

LESSON 13: HEBREWS 7-10
SEPTEMBER 21, 2016

OVERVIEW

- . The superior priesthood – Hebrews 7
- . The superior covenant – Hebrews 8
- . The superior sanctuary – Hebrews 9
- . The superior sacrifice – Hebrews 10

THE SUPERIOR PRIESTHOOD – HEBREWS 7

- . Melchizedek, a type of Jesus Christ – Hebrews 7:1-3
 - . There's no evidence that this mysterious figure is Jesus Christ
 - . He is nevertheless an important type of Christ
 - . His name means "King of Righteousness"
 - . A priest of God Most High
 - . He was not only a priest but also the King of Salem
 - . Kings and priests were always different people
 - . It was this way by design to keep one from gaining too much power
 - . Without beginning of days or end
 - . This doesn't mean that Melchizedek was eternal
 - . In this sense, Melchizedek was a priest forever
- . Melchizedek – Greater than Abraham – Hebrews 7:4-10
 - . Usually the greater blesses the lesser
 - . When Abraham meets Melchizedek, after rescuing Lot, he is blessed by Melchizedek
 - . Furthermore, Abraham gave tithes to Melchizedek
- . Melchizedek's Priesthood – greater than Levi's Priesthood – Hebrews 7:11-28
 - . Melchizedek was a high priest before the order of priesthood was established by God, to run through the tribe of Levi
 - . Because Levi would be a future great-grandson of Abraham and because Melchizedek and Abraham were not related, there is no way Melchizedek and Levi could be of the same bloodline
 - . Christ's priesthood was also not of the Levi bloodline
 - . As a result, because of Christ, a new order had to be established, thereby abolishing the old law and the system of priesthood

- . Christ's priesthood is forever
 - . The priests under the old law, were mortal and therefore their priesthods were limited by their age
 - . In addition these priests were sinful and imperfect
 - . Jesus was without sin and blameless
 - . He was without blemish
 - . Because he defeated death, he is eternal – a priest forever

THE SUPERIOR COVENANT – HEBREWS 8

- . A unilateral covenant
 - . The “new” covenant was made entirely by one person, God
 - . Usually covenants are bilateral, where two sides are involved in drawing up the rules of the covenant
 - . This covenant was drawn up by one person with terms that are non negotiable
 - . The other party can not alter the terms, but only accept or refuse the inheritance
 - . Jesus put this covenant in to effect by his death and now becomes the mediator of the covenant
- . Ineffectiveness of the “old” covenant
 - . The “old” covenant was a good covenant
 - . The problem was the inability of the people to live up to it
- . The Major Text: Jeremiah 31:31-34
 - . This prophecy from Jeremiah is the longest quoted passage from the Old Testament in the New Testament and has four significant features
 - . An inward, dynamic work of God
 - . This covenant will be written in the hearts and minds of believers
 - . A close relationship with God
 - . Knowledge of God for all
 - . This covenant is not written for a select few but for all of humanity
 - . Forgiveness of sin – Hebrews 8:12

THE SUPERIOR SANCTUARY – HEBREWS 9

- . The earthly tabernacle and the Heavenly tabernacle
 - . Despite all of its beauty, the earthly tabernacle had its limitations

- . A repeated work vs. a finished work
 - . The earthly priests entered the Most Holy Place in the tabernacle once every year, again and again, on the Day of Atonement
 - . Regardless of how many times this was repeated the work was never done
 - . Christ entered the heavenly tabernacle just once, with the work fully accomplished
- . A copy vs. the original
 - . The tabernacle was a copy of the plan dictated by God to Moses and replicated many times over
 - . The Heavenly Tabernacle is the original and not replicated
- . An ineffective vs. an effective sacrifice
 - . The blood of an animal offered in the earthly tabernacle did not truly remove sin and therefore had to be repeated year after year
 - . Christ actually made atonement for sins by offering His own blood

THE SUPERIOR SACRIFICE – HEBREWS 10

- . The definitive nature of Christ's sacrifice – Hebrews 10:1-18
 - . The Old Testament ceremonial laws were merely a shadow of the good things that were to come
 - . Although they provided a means of atonement they couldn't make things perfect
 - . Consequently, they had to be offered endlessly, over many generations
 - . The system of atonement provided temporary relief to the worshipper but didn't get at the "heart" of the matter
- . Old Testament prophesy concerning the day of perfect atonement
 - . Old Testament prophesy is full of verses declaring that God desires our hearts first over any outward symbols – Psalm 50:8-9, 14; 51:16; 69:30-31; Proverbs 15:8; 21:3, Isaiah 1:11-18; Jeremiah 7:21-23, Hosea 6:6, Amos 5:21-23, Micah 6:6-8
 - . Old Testament prophesy that declares God's intent to bring a new day with a new covenant that will allow people to make their hearts right – Jeremiah 31:31-34
 - . That new day is now here with the perfect atonement made by Christ
 - . It was the perfect sacrifice that only needed to be made once and now stands for all times

. Four urgent exhortations – Hebrews 10:19-25

- . Let us draw near to God**
 - . Leave the lesser ceremonies, or all ceremonies and place one's full faith in Jesus Christ**
- . Let us hold to the hope we profess**
- . Let us spur one another on to good deeds**
- . Let us keep on meeting together**
 - . God did not call us to stand-alone when He made us Christians**
 - . He called us in to fellowship of the church**

NEXT LESSON: OCTOBER 5, 2016 – HEBREWS 11-13