

## Hebrews 7

Before we begin, a little background is required. A Jewish Rabbi looked at Scripture in four ways: First the Peshat which was the literal meaning; then the Remaz which was the suggested meaning; third the Derush which was arrived at after long and careful investigation and Fourth the Sod or inner meaning which to the Jew was most important. This is the meaning the writer stresses in this chapter. He is finding the 'Sod' in Psalm 110:4 and Genesis 14:17-20.

1-3 You would think Mel was a preincarnate Christ. Christ must have been the angel of the Lord in Joshua 5, Genesis 18:1, and Judges 6. Some disagree pointing to the Greek word like in verse 3. The Rabbis often argued by what was not mentioned such as the lack of a genealogy. This is unusual as so much of Genesis is based on who is descended from whom. But this King of Righteousness, King of Peace (notice the order in Romans 5:1 and 14:7) to whom the father of all Israel gives tithes has no listed genealogy. He is a King and priest by who he is, not by inheritance. What do the bread and wine sound like? What is the meaning of an eternal priesthood? There are four paths to peace: escape, evasion, compromise, righteousness, but only one of them is effective.

The secular Greek world used the word 'apator' (without father) as a description of the father being unknown, a very derogatory term. Here and only here, as far as we know, this term is used to place an emphasis on the fact that Jesus authority was in Himself and came from no man. I love how the Bible redeems terms the world uses and makes them valuable. It's what He does with people too.

4-10 Five points are made as to Mel's priestly superiority:

1. He received tithes that were the special right of the Levitical priesthood before Levi was born.
2. The Levites receive tithes of their relatives. Mel was a Canaanite receiving tithes from the father of the Nation.
3. The Levites received tithes by law, but Mel because of who he was.
4. The Levites die, Mel doesn't!
5. Levi, in Abraham's body, was tithing to Mel.

11-20 In the Law, the ordinances pertaining to the priest, of which there are hundreds, all had to do with his body. There were many blemishes listed which would disqualify him. All the others had to do with how he dressed and looked and ceremony that affected the body. But the author is saying, Jesus, like Mel is a priest because of who he is. Because of this new priesthood there is a nullification of the old ceremonial law. Again we have come from the shadow to the reality.

21 -25 Mel's priesthood was confirmed by God's oath which the Levitical priesthood was not. The oath says that Jesus' priesthood is eternal! You never need to fear that things are going to change. You can access God without fear, Jesus has made a way for you to call God, 'Father'. (Ephesians 3:12) The old covenant was based on Israel's promise to obey the Law, and sacrifice for breaches of the Law (law, justice, obedience) The new covenant is based on the love of God and the perfect sacrifice of Christ, once for all. The old was based on man's achievements, the new on what God achieved because of love. Jesus is the surety (guarantee/egguos) of the new covenant. He guarantees that when we see His love, we are seeing God's love. In saying Jesus priesthood would not pass away, the writer used the legal term, *aparabatos*, which meant unalterable. There is another hidden term here translated "lives forever" (*paramenein*). In legal documents it bound one in service to another. Hold on to your heart, Jesus is bound by love, in service to us, through eternity just as He was in His incarnate life, ("I came not to be served, but to serve") the same yesterday, today and forever.

26 -28 Descriptions of our Savior: holy (*hosios*) includes the word pure as below but is more - other, never hurt any man/blameless (*akakos*), stainless/pure (*amiantos*), different from/set apart from sinners without succumbing to temptation, exalted above the heavens. The Levitical priest first offered sacrifice for his own sin. Jesus never needed to. He was equipped for His high priestly duty as no one ever had been before. Instead of an animal to transfer the sins of the Nation to he offered Himself, a perfect Lamb acceptable to God, once, for all.