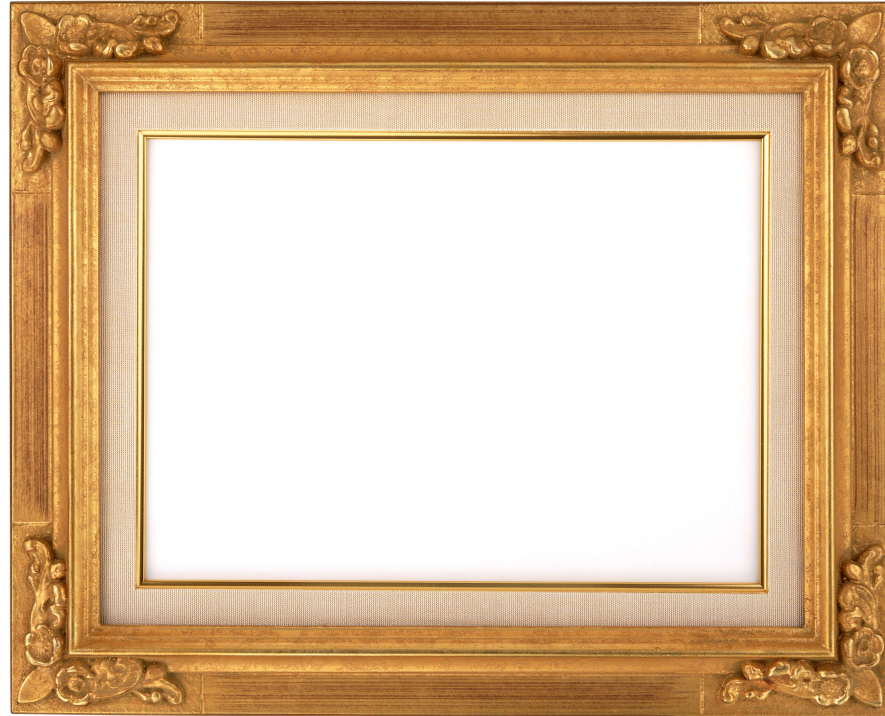


# A Greater Priesthood Pictured



HEBREWS 7:1-10

# Introduction

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# *From the get go...it is important to consider a few things about Melchizedek*

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- ❖ Not an angel (Priestly duty is assigned to men not to angels)
- ❖ Not a “theophany” of a pre-incarnate appearing of Jesus (like the son of God)
- ❖ He is a “type” or a picture of the Jesus Christ

# “Christ Type”: A picture or illustration of who Jesus Christ would be perfectly

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- A Picture or Illustration (not the actual person)
- They are an imperfect, small glimpses into the fulfillment we see in Jesus Christ

## Examples:

Jonah in the whale for 3 days: Picture of Christ death and Resurrection

**Matthew 12:40 (NASB95) — 40** *for just as JONAH WAS THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS IN THE BELLY OF THE SEA MONSTER, SO will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.*

Statue of Serpent in the wilderness: Picture of Christ being raised up on the cross

**John 3:14 (NASB95) — 14** *“As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up;*



## *So it is with Melchizedek ...*

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“having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek”

**“According”**: similar or corresponding to, a glimpse or picture

# Theme

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Melchizedek's priesthood is superior to the Levitical priesthood and serves as a picture for the need of a greater priesthood to fully deal with sin

# A Positional Priesthood (1-3)

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**Hebrews 7:1–10 (NASB95)** — **1** For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham as he was returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, **2** to whom also Abraham apportioned a tenth part of all the spoils, was first of all, by the translation of his name, king of righteousness, and then also king of Salem, which is king of peace.

## 1) Priest

*“of the Most High (God)”*

## 2) King

*“Priest-King”*

# A Peaceful Priesthood (1-3)

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*Hebrews 7:1–10 (NASB95) — 1 For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham as he was returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, 2 to whom also Abraham apportioned a tenth part of all the spoils, was first of all, by the translation of his name, king of righteousness, and then also king of Salem, which is king of peace.*

“King of Righteousness”

- Character and rule

“King of Salem”

- Ruler of God’s holy city (Salem, Zion, Jerusalem)

# A Prompt Priesthood (3)

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*3 Without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God,*

- To be a priest, one had to be born in the line of Aaron
- Scripture does not record anything of Melchizedek's mother, father, birth, or death
- He just kind of comes on the scene in Genesis 14
- He has no hereditary pedigree that qualifies him to be a priest and yet he is



# Remind you of anyone else????

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*Isaiah 53:2 For He grew up before Him like a tender shoot, And like a root out of parched ground*

- Lit: he “sprang up” like a tender shoot
- He did not come in the line of Aaron

Yet, he is meets and exceeds the qualifications of a High Priest

# A Perpetual Priesthood (3b)

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*he remains a priest perpetually.*

- Levitical term of service age 25-50 years old
- The Levitical system was temporary
- Melchizedek's Priesthood was perpetual

# A Proven Priesthood (4-7)

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## 1) Abraham tithed to Melchizedek

Question: What is significant about this gift? What does it symbolize?

### **a) The Levitical Priesthood was temporary and the Priesthood of Melchizedek was eternal**

**8** In this case mortal men receive tithes, but in that case one receives them, of whom it is witnessed that he lives on..

### **b) The Levites, through Abraham, acknowledged the superiority of Melchizedek's priesthood**

**9** And, so to speak, through Abraham even Levi, who received tithes, paid tithes, **10** for he was still in the loins of his father when Melchizedek met him

# A Proven Priesthood (4-7)

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**2) Abraham was blessed by Melchizedek**

**Question:** but how great was Melchizedek?

*7 But without any dispute the lesser (Abraham) is blessed by the greater(Melchizedek).*

# What is the writer of Hebrews doing by explaining Melchizedek's priesthood?

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He is building the case for a new priesthood that is needed to deal once and for all with sin. One that Abraham could not deal with, one that the priest and the sacrificial system could not fully atone for, and one that even though Melchizedek's priesthood was superior to these, he was just a picture of One to come that would deal with sin, once and for all.



# Comparing the Levitical Priesthood to Melchizedekian Priesthood

	Levitical Priesthood	Melchizedek
worshipped	YHWH (National Worshp)	“God most High” (universal)
Role	Priest	Priest and King
Described as	“ignorant, misguided, beset with weakness”	“Righteous” “Peaceful”
Position	Hereditary (Aaron)	Appointed by God Most High
Length of Service	Priest: Age 25-50 years System: Ended 70 AD	Perpetual
Relation to Abraham	From Abraham	Greater than Abraham
Relation to Christ	Obsolete	Picture of Christ’s fulfillment

# Implications and Application

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## **Praise God for His infinite wisdom**

“The accounts of Melchizedek in sacred history are one of the most remarkable proofs of divine inspiration and unity of Scripture. The whole concept of Melchizedek is a an amazing insight into the fact that God wrote the Bible. In Genesis we have only 3 verse about Melchizedek. Some thousands of years later David makes a briefer mention of him in Psalm 110:4, declaring for the first time that Messiah’s priesthood would be like Melchizedek’s. After another thousand years, the writer of Hebrews tells us even more of Melchizedek’s significance. He reveals things about Melchizedek that even Melchizedek, or his contemporary, Abraham did not know-and of which David only had a glimpse. So we reason that God who wrote the book of Hebrews wrote the book of Genesis and Psalm 110-and the rest of Scripture”

# Implications and Application

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**Praise God for the reality of this picture in Christ**

“who has become such not on the basis of a law of physical requirement, but according to the power of an indestructible life” (Hebrews 7:16)