

# Hebrews: a Bible Study

## Lesson Nine

Liberty Towers Church  
Men's Bible Study  
Just Larry

## Review

- Chapter 5 - The better High Priest
  - Jesus functions as humanity's ultimate, perfect High Priest
  - Includes a reference to Melchizedek in context of Abraham
- Chapter 6 - The better way
  - Interruption of the discourse of Melchizedek
  - Warnings against about faithlessness and apostacy
  - Last verse brings up Melchizedek again
- NOW Chapter 7 - Time for a deep dive into this mystic character

2

### Chapter 5 - The better High Priest

Jesus functions as humanity's ultimate, perfect High Priest

Includes a reference to Melchizedek in context of Abraham

### Chapter 6 – The better way

Interruption of the discourse of Melchizedek

Warnings against about faithlessness and apostacy

Last verse brings up Melchizedek again

- Good questions are better than bad answers.
- Question for tonight that must be answered for ourselves.
  - Does the priesthood of Jesus change the Law?
- The big picture of Hebrews
  - Where does a Hebrew Christian fit into the dispensation of God?
  - Is there a place for a Hebrew Christian in the Church?

## Questions are better than answers.

### Answers

Answers are often wrought with criticisms, dubious jumps of logic, and sometimes outright lies.

Answers are always based upon the assumption of truth.

It comes with the assumption and expectation of the holder as being true and therefore for true for everyone.

The Issue is we do not see the world as it is. We see the world as we are.

Our truth is not the same as anyone else's truth.

Answers are the temporary stopgap to questions.

It is an effort to stop the questioning.

Answers are temporary responses.

Answers are subject to changing of accuracy and shift of decay over time.

The answers need to be reformed, remade and reevaluated as the self, community, church, and the world changes.

### Questions

Whereas questions are always honest, seeking and hopeful.

Questions answer doors, renew discussion, build up ideas, create self-examination and most important they are most personal.

Questions seek, questions try to understand, questions expose.

God is found in questions not in answers.

Hebrews 7:12

When the priesthood is ***changed***, of necessity there takes place a change of the law.

If the priesthood has changed. From the priesthood of Aaron to the priesthood of Jesus in the order of Melchizedek, How does the law change

Do we say all the laws of Moses are not valid any more?

Where does the Hebrew Christian fit into the dispensation of God?

Is there a place for a practicing Hebrew who is living by the law and now accepts Jesus as Messiah, as a part of the greater throng of Christianity.

Is there a place of the Hebrew religion as a part of the Christian religion?

WE WILL GET BACK TO THAT.....

Plight of the Hebrew Christians	Idea #1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The church was moving away from Mother Judaism</li> <li>• Paul's theology               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Today we see these special Hebrew Christians as an anomaly.</li> <li>• We take Galatians and Romans as a mandate to throw out the baby with the bathwater.</li> <li>• Paul's theology is a turning point in understanding the work and ministry of Jesus.</li> <li>• The Hebrew church was just a phase. Supersessionism, the new covenant replaced the old.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
4	

The church was moving away from Mother Judaism

Paul's theology

**Today** we see these special Hebrew Christians as an anomaly.

We take Galatians and Romans as a mandate to throw out the baby with the bathwater.

Paul's theology is a turning point in understanding the work and ministry of Jesus.

It would be a very easy leap to say the Church has completely supplanted the Love of God

It would be a very easy leap to say there is no place for Judaism in the blood washed throng of Jesus.

The Hebrew church was just a phase. Supersessionism, the new covenant replaced the old.

The picture of the first century church is one of inclusion and open to all Gentiles.

It is the ultimate perfect expansion of early Christianity.

But in doing so there is a neglect of Pre Pauline Christianity

And in that process there seems to be a willful ignorance of Christian Jewish belief

A willing conscious choice of Matraside.

History is written by the victors

Paul won out

Paul's arguments of the invalidity of Judaism and of the Torah won out the day

And with it came a prejudice toward the Hebrews.

TODAY Hebrew literature quote Paul as having a inherent prejudice against the

Hebrews.

It has set the Christian faith as the displacer of Israel in God's favor.

God is done with Israel.

