

Hello./ We will now begin with the seventh lecture on the Book of Hebrews./ The title of chapter 7 is/ “Jesus Christ the High Priest in the Order of Melchizedek.”/ First,/ regarding Melchizedek./ Verses 1-3.

/Second,/ changed role of the priest./ Verses 4-13./ Third, Christ has become the high priest./ Verses 14-25./ Fourth,/ the high priest meets our needs./ Verses 26-28. /

Here in chapter 7,/ the glory of Christ’s priesthood is displayed./ It showed the superiority of Christ’s priesthood/ compared to the Jewish priests./ However, there was a problem of order / in showing Christ’s superiority over Aaron. /

Aaron was from the tribe of Levi./ It says that Jesus is in the order of Melchizedek./ If we say that Christ is/ the only high priest,/ there is disharmony between the law./ It seems as though there is a deviation from the law. /

Therefore,/ chapter 7 strives to resolve this difficult problem./ In 6:19-20,/ Jesus Christ our high priest has entered the Most Holy Place./ Christ intercedes for us there. /

The implication of Christ being in the order of Melchizedek is,/ first,/ He is not in Melchizedek but merely resembles him./ Second,/ it implies that God excluded the order of Aaron./

Third,/ it shows that God abolished the/ laws and regulations/ in the Mosaic Law./ Therefore, in verse 1 of this chapter,/ it says “This Melchizedek was king of Salem and priest of God Most High.”/

In verse 3b,/ it says, like the Son of God./ “Like” in this context means to resemble. /

Christ does not belong in Melchizedek,/ but merely resembles him./ Now, let’s look at the resemblance./ First, Melchizedek is/ the king of Salem./ The word “Salem” means peace. /

/It refers to Jerusalem/ and it became a place where Christ would exercise His priestly duties./ Jerusalem became the place where Christ would exercise his duties as the priest./ Matthew 2:2/ Luke 23:3/ Revelation 11:15; 17:14./

Second,/ it says, priest of God Most High./ We do not know if this Melchizedek / was an angel or / a divine being, /nor do we know where he came from / or his family. / In Genesis 14:18-20,/ that generation was full of idolatry and sexual immorality. /

/In the times of Sodom and Gomorrah,/ God/ prepared a tool for his glory./ Salem refers to Jerusalem./ Psalm 76:2/ Jerusalem had/ a king even before King David,/ and a priest existed even before Aaron was called. /

Third, Melchizedek/ met Abraham returning from the defeat of the kings and blessed him./ This is in the latter part of verse 1./ Deuteronomy 21:5/ This is the incident where Melchizedek blessed Abraham./ We all know that Abraham is the forefather of faith. /

/Therefore, this showed that the descendants of Abraham, the believers,/ would be blessed in Jesus Christ./ Melchizedek exercised the priestly duties./ It was his priestly duty to bless Aaron. /

/Abraham offered a tenth of everything./ That means that he acknowledged the priestly duties of Melchizedek./

/Next, fourth,/ it says that his name means “king of righteousness.”/Isaiah 32:17/ Fifth,/ he is king of peace./ This is written in verse 2./ John 16:33/ Sixth,/ he collected a tenth from the people./ He received a tenth from Abraham. /

Yet, Melchizedek is human./ Hebrews 5:1/ Seventh,/ he is not a priest by blood./ In verse 3,/ it says, “Without father or mother, without genealogy, without beginning of days or end of life.” /

/Here “without father or mother” does not refer to/ his humanity/ but his priesthood./ The Bible is silent regarding the parents of Melchizedek./

What does this mean? It means/ that Melchizedek is a part of a model./ Our Jesus has/ no father of the flesh. / Jesus has no divine mother. /

/In Numbers 3:10,/ priests were to be from the tribe of Levi./ In Numbers 8:24,/ a priest was to start at the age of twenty-five,/ and in Numbers 4:3,/ he was to work in the sanctuary from the age of thirty./ In Numbers 8:25,/ his priesthood was to end at the age of fifty. /

However, Melchizedek does not belong to any of these categories./ This tells us / that there is no end./ There is no beginning of days or end of life./ Here, Melchizedek’s priesthood did not end at the age of fifty./ There was no successor or representative./

However, it does not mean that Melchizedek did not die./ It merely shows the resemblance between him and Jesus./ The eighth resemblance is,/ he was not restricted by Levitical regulations./ There is no genealogy or beginning. /

