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Sermon Notes

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Melchizedek, the Priest-King, a Pattern of Christ

Hebrews 7:1-3

I. The Difficulty of Accepting Change

No generation in the history of the world has seen as much change as those who have lived in the second half of the 20th century into the 21st...

- change in the political structure of the nations, after WWII... when much of the world lay a smoldering ruin, needing to be completely rebuilt;
- change in the technologies of everyday life... the incredible advances in electronics: computers, the rise of the internet, cell phones, Blackberries.. (PAUSE... I just read an article about BlackBerries popular but increasingly OUTDATED line of phones marching toward irrelevance... more and more people are switching to iPhones or Androids... that shows how incredibly quickly the technology is changing
- social media like Twitter and Facebook; digital TV, flat screen TVs); think of the first personal computer you ever owned, and what you do now with computers; the demise of film in favor of digital cameras; the demise of printed newspapers in favor of websites; the rise of plastics and other high-tech materials...
- the advances in medical science: the fact that diagnoses that used to be a death sentence are now routinely met with optimism about the prognosis
- the advances in travel and transportation... commercial air travel was just in its infancy 60 years ago; now it is routine; human beings have walked on the moon;
- on and on... life is changing so rapidly that we are accustomed to something being the “hot, new thing” in January and being “vintage” and “obsolete” by November
- But change itself is scary and threatening to most people
- Humorist Stephen Colbert, at the 2008 Princeton Commencement said to the graduating class: “You have the power to transform the future; if you follow your heart, stay true to your dreams, and apply the knowledge you have worked so hard to gain during your time here, you will make the world outside these gates a much different place. In short, you can change the world!” Then after a pause, he said “Please don’t do that! Some of us like it the way it is. Personally, things are going great for me right now... and I’d be very grateful for you not to mess with it.”

- That's a humorous way of saying that change is often threatening... and if that is so at the ordinary, everyday life level... how much more threatening would it have been to first century Jews to learn that the very foundation of their religion—the Levitical priesthood—had been replaced by the new Covenant, and the new priesthood of Jesus Christ

A. The Point of Hebrews 7: There is a Change of the Priesthood

Hebrews 7:12 For when there is a change of the priesthood, there must also be a change of the law.

1. The Aaronic Priesthood had become obsolete
2. So was the Mosaic Covenant that established it
3. That is the staggering implication of the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ
4. For centuries the Levitical sacrificial system with the Sons of Aaron as High Priests had ministered by the command of God
 - a. Generations of Jews had been born, grown up, and died under the Laws of Moses and the sacrificial system
 - b. Millions of lambs and sheep and goats and bulls had been sacrificed
 - c. The tabernacle of Moses had given way to the Temple of Solomon
 - d. In due time, when the Persians had defeated the Babylonians and Cyrus the Great had been moved by the sovereign hand of God, the Temple had been destroyed by the Babylonians, then rebuilt under Ezra the Priest and Haggai the Prophet
 - e. From that time until the time of the Book of Hebrews (first century A.D.), the temple had been the focal point of the entire nation of Israel
 - f. Three times a year, all Jews had been required to bring their animals to the Temple to be sacrificed
 - g. It was woven into the fabric of their lives
5. BUT the moment that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, had died on the cross, saying "It is finished"... from the moment that the curtain in the Temple had been torn in two from top to bottom... from that moment on, the Levitical priesthood had become OBSOLETE
6. There was a NEW HIGH PRIEST... and His name is Jesus

B. This Is Incredibly Difficult to Accept

1. Religion was at the center of Jewish life
 2. This Levitical priesthood was at the center of the Jewish religion
- C. The Remedy: To Prove from Scripture that God Had Planned to Make this Change
1. The argument of Hebrews 7: God had established the Priesthood of Melchizedek before He established the Priesthood of Aaron... and that it had always been superior to it
 2. Jesus was the fulfillment of all priesthood... but in a NEW ORDER... the order of Melchizedek
 3. This was foreshadowed in the days of Abraham recorded way back in Genesis 14, and it was written about by David in Psalm 110

Psalm 110:4 The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind: "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek."