So how would you feel about this if you were a Hebrew Christian?

(Pew research: 60% of all Christians believe Jews will receive eternal life.

**So should we evangelize the Jews. We may get back to that.**

Melchizedek

Idea #2

- Two main points from Chapter 7 (GENESIS 14)
  - Melchizedek is greater than Abraham
    - Given tithes from the battle v1
    - He was a man v2
    - Example of eternality of the Priesthood v3
    - Resembles the Son of God v3
    - Remains a priest forever v3
  - Melchizedek priesthood is greater than Aarons priesthood
    - Levi was preceded by Melchizedek v10
    - There was a need for another priesthood v11
    - The priesthood and the associated law were imperfect v11
    - There needed a change v12
    - Based on regulation v15
    - Melchizedek by an oath Psalm 110:4

5

From obscurity to emergence for a fleeting moment in the life and times of Abraham  
 Like a duststorm that twirls and affects all things around it and then disappears.

Here the first mention of a PRIEST

Before AARON, before all the Levitical trappings, before Moses Way back in time.

Longest argument in the book of Hebrews. Goes from Chapter 7-10

We are going to break them down in three pieces

Better intermediary of God's message 6:20-7:28 High Priest

Better contract of God's message 8:1-9:28 Covenant

Better provision of God's message 10:1:18 Sacrifice

First here in chapter 7

## READ THIS PORTION....

Two main points

Melchizedek is greater than Abraham

Wars between the Kings of the land

And among the spoils of one king they took Lot his nephew and all his goods. Living in Sodom at the time

Abraham went out with his trained men and a great running battle Abraham was able to defeat these kings

The spoils of war.

King of Sodom came out Give me the people.

The king of Melchizedek the king of Salem brought out a present of bread and wine to honor Abraham

So Abraham gave melchizedek a tenth of all the spoils.

HEBREWS Chapter 7

Given tithes from the battle v1

He was a man v2

Example of eternality of the Priesthood v3

Resembles the Son of God v3

Remains a priest forever v3

Melchizedek priesthood is greater than Aarons priesthood

Levi was preceded by Melchizedek v10  
There was a need for another priesthood v11  
The priesthood and the associated law were imperfect v11  
There needed a change v12  
Based on regulation v15  
Melchizedek by an oath Psalm 110:4

No more than a footnote in the Torah  
Hebrews takes this obscurity to the front of the argument of his sermon.  
A single moment in the life of Abraham  
Gen 4:18-20 Historical account of Abraham  
First mention of a Priest in the Torah

And he is gone  
Back to obscurity

Hebrews 7 is a major signpost in the road that is called the Book of Hebrews  
5:6, 5:10, 6:20, 7:1, 7:2, 7:7, 7:10, 7:11, 7:15, 7:17

It is a fork in the road

It is not there to show you the options

I'll still honor the Torah and have Jesus as a Messiah

OR

I will honor Jesus and recognize the change of path.

It is a fork in the road in which we must take heed.

Things are a changing

Question..... How new is the new covenant?

We will get back to

that.

Who is Melchizedek?

Ideas. Archangel Michael,

Un-named angelic being,

a theophany of Jesus,

Shem the son of Noah,

physical embodiment of the Holy Spirit

1. He was a real person
2. King of Salem – Jerusalem
3. Brought bread and wine to Abram
4. He was a priest of the God most high
5. He blessed Abraham
6. He received a tenth of the spoils from the last battle
7. He was faithful to the highest God
8. The messiah will be a part of the Melchizedekian priesthood.

Sanhedrin Discussion	Idea #3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How can the promised Messiah be a priest if he is not of the tribe of priests?</li> <li>• Another answer to, "Who is Jesus?"</li> <li>• He is a priest of a different order.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not of the Levitical hierarchy</li> <li>• No earthly tabernacle</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
6	

Debated year after year.

