a. This identification with Melchizedek points to a change in the law- Christ comes under a better law that completely removes sin.
 - b. God promises that Christ will be a priest forever in Psalm 110:4, thus this points to a necessary change in the Law for Him to be able to do so.
3. Christ compared to the Levitical priesthood 7:11-28.
 - a. Christ is superior because of the power of an indestructible life 7:16-17.
 - b. Christ brings a better hope than the weakness of the Law 7:19
 - c. Christ receives His priesthood through a promise and an oath from God Almighty. 7:20-21
 - i. Thus, Jesus is the guarantor of a better covenant than the Old Covenant. 7:22
 - d. Christ is superior because He has an indestructible life whereas the Levitical priests died over the years. One estimate is that there were 83 high priests from Aaron until the destruction of the Temple in 70 AD. 7:23-24
 - i. Thus, Christ can save His people forever since He never dies. 7:25
 - e. Christ's priesthood and sacrifice are superior to the Old Covenant system. 7:26-28
4. Chapter 8 continues this argument:
 - a. Christ is superior because of where He sits: the Throne of Heaven. 8:1
 - b. He ministers in God's very presence, not in a copy of Heaven. 8:2
 - i. The Levitical priests serve in a Tabernacle and Temple that is but a copy of the True Temple where God reigns. 8:5
 - c. The New Covenant is enacted on better promises than the Old Covenant. 8:6-12
 - i. He quotes Jeremiah 31:34, the promise of the New Covenant. 8:8-12

- ii. The promise is that God will remember our sins no more. 8:12
- d. The New Covenant makes the Old Covenant obsolete. 8:13

There were several questions about Psalm 110 and why Hebrews quotes it so extensively. This is the full text of the Psalm, written by David.

Psalm 110 (ESV)

A PSALM OF DAVID.

1 The LORD says to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.”

2 The LORD sends forth from Zion your mighty scepter. Rule in the midst of your enemies!

3 Your people will offer themselves freely on the day of your power, in holy garments; from the womb of the morning, the dew of your youth will be yours.

4 The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind, “You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.”

5 The Lord is at your right hand; he will shatter kings on the day of his wrath.

6 He will execute judgment among the nations, filling them with corpses; he will shatter chiefs over the wide earth.

7 He will drink from the brook by the way; therefore he will lift up his head.

Things to notice:

Who is being discussed.

What is promised.

The two separate roles combined in one personage and why this is significant.

The promise of verse 4 and who makes the promise.

Several things to observe:

This psalm is one of the most cited Old Testament texts in the New Testament. Quotations or allusions from it are found in the Gospels, Acts, Paul’s letters, Hebrews, and Peter’s letters. Jesus quotes from it to confound the Pharisees (Matthew 22:44-46) and alludes to it in His defense before the High Priest. (Matthew 26:64)