



Hebrews Chapter 7 The Melchizedek Dilemma !

During our last weeks study of chapter 6 of the book of Hebrews we talked about the “obedience of faith” and how tragic it is that so many Christians have no idea what the “obedience of faith” even is. We also spoke about the “Once saved always saved” doctrine of demons that leads so many Christians away from God and the gospel message that our Messiah came to bring. And we saw the imminent warning that jumps off the pages of our Bibles from the author of the book of Hebrews that warns us against falling away or turning back to Judaism and the sacrificing of animals for our sins. And we saw how dangerous it is to fall away from the grace of God and to turn back to the ways of the world... Clearly.. no one wants to take their last breath while in this state. And we see time and time again how the author of the book of Hebrews literally shoots down false doctrine after false doctrine with his clear cut easy to understand warnings concerning falling away from grace, and the obedience of faith... and dying in our sins... and not only that... but he also is very clear about God truly being “One God” and not some trinity of gods.

And so as we move forward we're going to find that the author of the book of Hebrews has not only shot down these false doctrines that have been adopted by today's modern day version of Christianity... but that he presses on even farther in these next few chapters continuing to help us to see the truth of the Gospel message that was given to the Apostles to give to the world.

We also talked about these so called “Super Apostles” that Paul talks about in 2nd Corinthians 11:5. These men who are full of the wisdom of men.. but have no idea of who the one true God of Abraham, Issac, and Jacob even is.. or what he stands for.. let alone the Son he sent to re-establish the obedience of faith, and to write the laws of God on the hearts and in the minds of his people.

Even today we hear of these men who don't even call themselves Pastors anymore. They call themselves “Doctors”... with PhD's and diploma's and more degree's than a thermometer hanging on their walls... all of which shows nothing more than the fact that they have been indoctrinated by the teachings of men.

And I want us to think about that for just a moment because we were warned that these things would come to pass. When men would be full of the wisdom of men.. and not the wisdom of

God. Paul was already dealing with this nonsense in his time and we can see this through his writings to the churches to Corinth, and the Galatians and all throughout his writings... but do we listen?

Now.. I want to stop here for just a moment to make sure that we're all on the same page concerning these so called "Doctors" and men with all kinds of degree's hanging all over their walls. Let me say this.. There is nothing wrong with getting an education. And there is nothing wrong with learning, or reading what someone else may have believed at one time or another. And there's certainly nothing wrong with knowing your church history... The problems comes when we choose to follow after these men and what they believed. The deception comes when we choose to follow after our so called "Early church fathers" rather than choosing to follow after God. The deception comes when we've become so indoctrinated with our own denominational dogma that we can't see anymore. The deception comes when we put all of our faith in our man made, man created, man fabricated institutions... rather than putting our faith in God. The deception comes when we start calling ourselves "Calvinists"... or "Catholics"... "Baptists", or "Pentecostals". These are names of men given by men... created... by men. Manufactured by men.

No where in our Bibles are we told that you must be a "Baptist" in order to enter into the kingdom. No where in our Bibles are we told that we must belong to some man made charter of men.. in order to be saved. No where in our Bibles are we told that we must call our Pastor our "Father" or our spiritual leader. The Bible says and I quote... "Hear Oh Israel... Yahovah our God... Yahovah is one". And the Bibles says and I quote.. "For this is the love of God.. that we keep his commandments.. and his commandments are not burdensome to us". That's what the Bible says. And that's what the author of the book of Hebrews is so desperately trying to convey to us, and we can see that over and over and over again in the writings of the Apostle Paul who so many of today's denominational church leaders proclaim did away with Gods laws, and nailed them to some tree somewhere. That again my friends... is not found in your Bible.. anywhere... and I mean no where.

So once again if you've not been with us throughout our study into the book of Hebrews you might want to start from the beginning of the book, and you can find all of our studies at our website at HolyImpactMinistries.com in our Archives section... so with all of that being said... lets move on into the 7th chapter of the book of Hebrews and lets read Hebrews chapter 7:

Heb 7:1 For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him,

Heb 7:2 and to him Abraham apportioned a tenth part of everything. He is first, by translation of his name, king of righteousness, and then he is also king of Salem, that is, king of peace.

Heb 7:3 He is without father or mother or genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but resembling the Son of God he continues a priest forever.

Heb 7:4 See how great this man was to whom Abraham the patriarch gave a tenth of the

spoils!

Heb 7:5 And those descendants of Levi who receive the priestly office have a commandment in the law to take tithes from the people, that is, from their brothers, though these also are descended from Abraham.

