

“The Indestructible Priest”

Session 5 – Hebrews 7:1-28

Bible Study Method:

Inductive Study
(Observation, Interpretation, Application)



PRINT A COPY OF Hebrews 7:1-28 To work through this study. (pages 5-6)

INTRO

Read It:

Last week, we saw that our hope is an "anchor." Today, we look at Melchizedek, a mysterious figure who serves as the blueprint for Jesus. As we compare them, we'll see the strength of Jesus' priesthood (based on an eternal identity) over the old Jewish priesthood (based on family trees and rules). Jesus' priesthood is better because it is permanent and not based on performance.

The author of Hebrews is still chipping away at the Jewish system that is oppressing these Christ followers. He urges them to continue following Jesus despite the world around them and wants them to know that standing with Christ in tough circumstances is still better than standing on traditions and easy path of the Jewish world they had known their whole lives.

We are also introducing you to the Inductive Bible Study method. In its most simple form, this method is:

- 1) Observation
- 2) Interpretation
- 3) Application

People who use this method practice the "Observation" portion by slowing down their reading of Scripture and marking it up. We have given you a page with our passage printed so you can practice these markings and experience the ways it helps you see the Scripture differently. Feel free to mark in your own Bible if you're comfortable doing so.

SECTION 1 – The Blueprint: Melchizedek

Hebrews 7:1-10

Read It: Hebrews 7:1-10

Mark It:

- Circle the name "Melchizedek," his titles ("King" and "priest"), and any pronouns (he, him, his) referring to him.
- Put a "v" above any Action Verbs (words that show Melchizedek doing something or working).

Questions:

- Looking at your circles, it's clear that there are two distinct roles Melchizedek holds simultaneously. In our world today, the person with the 'power' to rule (the King) and the person who provides 'mercy' and spiritual help (the Priest) are different people. Why do you think it's significant (or even a relief) to have one person who holds both of those roles at the same time?
- Now look at your "v" markings for action verbs. Notice how few there are. The author tells us who Melchizedek is, but almost nothing about what he did to earn his titles. How does this challenge the modern idea that we have to "do more" or "work harder" to be right with God?

Read It:

In Hebrews 7:3, when the Bible says Melchizedek is "*without genealogy*" or has "*no beginning or end*," it isn't saying he was a supernatural being who never died. Instead, the author is highlighting a unique literary silence in the book of Genesis. Usually, the Bible is very specific about birth certificates and death records, but with Melchizedek, there is no record of his parents, his birth, or his death. This 'missing paperwork' is a deliberate blueprint. On the pages of Scripture, he looks eternal, which makes him the perfect blueprint for Jesus, who actually is eternal. While other priests eventually had to retire or die, we have a Priest in Jesus whose help never 'expires' because He remains a priest forever.

- In Hebrews 7:4, we find one of the few action verbs as Abraham gives Melchizedek a "tenth of the plunder." If Abraham, the "Father of the Faith," honored Melchizedek, what does that tell us about the status of this kind of priesthood?

SECTION 2 – Why the System Shifted

Hebrews 7:11-19

Read It: Hebrews 7:11-19

Mark It:

- Draw a triangle on or near words (or ideas) that describe failure or limitations in the old system. (Examples: nothing perfect, weak, useless, etc.)
- Draw a box on or near words (or ideas) that describe how Jesus' priesthood is better. (Examples: indestructible life, better hope, draw near, etc.)

Questions:

- Looking at your page, contrast the triangles (what the law couldn't do) with the boxes (what Jesus does). Why is it a 'better hope' to have a Priest who lives forever rather than a system of rules that eventually fails?
- Hebrews 7:19 says the law made nothing perfect, but a "better hope" is introduced. According to this verse, what is the ultimate goal of this better hope?

SECTION 3 – Reflection (Optional)

Reflect on It:

We often revert to "rules" to feel right with God. Spend a couple of minutes asking: If you truly believed your access to God was based on Jesus' indestructible life and not your fluctuating performance, how would your life change this week? What performance would you let go of? How would you rest in His indestructible life?

