

Hebrews 6.20

The order of Melchizedek

We come at last the figure who looms in the center of Hebrews. Melchizedek. He is a mystery, an enigma - but we are given enough clues and hints that we can see through the veil and see that we do indeed know Him, but by another name. This is none other than the eternal Son of God in a pre-incarnate appearance. We see the writer of Hebrews returning to his theme, that the old priesthood has been superseded, but with a slight twist. By referring to Melchizedek we see that the priesthood was superseded before it even began. It was a placeholder, a preparation for the coming of the Son. For this one of the order of Melchizedek is the true priest of God, and the true access to Him.

All of these points are developed more fully in the chapters to come but it will help us to have an idea of the lay of the land before we venture in... therefore, we will try and understand just what is meant by Jesus being a priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

I. WITHOUT HUMAN LINEAGE

A. Without Human father, thus without legal human lineage.

Genesis 14.18-20
Luke 3.23, Matthew 1.16

1. The genealogy of Matthew gives us the royal lineage to the man who not Jesus' father... so it does not apply to be Jesus' actual lineage. Only his adopted status
2. Notice the father of Joseph - Jacob. And we are distinctly told that Jacob begot Joseph.
3. But notice who is the "father" of Joseph in Luke's version... Heli. Most scholars agree that Heli is actually Mary's father. This is the actual lineage we can trace of Jesus' human ancestry. But the lineage of the woman is not accepted as lineage by the Jews. So Jesus also had to lineage,

B. Supersedes the Aaronic line b/c all were still in Abraham when he offered tithe to Melchizedek

1. Important thing to note here is that the tribe of Levi and the descent of Aaron were all included in the homage to Melchizedek. They also paid Him homage

C. Predates the Aaronic line

1. Melchizedek was established as a priest of God before the law established the tribe of Levi, and the line of Aaron
2. He was already doing what He did and Abraham bowed before him to offer tithe

D. Has access to God by some means other than the established Old Testament pattern

II. WITHOUT HUMAN SUPERIOR

Psalm 110

- A. All will be put under His footstool
- B. He will have (has) the power and the right to rule and govern His people (and all things)
- C. He will have (has) absolute right to judge

D. He will have the final dispensation of peace

III. WITHOUT HUMAN INTERVENTION

A. Needs no other to give permission or access to God

Psalm 24.1-6

B. Needs no other to give approval of what He does

Psalm 24.7-10

C. Needs no other help or power to accomplish His goals

Hebrews 1.1-4

IV. WITHOUT HUMAN WEAKNESSES

A. He is the eternal priest who will never be too old to serve actively as a priest

Numbers 8:24–25 (NKJV)

²⁴ *“This is what pertains to the Levites: From twenty-five years old and above one may enter to perform service in the work of the tabernacle of meeting; ²⁵ and at the age of fifty years they must cease performing this work, and shall work no more.*

B. He is the eternal priest who offers the eternal sacrifice

Hebrews 9:12-14

C. He is the eternal priest who successfully perfected FOREVER those who are being saved.

D. He is the eternal priest who will never die

Hebrews 10.12-14

E. He is the eternal sacrifice who died and is raised again for our justification

Romans 4:25 (NKJV)

²⁵ *who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.*

V. WITHOUT HUMAN INSUFFICIENCIES

A. He has no sin of His own to atone for

Hebrews 7.25-28

B. He has no uncleanness to prevent His access to God

John 10:30 (NKJV)

³⁰ I and My Father are one.”

C. He has no hatred toward those who need

Matthew 23:37 (NKJV)

³⁷ “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!

John 8:10–11 (NKJV)

¹⁰ When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, “Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?”

¹¹ She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said to her, “Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.”

Mark 10:21 (NKJV)

²¹ Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, “One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me.”

D. He has no anger for the need itself. He knew what He came to do...

Matthew 26:39 (NKJV)

³⁹ He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, “O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.”