

THE PRIESTHOOD OF MELCHIZEDEK, PART 2:

WHAT IT MEANS

(Hebrews 7:4-10)

- I. Melchizedek RECEIVED TITHES from Abraham (Heb. 7:4-6a)
 - A. The CHARACTER of ABRAHAM'S tithes
 - 1. A VOLUNTARY gift
 - 2. A GENEROUS gift
 - 3. Given to someone GREATER who is UNRELATED and otherwise UNKNOWN
 - B. The CONTRAST with ISRAEL'S tithes
 - 1. A COMPULSORY contribution
 - 2. A MEASURED contribution
 - 3. COLLECTED by AUTHORITY of those otherwise EQUAL
- II. Melchizedek BLESSED Abraham (Heb. 7:6b-7)
 - A. Not as an INFERIOR to a SUPERIOR
 - 1. As if an expression of GRATITUDE
 - 2. As if an expression of PRAISE
 - B. But "INDISPUTABLY" as a SUPERIOR to an INFERIOR
 - 1. An expression of APPROVAL for a PRAISEWORTHY act
 - 2. A PRONOUNCEMENT of divine BENEFIT

- C. Significant only if it comes from an EQUIVALENT SOURCE as “the PROMISES”
- III. Melchizedek’s PRIESTHOOD Is PERPETUAL (Heb. 7:8)
- A. The DYING character of ISRAEL’S priesthood
 - 1. Each serves ONLY for a FEW YEARS
 - 2. All “DIE OFF” and must be REPLACED
 - 3. Established by HISTORIC OBSERVATION
 - B. The LIVING character of MELCHIZEDEK’S priesthood
 - 1. May affirm IMMORTALITY (cf. 7:4a)
 - 2. Established by the TESTIMONY of SCRIPTURE
 - 3. Indicates a priesthood that NEVER ENDS
 - C. Therefore, Israel’s priesthood is INFERIOR
 - 1. Did not REPLACE Melchizedek’s with something BETTER
 - 2. Was TEMPORARY until Jesus FULFILLED Melchizedek’s
- IV. Melchizedek RECEIVED TITHES from LEVI (Heb. 7:9-10)
- A. An UNUSUAL argument from ETHNIC SOLIDARITY
 - B. Abraham acted as REPRESENTATIVE of his OFFSPRING
 - 1. Including LEVI, separated by THREE GENERATIONS
 - 2. Including AARON, separated by SIX CENTURIES