



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

HOW THE NEW TESTAMENT USES THE OLD TESTAMENT

Melchizedek

Genesis 14, Psalm 110, and Hebrews 7

The short answer

Melchizedek was a king and priest who met Abraham. His kingship, priesthood, blessing, and unrecorded genealogy formed a God-designed pattern that helps Hebrews explain Jesus' greater priesthood. Jesus is the perfectly righteous King, eternal High Priest, and one Mediator who brings His people to God.

"You are a priest forever in the order of Melchizedek."

Psalm 110:4 WEB

Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

PART ONE · BEGINNER GUIDE

Welcome

This Companion was not written to replace your Bible. It was written to help you fall in love with it. Every page is intended to send you back into God's Word with greater confidence, deeper understanding, and a clearer picture of Jesus Christ.

The people of the Bible are not the destination; they are evidence of God's transforming work. By the time you finish this study, the prayer is that you will know God a little better than when you began.

How to use this guide

- Read Genesis 14:17–24, Psalm 110, Hebrews 5:1–10, and Hebrews 6:13–7:28.
- Notice what Scripture clearly tells us about Melchizedek.
- Distinguish stated facts from ideas that remain uncertain or debated.
- Watch how Hebrews uses Melchizedek to explain Jesus' priesthood.
- Verify every Scripture reference in context.

Foundational truth

This guide is a companion to Scripture, not a substitute for it.

Beginner memory anchor

Melchizedek was a priest and king who formed a pattern. Jesus is the eternal Priest and King who fulfills and surpasses that pattern.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

PART ONE · BEGINNER GUIDE

Begin here

Melchizedek is one of the Bible's most mysterious people. He appears briefly in Genesis 14, is mentioned once in Psalm 110, and then becomes important to Hebrews' explanation of Jesus' priesthood.

Genesis identifies Melchizedek as

- The king of Salem.
- A priest of God Most High.
- A man who blessed Abram.
- A man who received a tenth from Abram.

Genesis then moves on without recording his parents, birth, death, descendants, or later ministry. Centuries later, Psalm 110 promises that God's chosen King will also be a priest forever.

"You are a priest forever in the order of Melchizedek."

Psalm 110:4 WEB

Hebrews identifies Jesus as the fulfillment. Jesus did not become a priest through descent from Israel's priestly tribe. He is the eternal Son, appointed by God as the perfect and permanent High Priest.

Keep the focus clear

Melchizedek helps us understand Jesus, but Jesus is infinitely greater.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

PART ONE · BEGINNER GUIDE

What you will learn

01

Meet Melchizedek

Learn what Genesis clearly tells us about this king and priest.

02

Understand biblical priesthood

Learn why sinful people needed priests and why those priests were imperfect.

03

Follow Psalm 110

See God's promise of a future King who would be a priest forever.

04

See the connection to Jesus

Understand why Jesus is a priest in Melchizedek's order.

05

Recognize Jesus' greater priesthood

His sacrifice, covenant, intercession, and saving work are permanent.

06

Draw near to God

Jesus gives believers confident access to God.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

PART ONE · BEGINNER GUIDE · 1

Who was Melchizedek?

Abram—later renamed Abraham—had rescued his nephew Lot and others captured during a regional war. As Abram returned, Melchizedek, king of Salem and priest of God Most High, came to meet him.

“Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High.”

Genesis 14:18 WEB

“Blessed be Abram of God Most High, possessor of heaven and earth: and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand.”

Genesis 14:19–20 WEB

Abram then gave Melchizedek a tenth of the recovered goods.

What Scripture clearly tells us

- Melchizedek was a king who ruled Salem.
- He was a priest of God Most High.
- He blessed Abram and recognized God as the source of victory.
- Abram honored him by giving a tenth.
- He identified God Most High as possessor of heaven and earth.

Beginner truth

We do not need to invent missing details. Scripture gives us enough to understand Melchizedek's purpose within God's unfolding story.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

PART ONE · BEGINNER GUIDE · 2

What do his name and title mean?

“First being by interpretation ‘king of righteousness,’ and then also king of Salem, which is ‘king of peace.’”

Hebrews 7:2 WEB

Melchizedek's name is commonly understood as “king of righteousness.” Hebrews associates his title, king of Salem, with “king of peace.” Righteousness and peace come together perfectly in Jesus.

Jesus is the righteous King

Hebrews 1:8 describes the Son's throne as eternal and His scepter as upright. His rule is never corrupt or unjust.

Jesus gives peace with God

Romans 5:1 says those justified by faith have peace with God through Jesus Christ. Jesus rules in righteousness and brings peace through His saving work.

Beginner memory anchor

Melchizedek's name and title point toward righteousness and peace. Jesus perfectly embodies both.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

PART ONE · BEGINNER GUIDE · 3

What was a priest?

