

Hebrews
(Lesson 9)

Introduction:

1. The first section (1:1-4:13) emphasizes "the superiority of Christ as God's spokesman."
2. The second section (4:14-ch.10) emphasizes "the superiority of Christ as High Priest."
3. Ch.7 reveals additional information that shows how the Lord's priesthood is superior to the Jewish ["Levitical"] priesthood.
 - a. Some very prominent names appear in ch.7, including Melchisedec, Abraham, Levi, Aaron, Judah, and Christ.
 - b. To properly understand this chapter we need to know:
 - 1) who these prominent Bible characters are
 - 2) how they relate to each other.

Discussion:

I. ABRAHAM

- A. He was a great and special man in God's sight.
- B. God made a special promise to him in Genesis 12:1-3.

II. MELCHISEDEC

- A. Abraham had some dealings with him (Genesis 14:18-20).
- B. Melchisedec:
 1. was "*king of Salem*" and "*the priest of the most high God*" (vs.18)
 2. blessed Abraham (vs.19)
 3. received tithes from Abraham (vs.20)
 4. is mentioned numerous times in connection with the Lord's priesthood.

III. LEVI AND JUDAH

- A. Jacob (Abraham's grandson) had 12 sons (Genesis 35:22b-26).
- B. The 12 tribes of Israel descended from Jacob's sons (Genesis 49:1-2, 28a).
- C. The priests of Israel [Aaron and his sons] came from the tribe of Levi (Numbers 18:1-7).
- D. The law made no provision for priests to come from the tribe of Judah.
- E. While the Levitical priesthood was in effect, a prophecy was made about someone who would be made a priest after the order of Melchisedec (Psalm 110:1-4).

IV. CHRIST

- A. Christ fulfilled the prophecy in Psalm 110:4 (Hebrews 5:6, 10; 6:20).
- B. The question in Hebrews 7:11 shows us why it was necessary for a priest to be appointed after the order of Melchisedec.