

Dear Grace Church,

I encourage you to continue reading the book of Hebrews in a single sitting for familiarity. Then read, read, read Hebrews 7 for all its richness in relation to Christ as our Great King and Forever Priest.

NOTE WELL: Even though now there is no direct reference to the struggling little church of Hebrew Christians, Hebrews 7 is intended to correct one main problem— their spiritual dullness of the glorious person and wonderful work of Christ as our Final Prophet, Final Priest, and Final King in order to be the Mediator of Full and Final Revelation of God in the New Covenant and the Mediator of a Perfect (Complete, Full, Better) Marriage between God and His people! It's also the correction for spiritual dullness in the church for all posterity, which means our spiritual dullness!

I've given a very detailed interpretive outline of the text of Hebrews 7, and I pray that you will make good use of it. Read it together with the text and think and pray through each paragraph. There is so much here, I'll likely only preach Hebrews 7:1-10.

Seeking to be awake and alive to the person and work of King-Priest Jesus together with you,

Murray

How to Build the Perfect Church Series, 34

The Covenant of Grace Applied

“Jesus, Our Great ‘King of Righteousness and Peace’ and Forever Priest”

Hebrews 7:1–28; Part 1, verses 1-10

¹For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, ²to whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all, first being translated “king of righteousness,” and then also king of Salem, meaning “king of peace,” ³without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, remains a priest continually. ⁴Now consider how great this man *was*, to whom even the patriarch Abraham gave a tenth of the spoils. ⁵And indeed those who are of the sons of Levi, who receive the priesthood, have a commandment to receive tithes from the people according to the law, that is, from their brethren, though they have come from the loins of Abraham; ⁶but he whose genealogy is not derived from them received tithes from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises. ⁷Now beyond all contradiction the lesser is blessed by the better. ⁸Here mortal men receive tithes, but there he *receives them*, of whom it is witnessed that he lives. ⁹Even Levi, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, so to speak, ¹⁰for he was still in the loins of his father when Melchizedek met him. ¹¹Therefore, if perfection were through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need *was there* that another priest should rise according to the order of Melchizedek, and not be called according to the order of Aaron? ¹²For the priesthood being changed, of necessity there is also a change of the law. ¹³For He of whom these things are spoken belongs to another tribe, from which no man has officiated at the altar. ¹⁴For *it is* evident that our Lord arose from Judah, of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood. ¹⁵And it is yet far more evident if, in the likeness of Melchizedek, there arises another priest ¹⁶who has come, not according to the law of a fleshly commandment, but according to the power of an endless life. ¹⁷For He testifies: “*You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek.*” ¹⁸For on the one hand there is an annulling of the former commandment because of its weakness and unprofitableness, ¹⁹for the law made nothing perfect; on the other hand, *there is the* bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God. ²⁰And inasmuch as *He was* not *made priest* without an oath ²¹(for they have become priests without an oath, but He with an oath by Him who said to Him: “*The Lord has sworn And will not relent, ‘You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek’*”), ²²by so much more Jesus has become a surety of a better covenant. ²³Also there were many priests, because they were prevented by death from continuing. ²⁴But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood. ²⁵Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. ²⁶For such a High Priest was fitting for us, *who is* holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; ²⁷who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people’s, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself. ²⁸For the law appoints as high priests men who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the law, *appoints* the Son who has been perfected forever. (NKJV)

I. King and Priest: Seeing Melchizedek as the Awakening Type; Living FOR the Reality of Eternal King Jesus in Full Measure (1-10)

- A. Are you awakened to a sense of a King and kingdom of Righteousness, and a King and kingdom of Peace? (1-2)

- B. Are you awakened to a sense of “eternal life in Christ,” prefigured in the life and ministry of Melchizedek, realized in Christ as our Eternal High Priest (3)

- C. Preparation for Christ TO TAKE CENTER STAGE: Levites, great; the patriarch Abraham, greater; Melchizedek, even greater; Jesus, GREATER THAN ALL IN EVERY WAY (4-10)

II. Seeing Melchizedek as the Awakening Type; Living UPON the Reality of Eternal Priest Jesus in Full Measure (11-25)

- A. The eternal priesthood of Christ, alone sufficient (11-12)

- B. Christ, a descendent of the tribe of Judah and appointed by God, not a descendent of the tribe of Levi and a priest according to the old covenant prescription (13-14)

- C. The wonder of living upon of the power of Christ’s endless sacrificial life and service (15-17) [We become the kingdom of priests Exodus 19:6; 1 Peter 2:9]

D. The superior (better) hope of Christ as a superior priest (18-25)

1. Drawing near God with a superior (better) hope (18-19)
2. Christ, our forever priest and surety (guarantor) of a superior covenant (20-22)
3. Jesus, the one eternal and final priest who is able to mediate our complete salvation (23-25)

(a) There is no limitation to Jesus' forever priesthood (23-24)

(b) The perfection (fullness and completeness) of Jesus' priestly ministry for his people (25)

(1) Jesus is able to care for his people at every critical moment of our lives (25a)

(2) The unlimited care of our always living priest (25b)

III. The Sinless Character and Sacrificial Death of Christ as a Bridge to Hebrews 8:1-10:18 (26-28)

A. Adoring Jesus' remarkable qualifications (26)

B. Living upon Jesus' once-for-all sacrifice (27-28)

Grace Welcomes You

September 21, 2024

Rejoice, The Lord Is King

Rejoice, the Lord is King!
Your Lord and King adore
Rejoice, give thanks and sing,
And triumph evermore;

Lift up your heart,
Lift up your voice; rejoice,
Again I say, rejoice!