A priest represented people before God. Under God's later covenant with Israel, priests served in the sanctuary, offered sacrifices, taught the Law, prayed for the people, and helped them understand holiness, sin, forgiveness, and worship.

Israel's priests came from Levi and, more specifically, Aaron's family. But they had a serious limitation: they were sinners too. A high priest had to offer sacrifice for his own sin before representing the people (Leviticus 16:6; Hebrews 5:1–3).

“There are indeed many priests, because they are hindered from continuing by death.”

Hebrews 7:23 WEB

Why this matters

An imperfect, sinful, and temporary priest cannot provide a final cure for sin. We need a perfect and permanent High Priest. That High Priest is Jesus.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

PART ONE · BEGINNER GUIDE · 4

Melchizedek was both King and Priest

Under Israel's later covenant structure, kings normally came from Judah and priests from Levi. A king could not simply take priestly duties for himself.

- Saul disobeyed by offering sacrifice instead of waiting for Samuel (1 Samuel 13:8–14).
- Uzziah proudly entered the Temple to burn incense and was judged (2 Chronicles 26:16–21).

Yet Psalm 110 promised someone who would rightfully hold both offices: a King seated at God's right hand and a Priest forever in Melchizedek's order. Jesus fulfills that promise.

Beginner truth

Jesus does not seize authority that does not belong to Him. God appoints Him as the rightful King and eternal Priest.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

PART ONE · BEGINNER GUIDE · 5

Abram receives a blessing

“Without any dispute the lesser is blessed by the greater.”

Hebrews 7:7 WEB

Abraham held an extraordinary place in God's plan. God promised to make a great nation from him and bless all families of the earth through him (Genesis 12:1–3). Yet Abraham received a blessing from Melchizedek.

Hebrews uses this encounter to demonstrate Melchizedek's greatness and support its larger argument: the priesthood represented by Melchizedek is greater than the later Levitical priesthood descended from Abraham.

A careful clarification

Melchizedek did not create God's promises for Abraham. He recognized, announced, and celebrated the blessing that came from God Most High.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

PART ONE · BEGINNER GUIDE · 6

Abram gives Melchizedek a tenth

“Consider how great this man was, to whom even Abraham, the patriarch, gave a tenth out of the best plunder.”

Hebrews 7:4 WEB

The later Levitical priests received tithes from Israel. But Abraham—the ancestor of Levi—gave a tenth to Melchizedek. Hebrews uses this action to show the greatness of Melchizedek’s priestly pattern.

Does this command Christians to tithe?

Genesis describes Abram giving a tenth after a military victory; it does not present his act as a general command for every believer. The later Mosaic Law required specific tithes from Israel.

- The New Testament calls believers to give willingly and generously.
- Giving should be cheerful, regular, and according to one’s ability.
- Giving must not be driven by pressure or manipulation.

See 1 Corinthians 16:1–2 and 2 Corinthians 8–9.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

PART ONE · BEGINNER GUIDE · 7

The promise of Psalm 110

“Yahweh says to my Lord, ‘Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.’”

Psalm 110:1 WEB

Jesus used this verse when teaching about the Messiah's identity (Matthew 22:41–46). Psalm 110 describes a ruler called David's Lord who sits at God's right hand, rules amid enemies, judges the nations, and is appointed by God as a priest forever.

“You are a priest forever in the order of Melchizedek.”

Psalm 110:4 WEB

The connection

- Genesis 14 introduces a king who is also a priest.
- Psalm 110 promises a future King who will be a priest forever in that order.
- Hebrews identifies Jesus as the fulfillment.

God swore an oath

The promised King's priesthood would be permanent, unlike the temporary service of mortal priests.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

PART ONE · BEGINNER GUIDE · 8

Jesus came from Judah, not Levi

“It is evident that our Lord has sprung out of Judah, about which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood.”

Hebrews 7:14 WEB

Jesus would not qualify as a Levitical priest because He was not descended from Aaron. His priesthood depends instead on Psalm 110 and God's direct appointment.

His authority rests on

- God's appointment and sworn oath.
- Jesus' identity as the Son.
- His sinless character.
- His completed sacrifice.
- His bodily resurrection.
- The power of His indestructible life.

Beginner truth

Jesus is not an unauthorized Levitical priest. He is the God-appointed High Priest promised in Psalm 110.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

PART ONE · BEGINNER GUIDE · 9

Jesus is the perfect High Priest

Jesus is sinless

He was tempted, yet never sinned (Hebrews 4:15).

Jesus needs no sacrifice for Himself

He is holy, guiltless, undefiled, and separated from sinners (Hebrews 7:26).

Jesus offered Himself

He is both the High Priest who offers and the perfect sacrifice offered for sinners.

Jesus offered one sufficient sacrifice

His death never needs to be repeated.

Jesus rose and lives forever

Death cannot end His priesthood, and He never needs a successor.

Jesus continually intercedes

He always lives to represent His people before God.