Take two more minutes to simply "draw near" (v. 19). Don't bring a list; just rest in the reality that Jesus is not available, He is standing at the door and knocking.

SECTION 4 – The Building: Jesus

Hebrews 7:20-28

Read It: Hebrews 7:20-28

Mark It:

- Put a "Star" above every word that refers to Jesus. (Jesus, son, priest, He, Him, etc.)

Questions:

- Look at your Scripture page. What do you notice visually?
- When you look at the starred verses, how does Jesus' character (vs 26 - holy, blameless, pure, etc.) show Him to be better than the description of Melchizedek?
- Hebrews 7:22 says Jesus is the "guarantor" of a better covenant, and in verse 25, it says He "always lives to intercede" for us. How do these two roles—the legal promise and the ongoing prayer—work together to ensure we are "saved completely"?

DO IT

- **The "Guarantor" Mindset:** This week, when you feel the weight of "not being good enough," consciously say: "Jesus is my guarantor. My standing with God is based on His signature, not my effort."
- **The King-Priest Audit:** Identify one situation in your life right now where you need Authority (The King) and one where you need Mercy (The Priest). Pray specifically for Jesus to step into those roles for you this week.
- **The Intercession Reminder:** Set a daily reminder on your phone that simply says: "He is interceding for you right now." When it goes off, take 30 seconds to rest in the fact that your King is currently speaking your name to the Father.

PRAY IT

Lord Jesus, thank You for being the fulfillment of the blueprint. Thank You that You are our holy, blameless, and pure High Priest. We rest in the fact that You are our guarantor and that You always live to speak for us. Help us to draw near to You this week, trusting in Your indestructible life rather than our own weak efforts. Amen.

Melchizedek the Priest

¹This Melchizedek was king of Salem and priest of God Most High. He met Abraham returning from the defeat of the kings and blessed him, ²and Abraham gave him a tenth of everything. First, the name Melchizedek means “king of righteousness”; then also, “king of Salem” means “king of peace.” ³Without father or mother, without genealogy, without beginning of days or end of life, resembling the Son of God, he remains a priest forever.

⁴Just think how great he was: Even the patriarch Abraham gave him a tenth of the plunder! ⁵Now the law requires the descendants of Levi who become priests to collect a tenth from the people—that is, from their fellow Israelites—even though they also are descended from Abraham. ⁶This man, however, did not trace his descent from Levi, yet he collected a tenth from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises. ⁷And without doubt the lesser is blessed by the greater. ⁸In the one case, the tenth is collected by people who die; but in the other case, by him who is declared to be living. ⁹One might even say that Levi, who collects the tenth, paid the tenth through Abraham, ¹⁰because when Melchizedek met Abraham, Levi was still in the body of his ancestor.

Jesus Like Melchizedek

¹¹If perfection could have been attained through the Levitical priesthood—and indeed the law given to the people established that priesthood—why was there still need for another priest to come, one in the order of Melchizedek, not in the order of Aaron? ¹²For when the priesthood is changed, the law must be changed also. ¹³He of whom these things are said belonged to a different tribe, and no one from that tribe has ever served at the altar. ¹⁴For it is clear that our Lord descended from Judah,

and in regard to that tribe Moses said nothing about priests. ¹⁵And what we have said is even more clear if another priest like Melchizedek appears, ¹⁶one who has become a priest not on the basis of a regulation as to his ancestry but on the basis of the power of an indestructible life. ¹⁷For it is declared:

“You are a priest forever,

in the order of Melchizedek.”

¹⁸The former regulation is set aside because it was weak and useless ¹⁹(for the law made nothing perfect), and a better hope is introduced, by which we draw near to God.

²⁰And it was not without an oath! Others became priests without any oath, ²¹but he became a priest with an oath when God said to him:

“The Lord has sworn

and will not change his mind:

‘You are a priest forever.’ ”

²²Because of this oath, Jesus has become the guarantor of a better covenant.

²³Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office;

²⁴but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. ²⁵Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

²⁶Such a high priest truly meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. ²⁷Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself. ²⁸For the law appoints as high priests men in all their weakness; but the oath, which came after the law, appointed the Son, who has been made perfect forever.