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BLESSINGS FROM THE HAND OF GOD

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF HEBREWS
NUMBER 49
HEBREWS 7:6-9

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Abraham was free (because of the military victory he had won) and could therefore listen to the doctrinal teaching of Melchisedec. In the same sense this applies to us today. We are free to worship because someone made a sacrifice in a military victory. We are therefore free to partake of Christ.

Look back at verse three again as we get our minds set for this study-- Melchisedec was "Without paternal descent, without maternal descent (It means their status as parents not recorded), without genealogical descent recorded, no birth certificate and no death certificate, but made on the pattern of The Son of God who will abide a royal high priest forever."

HEBREWS 7:6 "But he whose descent is not counted from them received tithes of Abraham, and blessed him that had the promises." This verse literally says, "But this one, Melchisedec, whose genealogy is not traced from them, collected tithes from Abraham and blessed him, the one having the promise."

This begins with the conjunctive particle de "he whose descent is not counted" is a present, passive, participle of genealogo. It means to have your genealogy traced. In other words, Melchisedec never had a genealogy traced from Israel. There was no relationship between Melchisedec and the Levitical priesthood. In other words "not traced from them" ek autos, meaning out from them. "Received tithes" is a perfect, active, indicative of dekatoo. This perfect tense means that this situation was thus established and would remain that way forever. In other words, from that moment forever the Royal Priesthood would be superior to the Levitical Priesthood.

Citizen Of A New Country

By this act of paying tithes to Melchisedec, Abraham became a citizen of Salem. Abraham finally joined something, if you will excuse the expression. He was a man without a country until he became a citizen of Salem. That's why he will continue to live in a tent and will never have a home of his own until God gives him that new city which he is building which will come down out of heaven.

What happened in time has eternal repercussion throughout all eternity. It always does happen that way. You believe in Christ and it has eternal results. This life isn't the main thing, it is only the introduction, only the opening chapter. The main thing is yet to come.

A Contrast of Priesthoods

The Levitical Priesthood was an institution for down here, but the Royal Priesthood is an institution for up there and for eternity. That's why it is superior. That's why Melchisedec served Abraham those symbols of reality, bread and wine. This was never said of the Levitical feasts, for they were only symbols of shadow things, not of real things. The Levitical feasts were shadows, only pointed to reality. Superiority always belongs to reality.

"Collected the tithe from Abraham" is a perfect, active, indicative of dekatoos. The perfect tense denotes very strong action and means this is a principle of giving that will never be changed. From that moment on the Royal Priesthood was superior to the Levitical Priesthood. So Melchisedec was over Abraham in temporal authority (King of Salem) and over him in spiritual authority (because Abraham gave tithes to him). But Christ is superior to Melchisedec because he will be The Royal Priest forever. Christ will be the temporal and spiritual ruler forever. Since we are in union with Christ, we are therefore superior to Melchisedec. We are Christ's right woman and therefore superior to the Levitical Priesthood. The body of Jesus Christ, which we are, belongs to Christ forever.

A Beautiful Analogy

In the Garden of Eden, God said, "It is not good that man should be alone" and as a result of that, he created woman to be with man. When Christ was hung on the cross God said, "It is not good that Christ should be alone" and as a result, God formed the body called the Church and this is the right woman for Christ. But we enter this body by a relationship, a faith, a belief. By the new birth we enter into a palace and share his rulership forever.

Melchisedec is superior to Abraham.

But Christ is superior to Melchisedec

Therefore the body of Christ is superior to Melchisedec

We are superior because of our union with Christ.

(This is a superior status without self-righteousness.)

The Church Age Has Never Been Interrupted

1. The Age of the Gentiles was interrupted. God had to destroy the "First United Nations building" which we call "The Tower Of Babel" and scattered the people out over the earth.
2. The Age of Israel was interrupted with the Destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. It will start again with the beginning of the Tribulation.
3. The Millennium will be interrupted with the Gog and Magog revolution and the release of Satan.
4. But the Church Age will not be interrupted until the last convert comes in to complete the Body of Christ, and then the church will be taken out of the world. (Even God will not interrupt the Church Age until it is completed.)

Church Age saints are superior to Melchisedec and to Abraham. OUR POSITION IS ROYALTY. We were nothing by physical birth, but think of what we are because we are born again. Millions have substituted other things for The New Birth. They have substituted education, but education can so easily lead men astray. Today most advanced education plays down the military. Most advanced education would ask us to be soft toward the criminal element. Education quite often is distorted and leads to snobbery. Neither does the possession of money make for freedom. In fact, the whole trend in government is to make it hard for free enterprise to exist.

Born Again People Our Salvation

This nation is being spared today because of the millions of born again people in the nation. The Royal Priesthood has bailed us out as a nation and today they are keeping the Ship of State afloat. But withi

the family of the redeemed, there are those extreme superficial emotional souls who insist that spirituality is emotionalism, it is speaking in tongues, it is laying on of hands in the working of miracles, etc. What a tragedy this is and what a reflection on the truth of The Gospel.

And Blessed Him

The blessing of Melchisedec on Abraham was the teaching of doctrine. This is a perfect, active, indicative of eulogeo. It isn't some cheap "now bless you, brother!" but rather a careful teaching of doctrine. He didn't give Abraham some charm to wear. The perfect tense here means, "He began to teach him and it continued for quite some time." It is a dramatic perfect. Remember this--the communication of doctrine is spiritual blessing. The greatest blessing any preacher can bring to members of his congregation is to teach them doctrine.

