

A HOUSE FOR HIS NAME

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Expositional Study – “The Book of Hebrews -#09

Date: May 03, 2020

Text: Hebrews 7:1-28

Speaker: Dennis L. Finnan, Serving Pastor

THE MYSTERY OF MELCHIZEDEK

INTRODUCTION: Today we move to what is perhaps another difficult section of Hebrews, where unfamiliar imagery and arguments are strange to our modern western culture. Furthermore, the writer’s use of allegory and typology, leads us into misty paths of thought. Nevertheless, I will endeavor to make the mist of clouds disappear and the “Sonlight” to shine through. To do that we have to scan, study and “mine” the whole chapter together; and, we will find the spiritual “gems” God intended for us to grasp and savor. We begin our spiritual digging by looking at . . .

I. THE HISTORICAL TEACHING & LESSONS - (vv.1-10)

II. THE THEOLOGICAL TEACHING & LESSONS - (vv.11-25)

III. THE APPLICABLE TEACHING & LESSONS - (vv.26-28)

CONCLUSION: Again, the author’s goal is to convince these Jewish followers of Christ, that they made the right choice in abandoning Judaism completely. Judaism’s work was finished, therefore it was to be forever put away. The Aaronic priesthood, which brought them salvation’s forgiveness was also completed. In its place the greatest and best of all, a new Priest has taken over. The author has now proved Jesus Christ is greater than the angels, greater than Moses, and greater than the Aaronic priesthood, and now serves all believers for eternity. But the question these followers of Christ had to answer, as do we today – is Jesus Christ my High Priest in Heaven? Have I really and truly turned my life over to the Lord Jesus Christ to rule, reign, and fellowship with? That was and still is the argument presented here in our text today, for everyone to answer.

BIBLE TEXT FOR MESSAGE

The New International Version 2011

Hebrews 7:1-28 (NIV)

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. 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 who become priests to collect a tenth from the people—that is, from their fellow Israelites—even though they also are descended from Abraham. 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.

11 If 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? 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. 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.

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. 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.