4. Hebrews 5 has already introduced this theme

Hebrews 5:5-6 So Christ also did not take upon himself the glory of becoming a high priest. But God said to him, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father." ⁶ And he says in another place, "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek."

Hebrews 5:10 [Jesus] was designated by God to be high priest in the order of Melchizedek.

5. Then suddenly in mid-stride, in Hebrews 5, the author stops developing it and chides his hearers for their spiritual immaturity and inability to take in the meat of the word... and apparently the Priesthood of the order of Melchizedek is MEAT

Hebrews 5:11 We have much to say about this, but it is hard to explain because you are slow to learn. (literally "Dull of hearing" or "lazy of hearing")

Hebrews 5:12 In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food!

6. Then, throughout Hebrews 6, he warns them about the danger of apostasy that comes from failure to cherish and make progress in the word of Christ
7. Having rebuked and exhorted the Hebrew Christians for a chapter and a half, he now returns to Melchizedek and develops it thoroughly

8. Melchizedek was a TYPE of Christ who will give them a DEEPER and RICHER understanding of the ministry of Jesus as our Great High Priest

D. The Types of the Old Testament

1. What is a “type”

John MacArthur: in Biblical study, a type refers to an Old Testament person, practice, or ceremony that has a counterpart, an antitype, in the New Testament. In that sense types are predictive. The type prefigures the antitype. The relationship is imperfect... it's always just an aspect of the future fulfillment that is being illustrated”

2. Examples of types:

- a. Noah’s flood
- b. Abraham’s offering of his son, Isaac
- c. The Passover lamb
- d. The Exodus as a whole
- e. The bronze serpent: the look that saves
- f. Every animal sacrifice
- g. The cities of refuge

3. Types are at best PICTURES acted out in history of the person and work of Jesus Christ

4. It shows God’s sovereignty over and use of human history... God plays history like virtuoso Itzhak Perlman plays the violin at Carnegie Hall... BETTER! God writes the music AND plays the instrument through human actors

5. God sovereignly orchestrates history to teach us that JESUS IS SAVIOR and to teach us what kind of SALVATION He came to work

6. Melchizedek a type of Christ

E. The Goal: to Establish the Infinite Superiority of Christ as our High Priest

1. The author desires to remove uncertainty and doubt from the minds of these Jewish people
2. They are being tempted to reject this new message and go back to what they always had known
3. At the center of their life had been the Levitical priesthood...

4. If the author can show that the Levitical priesthood was inferior to and just a precursor to Christ's priestly ministry, he will have achieved his goal

F. Melchizedek in the Old Testament

1. First mentioned in Genesis 14 with Abram's involvement in the defeat of King Kedorlaomer around 2000 B.C. (More on this in a moment)
2. Next mentioned by King David in Psalm 110:4

Psalm 110:4 The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind: "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek."

- a. David wrote this approximately one thousand years after Abraham around 1000 B.C.
 - b. It is a mysterious statement, a prophecy of strange meaning
 - c. Almost certainly this was IGNORED as some arcane mystery by the Jews
3. Author to Hebrews picks up this theme 1000 years later; first century A.D.!!
 4. No ordinary Jew living between 2000 and 1000 B.C. would have given another thought to Melchizedek
 5. No ordinary Jew living between 1000 B.C. and the time of Hebrews would have discerned all the spiritual truth in him!
 6. Melchizedek is a mystery locked into human history... a spiritual mystery that REALLY HAPPENED in space and time, but it's a prophecy of Jesus Christ

II. The History of Melchizedek (Genesis 14)

Genesis 14:18-20 Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High, ¹⁹ and he blessed Abram, saying, "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. ²⁰ And blessed be God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand." Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

A. That's It!!

1. The whole history of Melchizedek is recorded in three short verses in Genesis
2. If David hadn't mentioned him again in Psalm 110, he would have slipped into as much anonymity as other murky figures from the early history of the world recorded in Genesis

