NEW TESTAMENT BIBLICAL LITERACY

Lesson 57

Hebrews – Part Two

Jesus Our High Priest Like Melchizedek

Chapter 7

Jesus is the Son of God who became one of us to represent us before God. As our representative, Jesus gave the Father a life of faithful obedience in his human *body*. As our representative, Jesus shed his *blood* to atone for our sins. Because God accepted the atonement Jesus had offered on the cross, God raised Jesus from the dead and exalted him to his own right hand. Jesus is now our great high priest. He is truly "our man in heaven." This is the theme of Hebrews 7.

Melchizedek

1. The ancient event (Gen. 14:18-20)
   blessing . . . tithe . . . bread & wine
2. Mentioned 1,000 years later (Psalm 110:4).
3. Mentioned 1,000 years later (Hebrews & Dead Sea Scrolls).

What kind of priest is this? (7:1-3)

1. Symbolic names
   a. Melek-Zedek = "king of righteousness" (*see* Josh. 10:3)
   b. Salem = Jerusalem = "peace" (2 Sam. 5:6)
2. Not based on family "tree" (*see* Neh. 7:63-64)
3. Not limited to legal "term" (*see* Num. 8:24-25)
4. Based wholly on personal character

Greatness of this priest (7:4-10)

1. Abraham paid him tithes (*see* Num. 18:21)
2. Melchizedek blessed Abraham (*see* Num. 6:22-27)
3. If Abraham was there, so were Levi and sons

Jesus' priesthood greater than Levitical (7:11-17)

1. Jesus could not be levitical priest
2. His priesthood is greater quality than that
   a. Levitical = law of physical requirement (*see* Lev. 21:16-20)

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b. Jesus (Melchizedek) = power of indestructible life

Jesus is priest forever (7:21-25)

1. God's oath to Jesus (Psalm 110:4)
2. God will never change his mind (*see* 1 Sam. 2:27*ff*)
3. Old Testament priest kept dying
4. Jesus will be priest forever.

Jesus is just the priest we need! (7:26-8:2)