Heb 7:6 But this man who does not have his descent from them received tithes from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises.

Heb 7:7 It is beyond dispute that the inferior is blessed by the superior.

Heb 7:8 In the one case tithes are received by mortal men, but in the other case, by one of whom it is testified that he lives.

Heb 7:9 One might even say that Levi himself, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham,

Heb 7:10 for he was still in the loins of his ancestor when Melchizedek met him.

Heb 7:11 Now if perfection had been attainable through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need would there have been for another priest to arise after the order of Melchizedek, rather than one named after the order of Aaron?

Heb 7:12 For when there is a change in the priesthood, there is necessarily a change in the law as well.

Heb 7:13 For the one of whom these things are spoken belonged to another tribe, from which no one has ever served at the altar.

Heb 7:14 For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, and in connection with that tribe Moses said nothing about priests.

Heb 7:15 This becomes even more evident when another priest arises in the likeness of Melchizedek,

Heb 7:16 who has become a priest, not on the basis of a legal requirement concerning bodily descent, but by the power of an indestructible life.

Heb 7:17 For it is witnessed of him, "You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek."

Heb 7:18 For on the one hand, a former commandment is set aside because of its weakness and uselessness

Heb 7:19 (for the law made nothing perfect); but on the other hand, a better hope is introduced, through which we draw near to God.

Heb 7:20 And it was not without an oath. For those who formerly became priests were made such without an oath,

Heb 7:21 but this one was made a priest with an oath by the one who said to him: "The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind, 'You are a priest forever.'"

Heb 7:22 This makes Jesus the guarantor of a better covenant.

Heb 7:23 The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office,

Heb 7:24 but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever.

Heb 7:25 Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

Heb 7:26 For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens.

Heb 7:27 He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself.

Heb 7:28 For the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.

Now... we're going to spend some substantial time here in this chapter of the book of Hebrews because it is monumentally important to understand what's being said here because once again... today's modern day version of Christianity has for the most part.. fallen way short, and has completely missed the mark when it comes to understanding what's going on here in Hebrews chapter 7.. and I might add... this is exactly why you rarely hear about a Bible study that truly studies the book of Hebrews. Today's modern day Christianity is not very fond of the book of Hebrews and some denominational scholars have even gone so far as to proclaim that it doesn't even belong in the Biblical canon because of the truth it speaks. And this should be a warning to us all.. when they start telling us that this book or that book doesn't belong in the Bible because it doesn't fit their denominational dogma, or their theological doctrines and understandings... we need to sit up and take note of who these men are and why they're so adamantly denying the written word of God.

There should be no doubt in our minds that the Bible is true and that it is inherent when understood properly. But it is not for the casual browser, nor is it for the non-believer, nor is it for the skeptic. It is written that the oracles of God were given to the Jews... and by the way you can find that in Romans 3:2.. and from the Jews comes the truth of God's word in both the old and the new Testaments. We have to remember that the Apostles were chosen by our Jewish Messiah who was a Jew who came from the house of David and the tribe of Judah. It was the Jews who taught the Gospel message from their synagogues that actually spread the Gospel message around the world. These were very Jewish men. Paul himself a Benjamite who was assimilated into Judaism who was himself a Pharisee of Pharisees. So it would even be fair to say... that the Gospel message that we have today was given to us by a Pharisee at least in part.

It was the Jews that were entrusted with the oracles of God... not that they all followed them properly... but they were entrusted with them. And so when we look for the truth of God's word we must look to the Jews who were entrusted with his word... and this is why it's so profoundly important to understand the Jewish mind set and culture so that when we read our scriptures we can then better understand what these Jewish men were trying to convey to us.

We can not read these scriptures through the glasses of today's modern day understanding... we must reach back into the time in which they were given and understand that each one of our English Bibles have been translated from men who were already well indoctrinated with things like the "Trinity" and "Once saved always saved" and "Dispensational Grace" and all kinds of man made, man created nonsense... never before heard of back in the days of the Apostles.

So with that in mind... let's slow down now and re-read Hebrews chapter 7 verses 1-4:

Heb 7:1 For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him,

Heb 7:2 and to him Abraham apportioned a tenth part of everything. He is first, by translation of his name, king of righteousness, and then he is also king of Salem, that is, king of peace.

Heb 7:3 He is without father or mother or genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but resembling the Son of God he continues a priest forever.

Heb 7:4 See how great this man was to whom Abraham the patriarch gave a tenth of the spoils!

