



Hebrews 7 – 8

Note: *This week you will be involved in “typological” thinking about the Scriptures. Typological thinking is essentially concerned with seeing how people and events in the past foreshadow or present a “type” of things to come. This kind of thinking is based on a conviction that God worked through the history of His people prefiguring what He would accomplish in fullness through His Son Jesus. It also means that the New Testament explains and gives the full meaning to the Old. A key understanding in typological thinking is that the “type” is always prefiguring something or someone greater than itself.*

1. **Read Genesis 14:14-20, Psalm 110 and Hebrews 7:1 – 22.** The author of Hebrews has more to say about Melchizedek than the Old Testament which suggests that he is providing new teaching for the audience. What evidence do you find that he sees Melchizedek as a type of Christ?

Note: *In Numbers 1:53 the Levites, one of the twelve tribes of Israel, were set apart to care for the Tabernacle. In Exodus 28 and Numbers 3 we read that Aaron (Moses’ brother) was ordained High Priest with the Levites called as his assistants. This group came to be known as the Aaronic or Levitical priesthood.*

2. **Read Hebrews 7:11-22** with the previous chapters of Hebrews in mind. How do you see the Melchizedek story supporting and furthering the author’s overall argument?

3. **Read Hebrews 7:20 – 28.** Explain how the priesthood of Jesus is superior to that of the earlier priests.

Note: Sometimes we read the word “covenant” and think of it as a legal and contractual agreement between parties. In Scripture, “covenant” is rich with relational meaning rather than legal meaning. It is the word used to describe God’s unfolding plan to have uninterrupted fellowship or restored Eden relationship with His people. This covenant was to involve mutual interaction – in other words it was to be a real relationship. Whenever you read “I will be your God and you will be my people” that is known as “covenant formula” language.

4. Let’s take time to consider a few covenant passages in the Old Testament so that we can appreciate the line of thinking of our author in Hebrews 8. Beside each verse(s) describe the reason or expectation revealed by God for entering into covenant with His people.

- Genesis 12:1-3 _____

- Exodus 6:7 _____

- Exodus 34:10-28 _____

- Jeremiah 7:22-26 _____

- Jeremiah 11: 1-8 _____

From these verses what does history teach us concerning human ability to live in covenant relationship with God?

5. **Linger over each of these readings: Hebrews 8, Ezekiel 36:26-28, 1 Corinthians 11:25-26, 2 Corinthians 3:3-12.** Do you think the author of Hebrews is thinking of the old covenant typologically? Why or why not? In what way do you think the new covenant is “*founded on better promises?*” (8:6)

6. Identify one or two new insights from this lesson that you find most meaningful.