

**Melchizedek the Priest**

*v1 This Melchizedek was king of Salem and priest of God Most High. He met Abraham returning from the defeat of the kings and blessed him, v2 and Abraham gave him a tenth of everything. First, his name means "king of righteousness"; then also, "king of Salem" means "king of peace." v3 Without father or mother, without genealogy, without beginning of days or end of life, like the Son of God he remains a priest forever.*

*v4 Just think how great he was: Even the patriarch Abraham gave him a tenth of the plunder! v5 Now the law requires the descendants of Levi who become priests to collect a tenth from the people--that is, their brothers--even though their brothers are descended from Abraham. v6 This man, however, did not trace his descent from Levi, yet he collected a tenth from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises. v7 And without doubt the lesser person is blessed by the greater. v8 In the one case, the tenth is collected by men who die; but in the other case, by him who is declared to be living. v9 One might even say that Levi, who collects the tenth, paid the tenth through Abraham, v10 because when Melchizedek met Abraham, Levi was still in the body of his ancestor.*

*v11 If perfection could have been attained through the Levitical priesthood (for on the basis of it the law was given to the people), why was there still need for another priest to come--one in the order of Melchizedek, not in the order of Aaron?*

*v12 For when there is a change of the priesthood, there must also be a change of the law. v13 He of whom these things are said belonged to a different tribe, and no one from that tribe has ever served at the altar. v14 For it is clear that our Lord descended from Judah, and in regard to that tribe Moses said nothing about priests. v15 And what we have said is even more clear if another priest like Melchizedek appears, v16 one who has become a priest not on the basis of a regulation as to his ancestry but on the basis of the power of an indestructible life.*

*v17 For it is declared: "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek." v18 The former regulation is set aside because it was weak and useless v19 (for the law made nothing perfect), and a better hope is introduced, by which we draw near to God. v20 And it was not without an oath! Others became priests without any oath, v21 but he became a priest with an oath when God said to him: "The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind: 'You are a priest forever.' " v22 Because of this oath, Jesus has become the guarantee of a better covenant.*

*v23 Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office; v24 but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. v25 Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them. v26 Such a high priest meets our need--one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. v27 Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself. v28 For the law appoints as high priests men who are weak; but the oath, which came after the law, appointed the Son, who has been made perfect forever.*

*Hebrews 7:1-28*

Every religious movement has leaders of some sort or other. And many of those religious movements refer to those leaders as Priests. Priests exist in many religions today, such as all or some branches of Judaism, Christianity Buddhism, Shinto and Hinduism.

Wikipedia, the online dictionary has this to say about the task of a priest:

*They are generally regarded as having privileged contact with the deity or deities of the religion to which they subscribe, often interpreting the meaning of events and performing the rituals of the religion. There is no common definition of the duties of priesthood between faiths; but generally it includes mediating the relationship between one's congregation, worshippers, and other members of the religious body, and its deity or deities, and administering religious rituals and rites. These often include blessing worshipers with prayers of joy at marriages, after a birth, and at consecrations, teaching the wisdom and dogma of the faith at any regular worship service, and mediating and easing the experience of grief and death at funerals – maintaining a spiritual connection to the afterlife in faiths where such a concept exists.*

As Baptists, among many Protestant movements, we do not believe in the Office of Priest, as practiced in some Protestant movements, like the Anglican Church and in the Roman Catholic Church as well. We believe in what we call “THE PRIESTHOOD OF ALL BELIEVERS”.

We base our understanding on three main verses:

1. What we read in 1 Timothy 2:5 **“For there is one God *and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus*”**
2. What we read in 1 Peter 2:5 ***you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. .... v9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. v10 Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.***
2. What we read in Revelation 1:4-6 ***To the seven churches in the province of Asia: Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne, v5 and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, v6 and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father--to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.***

**IF EVER I NEEDED SOMEONE TO BE A PRIEST FOR ME, I WOULD ONLY GO TO JESUS. HE IS THE ONLY MEDIATOR WE NEED.**

In this passage, the writer of the Book of Hebrews, is showing the predominantly Jewish readers (and now us)

**WHY JESUS IS THE ONLY PRIEST YOU WILL EVER NEED.**

JESUS IS THE ONLY PRIEST YOU WILL EVER NEED BECAUSE:

# **1. The PRIESTLY ORDER Jesus belongs to is SUPERIOR to all other PRIESTLY ORDERS.**

I think most of us know there are different groups of priests and that these groups are known as Priestly Orders. So, for example in the Roman Catholic Church, you get Augustinians, Benedictines, Carmelites, Dominicans, Franciscans, Jesuits, to mention a few.

In the Bible we only find two: LEVITES and PRIESTS AFTER THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK – Jesus belonged to the second.

In this passage the writer of the Book of Hebrews is showing the why the PRIESTLY ORDER Jesus belongs to is SUPERIOR to the Levitical Order.