B. Context of Genesis 14

1. Abram (not yet called Abraham) had left Ur of the Chaldees by faith and had travelled to Palestine, to receive the promise from God that that land would belong to him and his descendents forever; his wife Sarai and his nephew Lot travelled with him
2. In the course of time, Lot and Abram realized they couldn't live near each other anymore because they owned too much livestock; so they separated. Lot went down and lived near Sodom and Gomorrah; Abram continued to sojourn in Palestine
3. A mighty king named Kedorlaomer ruled the region in which Sodom was and demanded that the lesser kings (vassal kings) pay him yearly tribute; this they did for a long time; but eventually they rebelled and refused to pay him
4. So Kedorlaomer rallied his faithful vassal kings together to fight a war... four kings against five (this was the closest they had to a World War at the time!)
5. The Kings of Sodom and Gomorrah were defeated by Kedorlaomer and he and his allies captured Lot and many others; Abram heard of this, gathered his own army and rescued Lot, helping to defeat Kedorlaomer
6. After the battle, two kings came out to greet the victorious Abram: the King of Sodom with plunder from the battle, and the Melchizedek, the King of Salem, to bless him with spiritual blessings
7. Abram refused the material wealth of the King of Sodom, but accepted the spiritual blessings of the King of Salem, Melchizedek... this encounter is the focus of Hebrews 7

III. The Symbolism of Melchizedek (vs. 1-3)

Hebrews 7:1-3 This Melchizedek was king of Salem and priest of God Most High. He met Abraham returning from the defeat of the kings and blessed him, ² and Abraham gave him a tenth of everything. First, his name means "king of righteousness"; then also, "king of Salem" means "king of peace." ³ Without father or mother, without genealogy, without beginning of days or end of life, like the Son of God he remains a priest forever.

A. The Priest-King

1. The first basic fact of Melchizedek: he was BOTH King AND Priest
 - a. King of Salem
 - b. Priest of God Most High
2. This combination was impossible in the Old Covenant

- a. The Priests were all Levites, descended from Aaron
 - b. The Kingship was given to Judah, all descended from David
3. The Priestly duties of animal sacrifice were relegated exclusively to Aaron and his sons forever under the Mosaic Covenant
- a. When King Saul dared to offer sacrifices in the place of Samuel, God took the Kingdom away from him and rebuked him for his arrogance
 - b. Centuries later, when King Uzziah tried to offer incense in the temple, he was confronted by the High Priest Azariah and eighty other courageous priests who rebuked this otherwise godly king for his arrogance in seizing priestly prerogatives that were forbidden for him to do; when Uzziah raged at them and was about to throw the censer, he was immediately stuck with leprosy
 - c. So there was a STRONG SEPARATION between the Kingship and the Priesthood
4. BUT the Prophet Zechariah prophesied a day when God would combine the two offices

Zechariah 6:12-13 Tell him this is what the LORD Almighty says: 'Here is the man whose name is the Branch, and he will branch out from his place and build the temple of the LORD. ¹³ It is he who will build the temple of the LORD, and he will be clothed with majesty and will sit and rule on his throne. And he will be a priest on his throne. And there will be harmony between the two.'

- 5. AND Melchizedek was a picture of this combination: a new order of priesthood in which our King would be our Priest
- 6. AND Jesus is the perfect fulfillment of this new order of priest-king:

Hebrews 8:1 The point of what we are saying is this: We do have such a high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven

B. King of Salem

- 1. Salem was the old name for Jerusalem... that ancient city that later became known as the City of David
- 2. The city is the picture of the future city of God, the New Jerusalem, in which God will dwell with His redeemed for all eternity
- 3. Melchizedek was the first King of old Jerusalem; Jesus will be the first and final King of the New Jerusalem

4. Melchizedek as king RULED over his people; his word was law, his generosity was their blessing, his courage and power was their protection from their enemies... he was KING of SALEM
 5. In verse 2, the author tells us that Salem means “peace”... so, Melchizedek was king over a city whose name is peace
 - a. This is a bit ironic, since Jerusalem has been anything but characterized by peace
- David conquered Jerusalem from the Jebusites in 1005 B.C. ...from then on the Jews called it the City of David
 - Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar conquered it from the Jews in 587 B.C.
 - Persian King Cyrus the Great conquered it from the Babylonians in 538 B.C.
 - Greek King Alexander the Great conquered the city and its Persian army in 331 B.C.
 - Roman commander Pompey conquered the city from the Greeks in 64 B.C., and the Romans effectively controlled it for six centuries; the last form of Roman control was the Eastern Roman Empire called the Byzantines
 - Egyptian Muslims under Caliph Omar took the city from the Byzantines for Islam in A.D. 637
 - European Crusaders conquered it for Christendom from the Muslims in 1099.
 - Egyptian Muslims under Saladin reconquered it from the Crusaders for Islam in 1187... the Crusaders tried numerous times to dislodge the Muslims, briefly succeeding from 1229-1244.
 - Muslim Mamluks and later Turks controlled the city for Islam until the British conquered it during WWI in 1917
 - The British controlled Jerusalem until they departed the divided city to a coalition of Jews and Muslims on May 15, 1948... the Arabs immediately attacked the Jews and one Jewish-Arab war after another has resulted

All of this from the city originally called “Peace” in the time of Melchizedek

6. BUT the final version of Jerusalem will be completely characterized by peace
 - a. All her enemies will be outside the city, languishing in hell
 - b. Her city walls will be immense, high, majestic, beautiful, impregnable

- c. Her city gates will stand open constantly and the wealth of the nations will stream into her, because there will be no more warfare at all

Isaiah 2:1-4 This is what Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem: ² In the last days the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and all nations will stream to it. ³ Many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths." The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ⁴ He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.

- d. Jesus Christ came to bring peace

Zechariah 9:9-10 Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. ¹⁰ I will take away the chariots from Ephraim and the war-horses from Jerusalem, and the battle bow will be broken. He will proclaim peace to the nations. His rule will extend from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth.

- e. Peace will reign between God and man, and between all the redeemed... perfect peace

C. Priest of God Most High

1. Melchizedek was a priest as well... priest of God Most High
2. The title "God Most High" was a general name for God; whereas the Jews knew God by His covenant name of "Yahweh"
3. So Melchizedek is a priest of a God who rules over ALL NATIONS... not just one nation
4. It also shows that God was revealing Himself in amazing ways to a Gentile nation apart from Abraham
5. God is at work among the Gentile nations all over the world, revealing Himself even in amazing ways to them
6. BUT they cannot know Jesus the Savior unless someone goes and preaches

D. Blessed Abraham

Genesis 14:19-20 he blessed Abram, saying, "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. ²⁰ And blessed be God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand."

1. The author of Hebrews is going to comment on this in verses 6-7

Hebrews 7:6-7 he collected a tenth from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises. ⁷ And without doubt the lesser person is blessed by the greater.

2. The blessing of Abraham is representative of the ministry of Jesus Christ, lavishing blessings on us from God the Father... a mediator who stands between God Most High and us sinners, and delivers rich blessings... eternal blessings

Ephesians 1:3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

E. Abraham Gave Him a Tenth of Everything

1. The Author of Hebrews is just following the Genesis account here
2. Next week, we will discuss the significance of this action on Abraham's part
3. In any case, Abraham's giving of the tithe to Melchizedek is representative of all our worship and praise and offerings to God going to the Father through Jesus' priestly ministry
4. The deep mystery is why did Abraham do this? How did he know to do this?
5. But Melchizedek receiving the tithe from Abraham is a powerful image of Christ accepting our gifts and offerings

F. "King of Righteousness"

1. This is a straight translation of the Hebrew: "Melchi" = king, "tsedek" = righteousness
2. The deep yearning of all governed people is to have a king rule over us in righteousness
3. King David, at the end of his life:

2 Samuel 23:3-4 The God of Israel spoke, the Rock of Israel said to me: 'When one rules over men in righteousness, when he rules in the fear of God, ⁴ he is like the light of morning at sunrise on a cloudless morning, like the brightness after rain that brings the grass from the earth.'