Now... one of the first things that we see here in chapter 7 is the introduction of this fellow by the name of “Melchizedek”. And this is important.. because everybody has their own idea about who Melchizedek was. And most of Christianity.. through their philosophical understanding... completely miss the mark when they try to tell us that the Bible says.. that Melchizedek was Jesus.. or that Melchizedek was God.

I can not tell you how many times I've heard these kinds of assumptions being made.. and let me be clear... when I say “assumptions”.. I mean “assumptions”. And they won't come out and tell you that they are assumptions... they'll try and convince you that Melchizedek was Jesus, or that Melchizedek was God because the Bible says so. But the truth my friends is that you will not find that anywhere in your Bible. No where... and I mean no where does it say in the bible in any of the 66 books of the Bible anywhere... that Melchizedek was Jesus per-encarnate... or... that Melchizedek was God who decided to come down to Earth and become the King of Salem. It does not say that... and we need to be clear about the Biblical fact... that it does not say that anywhere in the scripture.

In order to get there... from the scripture... you must make a giant leap.. from reality... into the swamp of speculation. You must make a giant leap from reality... into the myer of assumption. And when we begin to assume things that we are clearly not told in our scripture.. we're on our own. We've chosen to take another path. We've chosen to believe something not stated anywhere in the scriptures.

Now.. not that this is always bad, because some things are to be discerned spiritually. But.. when the scripture clearly tell us the direct opposite of what we choose to believe... we are now standing in shark infested waters. And lets be clear my friends.. we're simply not told that Melchizedek was Jesus... nor are we told anywhere in the scripture that Melchizedek was God, or some kind of “God man”. You simply will not find that in your Bible bar none anywhere.

So lets first understand what we do know about this fellow by the name of Melchizedek according to the scriptures.

First of all we find this fellow Melchizedek in three different places in the Bible. One is

Genesis 14, then again in Psalms 110, and again in Hebrews chapter 7. So.. from about 2000 B.C... to about 60 A.D... we find that this fellow Melchizedek has made his mark in our scriptures.

So if we're going to understand why the author of the book of Hebrews is mentioning this fellow Melchizedek... we then need to go back and do some homework so that we can understand not only who this Melchizedek was... but who he was not. Now we know... if we've read our Bibles.. that Abraham assembled together an army of men to go rescue Lot, who had been captured by these kings, and Abraham persuaded these kings as far as Dan and so on and so forth.. and of course Abraham finally does indeed rescue Lot and his family and at that point in time Abraham is introduced to this King of Salem by the name of Melchizedek. So let's go back and read Genesis 14:18-24:

Gen 14:18 And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. (He was priest of God Most High.)

Gen 14:19 And he blessed him and said, "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth;

Gen 14:20 and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand!" And Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

Gen 14:21 And the king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give me the persons, but take the goods for yourself."

Gen 14:22 But Abram said to the king of Sodom, "I have lifted my hand to the LORD, God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth,

Gen 14:23 that I would not take a thread or a sandal strap or anything that is yours, lest you should say, 'I have made Abram rich.'

Gen 14:24 I will take nothing but what the young men have eaten, and the share of the men who went with me. Let Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre take their share."

So... we see here in verse 18 that this King of Salem brings out bread and wine.. and that he blesses Abraham, and he blesses God for delivering Abraham's enemies into Abraham's hand. Now... I want us to stop right here for a moment. Some.. people will say that because Melchizedek... who was the king of Salem mind you... brought out bread and wine... that this means that Melchizedek was Jesus, because Jesus had bread and wine at the last supper.

Now... I first want us to understand that bread and wine were two staples that were probably the most common of all food sources back in those days. Bread and wine were eaten and drunk by everyone back in that time. They did not have rows and rows and even miles of soft drinks in some grocery store to choose from like we do today. They had what they had, and so to say that Melchizedek was Jesus.. because Melchizedek chose to bring Abraham some bread and wine.. is once again a what?... It is an assumption... at best. Once again... they are making a giant leap from the truth of what we find in our scriptures... to an unknown... UN-substantiated.. untold... and even untrue... assumption.

Now... I know that a lot of you out there may be asking... how do you know that this is an “untrue” assumption? Well I know it's an untrue assumption because the scriptures tell me that it's an untrue assumption. That's how I know it's untrue. That's how I know it's made up... and that's how I know not to believe such nonsense. Number one.. and this is a biggie my friends.. The scripture does not say that this Melchizedek is Jesus. Number two we're told that Yahshua Jesus was and I quote from Hebrews 7:17.. *"A priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek."*

Now... if the author would have said that Yahshua Jesus was the first and last High Priest... then maybe... but even then... we're not told anywhere in the scripture that Melchizedek was the first High Priest. There may have been several other High Priests before Melchizedek. Melchizedek may have simply been the best High Priest, or the most favored High Priest. But we are not told that Melchizedek was indeed the first High Priest.

