

Spiritual Growth Questions for August 16 2020

(take one question each day and grow deeper in Bible study)

Opener: Talk about a time when you discovered a “better” way to do something. Perhaps it was a new way to create, build, organize or a more compassionate approach to a problem. How did you feel about this discovery?

1. **Read Hebrews 7:1-10 two times.** What do we learn about Melchizedek? Describe what you learned about him and his ministry? What stands out to you about his ministry?
2. **Read Genesis 14:11-27, Psalm 110:1-5.** What do these two passages reveal about Melchizedek? How do the references to Melchizedek in these two passages relate to and inform the priesthood and kingship of Jesus Christ? What clues do you see in these passages to help us understand more about Jesus?
3. **Read Hebrews 7:4-10.** Hebrews 7:4 See how great this man was to whom Abraham the patriarch gave a tenth of the spoils. Levi, one of the twelve sons of Jacob and a great-grandson of Abraham, founded the priestly tribe of Israel. How does 7:4-10 make the case that Melchizedek’s priesthood is superior to Levi’s? How is Melchizedek and Jesus similar as seen in these verses?
4. Why was it important for the Hebrews to understand the priesthood of Jesus? In what different areas or ways of your life is it helpful knowing that Jesus is both our high priest and king?
5. **Read Romans 5:1, Psalm 85:10, Isaiah 32:17, John 14:27.** Melchizedek’s name means both king of righteousness and peace. Read the above verses and discuss how Jesus makes righteousness and peace available to all who put their trust in Him. Why does righteousness come first and then peace?
6. Why do you think the writer is pointing to the greatness of Jesus, above all others, to help this Hebrew church through their trials? How could this same approach be helpful to you?

Prayer: Dear Sovereign Lord, please root my heart in the righteousness of Jesus. May I understand afresh that His righteousness is my righteousness when I put my faith and trust in Him as My Lord. May this righteousness overflow into how I live my life. May I be right with others in my relational network. May the peace of Christ flow deeply into my soul and into the lives of those I interact with this week.

Better with Jesus: A Study of the Book of Hebrews

Jesus: Our King of Righteousness and Peace

Hebrews 7:1-10. August 16, 2020

Pastor John Lloyd

The book of Hebrews presents the greatness of Christ like no other New Testament writing. The author knew that by remembering and lifting up Jesus, he would help the readers endure their difficult circumstances. As this book is read, it demands a response. Today, we will reflect on the old testament high priest Melchizedek. His name and title refers to Him as king of Salem (Peace) and a high priest of the Most High. The root word for his name is righteousness. The writer is using Melchizedek to point to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He is both the king of righteousness and peace. Understanding these two truths can help us face the difficulties of life.

Hebrews 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, 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. 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. 4 See how great this man was to whom Abraham the patriarch gave a tenth of the spoils! 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. 6 But this man who does not have his descent from them received tithes from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises. 7 It is beyond dispute that the inferior is blessed by the superior. 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. 9 One might even say that Levi himself, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, 10 for he was still in the loins of his ancestor when Melchizedek met him.

Key Idea: The peace and righteousness of Jesus brings stability to our souls.

Key questions: Why does Melchizedek matter? Why is understanding our need for the righteousness of Jesus so important? Why a right relationship with God and others brings peace to our souls? What should our response be to Jesus as our king of righteousness and peace?

The writer wanted his readers to understand the priestly ministry of Jesus which was right thinking, right feeling and right living.

I. Melchizedek represents the type of _____ we desperately need.

Outside of Jesus and Melchizedek, Scripture identifies no one as both king and priest. His name points to the fact that he is a righteous king. He was also the king of peace. Al Mohler

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For Hebrews the priest Melchizedek foreshadows the heavenly high priest, Christ. Melchizedek is not the Son of God but is “like the Son of God” in that he “remains a priest forever” (7:3) in the perspective of Scripture.
George Guthrie

II. Abraham models the _____ God is looking for from His children.

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In the ancient world, paying tithes to another was recognition of the other's superiority and a sign of subjection to that person. In the case of Abraham's rendering his title, we must remember that when Abraham returned from the slaughter of the kings, he was on a personal mountaintop. He had proven himself a man of great courage and of considerable capability. Moreover, in the eyes of succeeding generations of Jews he would be considered to be the greatest of men. Kent Hughes

- Abraham's response is to worship the Most High God v.4
- Abraham's response demonstrates that a careful reader of the Old Testament would be looking for a forever priesthood to replace the temporary Levitical priesthood.

If Abraham submitted to Melchizedek as king and priest, then we should submit to the kingship and priesthood of Jesus.

Melchizedek's character type regarding king, priest, righteousness and peace was fulfilled to perfection in Jesus Christ. Hughes

III. Jesus is our source of _____ and _____!

Hebrews 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. 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.

Righteousness - The establishment of a right relationship primarily between God and people and secondarily between people themselves.

I John 2:1 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. (*Jesus is righteousness incarnate*)

Romans 3:21 But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— 22 the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: (*Jesus is the giver of righteousness*)

Philippians 3:9 And be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— (*righteousness comes through faith in Christ*)

By faith in Jesus Christ and his work of atonement man, unrighteous sinner though he is, receives God's righteousness, i.e. he is given a true relationship with God in union with Christ “the righteous one.” The New Bible Dictionary

Isaiah 32:17 And the effect of righteousness will be peace, and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust forever.

Genesis 14:18 And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. (He was priest of God Most High.) 19 And he blessed him and said, “Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; 20 And blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand!”

As we prepare for communion, consider that God owns everything. Jesus' broken body and shed blood are how we are made right and experience peace with God. His flesh and blood have secured our righteousness and peace. Jesus has delivered me/us from my/our enemies of sin and death into His hand.

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

May our hearts and lives be surrendered to Jesus our great High Priest!