

SERMON OUTLINE

THE LETTER TO THE HEBREWS

'Jesus: Simply the Best' - 10

Hebrews 7 v1 - 19

Key Phrase which helps us understand what this passage is all about - (v18b) - "by which we draw near to God."

Key Question - How can sinners draw near to a holy God? The key to answering this is in this figure of Melchizedek. But who was he - and why is he so important to our grasp and understanding of what the Christian gospel is all about?

Note - Melchizedek is mentioned in only two places in the Old Testament.

A. HE IS A FIGURE IN BIBLICAL HISTORY

See - v1 & Gen 14.

Note - Melchizedek was both a king and a priest - something which the Law of God forbade. There would only be one person who would be both priest and king - the promised Messiah. See - Zec 6 v13. This immediately tells us that, in some way, Melchizedek is pointing us to Jesus.

B. HE IS A FIGURE IN BIBLICAL PROPHECY

See - Ps 110 v4

Key Phrase - "in the order of Melchizedek." See - 5 v6 & 10, 6 v20, 7 v11 & 17.

Key Point - God had provided a means whereby sinners might draw near to Him. This was through the order of Aaron. But this was an imperfect way, hence the need for a new way - a new order. See - v11. The order of Melchizedek (the figure of Melchizedek - in his person and his work) points us forward to the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Melchizedek and the superiority of his person points us forward to the superiority of the person of Jesus. Melchizedek and sufficiency of his work points us forward to the sufficiency of the work of Jesus.

1. MELCHIZEDEK - AND THE SUPERIORITY OF HIS PERSON

Key Phrase (v4) - "Just think how great he was...." Note, in verses 4 to 10 the reference to Abraham. Why does the writer speak about Abraham? Answer - because in the eyes of the Jews, there was no one greater than Abraham. In other words, being related to Abraham was the passport to drawing near to God. See - Jn 8 v39.

Key Question - Was there anyone greater than Abraham? Yes - Melchizedek! Look at how this is underlined:-

A. WHAT ABRAHAM GAVE TO MELCHIZEDEK

See - v4 - 6a & 9 - 10. Key Point - The giving of a tithe to another person was a recognition of that person's superiority.

B. WHAT MELCHIZEDEK GAVE TO ABRAHAM

See - v6b - 7.

Application - Melchizedek, the king, points us forward to the Lord Jesus Christ who was to come as the true King before whom we must bow the knee, and to whom we must offer up our lives.

2. MELCHIZEDEK - AND THE SUFFICIENCY OF HIS WORK

That is - his work as priest. Note - Melchizedek was a priest with a difference. See - v3a. The writer tells us two important things here about the office of the priest:-

A. THE PRIEST'S LINE OF DESCENT

He had to be descended from Levi and Aaron - Aaron was the first high priest.

B. THE PRIEST'S TERM OF OFFICE

It was fixed - he had to retire at 50.

But Jesus, to whom Melchizedek points us? He had no line of descent from Levi and Aaron. See - v6a. His priesthood goes on for ever. See - v3b. Key Question - What qualifies Jesus to be the priest who deals with our sins once and for all. See - v16, the power of His "indestructible life." Jesus is the perfect sacrifice for sin, seen in that death was unable to hold on to His sinless life.

Note - In this gospel, Jesus is both our righteousness and our peace. See - v2b.