Beginner memory anchor

Earthly priests offered repeated sacrifices. Jesus offered Himself once, rose, and remains our High Priest forever.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

PART ONE · BEGINNER GUIDE · 10

Jesus offered Himself once for all

Old covenant sacrifices taught that God is holy, sin is serious, guilt requires atonement, forgiveness is costly, and a substitute dies for the guilty. But animal sacrifices could not finally cleanse the heart or permanently remove sin.

"It is impossible that the blood of bulls and goats should take away sins."

Hebrews 10:4 WEB

"Once at the end of the ages, he has been revealed to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself."

Hebrews 9:26 WEB

"By one offering he has perfected forever those who are being sanctified."

Hebrews 10:14 WEB

Beginner truth

Jesus' sacrifice does not need to be repeated, improved, or supplemented. His saving work is sufficient.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

PART ONE · BEGINNER GUIDE · 11

Jesus lives forever

Levitical priests could not remain in office because they died. Jesus died, but death did not defeat Him. God raised Him bodily from the dead.

“According to the power of an endless life.”

Hebrews 7:16 WEB

“Because he lives forever, he has his priesthood unchangeable.”

Hebrews 7:24 WEB

- Jesus never needs a successor.
- He will never become sinful or weak.
- He will never abandon His people.
- He will never die again.
- He will never stop being our High Priest.

Why this matters

Our access to God does not depend on the lifespan or faithfulness of a human leader. It rests on the risen Jesus.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

PART ONE · BEGINNER GUIDE · 12

Jesus intercedes for His people

"He is also able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, seeing that he lives forever to make intercession for them."

Hebrews 7:25 WEB

To intercede is to represent another. Jesus' intercession does not mean the Father is unwilling to love us and must be persuaded by a kinder Son. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit act together in love to save.

- His completed sacrifice always remains sufficient.
- He represents His people before the Father.
- No accusation can overturn what He accomplished.
- Believers remain secure because their High Priest lives forever.

See Romans 8:31–39 and 1 John 2:1–2.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

PART ONE · BEGINNER GUIDE · 13

When guilt or doubt returns

A believer may confess a sin but continue replaying it: “How could God receive me? Have I ruined everything? Is Jesus tired of forgiving me?”

Jesus’ intercession does not excuse or minimize sin. It allows us to confess honestly, turn from sin, seek forgiveness from anyone harmed, and return to faithful obedience without believing our failure made Jesus’ sacrifice insufficient.

“If anyone sins, we have a Counselor with the Father, Jesus Christ, the righteous.”

1 John 2:1 WEB

Answer condemning doubt with truth

- Jesus knew the full cost of my sin when He went to the cross.
- His sacrifice is sufficient.
- He rose from the dead and represents His people.
- My hope rests in His righteousness, not my record.

Keep the difference clear

Conviction brings sin into the light and leads to repentance. Condemnation insists you are beyond mercy and should hide from God.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

PART ONE · BEGINNER GUIDE · 14

Jesus brings a better hope

The old covenant priesthood could not bring perfection. This does not mean God made a mistake. The Law was holy and revealed God's character, exposed sin, ordered Israel's worship, and prepared for Christ. But it was never the final cure for sin.

“The law made nothing perfect, and a bringing in of a better hope did, through which we draw near to God.”

Hebrews 7:19 WEB

Through Jesus

- Sin is truly forgiven and the conscience cleansed.
- The way into God's presence is opened.
- Believers receive the Holy Spirit.
- God's Law is written on their hearts.
- They draw near with confidence.

See Hebrews 8:6–13, 9:11–14, and 10:19–22.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

PART ONE · BEGINNER GUIDE · 15

Jesus guarantees a better covenant

“Jesus has become the guarantee of a better covenant.”

Hebrews 7:22 WEB

A covenant is a binding relationship established by God. The old covenant was good, but Israel repeatedly broke it, and its priests and sacrifices could not permanently change sinful hearts.

“I will put my law in their inward parts, and I will write it in their heart. I will be their God.”

Jeremiah 31:33 WEB

Jesus established the promised new covenant through His blood (Luke 22:20).

- His sacrifice is sufficient.
- His resurrection confirms His victory.
- His priesthood is permanent.
- His promises cannot fail.
- His people's access to God rests on Him.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

PART ONE · BEGINNER GUIDE · 16

Jesus is better

One major message of Hebrews is that Jesus is better. Earlier people, covenants, priests, sacrifices, and places were not evil or useless; God used them to reveal truth and prepare the way for Christ. Jesus is better because He brings those patterns and promises to their intended goal.

- A better hope through which we draw near (Hebrews 7:19).
- A better covenant guaranteed by Jesus (Hebrews 7:22; 8:6).
- Better promises (Hebrews 8:6).
- A better sacrifice that truly deals with sin (Hebrews 9:23–28).
- A better and lasting possession (Hebrews 10:34).
- A better heavenly country (Hebrews 11:16).
- A better resurrection (Hebrews 11:35).
- Jesus' blood, which speaks a better word (Hebrews 12:24).

