

## LIFE Bible Study: Hebrews 7:1-10

**For Discussion:** What are some items or products that you use that have to be repeatedly changed or replaced? What shortcomings or difficulties are associated with these things that don't last?

### Read Hebrews 6:19-7:10

**For review:** In Hebrews 6:13-20, the author resumes his teaching with an assurance of the certainty of God's promise. Those who place their hope in Christ have God's unbreakable oath on top of His infallible word guaranteeing them the blessings of salvation and close personal communion with Him. In the following section, he takes an in-depth look at the person and significance of Melchizedek. This mysterious figure was first mentioned and connected with Jesus through Psalm 110:4 back in Hebrews 5:6-10. The author now turns to the only other record of Melchizedek in the Bible in order to establish several key truths that will be foundational in the upcoming chapters to his arguments for the supremacy of Jesus and the efficacy of His ministry above all others.

**Read Genesis 14:8-20. What does the author of Hebrews highlight as the two primary interactions between Melchizedek and Abraham? What does this reveal about the status of each of them with respect to the other? Given this difference in status, what does it say about how the priests (and the priesthoods) that would descend from each of them compare to one another?**

**In verse 3, the author picks up on the silence of Scripture surrounding Melchizedek's origins and record or service to make several declarations about him. These qualities, among others, set him apart from the Levitical priests and show him instead to be a foreshadow of Christ. What are these four descriptions of Melchizedek?**

**What other similarities does the author list in this passage between Melchizedek and Christ? From the two names of Melchizedek, why is peace a fitting counterpart to righteousness in the person of Jesus (Jas. 4:4 & Rom. 8:7-8; Heb. 2:17)? What differences are there between the priests of the two orders?**

**Thinking back to the limitations and frustrations of things that don't last, how much trust have you placed on things that will in the end will show themselves to be lacking? How can the impermanence of things in this life lead you instead to call to mind and rest secure in the eternal priesthood of Christ? How should this truth influence the way we think about God, how and what we pray for, and how we prioritize the things in our lives?**

### **Reflection and application**

We each have a longing for durability and endurance that isn't purely a matter of finances or convenience. It resonates with the sense of eternity that God has placed in us (Ecc. 3:11). However, we have lost this longevity in this life and our reality has become one marked by the expectation of endings; things that have a start have a conclusion. The Levitical priests themselves were prevented from continuing in their ministry by death if nothing else, a consequence of the sin that is in the world. But by God's foreknowledge and design, we have a permanent, eternal high priest who was revealed in Melchizedek long before the establishment of the Levitical priesthood, and what Melchizedek was in shadow, Christ is in substance. Through his interaction with Abraham, he showed himself to be the one who was superior, and if the precursor has surpassed the best that the old system had to offer, how much more so the fulfillment!

Christ stands as the timeless, final kingly priest who ministers to our need for righteousness and peace. Lay aside those things that threaten to take your eyes off Him and turn back in repentance, asking God for wisdom to see them for what they are and enabling grace to hold them in their proper place in your life.