

INTRODUCTION

- Jews who have become Christian but are now looking at returning to Judaism because of persecution.
- We need a priesthood and Judaism has one that is well established.
- Argument is Jesus is a Greater High Priest. How can that be? Jesus isn't from the family of Aaron or the Tribe of Levi.
- The answer is that Jesus is a Greater type of priesthood in the order of Melchizedek. Not a priest like Levi, but like Melchizedek.

THE IDENTITY OF MELCHIZEDEK**VS 1-3 Both King and Priest at the same time. King of Salem (Jerusalem)**

- *In Israel a king acting as a priest was a major no no.*
- *The office of priest and king were always rigorously kept separate.*
- *Kings rule with power based on royal claims, hereditary, by conquest or force.*
- Uzziah (2 Chron. 26) became proud and as king entered in the temple to burn incense as only a priest should do. 80 courageous priests followed him in and confronted him and when he flew off the handle. God struck him with leprosy never able to enter the temple again.

Melchizedek is only found in three places in the Bible. It talks about him historically in Genesis, prophetically in Psalms and Theologically in Hebrews.

Genesis 14:12-24 - Read and exposit

- First name means king of righteousness. King of Salem means king of peace.
- Order may not be coincidence. Righteousness comes before peace.
- **Without father or mother, geneology, beginning of days or end of life.**
- **Some have speculated Melchizedek is in-fact the Pre-incarnational Jesus.**
- In don't think so. Look at vs 3. Resembling the Son of God.
- What's happening here is using a rabbinic method of interpretation by silence.
- *Genesis is all about genealogies and numbers. But Melchizedek stands out.*
- It's not that Melchizedek didn't have parents or never died, but that the absence of mention of it in the OT provides details that point to Jesus.
- **Melchizedek is a TYPE of CHRIST. We look at Him and he points to Jesus.**

MELCHIZEDEK IS GREATER THAN BOTH ABRAHAM AND LEVI**VS 4-10**

- The argument is that Melchizedek was greater than Abraham and Levi and since Jesus is a priest in order of Melchizedek His priesthood is greater Levis Priesthood
- *If Melchizedek is so great and he is only a type of Christ (a shadow pointing to the real thing), think how Great Jesus must be.*
- *And think how obsolete and inferior the priesthood you Hebrews are thinking of going back to really is.*

Proof Melchizedek is greater Abraham & Levi

1. Abraham was a great man but he was actually blessed by Melchizedek
2. Melchizedek didn't receive a tithe from his own people because of his lineage like the Levites, but even without lineage, Abraham recognized Melchizedek as a priest immediately.
3. Melchizedek didn't take the office from someone and hand it off to someone else. **Numbers 20:22-29** – The death of Aaron and removal of his garments.
4. Levi and the other priests also tithed to Melchizedek as they were in Abraham's loins.
 - a. Paul's argument that when Adam sinned, the entire human race sinned. (Romans 5:12)
5. The priest who collected Abraham's tithe is declared to be living, while the priests of the Levitical priesthood who collected tithes all died.
6. The Levites are descendants of Abraham and Abraham's priest was Melchizedek.
7. The Priesthood of Melchizedek both predates and postdates the priesthood of Levi.

INADEQUACY OF LEVI'S PRIESTHOOD COMPARED TO MELCHIZEDEK PRIESTHOOD OF JESUS

Vs 11-12 - The law gave a priesthood (Levitical) through which perfection (salvation) could not be attained. If it could provide salvation there wouldn't have been a need for another priest to come in the order of Melchizedek rather than the order of Aaron and the Levites.

Levi's was temporary; Melchizedek priesthood of Jesus' was permanent.

- The Levitical priesthood "Pictured" perfection. The Law demanded perfection. The Levitical priesthood couldn't provide perfection.
- **When the priesthood is changed**, means the imperfect priesthood of Aaron and Levi is replaced with that which is was pointing to. Jesus
- Christianity isn't enhanced Judaism but its intended replacement.
- The Sacrificial bull was not really a sacrifice. It was a representation of a sacrifice to come.

Vs 13-14 – He to whom these things are said is Jesus.

Levi's was hereditary and official; Melchizedek priesthood of Jesus' was personal and eternal.

- We know Jesus isn't from the tribe of Levi where the priests come from. Jesus is from the genealogical line of Judah.
- Moses never said anything about priests from the line of Judah so Jesus wouldn't qualify as a priest under the law "so the law must change also" vs12

Vs 15-7- If a different priesthood arises when the priesthood you currently have isn't able to do the one thing it is meant to do (Save you) and it is based not on law and ancestry but on the character of the priest Himself. His indestructible life.

Vs 18-19 – We can set aside the Levitical priesthood because it didn't accomplish what a priesthood is supposed accomplish.

- It said stay away stay away. Not come to God
- If you have a pen and you can't use it to write, throw it away and grab one that works.

Vs 20 -22 - When God made his covenant with Abraham He made it with an oath as an everlasting covenant. Gen. 22:16 "I swear by myself".

Levi's was without and oath, Melchizedek priesthood of Jesus was made by oath and is unchanging.

- In Psalm 110:4 Jesus priesthood is made with an oath, "The Lord has sworn" and to make the point more emphatic it says, "and I will not change my mind: 'You are a priest forever'".
- An oath is never made with the Levitical priesthood.
- The oath by God is your guarantee that this priesthood of Christ is valid

Vs 23-25 – Levi's was many people by succession, Melchizedek priesthood of Jesus was one man enduring forever.

Numbers 20:22-29 – The death of Aaron and removal of garments

- It demonstrated 2 things about the old covenant:
 1. It was not permanent
 2. It couldn't bring people into the Promised Land.
- **Neither Moses (law) nor Aaron (sacrifices) could deliver them from the wilderness of sin and bring them into the land of salvation.**
- Did you know that sometimes pastors die while still pastors? And their earthly ministry ends. If I died, my ministry would end and someone else would come and it would be a new thing. That's why your church needs to be Jesus' ministry and not Dustin's ministry. Jesus ministry is forever. All ministry at this church needs to point to Jesus' ministry. It's about Him and His priesthood.

Vs 26 – 28 He meets our need. What good is a priest that doesn't get the job done?

- Jesus is a better high priest because the Levitical priesthood was made up of weak sinners.
- They had to actually atone for their own sin before they could start atoning for yours.
- But that's ok because there was no oath making that priesthood permanent. The oath came later and made Jesus the perfect priest who doesn't have to atone for His own sin to be a perfect, holy, blameless, set apart pure priest that ministers perpetually without fear of Him dying or his priesthood ending.

How Great is Jesus? He is greater than Melchizedek because Melchizedek points us to Jesus type of priesthood. And vs. 4- Just think how great he was.

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Jesus is Greater. Just think how great He Is!!!