Why Melchizedek matters

Melchizedek helps Hebrews establish Jesus' better priesthood. The message is not "try harder to be religious," but "look to Jesus, hold firmly to Him, and draw near through Him."



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

PART ONE · BEGINNER GUIDE · 17

Jesus gives us access to God

“Having then a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let’s hold tightly to our confession.”

Hebrews 4:14 WEB

“Let’s therefore draw near with boldness to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace for help in time of need.”

Hebrews 4:16 WEB

Drawing near does not mean approaching God carelessly or proudly. It means we no longer hide in fear.

- Come honestly and confidently.
- Come reverently and regularly.
- Come expecting mercy and grace.

Why we may come

We do not approach because we have made ourselves worthy. We come because our High Priest is worthy.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

PART ONE · BEGINNER GUIDE · 18

Melchizedek and Jesus

Melchizedek

- King of Salem and priest of God Most High.
- His name is associated with righteousness and his title with peace.
- He blesses Abraham and receives a tenth.
- He appears without a recorded priestly genealogy.
- He forms a pattern joining kingship and priesthood.

Jesus

- King of Kings and eternal High Priest.
- Perfectly righteous and makes peace through His cross.
- Fulfills the promises given to Abraham.
- Is greater than Abraham and every earthly priest.
- Possesses eternal priesthood by God's appointment and oath.
- Perfectly and permanently unites kingship and priesthood.

Important distinction

Jesus is not merely another Melchizedek. He is the eternal Son, promised Messiah, perfect sacrifice, risen King, and permanent High Priest.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

PART ONE · BEGINNER GUIDE · 19

What this reveals

About Jesus

- He is the promised King and eternal High Priest.
- He is perfectly righteous and is our peace.
- He is the perfect, once-for-all sacrifice.
- He is alive, represents His people, and saves completely.

About God

- God planned salvation from the beginning.
- God keeps His promises.
- God provides what sinners cannot provide.
- God takes sin seriously and welcomes people through Jesus.
- God's salvation rests on His oath, His Son's work, and Jesus' endless life.

Remember

Melchizedek's brief appearance belongs within a story God was already directing toward Jesus.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

PART ONE · BEGINNER GUIDE · 20

How should we respond?

Look to Jesus

Melchizedek is not the destination; he directs attention to the greater Priest and King.

Trust Jesus' completed work

Do not add religious performance or human approval to His sufficient sacrifice.

Draw near to God

Bring Him your sin, fear, questions, needs, and worship.

Rest in His intercession

Your security does not depend on praying perfectly or remaining emotionally strong.

Respond to guilt with repentance and faith

Confess sin, repair what you can, and return to God rather than remaining trapped in condemnation.

Worship the Priest-King

Jesus deserves both our trust and obedience.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

PART ONE · BEGINNER GUIDE · 21

A simple way to study Melchizedek

01	Begin with Genesis 14 Write only what the passage clearly tells you.
02	Read Psalm 110 Notice that the promised ruler is both King and Priest.
03	Read Hebrews 7 Underline comparisons among Melchizedek, Levitical priests, and Jesus.
04	Notice words about permanence Look for forever, always, permanent, once, and oath.
05	Look for the word “better” Ask what is better, why, and how Jesus provides it.
06	Ask why it matters The goal is to understand why Jesus is the perfect and permanent High Priest.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

PART ONE · BEGINNER GUIDE

Common questions

Was Melchizedek Jesus before His birth?

Some Christians see a pre-incarnate appearance of the Son; others see a historical priest-king shaped into a pattern. Hebrews says Melchizedek was “made like the Son of God,” which appears to distinguish him from the Son. Scripture never explicitly says he was Jesus. The most responsible conclusion is that Melchizedek points to Jesus, who remains the focus.

Did Melchizedek literally have no parents?

Genesis does not record his ancestry, birth, or death. Hebrews uses this unusual silence—especially in a book filled with genealogies—to picture a priesthood not based on ancestry. Jesus possesses in reality what Melchizedek resembles in the record: a permanent priesthood grounded in endless life.

Important distinction

Melchizedek’s priesthood has no recorded ending. Jesus’ priesthood has no actual ending.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

PART ONE · BEGINNER GUIDE

Common questions — continued

Was Melchizedek an angel?

Genesis presents him as king of an earthly place. Scripture never identifies him as an angel, so there is not enough evidence to confidently make that claim.

Was Salem Jerusalem?

Psalm 76:2 connects Salem with Zion, making this likely, but Genesis does not explain it directly.

Do the bread and wine predict Communion?

Christians have noticed the resemblance, but Genesis does not call them a sacrifice, and Hebrews never uses them in its argument. This may be a thoughtful reflection, but not an explicit fulfillment.

