

A SUPERIOR PRIESTHOOD

We begin a new series entitled, **A New Covenant**, taken from **Hebrews 8-10**. This new series of lessons will show the **New Covenant (NC)** to be superior to the Old Covenant (OC).

(Heb.8:1) **“Now the main point (kephalaion) in what has been said is this: We Church Age Believers (CAB) have such a high priest who has taken His seat at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens.”**

The text, “The Main point in what has been said” is a reference back to what was taught in Hebrews chapters 5-7 regarding the Superiority of the Priesthood of Jesus Christ to the Levitical priesthood.

The writer of Hebrews **introduced** the subject of the superiority of Jesus’ priesthood in Hebrews chapters 3-4 (Heb.3:1-3; 4:14-16). Hebrews chapters 3-4 taught the superiority of Jesus Christ, seated in session, to Moses.

This lesson will study four aspects of the Superior Priesthood of Jesus in the New covenant.

It is interesting that the Superior Priesthood of Jesus Christ is based on two issues: Melchizedek (OC) and Jesus, seated in session (NC) (Heb.8:1).

1. Melchizedek is mentioned in three different passages and periods of biblical history:

- Abraham
- David
- The Incarnation of Jesus Christ

Abraham: In Gen.14:18-20, Melchizedek’s priesthood is identified with the Abrahamic Covenant, about 600-700 years before Moses and the Levitical priesthood. It is interesting that this meeting took place in Canaan. It shows God’s amazing Grace Plan working on behalf of all Spiritually Advancing Believers.

David: In Ps.110:4, Melchizedek is identified with the Davidic Covenant, about 500 years after the Levitical priesthood.

Jesus Christ: In Heb.7:1-3, Melchizedek is identified with the Incarnation of Jesus Christ, who fulfilled both Abrahamic and David Covenants. Heb.7 shows that the Levitical priesthood ceased with the Session of Jesus Christ. It was put out of order with the death of Christ on the cross (Matt.27:51). It was taken out by the 5th cycle of divine discipline in 70AD (Matt.23:34-39).

2. The writer of Hebrews gave Melchizedek two kingly titles to be applied to Jesus Christ: King of SalemPeace and King of Righteousness.

(Heb.7:2) “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.”

Peace: “And through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.” (Col.1:20)

Righteousness: “He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” (2 Cor.5:21)

3. The writer gave Jesus Christ another title: Priest of Most High God (Gen.14:18, 22; Heb.7:1-3).

God revealed Himself to Melchizedek as **El-Elyon**. El-Elyon was a title of the God of all grace blessings (Gen.14:19).

This name emphasized to Abraham that Yahweh God is superior over all so-called gods of the world (Acts 17). This was important to Abraham because he was converted out of such a polytheistic culture (Josh.24:2).

- Luke 1:49 in Mary’s hymn, the Magnificat.
- Luke 1:76 in Zacharias ‘s hymn, Benedictus.

In the Millennial Age, Jesus Christ will reign as both **Priest and King** (Zech.6:13; Ps.110:4).

4. Jesus Christ was not called priest until after His death, burial, resurrection, ascension, and session (Heb.7:3, 14-17; Ps.110:4).

(Ps.110:4) “The Lord has sworn and will not change His mind, ‘You are a priest **forever** according to the order of Melchizedek.’” (Heb.7:17, 21-28)

The MAIN POINT of the Melchizedek priesthood of Jesus Christ is repeated several times in Hebrews chapters 5-7. It is the word **FOREVER**.

(Heb.5:6) ‘Just as He says in another passage, ‘Thou art a priest **forever** according to the order of Melchizedek.’”

(Heb.7:3) “Without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, be made like the Son of God, He remains a priest **forever.**”