

Melchizedek – Hebrews 7

“everything that can be invented
has been invented”

Consider life 1-200+ years ago...

Would you go back in time?

Today's Message

**Jesus is the perfect high priest, in the order
of Melchizedek, appointed by God.
He alone can save (or redeem) mankind.**

The prototype – Melchizedek
The perfect priest – Jesus
Sealed with an oath

The Prototype – Melchizedek Encounter with Abraham

Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High, and he blessed Abram, saying,

“Blessed be Abram by God Most High,

 Creator of heaven and earth.

And praise be to God Most High,

 who delivered your enemies into your hand.”

Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

Ge 14:18-20 NIV

This Melchizedek was king of Salem and priest of God Most High. He met Abraham returning from the defeat of the kings and blessed him, and Abraham gave him a tenth of everything. First, the name Melchizedek means “king of righteousness”; then also, “king of Salem” means “king of peace.” Without father or mother, without genealogy, without beginning of days or end of life, resembling the Son of God, he remains a priest forever. Just think how great he was: Even the patriarch Abraham gave him a tenth of the plunder!

Hebrews 7:1-4 (NIV)

Melchizedek

both king and priest

- Melchi—my king, zedek—righteousness
- Salem linked to peace

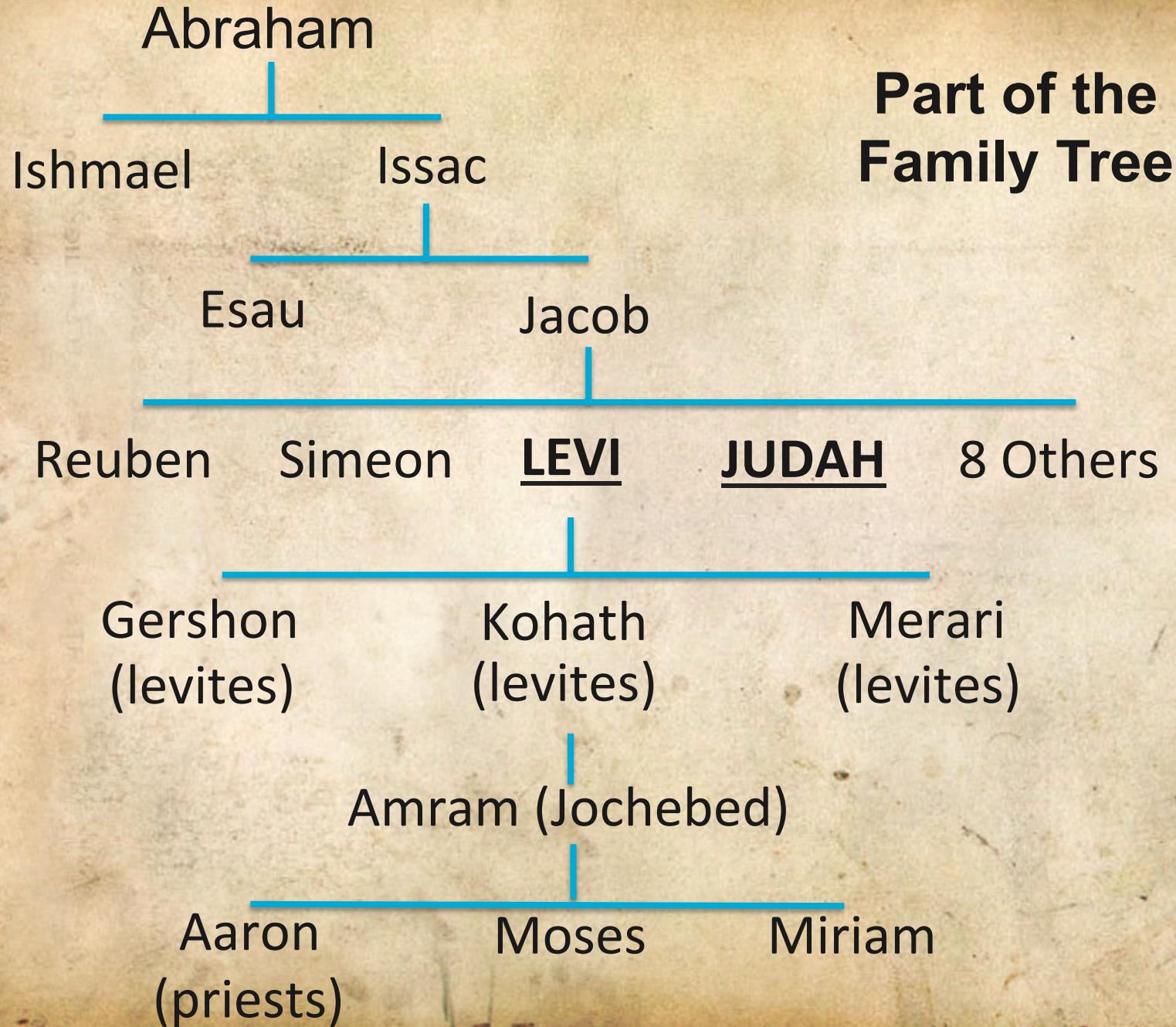
No beginning, no end

> Abraham

- greater blesses lesser

Now the law requires the descendants of Levi who become priests to collect a tenth from the people — that is, from their fellow Israelites—even though they also are descended from Abraham. This man, however, did not trace his descent from Levi, yet he collected a tenth from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises. And without doubt the lesser is blessed by the greater. In the one case, the tenth is collected by people who die; but in the other case, by him who is declared to be living. One might even say that Levi, who collects the tenth, paid the tenth through Abraham, because when Melchizedek met Abraham, Levi was still in the body of his ancestor.

Hebrews 7:5-10 (NIV)



Melchizedek

- > Abraham
 - greater blesses lesser
- > Levi
 - > priests

Priesthood – based on the power of an indestructible life

Problem

