### Hebrews

## Chapter 7

1Now, this MelchiZedek (who was the King of Salem and a Priest of the Most High God) is the one who met AbraHam as he was returning from the slaughter of the kings, and the one who blest him. 2Then AbraHam shared a tithe[, that is, one-tenth] of everything that he [was carrying] with him.  
  
Now, notice how his name[, that is, MelchiZedek] translates to mean ‘King of Righteousness.’ Also, ‘King of Salem’ means ‘King of Peace.’  
  
3Further, notice how there are no genealogical records of him... So he was [virtually] without a father or mother, because there’s no [record] of his birth or death.  
  
So, just like the Son of God – his Priesthood is unending.  
  
4Also, do you see how great this man [MelchiZedek] was? [Our] family head AbraHam gave him both a tithe and first-fruits!  
  
5So while it’s true that the sons of Levi were [also] made Priests, commanded by the Law, to collect a tithe from the people (who were their brothers, because they all came from the loins of AbraHam), 6this man [MelchiZedek] –whose genealogy isn’t even recorded– took a tithe from AbraHam himself!  
  
Then he blest him, yes, [the one] who’d received [God’s] promise.  
  
7And you can’t argue with the fact that the lesser one is always blest by the greater one!  
  
8Now, today, [ordinary] men who die receive the tithes [in the Temple], but the scripture testifies that he[, that is, MelchiZedek] is still ‘alive’ [because it doesn’t record his death]!  
  
9We could also say that via AbraHam, Levi, a man who takes tithes, also had to give a tithe [to MelchiZedek] himself – 10because he was within the loins of his forefather when he met with MelchiZedek.  
  
11Also, if we could have achieved perfection by means of Levi’s Priesthood and the [Jewish] Law, then we wouldn’t have needed another Priest like MelchiZedek. Indeed, [the scripture] would instead have said, ‘He will be like Aaron.’  
  
12However, just like there’s been a change in the Priesthood, there’s also been a change in the [Jewish] Law, 13because this man whom we’re talking about[, that is, Jesus] was born into a different tribe… One that’s never had anybody serve at the Altar... 14Yes, it’s clear that our Lord came out of Judah – a tribe that Moses never mentioned in connection to the Priesthood.  
  
15Therefore, it’s even more obvious why He said that a new Priest will arise like MelchiZedek – 16a man who didn’t become [a Priest] by the Law of fleshly commandments, but by the power of a life that can’t end!  
  
17So He testified about him:  
  
 ‘You are a Priest throughout the age – just like MelchiZedek.’ [Psalm 110:4]  
  
18Therefore, this former rule [to only allow Priests from Levi] was changed because it was weak and it didn’t do any good, 19as the Law never made anybody perfect. Instead, there’s now a better hope which is drawing us closer to God, 20 and he established it with a sworn oath.  
  
21For [the Levitical] Priests were appointed without a sworn oath... But [Jesus] was [appointed] with an oath!  
  
[Again,] just like David said about him:  
  
 ‘Jehovah has sworn (and He won’t change His mind):  
  
 ‘You are a Priest throughout the age – just like MelchiZedek.’  
  
 [Psalm 110:4]  
  
22Therefore, Jesus has become the guarantee of a better Sacred Agreement, 23since there always had to be lots of Priests because they were mortal – their deaths prevented them from continuing [to serve].  
  
24However, because [Jesus exists] eternally, his Priesthood is permanent!  
  
25And [this is why] he’s able to save those who approach The God through him, because he will always be alive to plead for them! 26Yes, he’s truly become a High Priest for us – pure, without evil, without blemish, separate from sins,Yes, he’s truly become a High Priest for us – pure, without evil, without blemish, separate from sins,<sup class="difference">[Syr] and exalted higher than the heavens!  
  
27And unlike the [Levitical] High Priests who have to offer daily sacrifices for their own sins first, and then for the people, he only had to do this once – when he offered himself!  
  
28Yes – the [Jewish] Law appoints men with weaknesses as High Priests... But the promise that came with a sworn oath (which supersedes the [Jewish] Law) [has appointed] the Son – [someone] who remains perfect eternally!