Why was Melchizedek greater than Abraham?

He blessed Abraham, and Abraham gave him a tenth. Hebrews uses those facts to demonstrate the greatness of the priestly pattern Melchizedek represents.

Why does such a brief person matter?

His combined kingship and priesthood provide the pattern needed to explain how the Messiah can be both King and Priest without belonging to Levi.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

PART ONE · BEGINNER GUIDE

Beginner review

Where does Melchizedek first appear?

Genesis 14.

What two offices did he hold?

King of Salem and priest of God Most High.

What did he do for Abram?

He blessed him.

What did Abram give him?

A tenth of the recovered goods.

What does his name mean?

King of righteousness.

What does Hebrews associate with Salem?

Peace.

What does Psalm 110 promise?

A priest forever in Melchizedek's order.

Why was Jesus not a Levitical priest?

He came from Judah, not Levi.

Why is Jesus' priesthood permanent?

He rose and lives forever.

What does Jesus continually do?

He intercedes for His people.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

PART ONE · BEGINNER GUIDE

One possible faithful summary

Melchizedek and Jesus

Melchizedek was a historical king and priest who blessed Abraham and received a tenth. His name, titles, combined offices, and unrecorded genealogy formed a pattern later used in Psalm 110 and Hebrews to explain Jesus' greater priesthood. God appointed Jesus as Priest forever. He is sinless, offered Himself once, rose from the dead, and saves completely everyone who comes to God through Him.

**A better Priest brings a better hope.
That Priest is Jesus.**

Final beginner memory anchor

Melchizedek was a priest and king who formed a pattern. Jesus is the sinless, risen, and eternal Priest-King who saves completely and brings us near to God.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

PART TWO · INTERMEDIATE STUDY

Want to go deeper?

Part One provides the beginner foundation. This section considers name meanings, historical setting, typology, missing genealogy, Abraham and Levi, the change in priesthood and Law, perfection in Hebrews, God's oath, the "better" theme, and debated identities.

Keep the center clear

These details can deepen understanding, but they must never distract from Hebrews' central focus: Jesus is the perfect and permanent High Priest.

Intermediate guardrail

Distinguish what Scripture clearly states from reasonable conclusions and later theories. Confidence does not require pretending every mystery has been solved.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

PART TWO · INTERMEDIATE STUDY · 1

Melchizedek's name

The Hebrew name Malki-tsedeq is commonly understood as “my king is righteousness,” “king of righteousness,” or a king associated with righteousness. Hebrews 7:2 interprets it as “king of righteousness” and Salem as “peace.”

Messianic connections

- Psalm 72 describes God's righteous King.
- Isaiah 9:6 calls the promised child Prince of Peace.
- Isaiah 32:17 connects righteousness with peace.
- Jeremiah 23:5–6 describes David's righteous Branch.
- Romans 5:1 gives peace with God through Jesus.
- Hebrews 1:8–9 describes the Son's righteous rule.

The pattern and reality

Melchizedek's name and title fit the pattern; Jesus perfectly embodies the reality.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

PART TWO · INTERMEDIATE STUDY · 2

Melchizedek's historical setting

Genesis 14 presents Melchizedek within ancient kings, city-states, warfare, and alliances. He is king of Salem and priest of El Elyon—God Most High.

“I have lifted up my hand to Yahweh, God Most High, possessor of heaven and earth.”

Genesis 14:22 WEB

Abram identifies God Most High with Yahweh, the true Creator and sovereign Lord. Genesis does not explain how Melchizedek came to know God, who appointed him, whether others shared his faith, or what happened afterward. The emphasis is his role as priest of God Most High who blesses Abram—not a full biography.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

PART TWO · INTERMEDIATE STUDY · 3

Melchizedek as a type

A type is a real person, event, institution, or pattern God uses to point toward a greater fulfillment.

- Melchizedek is king and priest.
- His name is associated with righteousness and title with peace.
- He blesses Abraham and receives a tenth.
- His priesthood appears without recorded genealogy.
- Psalm 110 uses his order for the Messiah's eternal priesthood.

Typology does not require Melchizedek and Jesus to be the same person. A type normally remains distinct from its greater fulfillment. Hebrews says Melchizedek was "made like the Son of God," not that he was the Son.

The relationship

The resemblance is intentional. The fulfillment is greater than the pattern.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

PART TWO · INTERMEDIATE STUDY · 4

Hebrews' argument from scriptural silence

Hebrews 7:3 notes no recorded father, mother, genealogy, beginning, or ending for Melchizedek. Genesis frequently records genealogies, and Levitical priesthood depended on ancestry, so this silence is striking.

Hebrews treats the inspired account's form as meaningful. Melchizedek appears as a priest whose service is not introduced by ancestry and whose death is not recorded.

