

Hebrews

Chapter 7:1-28

Jesus' priesthood is of a higher order than
Aaron's

How Jesus is the same as Melchizedek

- “For” – The writer is emphasizing what was spoken of Jesus “a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek” (6:20)
- “This Melchizedek, *king of Salem*” – Salem – what we know as the city of Jerusalem, is a name from the same root word as Shalom – which is the Hebrew word for **peace**.
- Jesus Christ is the king of peace

How Jesus is the same as Melchizedek

- “Priest of the most high God” – The scriptures are silent on priesthood before the Law. Melchizedek’s priesthood was revealed to him directly by God as was sacrifice and many other patriarchal regulations pertaining to worship.
- “who met Abraham as he was returning from the slaughter of kings and blessed him.”
Melchizedek met and blessed Abram

How Jesus is the same as Melchizedek

- “to whom Abraham apportioned a tenth of all the spoils”
 - Tithing was part of the Law, but again we are hundreds of years before Moses so this too was revealed to the patriarchs directly.
- “was first of all, by the translation of his name, king of righteousness, and then also king of Salem, which is king of peace”
 - Melchi = king, Zedek = righteousness
 - Righteousness must come before peace that passes all understanding (Php 1:11, 4:7)

How Jesus is the same as Melchizedek

- “without father, without mother, without genealogy”
 - Levitical priesthood family was of utmost importance – lineage traced back to Aaron was carefully recorded
 - Melchizedek had no recorded parents or descendants - He had parents of course, and may have had family but they are NOT recorded in scripture.
 - Jesus lineage clearly indicates he was NOT of Aaronian/Levitical descent.

How Jesus is the same as Melchizedek

- “having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God”
 - Not that Melchizedek was never born or never died, just that these were not recorded in the scripture – a stark contrast to the death of Aaron
 - God deliberately guided the inclusion and exclusion of certain facts about Melchizedek so that he could serve as a type or shadow of Jesus the substance.
 - The Son of God has no beginning or end – he is God.

How Jesus is the same as Melchizedek

- Melchizedek - shadow
 - King of righteousness and peace
 - No end to his priesthood
 - No priestly ancestors or successors
 - Was both king of Salem and priest
- Jesus – substance
 - King of righteousness and peace
 - A priest perpetually
 - Not of the priestly tribe – but a different non-Aaronic order
 - United himself as both king and priest

How Jesus is the same as Melchizedek

- “he remains a priest perpetually”
 - No account of his death or the end of his priestly office
 - Levitical priests ended their priesthood at death or when hindered by age (could serve from age 30 to 50)
 - Jesus is our great high priest and his priesthood continues forever

How Melchizedek was greater than Abraham

- Abraham paid tithes to Melchizedek, much like the Aaronic priest were paid tithes by the Hebrews
- Levitical priests and layman Hebrews were both descended from Abraham, but priests were given an inherent superiority.
- Melchizedek's superiority rested not on the law of Moses but on some other law given by God.

How Melchizedek was greater than Abraham

- Abraham had the messianic promises, but still recognized Melchizedek as superior
- The act of blessing implies superiority (i.e. God blessed Abram)
- Melchizedek's priesthood was never recorded ended where Levitical priest's deaths were accounted in detail.
- Melchizedek's death not recorded, scripture is silent

How Melchizedek was greater than Abraham

- The Levitical priesthood came after that of Melchizedek, but was inferior since:
 - Even Levi who received tithes, paid tithes to Melchizedek through Abraham
 - The Aaronic priests, descended from Abraham paid tithes to Melchizedek through Abraham as well.