

A Greater Priesthood

Hebrews 7:1-8:6

Metaphors are symbolic pictures of a reality. In Hebrews we have the Word as a sword, hope as an anchor, and Jesus as the perfect image of God, the unblemished lamb of sacrifice & the high priest according to the eternal order of Melchizedek who mediates before God for us. He represents us before the Father and brings the Father's mercy to us. It takes more than one metaphor to truly understand the mystery of the greatness of God. The scriptures has many other metaphors for God.

What metaphor speaks to you?

7:1-10 A Biblical/Historical picture of Melchizedek. (Genesis 14:17-20)

In chapter six there is a definite warning against willful and deliberate rejection of faith in Christ a person previously affirmed fully. They are encouraged with the assurance that the hope they had, like an anchor, is firm and secure (6:19). In chapter one we learned that Jesus is the greatest revelation of the Father and greater than angels. Now comes the development of the teaching that in Christ there comes grace, which is greater than the law, through a greater priesthood. *Melchizedek represents a greater priesthood.*

Abraham is the patriarch described as the "father of faith" (Romans 4:11,12,16; 9:7-8; Galatians 3:7). And he bowed before Melchizedek, gave a tenth to him, and was blessed by him.

:4 *Now consider how great this man was, even Abraham the patriarch gave a tenth of his plunder to him.*

:7 *Without a doubt, the inferior is blessed by the superior.*

:9 *Levi (Levitical or Aaronic priesthood) paid a tenth through Abraham.*

7:11-28 A Superior Priesthood

:14 Jesus was from the tribe of Judah, not Levi. Jesus was raised in Nazareth, a nondescript town in the hills of Galilee. It had no great distinguishing characteristics but, was a town of Levitical priests. Jesus would have had opportunities to dialogue and learn from them as he grew up.

:16-17 Jesus is a priest not by physical descent but, by an indestructible or eternal life. Compare verses 2-3 with verse 16. The comparison links Melchizedek and Jesus. Read Psalm 110:1-4. A priestly king by the lineage of David.

:19 **A better hope**

:22 **A better covenant** guaranteed

:24 **A better permanent priesthood**

:25 Through this better covenant of grace He is able to **"save completely."** In chapter six a "better hope" and in chapter seven a **"better salvation."** As a high priest he always intercedes for us (Romans 8:34; 1 Jn 2:1). A high priest wore on his

turban a golden plate, a crown inscribed with, "Holy to the Lord" Exodus 39:30. He stood before the Lord on behalf of the people.

On the cross Jesus wore not a golden crown, but a crown of thorns. What love Jesus has to have worn my crown, your crown, of thorns representing our sin. Thorns came about because of sin, Genesis 3:18. He who had no sin took our sin upon himself, 2 Corinthians 5:21, and in love gave his life for sinners, Romans 5:7-8. Jesus on the cross wore a "crown of sin" as our sin substitute. And he still intercedes for us.

Jesus who was Holy God in the flesh (John 1:14; Col 1:15,19; Hebrews 1:3) took on sin that was repugnant to Him because of His love to save us. He paid the price for our freedom (1 Cor. 6:20; 7:23) and justified us before the Father (Romans 5:1; Titus 3:7; 1 Peter 3:18). He bore our sin to the cross on Golgotha and died a sinner's death in our place to provide eternal life to all who believe in Him as the resurrected Son of God Romans 10:9-13. We indeed, have a better salvation.

:26-28 A Stronger priesthood. The High Priest is not a sinner. All he does is for others = Covenant. He does not have to do anything for us, but His love will not let Him do nothing. Jesus came to save, giving us abundant life John 10:10, and eternal life John 5:24.

:28 Weak priest vs strong priest - Ephesians 3:20 who can do "immeasurably more than we can imagine". Psalm 103: 17 It Lasts "from eternity to eternity is the Lord's faithful love". Protection Psalm 121:1-4 *I look unto the hills. My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth. ³ He will not let your foot slip—he who watches over you will not slumber; ⁴ indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.*

8:1- 13 A Heavenly Priesthood

:1-5 THE MAIN POINT Jesus is interceding eternally in Heaven

He is sitting down on the throne in the real tabernacle in heaven. He is not worried and anxious. He knows that His work on earth was completed John 19:30 "*It is finished.*" Cf. Mark 15:38; Hebrews 9:11. Nothing was left uncomplete. It was enough!! There is no need to fret that your sin is greater than what Jesus did for your salvation. Cf. 1 Timothy 1:12-17 the "worst" received mercy and given us the ministry of reconciliation 2 Corinthians 5:18-20 as His ambassadors. You have a better salvation!!

Though you are struggling at times, you do not need to go back for more grace to be saved again. His grace is sufficient for every thorn in the flesh, every sin memory, 2 Corinthians 12:7-8. *My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is perfected in weakness.* When we are weak and we go to Jesus with our repentance, our confession of sin, He who is strong, makes us strong. Out of our weakness we go to Him who is strong and He strengthens us. 2 Corinthians 12:10 *When I am weak, then I am strong.* Philippians 4:13 *I can do all things in Him who strengthens me.*

:6 A Superior Ministry that gave a *better covenant*, established on *better promises*.