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Monday Night Bible Study
Lakewood Church
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Hebrews 7

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

This is what we refer to as a Christophany – a symbol of Christ Jesus.

⁴ Just think how great he was: Even the patriarch Abraham gave him a tenth of the plunder! ⁵ Now the law requires the descendants of Levi (Genesis 29:34) who become priests to collect a tenth from the people—that is, from their fellow Israelites—even though they also are descended from Abraham.

Abraham → Isaac → Jacob (Israel) → Levi, the 11th son. A tribe of Israel.

The Levites were the tribe meant to be the keepers of the temple. They were the worshippers, servants, tenants of the temple worship. Many of them played instruments, et al. They were also in charge of making sure the temple money was collected. They were the priesthood in the temple.

⁶ This man, however, did not trace his descent from Levi, yet he collected a tenth from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises. ⁷ And without doubt the lesser is blessed by the greater. ⁸ In the one case, the tenth is collected by people who die; but in the other case, by him who is declared to be living. ⁹ One might even say that Levi, who collects the tenth, paid the tenth through Abraham, ¹⁰ because when Melchizedek met Abraham, Levi was still in the body of his ancestor.

One interesting note: When Jesus was walking the earth, and called His disciples to come and follow Him, He had ONE money collector that was a part of his team. He had a tax collector who worked for the Romans yet was an Israelite. His name was Matthew.

¹¹ If perfection could have been attained through the Levitical priesthood (the Law)—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? ¹² For when the priesthood is changed, the law must be changed also. ¹³ He of whom these things are said belonged to a different tribe, and no one from that tribe has ever served at the altar. ¹⁴ For it is clear that our Lord descended from Judah, and in regard to that tribe Moses said nothing about priests. ¹⁵ And what we have said is even more clear if another priest like Melchizedek appears, ¹⁶ one 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.

James 1:21-25 - Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you. Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.

¹⁷ For it is declared: “You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.”

¹⁸ The 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.

James 1:8 – Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.

²⁰ And it was not without an oath! Others became priests without any oath, ²¹ but 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.’”

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

²³ Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office; ²⁴ but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. ²⁵ Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

John 17:11-12 - I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled.

Romans 8:33-34 - Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

²⁶ Such a high priest truly meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. ²⁷ Unlike 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. ²⁸ For 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.

This brings us to a very important point in the first three pages of the Bible. WHY did God kick Adam and Eve out of the Garden?

Adam and Eve were sinless and unashamed, free of guilt. When the enemy, the Satan, came to them and tempted them to disobey the command of God, they were removed from the Garden of Eden.

There were two trees in the garden, the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. IF they had eaten of the tree of LIFE after they had eaten of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (death), they would have lived forever in the state of sin, brokenness, and shame.

Jesus was made perfect forever:

- He lived a perfect life.
- He died a selfless death.
- He was glorified forever in His perfection.