

Hebrews 7:1-10 (NASB) Notes

⇒ **Chapter 7** is considered the focal point of Hebrews ... why? • Primary point is **supremacy** of Jesus.

⇒ How does this chapter fit into the overall outline of the book?

- ❖ **7:1-10** **Historical: Melchizedek and Abraham**
- ❖ **7:11-25** **Doctrinal: Christ and Aaron**
- ❖ **7:26-28** **Practical: Christ and the Believer**

1 For this **Melchizedek**, king of **Salem**, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham as he was returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him,

⇒ Who is Melchizedek? ... human? ... angel? ... pre-incarnate Jesus?

⇒ Read *Genesis 14:17-24* for the historical context. Also *Ps.110:4*.

• **“Salem” – Ps.76:2**

2 to whom also Abraham apportioned a **tenth part** of all the spoils, was first of all, by the translation of his name, king of **righteousness**, and then also king of Salem, which is king of **peace**.

• **“tenth part”** (δεκάτη) = tithe. *Gen.28:22; Lev.27:30-32; Dt.12:5-7; 14:22-27*

⇒ Why the juxtaposition of **“righteousness”** and **“peace”** in *Hebrews 7:2*?

• *Ps.72:7; 85:10* *Isa.32:17* *James3:17-18* *Rom.5:1* *Heb.12:10-11*

3 **Without father, without mother, without genealogy**, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but **made like the Son of God**, he remains a priest **perpetually**.

• **“without father, without mother, without genealogy”** (ἀπάτωρ ἀμήτωρ ἀγενεαλόγητος) = whose father is not recorded in the genealogies; bereft of a mother, or born of a base or unknown mother; one whose descent there is no record of, without genealogy ... ∴ Without priestly genealogy.

• **“made like”** (ἀφομοίω) = to cause a model to pass off into an image or shape like it; to express itself in it, to copy; to produce a facsimile. *Heb.5:1* – every priest was taken from among men ... one of the reasons why Jesus became a man, *Heb.2:14,17; 4:15*.

• **“perpetually”** – cf., *Num.8:24-25* stipulations placed on Levitical priesthood.

4 Now observe how great this **man** was to whom Abraham, the patriarch, gave a tenth of the **choicest spoils**.

• **“choicest spoils”** (ἀκροθίνιον) = top of the heap.

5 And those indeed of the **sons of Levi** who receive the priest's office have commandment in the Law to **collect a tenth from the people**, that is, from their brethren, although these are **descended** from Abraham. *cf. v.10 “loins”*

- **“sons of Levi”** – significance of bloodline, cf., **Ezra 2:61-63; Neh. 7:61-65.**

⇒ Levites were priests based on bloodline, not character. How might this have been problematic?

- **“collect a tenth from the people”** – **Num. 18:20-24; Dt. 14:28-29**

❖ Principles of Christian Stewardship: **2 Corinthians 9:1-15**

6 But the one whose **genealogy is not traced** from them collected a tenth from Abraham and blessed the one who had the promises.

- **“genealogy is not traced”** – without recorded descent, **v. 3.**

7 But without any dispute the lesser is blessed by the greater.

8 In this case mortal men receive tithes, but in that case one receives them, of whom it is witnessed that he lives on.

9 And, **so to speak**, through Abraham even Levi, who received tithes, paid tithes,

- **“so to speak”** (ὡς ἔπος εἰπεῖν) = “one might even say” or “to give the real point.” Designed to startle.

10 for he was still in the **loins** of his father when Melchizedek met him.

- **“loins”** (ὀσφύϊ) = the place where the Hebrews thought the generative power (semen) resided.