Abraham Had The Promise

"Him that had" is a present, active, participle of echo. Abraham had this as a gift from God. This is a dramatic historical present, referring to that time in Ur when Christ confronted Abraham and he became a believer and the fountain head of a new race and a new nation. This is the present tense of a dogmatic assertion. He had this as an everlasting gift from the grace of God. Abraham had all the promises but he lacked Bible doctrine. Abraham, like every believer, needed doctrine. The word used here for this is epaggelia and means promises of grace blessings. Remember this--it is doctrine that brings meaning into these blessings. So it says, "The one possessing the promises."

The Axiom of Blessing

Please notice that Abraham and Melchisedec were not equal. Melchisedec was superior to Abraham. We pick this up in the next verse.

HEBREWS 7:7 "And without all contradiction the less is blessed of the better." Kai is used as the connective and the word "without" is charis and then it is connected with the genitive singular of pas plus antilogia which means "without any dispute." Without any possible contradiction. This is a dogmatic statement without any idea of contradiction, without any dispute. "The less" is the nominative, neuter, singular of elaton and it means inferior in quality and is used of Abraham in comparison with Melchisedec. God the Holy Spirit calls Abraham elaton, and it means inferior in quality. The teacher is superior to the student. "Is blessed" is a present, passive, indicative of eulogeo and it means "Abraham received these blessings from his teacher." Melchisedec is called the kraitton and this is the comparative of agathos which is good, so this word means "the better." So this verse says, "And without any dispute the inferior in quality, Abraham, received blessing of doctrinal teaching from the agency of the better, Melchisedec."

The Superiority Of The Teacher

This is where the superiority of the pastor-teacher comes in. People learn a little Bible doctrine and then drop out of Bible class. But remember this--I AM SUPERIOR TO YOU, BY THE GRACE OF GOD. I am not superior because of my person, my ability, or my character. I am superior to you by my office, given me of God to teach you doctrine. This never gives me the right to lord it over you. God is the one who teaches me and I teach you.

This Superiority Is Established

1. The superiority of the Royal Priesthood over the Levitical Priesthood is established forever. The Levitical Priesthood came from the line of Abraham. This Levitical Priesthood will perform again in the Millennium and we will be their rulers. The Royal Priesthood belongs to the Royal family of Christ while the Levitical Priesthood belongs to Israel. The Royal Priesthood is the bride of Christ, while the Levitical Priesthood is the friends of the groom.
2. This superiority is based on two counts. Melchisedec was superior.
 - a. Because he taught Abraham doctrine.
 - b. Because he took tithes from Abraham.

HEBREWS 7:8 "And here men that die receive tithes; but there he receiveth them, of whom it is witnessed that he liveth." The Royal Priesthood has longevity over the Levitical Priesthood. Kai here introduces a result. It means "and so." Hode is an adverb of place and refers back to these things. It means "And so under the circumstances of verse 5." Next we have the word "men" from anthropos and this mean regular ordinary men and has reference to the Levitical priesthood. But we will see the use of the word aner when we come to the Royal Priesthood and this means men of nobility. These ordinary men "that die" is a present, active, participle of apothnesko. It means that physical death terminated the work of a Levitical priest. He died and his work was over. Then we have the statement and these ordinary men, these men who die and their work ends, receive tithes. The word for "receive" is the present, active, indicative of lambano. This simply describes what occurred on repeated intervals. Tithes were collected by the Levitical priests. Now we have a contrast. We have de plus ekei and these words are pointing to Christ. "It is witnessed" is the present, passive, participle of martureo. The word "he" is the nominative, masculine, singular referring to Christ. That he liveth" is hot plus the present, active, indicative of zao. We translated this "He is alive" and this is a static present and means a condition that last forever. In this eternal ministry of Christ, he is at God's right hand making intercession for us. The Levitical Priests were cut off by death but Christ's death was a part of his ever continuing priesthood. Death didn't interrupt one thing in his priestly work. In fact, it was a part of that work.

1. Here is the inevitable superiority of the Royal Priesthood. It was perpetuated beyond death.
2. The Levitical priest functioned until he died, then another came along and took over. But the Royal Priest will function forever As illustrated by Jesus Christ. As he did, so will we.
3. The Royal Priest is the only one who walks right through death and keeps on functioning forever. The sealing ministry of the Holy Spirit demands this for us.

Now in verses 9 and 10 we will have the application of the axiom.

HEBREWS 7:9 "And as I may so say, Levi also, who receiveth tithes, payed tithes in Abraham."

"And as I may so say" is a greek idiom. It comes from Kai hos epos eipein. Kai is the connective conjunction. Hos is the relative adverb as a comparative particle. Epos is a noun and means a word, or the thing a word is supposed to express. Eipein is the aorist, active infinitive of lego and really means "the limits of a startling and shocking statement." "Through Abraham also, Levi, the one receiving tithes." "The one receiving tithes" is the present, active, participle of dekatoō. Next we have a perfect, passive, indicative of dekatoō. In other words, Abraham set up something for the whole human race, just like Adam set up something for the whole human race when he got the old sin nature in the Garden of Eden.

1. Once again the startling conclusion indicates the superiority of the Royal Priesthood over the Levitical priesthood.
2. The historic meeting of Abraham and Melchisedec bring us to a shocking conclusion. Abraham subordinated himself spiritually to Melchisedec by listening to doctrine. He received bread and wine and sat there and didn't open his mouth and listened to doctrine. Abraham recognized the temporal superiority and paid the tithes and became a citizen of Salem.
3. The Royal Priest under Christ is superior to the Levitical priest who serves only to the time of his death. The Royal Priest will serve forever. We will continue our priesthood in a resurrected body, greater than anyone else.