What we are told... is that Yahshua Jesus would be “AFTER” the order of Melchizedek. So no matter who you might say that Melchizedek was... there's one person that we know was not Melchizedek according to the scriptures... and that's Yahshua Jesus. Jesus could not have been Melchizedek according to the given scriptures. And I dare say that God himself had no reason to demote himself to the level of an earthly king who ruled over the small city of Salem. Think about that for a moment, because that's the other Christian myth... the other side of the coin if you will.... That God made himself a man and demoted himself to king status over a small city called Salem. Does that make any sense to you? Because it doesn't make any sense to me.. and once again I have to point back to the fact that the scriptures do not say any such thing... period.

Let me ask you my friends... could the author of the book of Hebrews simply have come out and told us that Melchizedek was Jesus? He absolutely could have. But he clearly does not. What would be the point in not telling us that Melchizedek was Jesus if this was true? Think about that for a moment. There's no reason not to say that Melchizedek was Jesus is Melchizedek was Jesus is there?

So I ask you plainly... do we need to make that giant leap into the obis of speculation? I dare say that we do not... and should not. Another thing that we need to notice is that Melchizedek king of Salem blessed both Abraham and God. Would God need to bless himself? Think about that for just a moment. Again we can find this in Genesis 14:19 and 20:

Gen 14:19 And he blessed him and said, "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth;

Gen 14:20 and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand!" And Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

If Melchizedek was God... he would have no need to bless himself. And if Melchizedek was God.. Abraham would have known that Melchizedek was God because as we already know...

God came to Abraham as an Angel just before he destroyed the city of Sodom.. and Abraham knew that it was God that he was speaking to. But Abraham never calls Melchizedek “Lord” or “God”. So armed with that information... lets go back and ready Hebrews 7:1-4:

Heb 7:1 For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him,

Heb 7:2 and to him Abraham apportioned a tenth part of everything. He is first, by translation of his name, king of righteousness, and then he is also king of Salem, that is, king of peace.

Heb 7:3 He is without father or mother or genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but resembling the Son of God he continues a priest forever.

Heb 7:4 See how great this man was to whom Abraham the patriarch gave a tenth of the spoils!

First and foremost... lets be clear... once again this Melchizedek was the king of Salem, and if we turn back to Genesis chapter 14 we can see that this Melchizedek king of Salem was with the king of Sodom as well. So both kings were there to greet Abraham after the slaughter of the kings who took Lot. So both were indeed kings over their presiding cities. So why did Abraham give Melchizedek a tenth of everything? Abraham gave Melchizedek a tenth of everything because Melchizedek was a High Priest, and Abraham obviously acknowledged his office, and chose to give him a tenth of everything in order to honor God.

Now I want us to stop right here for just a moment as well. Think about what Abraham did in giving Melchizedek a tenth of everything. Was Abraham commanded to give a tenth of everything to Melchizedek? This was before the law was given. Moses had not yet entered the picture, and the Levitical law of tithing had not yet been handed down yet. So did this mean that what we know as the “Law of Moses” pre-ceded... Moses? Think about that for just a moment. Abraham gave Melchizedek a tenth of everything because he knew that Melchizedek was a High Priest of God and Abraham wanted to honor God... and so he gave him a tenth of everything.

And while we're on this topic of tithing. You and I both know that tithing is a Levitical law found in what we know as the Old Testament don't we? And we also know that most of today's modern day denominational churches teach and preach that all of Gods laws are all nailed to the cross. And this is what they teach... they consistently teach that we are no longer under Gods law because we live in their man made dispensational state of grace right? So all Gods laws are all nailed to the cross except for one. There is one levitical law that today's modern day denominational churches love so much that they just can't seem to let go of... do you know which Old Testament law that is that they love so much?... Its the Levitical law... of Tithing... all of Gods laws are all nailed to the cross except for... the law that says you gotta give me a tenth of your income. Isn't that ironic... or should I say... shameful... despicable.... and down right evil.

So... once again Abraham blesses Melchizedek back by honoring God and giving him a tenth of everything. Does this mean... that Melchizedek was Jesus? Does this mean... that Melchizedek was God in human form? I ask you plainly... what does the scripture say? Does the scripture say that Melchizedek was Jesus or that Melchizedek was God? No.. it does not. And Abrahams giving of ten percent was done out of the love of God.. not because Melchizedek was God.