It is written that there was no end of life/ and it implies that priestly duties are eternal./ Melchizedek did not assume the priestly role from anyone./ He did not pass it on to anyone./ He did not even belong to the order of the Levitical priesthood. /

It says, he remains a priest forever./ If we look at this,/ Melchizedek was qualified to become a model of Jesus Christ./ Our Jesus sits on the right hand of God as the eternal priest. /

To show the eternal model of priesthood,/ Jesus Christ did not follow the limited order of Aaron/ but the order of Melchizedek./

In verse 4,/ it is written “Just think how great he was.”/ Here “he” refers to Melchizedek./ Let’s look at the reasons for his greatness./ First, Abraham offered a tenth to him./

We can know that Abraham submitted to Melchizedek by offering a tenth of what he had./ Abraham was the first father of the nation of Judah./ Spiritually, he is the father of all believers./ Romans 4./

The noble Abraham offered a tenth to Melchizedek, which shows that Melchizedek is not an ordinary person./ In John 8:35-53,/ the Jews exalted Abraham./ The Jews thought highly of Aaron and his successor. /

However, we can see that Abraham became humble / because their father bowed to Melchizedek. / Abraham is the symbol of faith as our ancestor of faith. / Abraham gave a tenth to Melchizedek. /

Melchizedek is the model of Christ./ We believers/ must offer tithes to Christ./ In Numbers 18:21-24,/ among the sons of Levi, those who assumed the priestly role/ received tithes. /

It says, "Levi was still in the body of his ancestor." / It also says in verse 5, "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." /

The Levi priest received duties as a priest. / He received tithes according to the law. / However, Melchizedek was a king / and he belonged in a higher order. / With this in mind, / Christ, due to His divinity, / receives tithe by Himself / and has the authority to pour out blessings. /

The reason why Melchizedek is considered noble or extraordinary is / because he blessed Abraham. / Through this, we see that he was greater than Abraham. / In verse 6, / it says, "This man, however, did not trace his descent from Levi, yet he collected a tenth from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises." /

In verse 7, it says, "And without doubt the lesser person is blessed by the greater." / In verse 8, / it is also written "In the one case, the tenth is collected by men who die;" / Also, it says, "but in the other case, by him who is declared to be living." /

What is the meaning of "him who is declared to be living?" / It means that he had no beginning or an end / or a limitation of time. / He did not live without ever dying, / but he was a symbol of Christ. /

He was a symbol of the everlasting Christ. / Aaron's descendants died because they were limited by time, / and they had successors before their deaths. / However, Melchizedek / continued to carry out his role / in his time / without being affected by death. /

Melchizedek is displayed as "him who is declared to be living." / In verse 9 it says, "One might even say that Levi, who collects the tenth, paid the tenth through Abraham." /

Hence, the order of Melchizedek was ahead. / Later, / the order of Aaron came into existence. / However, the order of Melchizedek was not abolished. /

In Romans 5:12-19, / by the principle of representation, / all man died in Adam / but lived in the second Adam. / Also, Abraham is the representation of all descendants. / The covenant made with Abraham / is considered the covenant made with his descendants. /

Therefore, we can say that the Levite who received a tenth himself offered a tenth through Abraham. / In verse 10, it says, / "because when Melchizedek met Abraham, Levi was still in the body of his ancestor." /

The third reason why Melchizedek is great is / because the descendants offered a tenth through Abraham. / Because Abraham offered the tithe, / his descendants offered it through him. /

This verse shows us that just as Levi was in Abraham by the principle of representation, / and not solely through lineage, / we believers / are also in Christ. /

When Jesus died, we died, / and when Jesus resurrected, we resurrected. / When Jesus ascended, we ascended. /

In verse 11, it says, / "If perfection could have been attained through the Levitical priesthood." / The word "perfection" / refers to carrying out something. / Doctrinally, / it is / an accomplishment of an

ultimate/ and satisfying relationship/ between God and man./

The role of the priest/ is to approach God as the representative of men/ and offer sacrifices for them./
The most important work of the priest/ was to atone for the sins of people./

However, in Hebrews 10:4,/ it says, “because it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.”/ In other words, they cannot atone for our sins./ The word “perfection” refers to carrying out an ultimate and satisfying relationship between God and man. /

