

The Melchizedek and Levitical Priesthoods Compared

Assembled by C M White, version 3.1

Levitical	Melchizedek	Comment
What does the Priesthood do?		
Offered as an offering (Num 3:44-51; 8:11-15)	Sacrifice – Christ sacrificed Himself (Heb 8:3; 7:27; Rev 5:6, 12)	
Offered animals (Num 8:12 etc)	Offered His Divine self (Heb7:27; 9:11-14)	
Sacrificed for themselves and for others for temporal forgiveness (Heb 10:4)	Sacrificed Himself for all mankind for others for eternity – for others (Heb 7:26-27)	
Presumably sympathises for humans	Sympathises for humans (Heb 4:15-16)	
Intercedes (Lev 6:7)	He makes intercession (Heb 7:25; Is 53:12)	
Advocates (Ex 30:10; Lev 16)	He advocates (IJohn 2:12; Heb 4:15-16; 10:22)	
Assists Israelites in drawing nigh to God	We draw nigh to God through Him (Heb 7:25-26; John 14:6)	
Entered a man-made tabernacle and priests entered the holy of holies (holy place)	Entered a spiritual tabernacle and holy place (Heb 9:11-12)	
Entered the tabernacle by means of animals' blood	Entered the spiritual tabernacle by means of His own blood (Heb 9:11-12)	
Credentials		
Succession of High Priests (Ex 29:29-30; Num 18:1-7, 21-22)	One High Priest (Heb 7:23-24)	
Remains on earth	Ascended to God (Heb 4:14; 6:20; 1:3 13)	
Representative of the Divine	Divine (Heb 4:14; 1:14)	
Human	Was temporarily human (John 1:1, 14; Heb 2:9-10, 14-17; 4:15-16)	

Levitical	Melchizedek	Comment
Learns obedience and strives for perfection	Learned obedience and perfection (Heb 5:7-9; 7:26)	
Performs animal sacrifices (IIChron 29:34; 35:11; Ezra 6:20)	Sacrifices Himself (Heb 8:3; 7:27)	
Daily sacrifices (Ex 29:38-46)	One sacrifice for eternity (7:27; 9:12)	
Temporary, mortal life	Possesses eternal life (Heb 7:25; 2:9)	
Temporal redemption	Eternal redemption (Heb 9:12)	
Inherent Qualities		
For Israel on behalf of YHVH (that name is associated with His covenant relationship with Israel)	For all mankind on behalf of the Most High God (Elyon) (that is God over the universe and all peoples)	
Not royal (the royal line came via Judah)	Royal Priesthood (ie King-Priest)	
Through the Levitical line	Precede Judah, but later through the Judaic line	
Peace was temporary	King of Salem - ie King of Peace	
Righteousness was temporary	King of righteousness for eternity	
Levi is forefather – hereditary is absolute	No genealogy revealed (Heb 7:3)	
Temporary priestly service (age 25-50)	Eternal priesthood (Heb 7:3, 23-24)	
Sinners	Pure, innocent, never sinned (Heb 7:26-27)	

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