

Levitical and Melchizedek Priesthoods As Compared in Hebrews 7

LEVITICAL	MELCHIZEDEK
Begins and ends	“Without beginning of days nor end of life” (7:3)
Mortal	“Immortal, made like unto the Son of God” (3)
Revocable	“Abideth a priest continually” (3)
Hereditary	“Without father, without mother” (3)
Limited to the tribe of Levi	Open to those outside the tribe of Levi (14)
Commanded according to the law	Blessed according to righteousness (1–2)
Takes tithing from their brethren	Receives tithing with a blessing (6)
In Abraham	Over Abraham (4, 6, 10)
Receives blessings through Abraham	Gave blessings to Abraham (6)
Not the final priesthood	Another priest beyond the Levitical (11, 15)
Governs the lower law	Governs the higher law (11–12)
After the law of carnal commandments	After the power of endless life (16)
Cannot make perfect	Brings in a better hope (19)
Made priests without an oath	Made priests with an oath (20–21, 28)
Law administered without an oath	Law administered with oaths (21, JST)
Temporal	Eternal, “for ever” (21, 28)
Old testament	Surety of a better testament (22)
Many priests needed because they die	Based on Jesus who will not die (23)
Changeable	Unchangeable (24)
Limited reconciliation of God and man	Able to intercede to the uttermost (25)
Highest Priest in this order is fallible	Highest Priest in this order is holy, undefiled (26)
Offers sacrifices to heaven for his own sins	Highest Priest higher than the heavens (27)
Daily sacrifices required	One sacrifice for all time (27)
With infirmity	“Consecrated for evermore” (28)

Levitical and Melchizedek Priesthoods As Compared in Hebrews 7

Explanation

Hebrew 7 speaks of two orders of priests and priesthood: the Aaronic or Levitical Priesthood, and the Melchizedek Priesthood. The lower priesthood serves many useful functions, but it serves below the higher priesthood. Chart 12-5 details the points of comparison between these two priesthoods as articulated in the epistle to the Hebrews. With Jesus, the old was made new, the temporal became eternal, and the lower law was fulfilled with the higher law.

References

John W. Welch, "The Melchizedek Material in Alma 13:13–19," in *By Study and Also By Faith*, ed. John M. Lundquist and Stephen D. Ricks (Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1990), 2:238–72.

Jae R. Balif, "Melchizedek Priesthood: Powers and Offices in the Melchizedek Priesthood," *EM*, 2:882–85.

Verdon W. Ballantyne, "Levitical Priesthood," *EM*, 2:828–29.