*v1 This Melchizedek was king of Salem and priest of God Most High. He met Abraham returning from the defeat of the kings and blessed him, v2 and Abraham gave him a tenth of everything. First, his name means "king of righteousness"; then also, "king of Salem" means "king of peace." v3 Without father or mother, without genealogy, without beginning of days or end of life, like the Son of God he remains a priest forever.*

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		<b>MELCHIZEDEK</b>	<b>LEVITICAL</b>
v1	1	Both King and Priest	Only a Priest
v2	2	King of Righteousness	Has to purify himself first
v2	3	King of Salem (Peace)	Has no ruling power in himself
v3	4	No Ancestors	Must be of the tribe of Levi
v3	5	Eternal	Limited to his lifespan
v4- v10	6	Was there before Abraham	Comes from Abraham
	7	Could be a blessing	Could only say "The Lord bless you"
	8	Receives an offering from Abraham & Levi	Only collect an offering from people for God
	9	"declared to be living"	"by men who die"

JESUS IS THE ONLY PRIEST YOU WILL EVER NEED BECAUSE:

2. **The PRIESTLY ORDER Jesus belongs to REPLACES all other PRIESTLY ORDERS.**

Listen again to the following verses:

*v11 If perfection could have been attained through the Levitical priesthood (for on the basis of it the law was given to the people), **why was there still need for another priest to come**--one in the order of Melchizedek, not in the order of Aaron? v12 For when there is a change of the priesthood, there must also be a change of the law. v13 He of whom these things are said belonged to a different tribe, and no one from that tribe has ever served at the altar. v14 For it is clear that our Lord descended from Judah, and in regard to that tribe Moses said nothing about priests. **v15 And what we have said is even more clear if another priest like Melchizedek appears, v16 one who has become a priest not on the basis of a regulation as to his ancestry but on the basis of the power of an indestructible life. v17 For it is declared: "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek."***

The only point the writer of the book of Hebrews is making in these verses is: IF THE LEVITICAL PRIESTHOOD, AND ALL ITS LAWS, WAS GOOD ENOUGH, **WHY WAS IT REPLACED.**

JESUS IS THE ONLY PRIEST YOU WILL EVER NEED BECAUSE:

3. **The PRIESTLY ORDER Jesus belongs to is MORE EFFECTIVE than all other PRIESTLY ORDERS.**

In verses 18-28 we see how much better the new Priestly Order is compared to the old:

*v18 The former regulation is set aside because it was weak and useless v19 (for the law made nothing perfect), and a better hope is introduced, by which we draw near to God. v20 And it was not without an oath! Others became priests without any oath, v21 but he became a priest with an oath when God said to him: "The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind: 'You are a priest forever.' " v22 Because of this oath, Jesus has become the guarantee of a better covenant. v23 Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office; v24 but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. v25 Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them. v26 Such a high priest meets our need--one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. v27 Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself. v28 For the law appoints as high priests men who are weak; but the oath, which came after the law, appointed the Son, who has been made perfect forever.*

		<b>LEVITICAL – OLD</b>	<b>MELCHIZEDEK - NEW</b>
v18-19	1	It was “WEAK AND USELESS	It could “DRAW PEOPLE NEAR TO GOD”
v20-22	2	They became Priests through a promise	Jesus became a Priest through the SIGN of an OATH
v23-24	3	The High Priest was only one as long as he lived	Jesus is our High Priest permanently
v26-27	4	The High Priest has sin in his life	Jesus is Holy and Blameless
v26-27	5	The High Priest needs to sacrifice for his own sin first	Jesus is the sacrifice for sins

The work of the Levitical System was repetitive and cyclical. Every year it needed to be repeated. It can never offer complete hope, because, like all systems of faith that depend on works, **YOU CAN NEVER KNOW IF YOU HAVE DONE ENOUGH!!!**

**JESUS IS THE ONLY PRIEST YOU WILL EVER NEED BECAUSE:**

#### **4. What JESUS does, does not EVER need to be REPEATED.**

Listen again to these verses:

*v25 Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.*

*v27a Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day*

*v27b He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself*

**Because Jesus has v28 ... been made perfect forever.**

**Listen again to the point I am making:**

**What JESUS does, does not EVER need to be REPEATED!**

#### **SO, WHY IS JESUS THE ONLY PRIEST YOU WILL EVER NEED.**

- 1. The PRIESTLY ORDER Jesus belongs to is SUPERIOR to all other PRIESTLY ORDERS.**
- 2. The PRIESTLY ORDER Jesus belongs to REPLACES all other PRIESTLY ORDERS.**
- 3. The PRIESTLY ORDER Jesus belongs to is MORE EFFECTIVE than all other PRIESTLY ORDERS.**
- 4. What JESUS does, does not EVER need to be REPEATED.**

#### **One Final Thought**

#### **JESUS IS PRAYING FOR YOU RIGHT NOW**

*v25 Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, **because he always lives to intercede for them***