This does not require believing the historical man had no biological parents or never died. Melchizedek resembles a continuing priest in the written account; Jesus actually possesses permanent priesthood because He rose and lives forever.

Important distinction

Melchizedek's priesthood has no recorded ending. Jesus' priesthood has no actual ending.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

PART TWO · INTERMEDIATE STUDY · 5

Abraham, Levi, and the tenth

Hebrews argues that the Levitical priesthood is representatively subordinate to Melchizedek's priesthood. Abraham gave Melchizedek a tenth, and Levi was Abraham's future descendant.

Hebrews therefore says Levi was still "in the body of his ancestor" when Abraham met Melchizedek (Hebrews 7:9–10). This is representative or corporate reasoning: Abraham acted as the patriarchal head of the family from which Levi would come.

Hebrews' point

The priestly order represented by Melchizedek is greater than the Levitical priesthood descended from Abraham. This prepares readers for Jesus' surpassing priesthood.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

PART TWO · INTERMEDIATE STUDY · 6

What does “order of Melchizedek” mean?

“Order” need not describe a continuing religious organization. Here it describes a kind or pattern of priesthood.

The Levitical order depended on

- Descent from Levi and Aaron.
- Service under the Mosaic covenant.
- Repeated sacrifices.
- Succession when priests died.

Jesus’ priesthood depends on

- God’s direct appointment and sworn oath.
- Jesus’ identity and sinless life.
- His once-for-all sacrifice and resurrection.
- The power of His indestructible life.

Jesus’ priesthood follows this different and greater pattern rather than Aaronic descent.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

PART TWO · INTERMEDIATE STUDY · 7

A change in priesthood and Law

“For the priesthood being changed, there is of necessity a change made also in the law.”

Hebrews 7:12 WEB

God’s moral character did not change, nor did earlier revelation become false. The legal structure governing Israel’s Levitical priesthood, sanctuary, and sacrifices could not remain unchanged once the promised eternal High Priest arrived.

The new covenant order includes

- A new High Priest and heavenly sanctuary.
- A once-for-all sacrifice.
- Cleansed consciences and direct access to God.
- God’s Law written on His people’s hearts.

A careful guardrail

The Old Testament was not bad or mistaken. The old covenant system prepared for saving work that only Jesus could complete.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

PART TWO · INTERMEDIATE STUDY · 8

What does “perfection” mean in Hebrews?

“If there was perfection through the Levitical priesthood... what further need was there for another priest?”

Hebrews 7:11 WEB

Perfection in Hebrews often means being fully qualified, completed, or brought into intended access and relationship with God. The Levitical system provided covenant worship and ceremonial cleansing but could not permanently remove sin, perfect the conscience, or give unrestricted access to God.

- Jesus' sacrifice truly deals with sin.
- His blood cleanses the conscience.
- His priesthood opens God's presence.
- His saving work brings God's covenant purpose to fulfillment.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

PART TWO · INTERMEDIATE STUDY · 9

The “better” theme in Hebrews

Hebrews encourages readers to continue trusting Jesus. Turning away from Christ cannot lead to something greater because everything needed for salvation and access to God is found in Him.

- Jesus has a better name than angels (Hebrews 1:4).
- Believers have a better hope (Hebrews 7:19).
- Jesus guarantees a better covenant with better promises (Hebrews 7:22; 8:6).
- Jesus offers the sufficient and better sacrifice (Hebrews 9:23–28).
- God’s people have a better possession and country (Hebrews 10:34; 11:16).
- They await a better resurrection (Hebrews 11:35).
- Jesus’ blood speaks a better word than Abel’s (Hebrews 12:24).

How Melchizedek supports the theme

The pattern establishes Jesus’ better priesthood. Because Jesus is the better High Priest, He brings the better hope, guarantees the better covenant, and gives permanent access to God.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

PART TWO · INTERMEDIATE STUDY · 10

Jesus was appointed with an oath

“Yahweh has sworn, and will not change his mind.”

Psalm 110:4 WEB

Levitical priests entered service through Mosaic requirements. Jesus' priesthood was confirmed by God's sworn oath. God does not lie or revoke His promise; Jesus' priesthood cannot be cancelled, and His saving work will not fail.

The oath does not make an otherwise untrustworthy Jesus trustworthy. It communicates God's unchangeable purpose in a way that strengthens His people's confidence.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

PART TWO · INTERMEDIATE STUDY · 11

Jesus guarantees the better covenant

Hebrews 7:22 calls Jesus the guarantor of a better covenant. A guarantor ensures an obligation will be fulfilled.

- Jesus obeyed perfectly.
- He offered the sufficient sacrifice.
- He rose from the dead and serves forever.
- He intercedes continually.
- He will complete His people's salvation.

Our confidence

It does not rest on the strength of our promise to God. It rests on God's promise and Jesus' finished work.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

PART TWO · INTERMEDIATE STUDY · 12

Intercession and the believer's assurance

Jesus' continuing intercession does not mean He repeatedly offers Himself; His sacrifice is finished. Nor does it mean the Father is hostile while Jesus is compassionate. The Father sent the Son in love.

