

AARON AND MELCHIZEDEK CONTRASTED – HEBREWS 7:1-10

I. THE SUPERIORITIES OF MELCHIZEDEK PRESENTED (v.1-3)

AARON'S PRIESTHOOD	MELCHIZEDEK'S PRIESTHOOD
<p>1. PRIESTHOOD WAS NATIONAL (Israel)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aaron's priests were priests of Jehovah (the national title for God). • Aaron's priests were of Israel and Judaistic. 	<p>1. PRIESTHOOD WAS UNIVERSAL (v.1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Melchizedek was not the priest of Jehovah, but of "the Most High God." • It is the universal name that reaches Jew and Gentiles • Melchizedek's priesthood is not limited to a nation. Jesus is the Messiah of the world.
<p>2. PRIESTS WERE SUBJECT TO KINGS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • His priests were subject to royalty (the kings). • They were subjects in a kingdom. • Israel's priests were never king and priests. 	<p>2. PRIESTHOOD WAS ROYAL (v.1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Melchizedek's Priesthood was Royal (called a "king", He.7:1-2). • Jesus Christ is that blend of priest and king that takes men to God, but He rules men for God.
<p>3. PRIESTHOOD OFFERED NO PERMANENT RIGHTEOUSNESS IN PEACE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They never established a permanent righteousness for man, nor permanent peace with God. • Any peace or righteousness was shattered every time they sinned. • Provision had to be made to cover the sins of the priests lest they die (Ex.28:40-43; 29) 	<p>3. PRIESTHOOD OF RIGHTEOUSNESS AND PEACE (v.2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Melchizedek's name means 'righteousness', and his city is 'peace' (Salem from <i>Shalom</i>, He.7:1). • He is a perfect combination of righteousness and peace. • Jesus provides permanent righteousness. The O.T. sacrifices 'covered' sins, but Jesus atones (removes) sin forever.
<p>4. PRIESTHOOD WAS HEREDITARY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God designed that the priesthood would come from the tribe of Levi (direct lineage to Aaron). • Even if you were not a 'good' person, because you were born in the 'right' family, you could become a priest. 	<p>4. PRIESTHOOD WAS PERSONAL (v.3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Without father...mother...descent." Genesis provides no such record. • Priesthood based on personal qualification (not heredity). • This is foreign to any Judaistic king or Judaistic priest.
<p>5. PRIESTHOOD RESTRICTED FROM AGE 25-50</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This was a timed priesthood. They only existed from the age of about 25 to 50. 	<p>5. PRIESTHOOD IS ETERNAL (v.3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Having neither beginning of days nor end of life (He.7:3). • Because there is no record of his death he always appears alive in the text.

II. THE SUPERIORITIES OF MELCHIZEDEK PROVEN (v.4-10)

- (1) Nobody's better than Abraham, and Abraham gave his tithes to Melchizedek (v.4-5) (v.4-5)
- (2) Melchizedek blessed Abraham. The greater blesses the lesser (v.6) (v.6)
- (3) Because all priests were in the loins of Abraham at that time, he is therefore greater than all priests (v.7-10) (v.7-10)