

Letter to the Hebrews

Pembroke Bible Chapel
D Axford – April 20, 2008
Series No. DA-HEB-11

Christ Greater Than Melchizedek

Hebrews 7:1-10

I. MELCHIZEDEK

Who Was He?

- The Bible says he was the king of Jerusalem and a priest of the Most High God who lived at the time of Abraham. (*Gen.14:18; Heb.5:6,10; 6:20; 7:1-3,17*)
- Some say he was Shem (Jewish tradition), or a pre-incarnate appearance of Christ but this is unlikely.

Where did he come from?

- His genealogy is unknown. (*Heb.7:3*)

His greatness

- He was the greatest earthly priest. (*Heb.7:4, 7*)

II. TITHING

An Old Testament Concept

- The Mosaic Law demanded a tithe from the Israelites of about 25% of what they owned. (*Heb.7:5-10; Mat.23:23; Luke 11:42; Num.18:21; Deut.14:22-29; Luke 18:22*)

The New Testament Principle

- The New Testament principle is to give in proportion to how God has blessed you in Christ. (*1 Cor.16:1-2*)

Its Significance

- The one who was lower in rank gave to the higher in rank and in turn the higher gave benefits to the lower; much like taxation. (*Heb.7:7; Gen.14:18,19*)

III. CHRIST – GREATER THAN ALL

- The implication in this passage is that the priesthood of Christ, the eternal Prophet, Priest, and King, is greater than Melchizedek.

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Application

Since Christ is so much greater than Abraham, the Levitical Priesthood, and Melchizedek, what should our response be to Him?

Abraham recognized the greatness of Melchizedec and gave him, an earthly king, a tenth of the spoils of war.

In the greatest battle of all time, the Lord Jesus Christ has defeated Satan, sin, and death. He is the victorious conqueror. And He has set you free, if you are a twice born believer. In a sense you are one of the spoils of that great battle. As Lot was delivered by Abraham, you have been delivered by Christ.

Abraham gave to the one who pre-figured Christ an offering and was in turn blessed by Melchizedec. What do we owe to the one who is the reality of the shadow? May I suggest – everything? Just like the rich ruler in Luke 18.

So what are some practical applications for my life?

1. What about my treasure? To what extent do we store up wealth for the future versus relying upon the Lord to provide for our future needs?
2. What about my time? What is the proper balance between the various time priorities in my life like family, work, pleasure, and the Lord?