

Hebrews

Chapter 7

October 22, 2007

OPEN:

Who was the first minister you remember, either as a child or when you first entered the church? What do you remember about this person?

REVIEW:

What is the main issue confronting the church at the time of the writing of Hebrews?

What does the author of Hebrews warn against, in chapters 5 and 6?

BACKGROUND:

Read Genesis 14:1-2, 10-12. Who is at war with whom?

Who wins the first round, and who gets taken captive?

Read Genesis 14:13-16. Who gets involved in the fight, and why?

What is the result?

Read Genesis 14:17-20. Who shows up now?
What do we know of him?

What does he do?

What does Abram do in return?
Is this the tribute due a king?

STUDY:

Read Hebrews 7:1-3. What according to Hebrews, does the name "Melchizedek" mean?

What other sort of king is he?
What title for Christ is this reminiscent of?

What is the author's argument in verse 3?

Read Hebrews 7:4-10. Who is inferior and who superior, Melchizedek or Abram, and why?

Therefore, which priesthood is superior, that of Melchizedek or that of Levi, and why?

Read Hebrews 7:11-19. Psalm 110:4 speaks of one who will “become a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.” This prophecy indicates that the Levitical priesthood – and the law itself – were incomplete. Why?

Why could Jesus not be considered a Levitical priest?

So what gives him the right to become a priest?
How does this alter the law?

Read Hebrews 7:20-25. In these verses, the author of Hebrews makes two more arguments for the superiority of Christ, the Priest according to the Order of Melchizedek. What are they?

Read Hebrews 7:26-28. What qualities are ascribed to Jesus in v.26?

How is he different from other high priests, according to vv.27-28?

REFLECT

In what way is our Christian worship today incomplete? How does it help to know that Christ is present with us as we worship?

If Christ's sacrifice is once for all, do we need to confess our sins on a regular basis to God? Why or why not?