

THE PRIESTHOOD OF MELCHIZEDEK (#1)

Request: “Could you explain in more detail our connection to the priesthood of Melchizedek?”

The writer of Hebrews declared the superiority of the New Covenant in Jesus Christ to the Old Covenant in Moses. “For when there is a change of the priesthood, there must also be a change in the Law.” (Heb.7:12, NIV)

This lesson will introduce four aspects of the Priesthood of Jesus Christ after the order of Melchizedek.

1. Melchizedek is mentioned three times in the Bible (Gen.14:18-22; Ps.110:1-4; and Heb.5-7).

Gen.14:18-22 identifies an **historical** Melchizedek with the Abrahamic Covenant (AC) about 400 years before the Levitical priesthood. He was a priest of the El Elyon [The Most High God] (Heb.7:1; 8:1). The Most High God is superior to all other so-called gods.

Ps.110:1-4 identifies a **prophetical** Melchizedek with the Davidic Covenant (DC) about 600 years after the Levitical priesthood.

Heb.5-7 identifies a **doctrinal** Melchizedek with the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ to bring to fulfillment both the Old Covenant and the New Covenants.

2. The change of covenant and priesthood is the theme of the Book of Hebrews.

The writer of Hebrews gives **nine references** of the superiority of the New Covenant and the Church Age Priesthood of the Believer over the Old Covenant and Levitical Priesthood.

Heb.2:17-18 _____ Heb.7:11- 8:2 _____

Heb.3:1-6 _____ Heb.9:11-10:10 _____

Heb.4:14-16 _____ Heb.10:19-25 _____

Heb.5:5-10 _____ Heb.13:9-16 _____

Heb.6:13-20 _____

3. We will examine our lesson text by the following four homiletical points (Heb.7:11-17).

- Change of priesthood (Heb.7:11) _____
- Change of Law (Heb.7:12) _____
- Change of order (Heb.7:13-15) _____
- Change of requirement (Heb.7:16-17, 26) _____

4. The Melchizedek priesthood of Jesus Christ is related to His death, burial, and resurrection-ascension. (Heb.7:15-17).

This priesthood is based on the doctrinal principle that He is the Most High God (Heb.7:24-8:1).

“But He, on the other hand, because **He abides forever, holds His priesthood permanently**. Hence, also, He is able to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. For it is fitting that we should have such a **high priest, holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners and exalted above the heavens.**” (Heb.7:24-26)