

# TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## IHOP Bible Study

### Comments on Hebrews 7

**Concerning my comments on this chapter, I've combined my responses to both Karl and Rex. Plus, I've added a few notes. Karl's notes are in Green. Rex's notes in Blue..**

Now, we get into some interesting stuff. Get your Bible References ready. All that has gone before is prelude to what Paul (or Paul's school) has to say about the Priesthood of Jesus.

I. Read through the chapter is one reading.

II. Vs. 1 - 10: Read as much as you can on the priesthood and ministry of Melchizedek. Use your references, and/or go on-line. Write a brief summary here.

**As previously noted, many theories about Melchizedek (i.e. "M"). My feeling is that**

**"M" was the first High Priest appointed by God and Christ was the last. Possibly God thought what he did with Abraham was enough to get human attention and later saw that was not enough. He was more powerful than the Jewish priests(vs.7) and was a Gentile. OK.**

**Melchizedek was both a priest and a king. He came a long time before the Levitical priests. Nothing in the Bible is written about his parents, his birth or his death. According to the writer of Hebrews, Melchizedek was never born and never died. The writer says he was greater than Abraham because Abraham have him 1/10 of his plunder. Also, Abraham received a blessing from Melchizedek. Good reporting!**

III. Vs. 11 - 21

A. Run the word "perfection" (vs 11) through your gut (and/or your lexicon) and what do you come up with? Share your insights.

**ATONEMENT--see vs 28**

**<:-) Now, what are some other words for At-One-Ment: i.e., full human-ness, integrity, reality, The Really Real, genuine, authenticity.**

**The Levitical priesthood could not bring about the "perfection" of the Jewish people. To me, perfection equals atonement. Oh, yes!**

B. Study your References to understand the difference between the ministry of Aaron and that of Melchizedek. Write a summary for us.

**Aaron was appointed by the Jewish Priests, "M" was appointed by God. Aaron**

**was human like me.**

**You and Aaron, eh? OK. "M" was both a king and a high priest! Aaron was just a High Priest. Abram was a king.**

**Melchizedek wasn't descended from Levi or Abraham. The Jewish priests all died and, like humans, sinned.**

**One of the web references pointed out that Melchizedek was both a "king" and a "high priest." Aaron only a high priest. Abram only was a king! The mirror-in of this concept is extrapolated to Jesus the Anointed Logos Christ who is both King of Kings, and High Priest.**

C. Now, can you run this summary through your gut (your human/life experience) and tell us what you experience?

**Aaron was a typical human with certain God given talents such as speaking,**

**following, and probably well liked. Being popular and a weak leader caused him to acquiesce to the current social pressures i.e. Gold Calf, etc.**

**Interesting analysis.**

**The Levitical priests gave sacrifices for themselves and the Jewish people but still could not achieve atonement. Jesus gave His body as the ultimate sacrifice for us and continues to intercede with God for us.**

**Nice line of thought. To push your insight a little bit -- what does it mean that**

**Christ intercedes with God for us? Keep running this through your life experience. "Intercession" tends to be associated with "head trip" theology; i.e., the way to get into God's kingdom is through a special gnosis or knowledge. Now, turning this idea into a gut trip, the translation is that Christ (who is the genuine At-one-ment, or authentic humanness) is the demonstration of living the Perfect At-One-ment which**

**is God! When we live as genuine, authentic human beings, we are living the Christ-life (the meaning of being a Christian!).**

*How do we know when we are living as genuine authentic human beings? Just*

*ask your spouse! Or ask your friends and/or colleagues. They like us when we are happy, genuine, real folks!*

D. Read through Psalm 110. Do a little research, if possible, on this Psalm. Specific Psalms are difficult to find individual references to explain them. To whom is David addressing: "The Lord says to my Lord. . . ?" Give us a hint, and share it with us.

### **JESUS CHRIST Ps. 110:4**

**My Bible suggests this was probably composed for the coronation of a king, but was later interpreted as referring to the Messiah. Yes, this ends up being more proof-texting for Paul and Paul's school.**

IV. Read carefully vs.. 22 through 28. Paul writes of a "better covenant" (vs 22). Paul gives us a number of reasons why the new covenant is better than the old. OK? First, list out his reasons, and second, run them through your human experience to ground them in the reality of what they mean.

**The old law could purify the outside of the body, but it could not purify man's heart and conscience. Through faith we can receive Christ's righteousness; and having received His righteousness, we can then come into God's presence. Jesus made atonement for our sins and God no longer condemns us. Jesus is always there for us.**

**OK. You know, it is interesting that God's judgment is never God's! The pain or joy always is found in the deed itself. Of course, God created it to be this way. When we do good things, we experience the judgment of joy and friendship. When we do mean things, we experience the judgment of people and society not liking to be around us. Interesting.**

#### **1. Christ guarantees the "better covenant"**

**Yes. Now, what is the "better covenant?" In Paul's terms, the "better covenant" was the relationship to God as Guarantor of Reality that completed the work of At-One-Ment. Covenant means to "bet your life on it." We can "bet our very lives" that by following Jesus example (WWJD), we will live the abundant life; i.e., full, wholesome, healed, healthy, authentic, etc. lives.**

**2. Appointed Priests are human, they have weaknesses, and are not eternal. Jesus Christ is our High Priest forever. We must go through him to be AT-ONE with God**

**Um-m-m. What does it mean" to go through Christ to be At-One with God?" It may help to think of Jesus the Anointed Logos who is the Little Picture of At-One-Ment. God is the Perfect Picture of At-one-ment.**

**Next question--what does "eternal" mean? The easiest answer is At-One-Ment! When we live At-One with God, we are living the "eternal life." And, we don't even have to die to begin it, but we must awaken to the reality of At-one-ment, and forever sleep through it.**