**“How can the promised one, the messiah, the salvation of the world, the person who would reset the nation of Israel as the center of mankind, Be also a priest.”**

**Psalm 110**

**The Lord says to my Lord: “sit at my right hand, until I make Thine enemies a footstool for Thy feet.**

**The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind “Thou art a priest forever according to the order of melchizedek.**

The Pharasees and Sadusees debated this over and over again. With no resolution  
 They knew of this shadowy priest of Salem  
 They knew of this priesthood that existed before Aaron

Jesus was of the tribe of Judah

Could not be a part of the priesthood of Moses. He was not qualified

**Unless he is a part of a higher priesthood**

**A priesthood that was older**

**A priesthood that received honor be an ancestor of Moses. Abraham**

**A priest not by regulation but by an indestructible life V16**

Focus here on Verse 12....

For when the priesthood is changed, of necessity there takes place a change of the law also.



Old Covenant given to the chosen people for all eternity  
 Or new Covenant in Jesus while important to the Hebrew Christians.

THE MOST IMPORTANT IDEA IS THAT GOD MAKES COVENANTS IN THE FIRST PLACE  
 THE EMPHASIS IS ON RECONCILIATION.

Chapter 7 is about the differences between two like thing.

- Both pointed to reconciliation
- Both pointed toward God
- Both are to man to a place of righteousness.

Melchizedek came and ministered and was gone

Aaron came and ministered and is gone

The Levites came and ministered and is gone

The tent of the wilderness is gone

The first temple is gone

The second temple is gone

*Hebrews is a revelation for reconciliation for these Hebrew Christians*

The priesthood changed with Jesus

It was a priesthood older and greater than the Levites

And when it changed with it the Law changed.

V 12

CAREFUL here the difference in definitions between Change like a diaper and thrown away

And to transpose, to transfer, to hand off from one to another

Some would say that the Law was annulled, invalidated,

LISTen carefully the priesthood may be transferred to a new order

The law may well be changed by that priesthood

**BUT GOD DOES NOT CHANGE**

So how do we reconcile God's unchangeable constancy with the idea of annulment and invalidation.

The law doesn't count anymore because the priest changed.

The Aaronic, Levitical Priesthood was an interlude

A place in the middle

It was a layer inserted in the middle between the ideal and the ideal

- The original covenant was to Abraham. To make a great nation Abraham the priest to his family.
- Abraham encountered the perfect priest in Melchizedek. The ORIGINAL PRIEST TO the NATIONS



- Aaron was to be priest to the nation and he appointed a priest to each clan EX 30:31
  - But it was imperfect
  - It did not meet the needs of reconciliation
  - It did not meet the requirements of the previous order.

The point here is that with a new high priest of Jesus and was of the Melchizedekian order the change was not an over through

The change was a reverting to the previous

The change, the transfer was to the original priestly order

The law therefore must revert, to change back to the previous

The change from the temporary nature of the priests of Aaron

The change is the expansion of the Melchizedekian priesthood

Therefore....V25

Idea #5

- Therefore He is able to save completely those who come to God through Him, because He always lives to intercede for them

*Christianity emphasis on correct belief (orthodoxy)*  
*Judaism emphasis is on correct conduct (orthopraxy)*

8

**The account here is not about MEL.**

**It is about Jesus**

Christianity had its roots in Hellenistic Judaism

Jewish religious traditions within a Greek culture

The idea of multiple Messiahs was a part of Hellenistic Judaism

Christianity --- one ultimate messiah

Jesus came as a priestly messiah

The Jews expected a warrior Messiah

What the writer of Hebrews was saying to the Hebrew Christians

Jesus is the messiah of both priest and king.

Just because he has not set up the kingdom yet does not mean he is not going to do

so.

**Jewish Christians was a faith based upon the law and Jesus as messiah**

**They wanted both**

**They did not want change.**

***Christianity emphasis on correct belief (orthodoxy)***

***Judaism emphasis is on correct conduct (orthopraxy)***

Revelation and Reconciliation

- Revealed in the Life of Jesus
  - Sinless life as a requirement of the eternal priesthood
  - The Levitical order was just a road sign not a solution
    - They pointed toward the Torah
    - They implemented a methodology that was handed down but was still inadequate to meet the needs of Reconciliation
  - Jesus changed, transferred, the sacrificial system, the ceremonies of the temple upon Himself.

All the sabbaths, feasts, dietary laws, instructions of righteousness are **NOT** annulled. They are transferred.

