

- Church Web Site

www.tryonchurchofchrist.com

All sermons are posted here
plus additional resources



A just weight
and balance

are the
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

- The author of Hebrews was trying to convince people that a religious system of sacrifices, rituals, rules that had been in place for over 1,400 years had now been replaced by a better way.

- He focuses on the supremacy of Jesus Christ,

- Who is the fulfillment of all that was written by Moses and prophets.

- He introduces a theme that is only treated in the Book of Hebrews, that Jesus Christ is our high priest.

- We will only appreciate our need for a high priest to the degree that we realize how holy and unapproachable God is

- And how sinful and defiled we are.

- **When Isaiah saw the Lord,**
sitting on His throne,
lofty and exalted,
surrounded by the seraphim
who called out,
**“Holy, holy, holy,
is the Lord of hosts,”**
(Isaiah 6:1-5).
- He immediately became aware of
how utterly sinful he was,
in contrast to God
in His awesome holiness.

- **Israel in the wilderness**
had seen Moses
go up on the mountain
into the cloud,
with lightning and thunder
and a loud trumpet sound,
and they were terrified.

- If the people got too close to the mountain, God warned that
they would perish
(Exodus 19:10-25).

- The Jews knew that **they could not saunter into the Holy of Holies** to chat with God!
- Only the high priest could enter there, **and only once a year,** **with blood.**
- The Jewish people knew **how desperately they needed a high priest** if they were to approach God.

- The author of Hebrews is making the point that Jesus is our high priest.
 - But He is not just the fulfillment of the Levitical priesthood.
- He is something more, a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

- To view Him on a par with the Levitical priests would be to make a **spiritually fatal mistake.**
- That entire old system was designed **to point ahead to** Jesus Christ,
- Who **replaced** and **fulfilled** it.

- **To go back to the old way**
would be to abandon
God's only way of entrance
into His holy presence.
- It would be to turn from
the only One
who can save us
from our sins
and go back to
an inferior system.

- He wanted to discuss the significance of Melchizedek, but he could not do so because these people had become dull of hearing.
- He wants them to understand Melchizedek so that they can gain a deeper understanding of Jesus Christ.

- **But Christ does not reveal Himself**
to those who are
spiritually lazy or **indifferent.**
 - Have you ever considered
why Jesus did not
reveal the Transfiguration
in front of the multitudes?
 - In fact, He didn't even do it
in front of the **Twelve.**
 - He only took with Him
Peter, James, John
to witness this astounding scene!

- But to the multitudes,
Jesus concealed
His glory
and spoke in parables,
because they were
spiritually dull
(**Matthew 13:12-15**).

- He only reveals His glory to those with whom **He is intimate,**
- And He is only intimate with those **whose hearts are humbled before Him.**
- And so as we approach these truths about Melchizedek as a type of Christ, **we must make sure** that our hearts are right before God.

- Also, we must give some effort and attention to the matter of seeking to know Him.

- The only command in our text is, “observe how great this man was” (Hebrews 7:4).

- The Greek word means to gaze at or discern through careful observation.
 - We get the word “theater” from it.

- We are to observe Melchizedek because he is a type of Jesus Christ, and we desire to see the beauty and glory of Jesus, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge (**Colossians 2:3**).

- To see Jesus
as He is,
is a transforming experience
(1 John 3:2).
- The solution to
every problem
that you face
is to know Jesus Christ
more accurately and intimately.

- The author identifies Melchizedek as both king and priest, without genealogy or end of days.
 - In these ways, he is “made like the Son of God,” and remains a priest perpetually.
 - A critical point is:
 - The Son of God is not made like him,
 - But he is made like the Son of God.

- In Hebrews 7:4-7, the author shows that Melchizedek is greater than Abraham, the father of the Jews and of all believers,
- How, we might ask:
 - In that Abraham paid tithes to Melchizedek and he blessed Abraham.

- In Hebrews 7:8-10,
the author shows
that Melchizedek
was also greater than
the Levitical priests
(and the system
they represented),
in two ways:

- First, the Levitical priests were mortal,
- But Melchizedek “lives on” (Hebrews 7:8).

- Second, Levi,
who received tithes,
actually paid tithes
to Melchizedek
through Abraham,
his forefather,
when he paid tithes to
Melchizedek
(**Hebrews 7:9-10**).

- We can sum up these points under four headings that show how Melchizedek was a type of Jesus Christ:

- 1. Melchizedek is a type of Christ in the dignity of his person.
 - Everything we know about Melchizedek comes from **Genesis 14:18-20, Psalm 110:4, and Hebrews 7.**
 - First text: Historical,
 - Second: Prophetic,
 - Third: Theological.

- The first thing to note is that Melchizedek was both a king and a priest in the same person which was not allowed in Israel.
(**Hebrews 7:1**)

- You may be a king or you may be a priest, but you could not be both at once.

- Like Melchizedek, Jesus is both king and priest in one person.

- Melchizedek was:
- King of righteousness,
 - King of peace.”
- The order is significant:
 - righteousness
before peace.
 - Sin brings discord and strife.
 - Righteousness
is the foundation for peace.