If that is the case, why were Levitical priests appointed if they cannot achieve perfection?/ The reason was/ to display the holy requirement of God/ and fulfill his just requirements./ Now, let us compare the perfection accomplished by Christ/ with the law. /

First, / Christ fulfills complete righteousness,/ while the law cannot./ Second,/ Christ achieved peace./ However, the law cannot achieve peace./ Third, it says that Christ’s perfection will become the light./ John 1:18/ The law is merely a shadow./ Hebrews 10:1./

Fourth,/ Christ goes before God./ However, the law was prohibited from approaching Mount Sinai./ Fifth,/ the perfectness of Christ shows our future state/ of resurrection and victory./ Yet, the law acts as a slave./ Hebrews 2:15. /

Sixth,/ Christ is an eternal joy./ Romans 14:17/ However, the law is a temporal joy./ Leviticus 23:39-41/ Seventh,/ we learn to give up our pride/ and boast in Christ. /

However, the law boasts in itself./ What would have happened if perfection could have been attained by a Levitical priest’s offering?/ What would happen if we could maintain a perfect relationship with God through the duties of a priest? /

It says, “why was there still need for another priest to come--one in the order of Melchizedek, not in the order of Aaron?”/ Here, it says, “one in the order of Melchizedek,”/ which shows that God changed the order of Aaron. /

Why did it change? /Here in verse 12 it says, “For when there is a change of the priesthood, there must also be a change of the law.”/ The first reason why it changed was/ because the order of Aaron was not suitable to attain righteousness./ Second,/ the Levitical priesthood was abolished/ because it was temporary./

Jews were not fond of changes in the law./ Acts 6:14/ 21:28/ 21:10/ The word “change” in this verse indicates/ that the Levitical priesthood and the laws have been abolished./ However, moral laws like the Ten Commandments were not abolished./

The third reason why the Levitical priesthood has been changed/ was to show the superiority of Christ’s priesthood/ to the Levitical priesthood./ Christ coming as the priest/ was a declaration that ended the order of Aaron’s priesthood. /

It means that the priesthood of Aaron ended./ The verse says, “change of the law.”/ In verse 13 it says,/ “He of whom these things are said belonged to a different tribe, and no one from that tribe has ever served at the altar.” /

In verse 14, it says, / “For it is clear that our Lord descended from Judah.”/ The tribe of Judah is the tribe of royalty./ Also it says, “and in regard to that tribe Moses said nothing about priests.”/ Moses was from the tribe of Levi. /

Jesus was from the tribe of Judah./ Thus, a priest came from the tribe of royalty, / from which we can conclude that all the house of Aaron / was not allowed to participate in the priestly office. /

In verse 15, it says, / “And what we have said is even more clear if another priest like Melchizedek appears.”/ It says, “another priest like Melchizedek.”/ “Another priest like Melchizedek” implies a similarity between Jesus./

This does not mean that Jesus is from Melchizedek./ In the case of Aaron, he was from the tribe of Levi,/ but Jesus was not from Melchizedek, though there are similarities./ Our Jesus has no father or mother./ Jesus is God/ so how can He have human parents?/

Verse 16 says, / “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.”/

“But on the basis of the power” / first means/ that he acted according to the Father’s will,/ and second,/ He has the life as the Son of God./ By entering that life,/ Jesus’ mediatory life is also eternal. /

Although Jesus was dead in flesh,/ His priestly office continues forever./ Christ is the living High Priest who continually works in us./ That is why it says in verse 17,/ “For it is declared: ‘You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.’” /

Verse 18 says,/ “The former regulation is set aside because it was weak and useless.”/ “Former regulations” refer to the Old Testament./ Many regulations in the Old Testament/ are insufficient./ Why is it so?/ For it is impossible to attain perfection through the blood of a goat or a cow./

How can the blood of an animal resolve a relationship with God?/ Moreover, humans are weak in regards to sin./ We have no strength to obey the law./ The law cannot atone for the sins of man. /

The law simply commands a person to do this or that./ It can only enlighten us of our sins/ and point it out./ Yet, it cannot remove the sins that stand between us and God. /

The former regulation is set aside because it was weak and useless./ To “set aside” refers to a regulation that abolished./ To have been abolished means,/ first,/ it has been completed in Christ./ The law has been perfected in Christ. /

Second,/ the Holy Spirit came to us by the will of the Father./ Now, we just have to follow Christ./ We can say that the regulations and systems of the law has been abolished./

For instance,/ a lamb was to be slain at the Passover./ The lamb symbolized Jesus Christ./ In the Old Testament period, people were saved when they believed in Jesus Christ the lamb./

Today, although we do not follow the traditions of the Passover,/ we are saved if we believe in Jesus./ The truth in the Old Testament is the same as the truth in the New Testament./ Yet, today, we do not kill lambs./ We do not kill calves. / All of that has been abolished. /

They have been abolished because they are merely a model./ We do not need that shadow anymore /because Jesus, the reality of the shadow came. /

The role of the law/ is to act as a teacher that guides us to Christ./ In verse 19, it says,/ “(for the law made nothing perfect)/, and a better hope is introduced,/ by which we draw near to God.” /

Jesus Christ is/ the better hope than the law./ In verse 20,/ it says, “And it was not without an oath! Others became priests without any oath,”/ Verse 21 says,/ “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.’” /

Here, it is said “he has become a priest with an oath.”/ This passage was given through David./ Through that oath, Jesus became a priest and let’s look at this deeper./ First,/ our high priest/ has received and began the priestly duties by the oath of God./ It was unprecedented./

Second,/ the personality of the high priest was confirmed, / and the church can go before God with confidence. / Third, this office cannot change or be exchanged. / Jesus is the eternal high priest. /

In verse 22 it says,/ “Because of this oath, Jesus has become the guarantee of a better covenant.”/ The meaning of the word “guarantee”/ implies that a person carries out the duties of others/ when they are not strong enough to do so./ Genesis 43:8-9/ 44:32-33/ Our Jesus Christ is the guarantee for His people./

The new covenant is greater than the old covenant./ Now as we follow Christ,/ we have a great duty concerning God./ Luke 12:48/ Because we received great grace,/ we must devote ourselves to Christ and serve Christ with great efforts./

Now, let us compare Melchizedek and Christ./ First,/ Melchizedek was a priest in his generation./ His priesthood ended in his generation./ However, Christ was continually a priest./

Second,/ there was no priest that went before Melchizedek./ Christ/ had no relation with Aaron/ and He was not a priest by blood./ Third, there was no succeeding priest that followed Melchizedek./ Christ’s priestly duties/ are final and eternal. /

God teaches us a truth through the model./ In verse 22,/ it says, “Jesus has become the guarantee of a better covenant.”/ That means that there was a good side to the Old Testament./ It suppressed sins,/ emphasized godliness,/ and the purpose of law was good./

This was because/ it made people look upon Christ./ Verses 23-24./ There have been many of those priests./ It was because of death./ But because Jesus/ lives forever/, he has a permanent priesthood. /

The priestly duties will not be divided./ In verse 25,/ it says, “Therefore/ he is able to save completely those who come to God through him,” because He is an eternal high priest. /

Jesus also always intercedes for us./ The reason why we have been victorious in the midst of sufferings and trials/ is because Christ cares for us./ Our Jesus Christ is/ eternally the same yesterday and today. /

In verse 26,/ it also says, “such a priest meets our need.”/ This is because / He is holy,/ blameless,/ pure,/ is set apart from sinners,/ and exalted above the heaven./

Jesus is in nature, absolutely pure/ and blameless./ Jesus is not wicked at all. /Jesus does not want to get revenge on his enemies. /Jesus is pure / and He is not contaminated by the world. / It is as if sunlight is

not polluted / by sewage water when it shines its light on it. /

The Lord is far from sin,/ higher than the skies,/ and the high priest is in the Most Holy Place./ Jesus Christ the high priest / always cares for us./

According to verse 27,/ many high priests who came before Christ had to offer sacrifices for their sins/ before they offered sacrifices for the people's sins./ This was because they had their own sins./ However, Jesus / completed an eternal sacrifice once and for all. / There is no need to give sacrifices. /

In verse 28,/ it says, "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."/ Jesus was made complete through the resurrection of the cross. /

The Lord intercedes for us / at the right hand of God, / as the eternal high priest, / and as the living God. /

Therefore, now, we are not to follow Aaron the priest,/ but follow our eternal high priest Jesus./ With this we will conclude the seventh lecture on the Book of Hebrews./ Thank you. /