If perfection could have been attained through the Levitical priesthood—and indeed the law given to the people established that priesthood—why was there still need for another priest to come, one in the order of Melchizedek, not in the order of Aaron? For when the priesthood is changed, the law must be changed also.

Hebrews 7:11-12 (NIV)

We were designed to be in a relationship with the living God

He of whom these things are said belonged to a different tribe, and no one from that tribe has ever served at the altar. For it is clear that our Lord descended from Judah, and in regard to that tribe Moses said nothing about priests. And what we have said is even more clear if another priest like Melchizedek appears, one who has become a priest not on the basis of a regulation as to his ancestry but on the basis of the power of an indestructible life.

Hebrews 7:13-16 (NIV)

For it is declared:

“You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.”

The former regulation is set aside because it was weak and useless (for the law made nothing perfect), and a better hope is introduced, by which we draw near to God.

Hebrews 7:17-19 (NIV)

The Perfect Priest – Jesus (both King and Priest)

	Old	New
Relation to Melchizedek	Melchizedek > Abraham	In the order of Melchizedek
Qualifications	Tribe of Levi	Indestructible life (tribe of Judah)
Priestly Lifespan	Priests died	intercedes for us
Nature	imperfect	Perfect, sinless
Sacrifice	sacrifice required for the priest	Gave His life as the perfect sacrifice

Sealed with an Oath

And it was not without an oath! Others became priests without any oath, but he became a priest with an oath when God said to him:

“The Lord has sworn
and will not change his mind:
‘You are a priest forever.’”

Because of this oath, Jesus has become the guarantor of a better covenant.

Hebrews 7:20-22 (NIV)

Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office; but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

Such a high priest truly meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself. For the law appoints as high priests men in all their weakness; but the oath, which came after the law, appointed the Son, who has been made perfect forever.

Hebrews 7:24-28 (NIV)

Guarantee

Alive, interceding for us
Perfect, sinless – gave His own life as the
sacrifice for the forgiveness of our sin

We can rest assured:

- God is in control
- Jesus will be with us through trials
- NOTHING can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus