

In chapters 7-10 the author of Hebrews presents another comparison regarding Jesus' sufficiency and His supremacy to that of the Old Covenant. Specifically, He is compared to the priestly line of the Levites and their inability to bring about perfection. Ultimately, Jesus is better than the priests of Aaron because only in Him are we able to perfect before God, clothed in Christ.

Hebrews 6:19-7:22

The Priestly Order of Melchizedek

I. COMPARING OUR STORIES

MY EXPERIENCE...

YOUR EXPERIENCE...

In any good mystery, drama, or story, you never want to ignore subtle events or mysterious characters that make a brief appearance. Often it's the ones who show up for a moment that hold great significance in the unfolding events of the greater narrative. Paying attention to the details, or lack of them, can offer a foreshadow of greater lessons later revealed.

II. CONSIDERING OUR STRUGGLES

WHAT seemingly subtle or insignificant event has God used to bring about a significant lesson or understanding about Him?

HAVE you ever had a brief encounter with another person who, looking back, was instrumental in shaping who you've become?

DO you ever wonder if the seemingly brief conversations or interactions with others make a difference for eternity?

Hebrews 6:19- 7:22

The Priestly Order of Melchizedek

Read Hebrews 6:19-7:22

OBSERVATION

What does the text reveal in 6:20-7:3 about Melchizedek?

According to vs. 4, what did Abraham give him, and why is this “abnormal” according to vs. 5-6?

Who blessed who in the interaction recorded in vs. 6-7 and why was this significant, according to vs. 7?

What was the Levitical priesthood not able to attain for the people (vs. 11) and what need did this create?

When the priesthood changes, what also must change (vs. 12)?

What tribe did Jesus descend from (vs. 14)?

On what basis did Jesus become a priest (vs. 15-16)?

According to vs. 18-22, why was the former commandment set aside, and why is this new one better?

INTERPRETATION

What historical reference does the author make regarding Melchizedek in vs. 1-3? Read Genesis 14:17-19 for reference.

What meaning might Melchizedek’s name, genealogy, and place of origin hold? Consider Ezra 2:61-63 for insight.

Why is it significant that Melchizedek was a priest and a king? How were these two offices supposed to operate in relation to each other? Consider Deuteronomy 17:14-20 and 1 Samuel 10:8, 13:8-14 for insight.

Why is the tithe and blessing, as depicted in this passage, serious in establishing the identity of Melchizedek? What does vs. 9 mean? Why does it matter if a Levite were to pay a tithe to Melchizedek?

According to vs. 11, what comes first, the priesthood or the law, and why does it matter?

According to vs. 16, how was Jesus established as a priest forever? What are His “credentials”?

What was the law unable to do in vs. 19? What did Jesus do according 10:1-4, 11-14, and what is the ultimate result for us, according to 4:16?

APPLICATION

How does remembering Jesus’ better priesthood effect you personally *and* in your interactions with others?