

“Melchizedek - Setting the Stage...”

Hebrews 7:1-10

April 7, 2024

Psalm 110:4 - The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind, “You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.”

I. The Identity of Melchizedek (Heb. 7:1-3, Gen. 14:18-20)

- A. He was both a king *and* a priest.
- B. Abraham recognized him as a priest by tithing to him.
- C. He resembled Jesus in his “eternity”.
 - 1. The writer isn’t saying Melchizedek was *literally* eternal.
 - 2. He’s referring to Melchizedek’s *literary* eternity in Gen. 14.
 - a. Genesis presents him with no priestly ancestry or posterity (contrast that with the Levite priests – 1 Chron. 6; Ezra 2).
 - b. This gives a literary *picture* of an eternal priesthood, a *prophetic* picture of Jesus’ *actual* eternal priesthood.
 - c. The writer was allowing Ps. 110:4 to interpret Gen. 14.

II. The Priestly Superiority of Melchizedek (Heb. 7:4-10)

- A. Levitical priests received tithes because the Law commanded it; Abraham tithed to Melchizedek in recognition of his greatness.
- B. Abraham was blessed by the clearly superior Melchizedek.
- C. Abraham’s behavior toward Melchizedek showed Melchizedek’s priestly superiority over Abraham’s Levitical descendants.
- D. Since Jesus has a priesthood like Melchizedek’s, His priesthood is superior to the Levitical priesthood of Judaism.