- Jesus is called **“Jesus Christ the righteous”** (1 John 2:1).
- He is the Lamb of God, **unblemished** and **spotless** (1 Peter 1:19).
- **He is “holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners”** (Hebrews 7:26).
- **He did “no violence, nor was there any deceit in His mouth”** (Isaiah 53:9).

- Jesus is also the king of peace (Eph. 2:14-18).

- He brings peace between sinners and God.

- “Therefore, having been justified
[“declared righteous”]
by faith,
we have peace with God
through our
Lord Jesus Christ”
(**Romans 5:1**).

- God did not lay aside His righteousness to make peace with sinners.
- Rather, He laid our penalty on His righteous substitute,
- “*so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus*”
(**Romans 3:26**).

- 2. Melchizedek is a type of Christ in the lineage and duration of his priesthood.
- Being a priest in Israel was totally dependent on your family lineage.

- All priests came from the tribe of Levi.
- No one else need apply.
- If you could not establish your family heritage, you were excluded from the priesthood (**Nehemiah 7:61-64**).

- But Melchizedek was
“without father,
without mother,
without genealogy”
(Hebrews 7:3).

- Yet he was
“priest of the Most High God”
(Hebrews 7:1).

- The author of Hebrews is building an argument from the strange silence of Genesis.
- That book emphasizes genealogies and the number of years that the patriarchs lived.

- In the midst of this emphasis, seemingly out of nowhere, comes this man Melchizedek.
 - His family lineage is never mentioned, nor does Genesis say anything about the length of his life or his death.

- The author is saying that the Holy Spirit deliberately omitted these facts from a book that emphasizes such, in order to make Melchizedek an appropriate type of Jesus Christ.

- That's why he says that **Melchizedek was** **“made like the Son of God”** (Hebrews 7:3),
 - Rather than **“Jesus was made like Melchizedek.”**
- It is not that Melchizedek never died, **but rather in what Genesis omits,** that he **“remains a priest perpetually.”**

- Jesus' human lineage is given in Scripture,
- But He did not come from the priestly tribe of Levi, but from Judah (**Hebrews 7:14**).
- To what tribe did Melchizedek belong?

- **Jesus has no human lineage**
and thus fulfills
the type of Melchizedek
as reported in Genesis.
- Also, the Levitical priests died
and had to be replaced,
but Jesus lives on
in His high priesthood
(**Hebrews 7:23-24**).

- So both in the lineage and in the duration of his priesthood, Melchizedek is a type of Jesus Christ.

- 3. Melchizedek is a type of Christ in the dimension of his priesthood.
 - Melchizedek was greater than both Abraham and Levi, since he received tithes from both of these great men.

- Levi, who was Abraham's great-grandson gave tithes to Melchizedek through Abraham's tithes,

- How, we might ask:

- In that he was still in Abraham's loins when this took place.

- In Hebrew thought, an ancestor contained in him all of his descendants.
- Thus Paul argues that when Adam sinned, the entire human race sinned
(Romans 5:12).

- Finally,

4. Melchizedek is a type of Christ
in the administering of his priesthood.

- Even though Abraham was
God's chosen man

- And God promised to
bless the nations through him,

- Melchizedek

“blessed the one who had the promises”.

- But without any dispute
the lesser is blessed by the greater”
(**Hebrews 7:6-7**).

- If Melchizedek,
who was a
sign and shadow,
is preferred
to Abraham
and to all the Levitical priests,
- How much more Christ,
who is the
truth and substance!

• If Melchizedek
could bless Abraham,
how much more is
the Son of God
ready and able
to bless those

***who draw near to God
through Him!***

(Hebrews 4:16;7:19;10:22)

- What do you need from God?
 - Eternal life?
 - Forgiveness of sins?
 - Inner peace?
 - Hope?
 - Joy in the midst of trials?

- Grace to endure?
- Victory over sin?
- Healing from past wounds?
- Jesus is the perfect high priest who dispenses God's blessings to those who have His promises.
 - **Draw near to Him!**
(**Hebrews 4:16;7:19;10:22**)

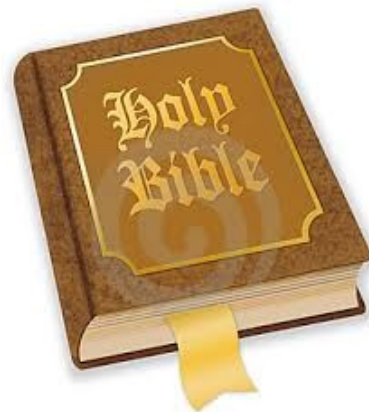
- **Paul's lifelong quest:**
- **“I am ready to give up all things for the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, which is more than all:**
- **for whom I have undergone the loss of all things, and to me they are less than nothing,**
- **so that I may have Christ as my reward,**
(Philippians 3:8 BBE)

- **Think on these things**
- **Philippians 4:8**

**The doors of the church
are open.**

**The Spirit and the Bride
Say
“Come”.**

Revelation 22:17



- 10-09-2022 Tryon, NC

-