

The Book of Hebrews Chapter 6

Hebrews 7:1-28 (ESV)

For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him,² and to him Abraham apportioned a tenth part of everything. He is first, by translation of his name, king of righteousness, and then he is also king of Salem, that is, king of peace.

Abraham is met by Melchizedek and gives him his Tithes

Genesis 14:17-20 (NASB) Then after his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley).¹⁸ And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; now he was a priest of God Most High.¹⁹ He blessed him and said, "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth;²⁰ And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand." He gave him a tenth of all.

Melek = King

Tsedeq = Righteousness

Salem = Peace

This was an earlier name for Jeru-salem

Jerusalem means "In Awe of Peace" or "Teaching Peace". It was a city built on two peaks of a mountain... Moriah, where Abraham was to offer up Isaac and Zion where the Temple was built.

Moriah means "Seen of Yahweh"

Zion means "Conspicuous" as in a Pillar or Signpost

NOAH, SHEM AND ABRAHAM

Noah was and Abraham were contemporary for 58 years...

Shem lived for 600 years...

Shem was 305 when Abraham was born and lived beyond Abraham for 20 years.

Shem was 405 when Isaac was born and he was 465 when Jacob and Esau were born!

Shem was born 98 years before the flood and lived for 600 years and Abraham met Melchizedek when he was about 80 years old...

The Ancient Rabbis concluded that Melchizedek was Shem the son of Noah, who was king and priest to those that descended from him, according to the patriarchal model.

Melchizedek was a "King-Priest"...

The Levitical Priests could not become a King and no King was to ever take the Office of a Priest. King Uzziah, who was a great King, tried but he became a leper until the day he died...

2 Chronicles 26:16-21 (NKJV)

¹⁶ But when he was strong his heart was lifted up, to his destruction, for he transgressed against the LORD his God by entering the temple of the LORD to burn incense on the altar of incense. ¹⁷ So Azariah the priest went in after him, and with him were eighty priests of the LORD--valiant men. ¹⁸ ***And they withstood King Uzziah, and said to him, "It is not for you, Uzziah, to burn incense to the LORD, but for the priests, the sons of Aaron, who are consecrated to burn incense. Get out of the sanctuary, for you have trespassed! You shall have no honor from the LORD God."*** ¹⁹ Then Uzziah became furious; and he had a censer in his hand to burn incense. And while he was angry with the priests, leprosy broke out on his forehead, before the priests in the house of the LORD, beside the incense altar. ²⁰ And Azariah the chief priest and all the priests looked at him, and there, on his forehead, he was leprous; so they thrust him out of that place. Indeed he also hurried to get out, because the LORD had struck him. ²¹ King Uzziah was a leper until the day of his death. He dwelt in an isolated house, because he was a leper; for he was cut off from the house of the LORD. Then Jotham his son was over the king's house, judging the people of the land.

Hebrews 7:3 He is without father or mother or genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but resembling the Son of God he continues a priest forever.

Here Melchizedek is contrasted with the Levitical Priests whose Priesthood depended upon genealogy... see verse 6

Hebrews 7:4 See how great this man was to whom Abraham the patriarch gave a tenth of the spoils!

So, we see that Tithing began long before The Law of Moses...

Hebrews 7:5-10 And those descendants of Levi who receive the priestly office have a commandment in the law to take tithes from the people, that is, from their brothers, though these also are descended from Abraham. ⁶ But this man who does not have his descent from them received tithes from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises. ⁷ It is beyond dispute that the inferior is blessed by the superior. ⁸ In the one case tithes are received by mortal men, but in the other case, by one of whom it is testified that he lives. ⁹ One might even say that Levi himself, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, ¹⁰ for he was still in the loins of his ancestor when Melchizedek met him.

The Levitical Priesthood was imperfect

Hebrews 7:11 Now if perfection had been attainable through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need would there have been for another priest to arise after the order of Melchizedek, rather than one named after the order of Aaron?

Once the Levitical Priesthood was Replaced... The Law of Moses was Replaced too!

Hebrews 7:12 For when there is a change in the priesthood, there is necessarily a change in the law as well.

Jesus was not a Levite

Hebrews 7:13-16 For the one of whom these things are spoken belonged to another tribe, from which no one has ever served at the altar. ¹⁴ For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, and in connection with that tribe Moses said nothing about priests. ¹⁵ This becomes even more evident when another priest arises in the likeness of Melchizedek, ¹⁶ who has become a priest, not on the basis of a legal requirement concerning bodily descent, but by the power of an indestructible life.

Who could this Melchizedek be?

Hebrews 7:17-19 For it is witnessed of him, "You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek." ¹⁸ For on the one hand, a former commandment is set aside because of its weakness and uselessness ¹⁹ (for the law made nothing perfect); but on the other hand, a better hope is introduced, through which we draw near to God.

Romans 8:3 (NIV2011)

For what ***the law was powerless to do*** because it was weakened by the flesh, ***God did*** by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh,

Galatians 3:1-29 (NKJV)

O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified? ² This only I want to learn from you: ***Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? 3 Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?*** ⁴ Have you suffered so many things in vain--if indeed it was in vain?

⁵ Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, does He do it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?-- ⁶ just as Abraham "believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." ⁷ Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham. ⁸ And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, "In you all the nations shall be blessed." ⁹ So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham. ¹⁰ ***For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them."*** ¹¹ But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for "the just shall live by faith." ¹² ***Yet the law is not of faith***, but "the man who does them shall live by them." ¹³ ***Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us*** (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"), ¹⁴ that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. ¹⁵ Brethren, I speak in the manner of men: Though it is only a

man's covenant, yet if it is confirmed, no one annuls or adds to it. ¹⁶ ***Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "And to your Seed," who is Christ.*** ¹⁷ And this I say, that the law, which was four hundred and thirty years later, cannot annul the covenant that was confirmed before by God in Christ, that it should make the promise of no effect. ¹⁸ For if the inheritance is of the law, it is no longer of promise; but God gave it to Abraham by promise. ¹⁹ ***What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made;*** and it was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator. ²⁰ Now a mediator does not mediate for one only, but God is one. **21 *Is the law then against the promises of God? Certainly not! For if there had been a law given which could have given life, truly righteousness would have been by the law.*** ²² But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. ²³ ***But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed.*** ²⁴ ***Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.*** ²⁵ ***But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.*** ²⁶ For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁷ For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ ***And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.***

Jesus becomes a Priest with an Oath

Hebrews 7:20-22 And it was not without an oath. For those who formerly became priests were made such without an oath, ²¹ but this one was made a priest with an oath by the one who said to him: "The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind, 'You are a priest forever.'" ²² This makes Jesus the guarantor of a better covenant.

Jesus lives forever!

Hebrews 7:23-25 The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office, ²⁴ but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he

continues forever. ²⁵ Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

1 Corinthians 1:21 (NASB)

For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not *come to* know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached ***to save those who believe.***

Jesus is not like the Levitical High Priests

Hebrews 7:26-27 For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself.

Ephesians 5:1-2 (NASB) Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; ² and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, ***an offering and a sacrifice to God*** as a fragrant aroma.

Hebrews 7:28 For the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been **made perfect forever.**

Hebrews 2:10 (NASB) For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, ***to perfect the author of their salvation through sufferings.***