The Lord Our Savior reigns,
The God of truth and love;
When He had purged our stains
He took His seat above;

Lift up your heart,
Lift up your voice; rejoice,
Again I say, rejoice!

His kingdom cannot fail,
He rules over earth and heaven,
The keys of death and hell
Are to our Jesus given;

Lift up your heart,
Lift up your voice; rejoice,
Again I say, rejoice!

Rejoice in glorious hope!
Our Lord the Judge shall come,
And take His servants
Up to their eternal home.

Lift up your heart,
Lift up your voice; rejoice,
Again I say, rejoice!

Psalm 110
(The LORD Has Spoken to My Lord)

The LORD has spoken to my Lord:

“At my right hand take your seat

Until I make Your enemies

Into a footstool for Your feet.”

The LORD from Zion will extend

The mighty scepter in Your hand:

“Rule in the midst of enemies,

Subdue each under your command.”

Your people, in your day of pow'r,
 Freely give themselves to You;
Your youth, all clothed in holiness,
Appear each day like morning's dew.
The LORD has sworn a solemn oath
From which He'll never be released
 “In th' order of Melchizedek
 Forevermore you are a priest.”

And when His day of wrath has come;
Then the Lord at Your right hand
Will crush great kings and nations judge,
With fallen bodies fill the land.
Justly condemned beneath His rule
Will heads of many nations die;
But from the brook He'll stop to drink,
And His own head He'll lift up high.

Hallowed Be Your Name

Who is like You, Father, The Source of life and love?

An overflowing fountain, In Spirit and the Son

Abba! Our Father, Hallowed be Your name

Reigning high in heaven, Receive our grateful praise

Who is like You, Jesus, The Son most glorious?
The fullness of the Godhead, Who came in flesh for us
Savior, Lord Jesus, Hallowed be Your name
Risen now in power, The Lamb for sinners slain

Who is like You, Spirit, Our Comfort from above?
You draw us to the Savior, Reveal the Father's love
Spirit, O Spirit, Hallowed be Your name
Fount of living water, Come, fill our hearts again

God, there's no one like You, For who can bear the sight?
Clothed in glorious splendor, In holy, burning light
O God, our God, Who was and is to come
Father, Son, and Spirit, Most holy Three-in-One

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Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, holy, holy!
Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning
our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy, holy, holy,
merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons,
blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy!
All the saints adore Thee,
Casting down their golden crowns
around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim
falling down before Thee,
Who wert and art and
ever more shall be.

Holy, holy, holy!
Though the darkness hide Thee,
Though the eye of sinful man
Thy glory may not see;
Only Thou art holy;
there is none beside Thee,
Perfect in power,
in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy!

Lord God Almighty!

All Thy works shall praise Thy name

In earth, and sky, and sea;

Holy, holy, holy;

merciful and mighty!

God in three Persons,

blessed Trinity!

Behold Our God

Who has held the oceans in His hands?

Who has numbered every grain of sand?

Kings and nations tremble at His voice

All creation rises to rejoice

Behold our God seated on His throne

Come let us adore Him

Behold our King nothing can compare

Come let us adore Him!

Who has given counsel to the Lord?

Who can question any of His Words?

Who can teach the One who knows all things?

Who can fathom all His wondrous deeds?

Behold our God seated on His throne

Come let us adore Him

Behold our King nothing can compare

Come let us adore Him

Who has felt the nails upon His hands
Bearing all the guilt of sinful man?
God eternal humbled to the grave
Jesus, Savior risen now to reign!

Behold our God seated on His throne

Come let us adore Him

Behold our King nothing can compare

Come let us adore Him

Men: You will reign forever
Women: Let Your glory fill the earth

Men: You will reign forever
Women: Let Your glory fill the earth

Men: You will reign forever
Women: Let Your glory fill the earth

Men: You will reign forever
Women: Let Your glory fill the earth

Behold our God seated on His throne
Come let us adore Him
Behold our King nothing can compare
Come let us adore

Christ The True And Better

Christ the true and better Adam,
Son of God and Son of man
Who, when tempted in the garden,
Never yielded, never sinned
He who makes the many righteous,
Brings us back to life again
Dying, He reversed the curse, then,
Rising, crushed the serpent's head

Christ the true and better Isaac,
Humble son of sacrifice
Who would climb the fearful mountain,
There to offer up his life
Laid with faith upon the altar,
Father's joy and only son
There salvation was provided,
Oh what full and boundless love

Amen, amen,
From beginning to end
Christ the story,
His the glory
Alleluia, amen

Christ the true and better Moses,
Called to lead a people home
Standing bold to earthly powers,
God's great glory to be known
With his arms stretched wide to heaven,
See the waters part in two
See the veil is torn forever,
Cleansed with blood we pass now through

Amen, amen,
From beginning to end
Christ the story,
His the glory
Alleluia, amen

Christ the true and better David,
Lowly shepherd, mighty King
He the champion in the battle,
Where, o death, is now thy sting?
In our place He bled and conquered,
Crown Him Lord of majesty
His shall be the throne forever,
We shall e'er His people be

Amen, amen,
From beginning to end
Christ the story,
His the glory
Alleluia, amen

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