

# HEBREWS

## A. THE SUPERIORITY OF CHRIST (1:1 – 10:18)

*The relationship of Christianity to Judaism was crucial to the early church. The letter carefully explains how Christ is superior to angels, Moses, and high priests. It also shows that the new covenant is far superior to the old. These facts should be a great encouragement to us and help us not to drift away from our faith in Christ.*

### Melchizedek is compared to Abraham

*The Old Testament high priests came from a family descended from Aaron. There was to be no other line. Jesus did not come from the family of Aaron nor was he a descendent from Levi, but was of the line of Judah, which was never priestly. The letter's writer here 'overcomes' this problem.*

**7:2ff** How do you think the writer indicates that Christ is greater than even Abraham?

Why were the Levitical priests inferior to Melchizedek?

**7:3-10** How does the case of Melchizedek resolve the problem of Christ as High Priest when he wasn't from the priestly line of Levi?

**7:11-17** Why was Christ's high priestly role greater than that of the levitical priests?

If Christ is our High Priest do we need others to pray for us and should we pray for others?

**7:18, 19** All the good things we do cannot save us, however sincerely we might do them. What then is the purpose of the law of God?

**7:22-24** Why is the new covenant better than the old?

**7:25** Why doesn't Christ need to keep being sacrificed or we need other

Saviours to come to die for us, especially as we still sin? May be it is because we now are able to earn forgiveness?

What does it mean that Christ 'intercedes' with God for us?

**7:27** Why when the animals were sacrificed in the Old Testament were the carcasses cut into pieces, the parts washed, the fat burned, the blood sprinkled, and the meat boiled? Blood was always required for atonement.

Why was there no need to go back to the old Jewish system after Christ died on the cross?

**7:28** What is the conclusion we can draw from this last verse of the chapter about going back to Judaism?

## BIBLE REFERENCES

**7:1-2**

Gen 14:17-20

**7:3**

Ps 110:4

**7:4**

Gen 14:20

**7:5** Greek *their brothers, who are descendants of Abraham.*

Num 18:21, 26

**7:6**

Rom 4:13

**7:7**

Gen 14:19

**7:8**

Heb 5:6; 6:20

**7:11** Greek *according to the order of Aaron*  
Ps 110:4; Heb 5:6; 7:17

**7:14**

Gen 49:10; Isa 11:1; Matt 1:3; 2:6; Luke 3:33; Rom 1:3; Rev 5:5

**7:17**

Ps 110:4; Heb 5:6; 6:20

**7:18**

Rom 8:3

**7:19**

Rom 3:20; Heb 9:9; 10:19-22

**7:21**

Ps 110:4; Heb 5:6; 6:20; 7:17

**7:22**

Heb 8:6; 12:24

**7:24**

Isa 9:6-7; Rev 1:18

**7:25** Or *able to save completely*

Rom 8:24; 1 Jn 2:1

**7:26**

2 Cor 5:21; Heb 4:14

**7:27**

Lev 9:7; 16:6, 11, 15; Eph 5:2; Heb 9:12

**7:28**

Heb 2:10; 5:1-2

## Melchizedek

If you like a good mystery, you'll like Melchizedek! He is one of the most mysterious people in the Bible. He had the title 'King of Peace'.

One day, out of the blue, Melchizedek appeared in the life of Abram (to become Abraham) – and then he was never heard of again. Yet what happened on that day he appeared to Abram was remembered throughout the Old Testament times to be finally referred to in the letter to the Hebrews.

Abram and Melchizedek met up in a most unusual way. They were both strangers and foreigners to each other, yet they both worshipped the one God who made heaven and earth. Abram had just defeated the army that had kidnapped his nephew and family. At the same time he set free a lot of captives. Melchizedek came on the scene and reminded Abram as to whose victory it really was. "And blessed be God Most High who has helped you conquer your enemies" (Genesis 14:20).

Abram recognised that this man worshipped the same God he did.

Melchizedek was apparently one of a small group of God-honouring people not related to Abraham. He shows that believers are not confined to Jews. Faith is not based on ethnic lines, but is to those who obey God and recognise his greatness.

God speaks to us through others – and he may speak through non-Christians, too! However, not all religions lead to God, nor in fact worship the true God. We will also find that other Christians may worship God in different ways to those which we are accustomed to.

Melchizedek, Abraham, David and the Lord Jesus all worshipped the true and living God but they did so in different ways. Among New Testament believers Jewish Christians and Gentile Christians worship differently. There are differences in the forms of worship in England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland. What we all must do to worship aright is worship in spirit and in truth.

## MELCHIZEDEK

### Strengths and accomplishments

The first priest-king of the Bible – a leader with a heart tuned to God

Good at encouraging others to serve God wholeheartedly

A man whose character reflected his love for God

A person in the Old Testament who reminds us of Jesus and who some believe really was Jesus

### Lesson from his life

Live for God and you are likely to be at the right place at the right time. Examine your heart: to whom or what is your greatest loyalty? If you can honestly answer *God*, you are living for him.

### Vital statistics

Where: ruled in Salem, site of the future Jerusalem

Occupation: King of Salem and priest of God Most High

### Key verses

"This Melchizedek was king of the city of Salem and also a priest of God Most High. When Abraham was returning home after winning a great battle against many kings, Melchizedek met him and blessed him. ... Consider then how great this Melchizedek. Even Abraham, the great patriarch of Israel, recognised how great Melchizedek was by giving him a tenth of what he had taken in battle" (Hebrews 7:1, 4)

Melchizedek's story is told in Genesis 14:17-20. He is also mentioned in Psalm 110:4; Hebrews 5-7.