4. The great tragedy of most human governments is the utter selfishness, wickedness, and indeed, tyranny of their reign

Proverbs 29:2 When the righteous thrive, the people rejoice; when the wicked rule, the people groan.

5. Melchizedek's name symbolizes a yearning for what we will actually have in Jesus... a perfectly righteous King
6. At a much deeper level, any priest is ministering to a righteous God on behalf of an unrighteous people... it is BECAUSE the people are unrighteous that a priest is even needed in the first place
7. This name "Melchzedek" "King of Righteousness" points ahead to the perfection of these... Jesus Christ who is Himself perfectly righteous, and whose righteousness becomes ours by faith
 - a. Jesus is righteous

Jeremiah 23:5-6 "The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. ⁶ In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The LORD Our Righteousness.

- b. Jesus' righteousness becomes ours by faith

Romans 3:22 This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.

1 Corinthians 1:30 Christ Jesus... has become for us wisdom from God-- that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.

- c. Jesus is our righteous High Priest, interceding for us

1 John 2:1 My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense-- Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

G. King of Salem = "King of Peace"

1. Melchizedek in the account was King of Salem, and the word "Salem" means "peace"
2. It is a derivative of the Hebrew word "Shalom", which is a peace far deeper and richer than a mere absence of warfare...
3. Shalom = deep, rich, well-being at every level... but especially in this context, peace with God resulting in richness of soul
4. Melchizedek's title "King of Peace" foreshadows Jesus' role as our "King of Peace"

5. At one point, we were at war with God through our sinfulness

Colossians 1:21 *Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior.*

6. But now Jesus has made peace with God for us by His death on the cross

Colossians 1:22 *But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation*

Romans 5:1 *Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ*

H. Without Father or Mother, Without Genealogy

Hebrews 7:3 *Without father or mother, without genealogy, without beginning of days or end of life, like the Son of God he remains a priest forever.*

1. Next, the author says the most amazing series of things about Melchizedek
2. It is hard to understand how Melchizedek could have been “without father or mother” and “without genealogy”
3. From the time of Adam and Eve onward, every single human being had a human mother, and everyone except Jesus had a human father
4. Did Melchizedek simply pop up on the earth out of nowhere? Did God form him out of the dust of the earth like Adam?
5. NO! Not at all...
6. Some people say that Melchizedek was actually the preincarnate Christ Himself... but that makes no sense, because it says “Like the Son of God, he remains a priest forever...”
 - a. It would be odd to say that Jesus is like the Son of God!!
 - b. Jesus IS the Son of God!
7. So, Melchizedek was not preincarnate Christ
 - a. Also, in order to be a priest, Melchizedek would have had to have been human...
 - b. The Author made this plain in Hebrews 5

Hebrews 5:1 *Every high priest is selected from among men and is appointed to represent them in matters related to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins.*

- c. But preincarnate Christ was not human yet... not until He took on a human body through Mary
8. So what do these words mean, “Without Father or mother, without genealogy...”?
- a. I think it refers to Melchizedek’s priesthood itself
 - b. UNLIKE the Aaronic priesthood, it was NOT based on heredity, being descended from a certain tribal ancestor
 - c. He was a Priest of God Most High by the special calling of Almighty God
 - d. Just like Jesus Himself... whose priestly ministry was NOT connected with His genealogy
 - e. Jesus was of the tribe of Judah, not of the tribe of Levi
 - f. So this new order of Priesthood—a priest in the order of Melchizedek—means that Jesus’ priesthood is NOT like the Aaronic priesthood, based on tribal descent
 - g. The Author to Hebrews is preparing the Jews to accept a CHANGE IN THE PRIESTHOOD based on the mysterious example of Melchizedek

I. Without Beginning of Days; Without End of Life

- 1. This is explained in the same way
- 2. The Aaronic priests began their ministry as priests at the age of 25... at that age they could serve their brothers; and not until they were 30 could they begin active priestly service
- 3. AND the Aaronic priests had to retire from the priestly ministry at the age of 50

Numbers 8:24-25 "This applies to the Levites: Men twenty-five years old or more shall come to take part in the work at the Tent of Meeting, ²⁵ but at the age of fifty, they must retire from their regular service and work no longer.