A practical example

Suppose a believer speaks harshly, recognizes the sin, confesses to God, asks forgiveness from the person harmed, and seeks the Spirit's help to change—yet still thinks, “God must be finished with me.”

Jesus' intercession answers that condemning doubt. The believer does not minimize the sin but approaches through the righteous High Priest who knew the full truth and bore the full cost.

Conviction and condemnation

- Conviction says: bring sin into the light, receive forgiveness, and walk differently.
- Condemnation says: you are beyond mercy; hide because Jesus is no longer enough.

The gospel response

Confess honestly, repent sincerely, repair what you can, and return confidently to God through Jesus.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

PART TWO · INTERMEDIATE STUDY · 13

Was Melchizedek a Christophany?

A Christophany is an appearance of the Son before His incarnation. Those favoring this view emphasize Melchizedek's missing genealogy, description without beginning or end, and resemblance to the Son.

Those favoring a historical priest-king emphasize that Genesis presents an earthly king, Hebrews says he was “made like” the Son, a type is distinct from its fulfillment, and missing genealogy may concern the record rather than biological existence.

The second interpretation fits Hebrews' wording more naturally, but Scripture does not reveal enough for unnecessary certainty.

The important conclusion

The goal is not to solve every mystery about Melchizedek but to recognize Jesus as the eternal High Priest to whom he points.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

PART TWO · INTERMEDIATE STUDY · 14

Bread, wine, and the Lord's Supper

Some Christian traditions see Melchizedek's bread and wine as foreshadowing Communion. The resemblance is understandable: a priest brings bread and wine, while Jesus gives those signs of the new covenant.

Why caution is needed

- Genesis does not call the bread and wine a sacrifice.
- They may describe provision and hospitality after battle.
- Psalm 110 does not mention them.
- Hebrews never uses them in its priesthood argument.

Appropriate confidence

The connection may be a thoughtful Christian reflection, but it should not be taught with the certainty of a connection Scripture makes directly.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

PART TWO · INTERMEDIATE STUDY · 15

Jewish and Christian interpretations

- Some Jewish traditions identified Melchizedek with Shem, Noah's son.
- Some ancient Jewish writings portrayed him as a heavenly or exalted figure.
- Some Christians see a pre-incarnate appearance of Christ.
- Others see a historical Canaanite priest-king who worshiped the true God.

Hebrews does not depend on proving these later identifications. Its argument rests on Genesis: Melchizedek is king and priest, blesses Abraham, receives a tenth, appears without recorded priestly genealogy, and provides the order used in Psalm 110.

What is enough

We can understand Hebrews' central message without settling every later theory.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

PART TWO · INTERMEDIATE STUDY · 16

Priest, King, and the larger story

As Prophet

Jesus perfectly reveals God and speaks His Word.

As Priest

Jesus offers the perfect sacrifice and represents His people before God.

As King

Jesus rules, protects, judges, and brings God's kingdom.

Melchizedek is important because he joins priesthood and kingship. Psalm 110 presents the ruling Lord as priest forever, and Zechariah 6:12–13 describes the Branch ruling with priestly language.

Jesus fulfills the pattern

He does not alternate between Priest and King. He is the eternal Priest-King.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

PART TWO · INTERMEDIATE STUDY · 17

Why Melchizedek matters pastorally

When you feel unworthy

Jesus is your perfect High Priest.

When confessed sin still produces shame

His sacrifice remains sufficient; return for mercy instead of hiding.

When you doubt God will receive you

Your welcome rests on Jesus' righteousness, not your emotions.

When failure repeats

His Spirit calls you toward repentance and growth.

When religious leaders disappoint

Jesus remains faithful and incorruptible.

When accusations trouble your conscience

Jesus lives to intercede.

When death causes fear

Your High Priest has passed through death and risen.

When the future feels uncertain

God's oath and Jesus' priesthood remain unchanged.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

PART TWO · INTERMEDIATE STUDY

Intermediate summary

The pattern

Melchizedek was a historical priest-king whose name, blessing, tithe, combined offices, and unrecorded genealogy were shaped by God into a pattern. Psalm 110 promised a future Davidic ruler who would be a priest forever in that order.

Hebrews reveals Jesus as the fulfillment

- His priesthood rests on God's appointment and oath.
- He comes from Judah rather than Levi.
- He is sinless and offered Himself once for all.
- He rose, lives forever, and continually intercedes.
- He brings a better hope and guarantees a better covenant.
- He saves completely everyone who comes to God through Him.

