

Hebrews  
(Lesson 10)

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."
  - a. (4:14-5:10) Jesus is shown to be a great High Priest.
  - b. (5:11-ch.6) The need for spiritual growth is stressed.
    - 1) Christ was made a High Priest after the order of Melchisedec (5:6, 10; 6:20).
    - 2) Understanding this subject requires spiritual maturity because little information is revealed about Melchisedec.
3. (ch.7) Information is presented that shows how the Lord's priesthood is superior to the Jewish ["Levitical"] priesthood.

Discussion:

- I. (7:1-3) CHRIST WAS MADE A HIGH PRIEST AFTER THE ORDER OF MELCHISEDEC, NOT LEVI
  - A. Melchisedec was a great man in that he served as king and priest, even though his genealogy is not recorded.
    1. Melchisedec met Abraham after he rescued Lot (Genesis 14:11-20).
    2. Melchisedec served as king of Salem and as God's priest.
    3. Melchisedec blessed Abraham, signifying his greatness over Abraham.
    4. Abraham gave a tenth of the spoils to Melchisedec.
    5. Melchisedec's genealogy, birth, and death are not recorded.
    6. In this sense, Melchisedec:
      - a. was made like unto the Son of God
      - b. abides a priest continually.
  - B. By comparison,:
    1. Aaron and his sons served as priests under the law (Exodus 28:1; Numbers 18:1-2, 6-7)
    2. Aaron's priesthood did not continue because his genealogy, birth, and death have been recorded (Exodus 6:20; Numbers 20:23-29).
  - C. It was prophesied that:
    1. Christ would be a priest after the order of Melchisedec (Psalm 110:1-4)
    2. Christ would be a priest while He ruled on His throne (Zechariah 6:12-13).
- II. (7:4-10) MELCHISEDEC'S GREATNESS IS REFLECTED IN HIS DEALINGS WITH ABRAHAM, THE ANCESTOR OF LEVI
- III. (7:11-19) THE LEVITICAL PRIESTHOOD COULD NOT MAKE ANYONE PERFECT
  - A. If the Levitical priesthood could have made people perfect, there would have been no need for another priest to rise after the order of Melchisedec.
  - B. However, in order for Christ to serve as High Priest the law had to be changed because He came from the tribe of Judah.
  - C. In addition to changing the law, the Lord's new covenant made perfection possible.
- IV. (7:20-22) GOD MADE CHRIST A HIGH PRIEST WITH AN OATH
  - A. The Jewish priests were not ordained with an oath.
  - B. Concerning the Lord's priesthood God made an oath, and He will not change His mind.
- V. (7:23-25) CHRIST SERVES AS AN UNCHANGEABLE HIGH PRIEST
  - A. The Jewish priests could only serve as long as they lived.
  - B. However, Christ continues forever, and He ever lives to intercede for His followers.
- VI. (7:26-28) CHRIST IS A SINLESS HIGH PRIEST
  - A. Because of their sins the Jewish priests had to offer sacrifices regularly for themselves as well as for the people.
  - B. Christ had no sin (1 Peter 2:22), but He offered Himself once for the sins of the world.