- 4. But Melchizedek had no such restrictions... as long as he was alive, he was Priest of God Most High
- 5. In the same way, Jesus’ ministry continues FOREVER
- 6. Jesus’ priestly ministry will continue as long as He lives... which means FOREVER... He will never die again, therefore He constantly lives to be your priest and mine

Hebrews 7:24-25 because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. ²⁵ Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

J. Like the Son of God, [Melchizedek] Remains a Priest Forever

1. Amazingly, Melchizedek was “like the Son of God”
2. Though this mysterious figure preceded Christ by two thousand years, Melchizedek was MADE LIKE the Son of God as a priest
3. As John the Baptist said,

John 1:15 John testifies concerning him. He cries out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'"

4. And as Jesus said about Abraham himself
5. So Melchizedek was made like Jesus, not Jesus made like Melchizedek

Amazing! Jesus was the original, Melchizedek was the COPY given in history IN ADVANCE of the fulfillment in Jesus

6. Why? Because the Priestly ministry of Jesus existed in the mind of God before the foundation of the world

Revelation 13:8 ... the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world.

Since Jesus was the “Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world,” this means the priestly ministry of Jesus was crafted in the mind of God before the creation of the world

7. This is the TRUE priestly ministry, the only one that has ever really stood before God on behalf of sinners; all other priests are merely types and shadows and patterns of the reality... Melchizedek was a type of Christ, and so was Aaron... but Jesus is the TRUE, the ETERNAL, the FIRST and the FINAL High Priest
8. Summary: Melchizedek was conformed to the pattern of Christ in some amazing ways, and set forth centuries before Aaron was established as a High Priest by the Laws of Moses... Melchizedek was in the pattern of Christ:
 - a. First: as priest of God Most High
 - b. Second: as a Priest-King
 - c. Third: as “King of Righteousness”
 - d. Fourth: as “King of Peace”

- e. Fifth: as the one who blessed Abraham
- f. Sixth: as the one who received gifts and offerings from God's people, represented by Abraham
- g. Seventh: as a priest who did not owe his position to his genealogy
- h. Eighth: as a priest whose ministry is not restricted to fifty years of age, but who continues as priest to the end of his days

IV. Application

A. Embrace the Priest-King Jesus Christ for the Salvation of Your Souls

1. Jesus' priestly ministry is perfect in every way... His death on the cross the perfect sacrifice for your sins; His intercession at the right hand of God completely effective for the final salvation of your souls
2. Flee to Christ!!! Embrace Him as your priest AND kneel before Him as your King
3. Accept His gifts of righteousness and peace
4. Give to Him your gifts... not merely your tithes and offerings, but your whole lives and your whole hearts
5. Let every moment of your life be an offering to your Priest-King

B. Marvel at the Depth of Scripture AND God's Control Over History

1. This mysterious figure of Melchizedek steps out of the fog of ancient history
2. Very little is known about him... just a few things said about him
3. But the few words in Genesis 14 and Psalm 110 set up this meditation in the Book of Hebrews
4. God controls the unfolding of history, and He saw to it that this man Melchizedek could encounter Abraham at just the right time to insert a seed of truth that would come to full fruition when Jesus appeared as a priest-king
5. Five hundred years after Abraham's encounter with Melchizedek, Moses wrote about him in his account in Genesis... and five hundred years after that, King David wrote about Melchizedek in Psalm 110

Psalm 110:4 The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind: "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek."

6. **AND one thousand years after David**, Jesus came along to fulfill these images and give us a certainty of perfection... a perfect KING to rule our lives; a perfect priest to cover our sins
 7. **MARVEL** at this great salvation that God wove so deeply into the pages of history, the pages of Scripture
- C. Immerse Yourself in the Ministry of Jesus as Your Great High Priest
1. Know how completely your sins are atoned for by the blood of this sacrifice
 2. Know how completely you are prayed for by this Great High Priest
 3. Know how perfectly your every need has been addressed by the eternal plan of God