

# Better

A Study of Hebrews • Lesson 6

## Hebrews 7-8 - “Better Hope and Covenant”

### Hebrews 7:1-3

See Genesis 14 for more about Melchizedek and Abraham. This story shows that Melchizedek is:

- A king of righteousness
- A king of peace
- He brings bread and wine (highly symbolic)
- A priest of the Most High God
- Someone who blesses Abraham
- Someone who receives Tithes from Abraham (10%)

Melchizedek was an actual person but his birth and death and parents are not mentioned in order to correlate him with Jesus who has no beginning or end.

He is not from the line of Aaron/tribe of Levi (Abraham was the first Hebrew).

This establishes a precedent for a priesthood of the Most High God, not of the Levitical Line, who would fulfill the duties in a way that would be better.

Compare to the Levites: They started service at age 25 and entered full service at 30, retiring at 50. Their service was temporary. But: Melchizedek was a “priest forever.”

### Hebrews 7:4-8

A comparison is being made between Jesus and Melchizedek, and inferring that Abraham is inferior to Melchizedek, who is superior.

### Hebrews 7:9-10

In speaking about Levi “being in the loins of his ancestor” - this is in reference to their belief that a man’s descendants were inside of him, waiting to be placed in a woman in order to be born. The point here is because Levi had not yet been born, Levi was giving tithes through Abraham to Melchizedek, meaning that the Levitical line was inferior to Melchizedek.

Hebrews 7:11 This line is not able to perfect people/ie: make them holy. What need do we have for another priest if the Levites could accomplish the task of holiness?

Hebrews 7:12-14

Jesus - the one of whom these things are spoken - He is answering the silent objection of the listeners - Jesus is of the tribe of Judah, not Levi - and Melchizedek is also not of the Levitical line. So, this would require a change in law - from the Mosaic Law to the New Covenant.

Hebrews 7:15-16 - Melchizedek is the shadow and Jesus is the fulfillment.

Hebrews 7:17 - Psalm 110:4 quoted

Hebrews 7:18-19 - The law was weak and useless to bring people to righteousness. It can only point out sin. A better hope is introduced thru which we draw near to God. Listen closely—WE draw near to GOD! Under the Old Covenant only the High Priest once a year could enter the Holy of Holies in the temple and draw near to God but now WE can draw near!! This is amazing! The law can only point out our sin but not perfect anyone/make them holy. The New Covenant is better - He is a better High Priest.

Hebrews 7:20-21 - The oath with the New Covenant represents the assurance of Christ's perfect authority to keep it.

Hebrews 7:22

Jesus is the Guarantor of a Better Covenant.

A Guarantor is one who promises to pay a debt if the debtor defaults. How many have defaulted on the Law? All of us! Matthew 6:12 - this is the language in the Lord's prayer - it is a debt we could not pay ourselves.

Hebrews 7:23-25

Consequently (Therefore)

Intercession means to stand between - He stands between God and man. He is able to save completely, perfectly, eternally, to the uttermost, those who draw near to Him.

**He brings:**

- Sin and guilt of man before God
- Grace of God to man
- Words and truth of God to Man
- Prayer/words of man to God

So we have one priest, superior to all the many who came before. Those priests who came before were limited by lifespan, time of service etc. They were temporary.

Hebrews 7:26-28 Contrasts the imperfect priesthood of the Levites which is surpassed by the better perfect priesthood of Jesus.

**Jesus Is:**

- Holy
- Innocent
- Unstained
- Separated from sinners

- Exalted above heaven
- He made One sacrifice for all

## Hebrews 8

Vs. 1-7

### **Much more excellent = Better**

There were not chairs in the temple for the priests to sit down. Only the Mercy Seat. There was no rest for the temple priests. BUT Christ is seated now at the right hand of the Majesty of Heaven. What we see here are copies and shadows of the real thing in Heaven, that is yet unseen.

Hebrews 8:8 - There needs to be a New Covenant.

Hebrews 8:9-10 - The Old Covenant was alive and well at the writing of Hebrews. Jeremiah was saying that the old was not working because it was dependent on their obedience. The New Covenant has a Guarantor to pay the debt we cannot pay, so it is much better.

Hebrews 8:10 - The Old Covenant was on stone - but what is external will become internal - written on our hearts. The New Covenant is in a better location for a better relationship.

Hebrews 8:11-12 - Better access is coming with the better covering for sins.

Hebrews 8:13a - What is old is obsolete and no longer in use. "Let it go."

In 70 AD the temple was destroyed. But at the writing of Hebrews, temple sacrifices were still being made daily. But the author was saying that it was already obsolete.

In 2007 the iPhone was sold. It was better than the obsolete flip phone.

Maybe we love legalism because we feel we can control it.

- I'm good- rewarded
- I'm bad- punished

We try to tell ourselves that we are really not so bad OR we try to tell ourselves that we are not as bad as the person next to us.

### **Rules = comfortable**

We are under the New Covenant but if the Old Covenant feels natural and normal, more so than holiness, what we actually have is Christian karma, not grace. If we operate this way, one day, adversity visits and that will lead us to ask from such a place, "God, why is this happening to me? Didn't I do all the things??" That is one way we can cling to the obsolete. You don't want that. The Old has gone - the New has come and it is infinitely better and grounded in the eternal and finished work of Christ, never to be obsolete!

*My Heart is Filled with Thankfulness* - Getty

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qntf2Y\\_VNok](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qntf2Y_VNok)