



Sunday, September 5, 2021
Pastor Don Denyes

Intro to Hebrews 7:1-10

Melchizedek is one of those mysterious people in the Bible who seems to be very important, but we don't know much about him. What is important to know is that he represents Jesus in an even more substantial way than other priests. He was not only a priest, but a king. Indeed, Jesus is a king, a priest, and a prophet—the greatest of all of them!

The reason this argument about Melchizedek is so important is because Israel's worship was structured by God Himself and He had appointed the tribe of Levi as the priestly tribe. The Jews took God's word very seriously. Since God had appointed the tribe of Levi to be the priests, and the line of kings (through the tribe of Judah) was forbidden to be priests (see the story of Uzziah in 2 Chronicles 26), then it would have been considered heretical to insist that Jesus (who was from the tribe of Judah) could be a Great High Priest (Heb. 4:14). But, as the author shows here and in subsequent passages, there is a precedent for someone outside the tribe of Levi being priests, and an even greater priesthood at that!

Context

The author has been building an argument related to being in God's presence throughout Hebrews. Starting with Jesus as the exact imprint of God's glory (1:3), he spoke about Jesus's unique presence in God's throne room over against the angels (1:13). He talked about Jesus making propitiation for the sins of the people, a necessary step for us to return to God's presence (2:17). He talked about the greater rest in God's presence that could not be offered by Moses or Joshua (4:9). He will continue talking about the greater temple, not made with hands (9:11). All of this is building to the climactic moment in chapter 12, where the author tells those who have believed in Jesus that they have arrived at Mt. Zion—to God Himself and to Jesus (12:22-24)!

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read Hebrews 7:1-10

“Just Like Jesus”

Melchizedek

- Gen. 14:17-20

- Ps. 110:4

- Hebrews – 9 times

Melchizedek...”is like the Son of God”

- He resembles Jesus!

How does He resemble Jesus?

- He is a king

- He is a priest

- He is great

Discuss

- 1) Read Genesis 14:17-24. How does Melchizedek's response to Abram differ from the king of Sodom's response?
- 2) Read Psalm 110:1-7. What is this psalm talking about? How does Jesus fulfill what is written in this psalm?
- 3) What does it mean that Melchizedek is the "king of righteousness" and the "king of peace"? How would you envision a person who was described that way relating to his people?
- 4) Pastor Don said, "Without righteousness, you cannot have peace." In our time, we sometimes hear people use the line "no justice, no peace." Why do you think justice or righteousness and peace go together?
- 5) How is Jesus greater than Melchizedek?