

## Priesthood And Worship Pt. 1.

Hebrews 7.

Sunday morning, February 17, 2008.

### I. All worship is based on priesthood. Hebrews 6:19,20.

Three ideas are imbedded in the office of the priesthood. 7:25-28.

- A. The existence of the priesthood presupposes sin on the part of the worshippers.  
Furthermore that sinful worshippers are separated and cut off from God because of sin, and that their worship is unacceptable apart from mediation.
- B. The existence of the priesthood presupposes that God intends to remove sin.  
That God will remedy and atone for sin and that He will forgive it.
- C. The existence of the priesthood presupposes that God will restore man to a place of fellowship with Himself; to union with Himself.

### II. Worship in patriarchal times. Hebrews 7:1,2.

In patriarchal times worship was mediated through the heads of families or clans or tribes.

- A. Noah, in behalf of his family, built an altar to the Lord and sacrificed burnt-offerings after the flood. Genesis 8:20
- B. Abraham built an altar and sacrificed a ram instead of his son. Gen. 22:13.
- C. Job offered burnt-offerings with prayer for his children. Job 1:5  
Also for his friends after the trial ended. Job 42:8.
- D. Isaac built an altar to the Lord and called on Him. Gen. 26:25.
- E. Jacob built an altar to the Lord and led his household in worship. Gen. 35:1-7.
- F. Melchizedek represented the clan living at Salem before the Lord as both priest and king in the days of Abraham. Gen. 14:18-20.

Application:

How this calls us as heads of households to pray with and for our children and our wives!

Are you in the habit of doing so?

Are you a priest in your own house?

### III. Christ, a priest after the order of Melchizedek. Hebr. 6:20.

The priesthood of the Lord Jesus fulfills both the types of the priesthood of Melchizedek and that of the Levitical priesthood.

- A. His work He patterns after the Levitical priesthood.
- B. His Person He patterns after the order of Melchizedek.

The point of Hebrews 7 is to make plain the superiority of the priesthood patterned after Melchizedek over the Levitical priesthood, and thus Christianity over Judaism.

1. He appears in Scripture without father or mother, beginning of days or end of life; made like the Son of God, remaining a priest continually. Vs.3.
2. The paying of tithes by Abraham to Melchizedek proves the superiority of Melchizedek over Levi who was yet in Abraham's loins with his descendants. Vs. 5,9,10.
3. The blessing bestowed on Abraham by Melchizedek proves his superiority

over Abraham and his descendants, for the lesser is blessed of the greater.  
Vs 6,7.

4. In the order of Melchizedek Christ became a Priest, not on the ground of a fleshly commandment, that is not on the bases of His descent from Levi and the house of Aaron, but by the power of an endless life of which Melchizedek is a type. Vs. 14-17.
5. Christ is inducted into His Priesthood by the oath of God rather than by descent and inheritance as was the Levitical priesthood. Vs. 20,21 and 28  
“The Lord has sworn and will not relent; You are a Priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.” Vs. 20,21 quoted from Psalm 110:4.
6. The Levitical priesthood had many priests who succeeded each other because of death. It lacked permanence. Christ’s Priesthood in the order of Melchizedek has only one Priest and is not transmissible. He and He alone ministers by the power of an endless life. Vs. 16, 23,24.
7. In speaking of a different priesthood, after the order of Melchizedek, the OT itself anticipates the passing away of the Levitical priesthood. Vs.18,19,28.
  - Because of its weakness and unprofitableness. Vs. 18.
  - Because it made nothing perfect. (Acceptable to God.) Vs. 19.

#### Application:

1. Remember the point of all worship is to have our worship and our persons accepted of God, and to be brought in a state of fellowship with God and His people.
2. How is this going to be brought about? On what ground can it happen?  
The Hebrews had to choose between the Levitical priesthood and the Priesthood of the crucified and risen and ascended Christ.
3. We still have to choose the ground on the basis of which we seek to draw near in fellowship with God and His people.
  - Is it your baptism and the sacraments?
  - your church membership?
  - Your attending the services of your church?
  - Your offerings and good works?
  - The mediation of your pastor, priest or church?
4. - Read again the second half of Vs. 19: “There is the bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God.”  
This is the Priesthood of the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the better hope.
  - Read again Vs. 22: “Jesus has become a surety (or guarantee) of a better covenant (or arrangement between God and man.)  
Jesus is the guarantee of the acceptance of your person and worship. He brings us into fellowship with God and His people.
  - Read again Vs. 25: “He is able to save (make acceptable with, and bring in fellowship with God) to the uttermost those who come to God through Him.”
5. Do you self-consciously look to Him as you come to worship? Is your hope to be accepted of Him, and to receive benefit from worship, fixed on Him alone?