

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

MARCH 16TH, 2025 // HEBREWS

MAIN POINT (HEBREWS 8:1-3) MELCHIZEDEK SUMMARY

The writer has spent the last few chapters demonstrating Jesus' superiority by comparing Him to Melchizedek:

- Appointed by God
- A permanent priesthood
- A unique priesthood

JESUS AS HIGH PRIEST

Although His life had been exposed to destruction when He was put to death on the cross, death could not hold Him.

- He is alive and fully effective as our high priest because He has a unique quality of life: He was born, lived as a perfect man, died, resurrected, and lives eternally.

THE MAIN POINT

After comparing Jesus to earthly priests, the writer points to where Jesus is now. If the person of Jesus is superior, then so in the place where He resides.

- **Jesus is our Savior, friend, and brother. Sometimes we forget that He is not like us. He is God, and sits on the "throne of Majesty" in heaven.**

MINISTER OF THE TRUE TABERNACLE

As a minister, Christ still serves others. **He intercedes for US.**

- The "true tabernacle" does not invalidate the earthly tabernacles set up by men. The same point that was made about priests is being made about the earthly tabernacles: they were a temporary, provisional foreshadowing of the "true."

TRUE

Jesus is the "true," and we see this all throughout the Bible.

- John was a lamp, shining until the **TRUE Light** came.
- Manna was bread in the wilderness. Jesus is the **TRUE Bread of Life**.
- Israel was a noble vine, but Jesus is the **TRUE Vine**.

SOMETHING TO OFFER

The OT priests offered gifts and sacrifices. What does Jesus offer? The answer is not given here but was already given in 7:27—Himself.

- **Jesus is both the offeror and offering.**
- **Everything before Him was a foreshadowing of Him.**
- **Jesus was perfect; the fulfillment of every type of gift and sacrifice.**

MEDIATOR (HEBREWS 8:4-6)

IF HE WERE ON EARTH

The writer recognizes again that Jesus is in Heaven, but states that if He were on Earth, He would not be a priest. Some argue that He was not priestly during His earthly ministry.

- **Was He qualified? Yes and no. Yes, because He was perfect. No, because He was not a Levite.**
- **Ultimately yes; He was appointed by God.**

DIFFERENT OFFERINGS

The OT priests offered what the law prescribed, but those things were shadows. Even the place where they made offerings was full of shadows of heavenly things.

- **Examples and shadows can reveal the outline of the source.**
- **It is a shame that so many are still chasing shadows when the real thing is available. Jesus calls us to the true, final offering—Himself.**

SUPERIOR MINISTRY

The old covenant failed to provide a final sacrifice and required an unrelenting need for constant sacrifice.

- **Because a superior sacrifice (Jesus) has been made once and for all, Jesus now performs a superior ministry.**
- **Jesus continues now as the mediator of a superior covenant.**

MEDIATOR

The original audience knew that Moses had been the mediator (the go-between) of the old covenant (the law).

- **The new covenant is established on a perfect promise, a perfect sacrifice, and a perfect High Priest and requires a perfect mediator.**
- **Jesus is the ONLY WAY (mediator) between God and humanity.**

OBSOLETE (HEBREWS 8:7-13)

TWO COVENANTS

This passage from Jeremiah 31 foretold the day when God's final priest would come.

- The first covenant was made after God "took them by the hand" to lead them. But, they did not remain faithful.
- **The second covenant is not like the old.**
- **The new covenant is established after Christ spreads His hands on a cross.**

I WILL

The old covenant failed because people failed to keep the covenant.

- The new covenant is based on what He will do.
- **He will put the Word into our minds and hearts.**
- **He will be our God and call us His.**
- **He will make Himself known to everyone.**
- **He will forgive sin.**

THE OLD, OBSOLETE COVENANT

Who would want an old covenant when there is a new one? It seems that these Hebrews may have still been holding on to the past. Maybe they found comfort in its organization, design, or the "balance sheet" appeal.

- The writer shares it "is about to pass away." In a few years, the temple would be destroyed and the Levitical sacrificial system would end.

SOMETHING NEW

The old covenant would pass away. It may have been painful for these Hebrews to accept, but they could rest assured that something new and superior had taken its place.

- **We may fear the same things they feared. Are we worried about change? Losing something? Or do we believe that we cannot afford the price?**

BALANCE

- We tend to believe in balance.
- **Balance is the way we deal with trouble and difficult tasks. We take the good with the bad as long as there is balance.**
- **Balance was at the heart of the old covenant. It did not work then and it does not work now. When we embrace this truth, we can start to grow.**

IMBALANCE

- Imbalance is not even or fair.
- **We cry "unfair" when we sin against a Holy God and He says that we must pay for sin—a price we cannot afford.**
- **We try to even the scale with personal sacrifice or good deeds. If we could make it even, would it be enough? Would balance get us to heaven?**

GRACE

- Grace is getting what we do not deserve.
- **Grace is not making things balanced.**
- **Grace is Jesus giving Himself as a sacrifice to anyone who would follow Him. Grace is Jesus paying the FULL price of our sin. Grace is God giving us strength to live. Grace is the Holy Spirit giving us His fruit. Will we continue to pursue balance or will we put our faith in Christ and receive grace?**