9

Jesus came not to make the Torah die  
Not to annul the law  
Not to abolish but to fulfill  
To transfer their impact onto a new priest.

It established the Torah

The Torah is not abrogated, it is transferred to a better minister a better priest.

Revealed in the Life of Jesus

Sinless life as a requirement of the eternal priesthood

The Levitical order was just a road sign not a solution

They pointed toward the Torah

They implemented a methodology that was handed down but was still inadequate to meet the needs of Reconciliation

Jesus changed, transferred, the sacrificial system, the ceremonies of the temple upon Himself

Special word to Change

Idea #5

- The priesthood of Aaron, the Levitical priesthood was an interlude
- A place in the middle, a layer in the middle
- It is not about getting rid of one and acceptance of the other.
- The plan is still the same
  - Father to the family
  - An eternal priesthood
  - A perfect priesthood

Change:  
To transpose, transfer, to passover to another

10

Question:

Does the new covenant negate the OLD?

It is not about which is a better covenant

**It is about that God still wants to save**

**God still wants to reconcile**

Old or new, while great ideas, important views into the nature of God

It is not the most important idea here

**God made, makes and will make a covenant with man in the first place.**

**The whole of the revelation of God to man is about reconciliation**

**That is the emphasis**

Chapter 7 is revelation about reconciliation of the Hebrew Christians

Chapter 7 is about the differences between two very similar things.

Both are pointed to one thing. Reconciliation

Melchizedek came and ministered and was gone

Aaron came and ministered and was gone

The tent in the wilderness came and was gone

The levites all took their turn ministering and were gone

The first temple of Solomon was built and it is gone

The second temple of Herod was built and is gone

The Book of Hebrews is about reconciliation for the Hebrew Christians.

V12 is very important here. What is all about

One word

Change

The priesthood changed and the law with it.

Not like a dirty diaper change. Thrown into the trash and into a landfill to decompose.

The word here is very important. Transpose, transfer to Passover to another

The words and love and promises and covenants are still perfect

**How can we reconcile God's unchangeable, constancy with the idea of annulment or invalidation.**

Time to restore the original intent

Idea #6

- The Priesthood of Aaron did not work
  - Could not bestow righteousness
  - Could not reconcile Man to God
  - Not working
- All the sabbaths, feasts, dietary laws, instructions for righteousness are not annulled, kicked out.

The original intent of the Priesthood was to be sign post, a pointer to God. REVELATION

11

The very essence of the Levitical law consisting in its sacrificial offerings;  
 could not confer perfection,  
 could not reconcile God to man,  
 Could not purify the unholy heart,  
 Could not open the kingdom of heaven to the souls of men,

Simply was not working

Go to the intent of the priesthood.

Jesus did not come to abolish, abrogate, eliminate, wipe out, throw away but to be the example,  
 the picture, the type, the perfect

Representation of the Law.

Jesus in his sinless life was a requirement to be the priest

The Levites were just road signs toward the law's fulfillment

All the sabbaths, feasts, dietary laws, instructions for righteousness are not annulled, kicked out.  
 But they are transferred

Jesus did not make the Torah die

Jesus did not annul the Torah

Jesus did not make the law with no effect

Jesus accepted the transfer of their impact to himself the embodiment of the law

The torah is not abrogated it is transferred to a better minister a better priest.

## Seven Laws of Noah (for all mankind)

1. No worship of Idols
  2. No cursing of God
  3. There will be courts of justice
  4. No murder
  5. No sexual immorality, adultery or bestiality
  6. No stealing
  7. No eating of flesh from a strangled animal.
- Acts 15:5, 10, 11, 13, 19, 20

Key verses: Hebrews 7:24, 25

Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent  
priesthood.  
Therefore, He is able to save completely  
Those who come to God through Him  
Because he always lives to intercede for  
them

## Scripture reading

- Hebrews 7:18, 19 For, on the one hand, there is a setting aside of a former commandment because of its weakness and uselessness. For the Law made nothing perfect, and on the other hand there is a bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God.



Application: What is our responsibility today as Christians?

- Should we evangelize Jews?
- Is there a requirement for us to follow the law?
- There is no plan B in God's will, it has always been revelation and reconciliation.