Another thing that I want to remind us of is what we already read in Hebrews 5:1:

Heb 5:1 For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins.

According to the author of Hebrews... he's already told us that only men can be "High Priests". And this includes our Messiah who was a man. Once again lets read 1st Timothy 2:5:

1Ti 2:5 For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,

So in order to be a High Priest Melchizedek would have had to be a man according to Hebrews 5:1. And for God to demote himself to the status of a humanly High Priest... really rides on the rails of blasphemy does it not? To say that Melchizedek was God is to say that God demoted himself not only to High Priest... but to an earthly king. Now some may point back to Yahshua Jesus and say well that's what Jesus did... but I would submit to you that God never demoted himself to human status (and neither did Yahshua Jesus. Yahshua Jesus was begotten by his Father... a man from the womb of his mother Mary). God was with his Son Yahshua yes... just as God is with all of us who have his Holy Spirit... but that does not mean that God demoted himself to being human.

God has always been one God and God is not human... God is spirit. John 4:24:

Joh 4:24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."

So it's important to understand that according to our scriptures there were two types of Priesthoods (or High Priests). There was the Aaronic Priesthood that came out of the loins of Aaron who was the brother of Moses... and yet there was also a personal Priesthood... that was ordained by God not through the flesh... but rather directly from God.

According to the Levitical Priesthood you had to be a descendant of Aaron in order to be a High Priest. You had to be in the blood line of Aaron. But Melchizedek was before Aaron. So Melchizedek was a High Priest that had been selected personally by God to be a High Priest, and once again even though Gods laws were not yet handed down to Moses... we can clearly see that Gods laws per-ceeded the giving of the law to Moses. In other words Gods laws were already in effect way before Moses ever came into the picture.

Think about it for just a moment. What is sin according to the scripture? Sin is the transgression of the law according to 1st John 3:4. So if this is true... (and we know it is because it's found in the scripture)... then how did Adam and Eve sin? If Gods law was not in effect... and sin is the transgression of the law... then how could Cain have sinned when he murdered his brother Abel?

Gods word... is his law. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. What is the word of God? His law is his word. What God says is what God is. What God says is what is. God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth." And it was so. God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years, and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth." And it was so. God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds." And it was so. Jesus did not need to be their hammering things out my friends... God spoke it... and it was so. Gods word is who God is, and Gods word is what God says is. This... is what the Bible says. No assumption required.

Hebrews 7 2-4 says He is first, by translation of his name, king of righteousness, and then he is also king of Salem, that is, king of peace. He is without father or mother or genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but resembling the Son of God he continues a priest forever. See how great this man was to whom Abraham the patriarch gave a tenth of the spoils!

Notice that we're told in verse 3... that Melchizedek “resembles” the Son of God. Now if Melchizedek was the Son of God... then how hard would it be for the author of the book of Hebrews to simply say that Melchizedek was the Son of God? But he doesn't say that at all does he? No! He says and I quote “but resembling the Son of God he continues a priest forever.”. So let me ask you plainly my friends... how big a difference is there between “being” and “resembling”? Is there a difference between “being” the Son of God... and “resembling” the Son of God? I would submit to you that there is a big difference. A monumental difference.

Once again my friends of all the people that we may say Melchizedek might be... there is one person according to the scripture that Melchizedek can not be... and that is Yahshua Jesus our Messiah. He resembles him, but so does Joseph who became 2nd in command over all of Egypt.

Joseph was a shepherd... Jesus is the Great Shepherd. Joseph was loved by the his father... Jesus was beloved by his Father. Joseph was hated by his brothers ..Jesus was hated by His brothers. Joseph foretold of his future sovereignty...Jesus foretold of his future sovereignty.

Joseph was envied by his brothers...Jesus was envied by his brothers. Joseph was sent by his father to his brothers...Jesus was sent by his father to his brothers. Joseph seeks out his brothers... Jesus sought out his brothers. Joseph seeks the welfare of his brothers... Jesus seeks the welfare of his brothers. Joseph was conspired against ...Jesus was also conspired against. There are well over 60 similarities to Joseph and Jesus found in the scriptures. Does this mean that Joseph was Jesus? No. So because Melchizedek resembles Jesus... does this make Melchizedek Jesus? Again... no it does not.

The Bible is full of shadows of things to come. Images and resemblances, that are there for our benefit to show us the great plan of the one true God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.. so we need not make that giant leap into the swamp of assumptions and speculations. We need only to read the scriptures for what they say... and trust and believe in them. And we'll pick this up next week in part 2 of Hebrews chapter 7, and we'll talk next week about who Melchizedek may have been.