The mystery of Melchizedek leads us toward the certainty and superiority of Jesus.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

REVIEW AND REFLECTION

Practice page

1. What does Genesis clearly tell you about Melchizedek?

2. Which details about his life are not recorded?

3. What do his name and title mean?

4. How did Melchizedek respond to Abram's victory?

5. How did Abram respond to Melchizedek?

6. What does Psalm 110 promise about the future King?

7. Why could Jesus not serve as a Levitical priest?

8. What gives Jesus authority as High Priest?

9. How does Melchizedek resemble Jesus?

10. In what ways is Jesus greater?

11. Why were repeated animal sacrifices insufficient?



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

REVIEW AND REFLECTION

Practice page — continued

12. What does Jesus' once-for-all sacrifice accomplish?

13. Why does Jesus never need a successor?

14. What does His intercession mean?

15. How can His intercession help during guilt or doubt?

16. What does Hebrews mean by a "better" hope and covenant?

17. How does Jesus give confidence to approach God?

18. Which ideas about Melchizedek remain debated?

19. Which truths about Jesus are certain?

20. What does this reveal about God's character?

21. How should this change your prayer or worship?



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

PRAYER

A prayer

Father,

Thank You for providing the perfect High Priest we could never provide for ourselves.

Thank You for sending Jesus, the righteous King who offered Himself for our sin, rose from the dead, and lives forever.

Help us look beyond unanswered questions about Melchizedek to the truth You want us to see about Your Son.

When we feel guilty, lead us to honest confession and remind us that Jesus' sacrifice is sufficient.

When doubt tells us to hide, remind us that Jesus lives to intercede and that Your throne is a throne of grace.

When we fail, help us repent, make things right where we can, and return to You rather than remain trapped in condemnation.

Teach us to hold firmly to our faith and worship Jesus as our eternal Priest and King.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

THE MOST IMPORTANT PLACE TO BEGIN

The Gospel: responding to Jesus

Melchizedek's purpose is to point us toward the greater Priest and King—Jesus Christ. Knowing about Jesus' priesthood is not the same as personally trusting Him.

Every person has sinned and falls short of God's glory (Romans 3:23). We cannot restore our relationship with God through good behavior, religious ceremonies, charitable giving, or biblical knowledge.

Jesus is the Savior and High Priest we need. He lived without sin, willingly died for our sins, was buried, rose bodily, lives forever, and saves completely everyone who comes to God through Him.

"Christ also suffered for sins once, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring you to God."

1 Peter 3:18 WEB

Salvation is God's gift, received by grace through faith—not a reward we earn (Ephesians 2:8–9). Jesus calls us to turn from sin and self-rule and entrust ourselves to Him.

A prayer may express your faith

Jesus, I know that I have sinned and cannot bring myself into God's presence. I believe You are the Son of God, that You died for my sins, and that God raised You from the dead. Please forgive me, make me new, and bring me near to God. I trust Your completed sacrifice and receive You as my Savior and Lord. Amen.

A prayer is not a magic formula. Jesus saves. If you trust Him, begin opening His Word and seek a faithful, Scripture-grounded church where you can be baptized, grow with believers, and receive support.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

CONTINUE IN SCRIPTURE

Key passages for further study

- Genesis 14:17–24
- Genesis 15:1–6
- Psalm 76
- Psalm 110
- Jeremiah 31:31–34
- Zechariah 6:9–15
- Matthew 22:41–46
- Luke 22:14–20
- John 3:16–17
- Romans 5:1–11
- Romans 8:31–39
- Hebrews 1
- Hebrews 2:14–18
- Hebrews 4:14–16
- Hebrews 5
- Hebrews 6:13–20
- Hebrews 7
- Hebrews 8
- Hebrews 9
- Hebrews 10:1–25
- Hebrews 11:13–16
- Hebrews 11:35
- Hebrews 12:18–24
- 1 Peter 2:4–10
- 1 Peter 3:18
- 1 John 1:5–2:2
- Revelation 19:11–16

Final memory anchor

Melchizedek was a priest and king who formed a pattern. Jesus is the greater Priest-King. He offered Himself once, rose, lives forever, intercedes, brings a better hope, guarantees a better covenant, saves completely, and brings us near to God.



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

SHARING AND ACCURACY

This content was made for you

Please use it, share it, print it, copy it, and pass it along to anyone who may find it helpful.

There is no charge to download or share 3Nails resources. The goal is to help people open their Bibles, understand God's Word, recognize Jesus throughout Scripture, and grow as lifelong disciples.

Editable Word versions are available by request.

A note about accuracy

Please verify all content through Scripture.

Every effort has been made to remain faithful to Scripture, represent interpretive questions honestly, and provide references so readers can verify the content independently.

If you notice an error or unclear statement, contact 3NailResources@gmail.com. Additional sets of careful eyes are sincerely appreciated and help keep these resources accurate, responsible, and useful.

Always open your Bible, read each passage in context, pray for wisdom, and compare every teaching with the whole counsel of Scripture.

Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

3Nails.org | 3NailResources@gmail.com