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THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

Hebrews 7:1-20
Lesson #17
The Order of Melchizedek
05/5/2024

1

The majesty of Christ

HEBREWS

7:1-20
Jesus and Melchizedek
(What is the new MO with a new OS?)

2

The setting for the message of HEBREWS

Where is there hope in the face of suffering?

Romans 8

“22 For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. 23 And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves **groan** within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body. 24 For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one also hope for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we **wait** eagerly for it.”

3

The POINT of HEBREWS.

The Christian Gospel challenges us to wait on God and find our hope in Christ’s resurrection.

Hebrews 6

“19 This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil, 20 where **Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.**”

Many Jewish converts to christianity observed that the attention is on what CHRIST had DONE.

In Judaism there was more hope “under the Law” where the attention is on what WE are DOING.

4

Hebrews 7

“1 For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the most high God, who met Abraham as he was returning from the slaughter of the kings and **blessed him**, 2 to whom also Abraham apportioned a tenth part of all the spoils, was first of all, by the translation of his name, **king of righteousness**, and then also king of Salem, which is **king of peace**. 3 Without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but **made like the Son of God, he abides a priest perpetually.**”

Melchizedek (not Jewish) was a king of righteousness and peace, without human descendants, and like a Son of God.

Melchizedek was a king / priest with a once and forever ministry.

5

“king of righteousness & peace”

JESUS CHRIST

(The order of Melchizedek)

Revelation 19:16

“And on his (Jesus Christ) robe and on his thigh he has a name written, “**King of Kings**, and Lord of Lords.”

1 Corinthians 5:21

“He made Him who knew no sin to be sin in our behalf, so that we might become the **righteousness of God in Him.**”

Isaiah 9:6

“For a **child will be born** to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on his shoulders; and his name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, **Prince of Peace.**”

6

Romans (Melchizedekian MO)

Righteousness and Faith	Righteousness and Israel	Righteousness and Living
(Faith)	(Hope)	(Love)
ch.1-8	ch.9-11	ch.12-16

Romans 1

“16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 17 For in it the **righteousness** of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “*But the righteous man shall live by faith.*” 18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and **unrighteousness** of men, who suppress the truth in **unrighteousness.**”

7

Hebrews 7

“4 Now observe **how great this man** was to whom Abraham, the patriarch, gave a tenth of the choicest spoils. 5 And those indeed of the sons of Levi who receive the priest’s office have commandment in the Law to collect a tenth from the people, that is, from their brethren, although these are descended from Abraham. 6 **But the one (Melchizedek) whose genealogy is not traced from them (Levites) collected a tenth from Abraham, and blessed the one who had the promises.** 7 **But without any dispute the lesser is blessed by the greater.** 8 And in this case mortal men receive tithes, but in that case one receives them, of whom it is witnessed that he lives on. 9 And, so to speak, through Abraham even Levi, who received tithes, paid tithes, 10 for he was still in the loins of his father when Melchizedek met him.”

Melchizedek takes the posture of one who is greater than Abraham and his descendants.

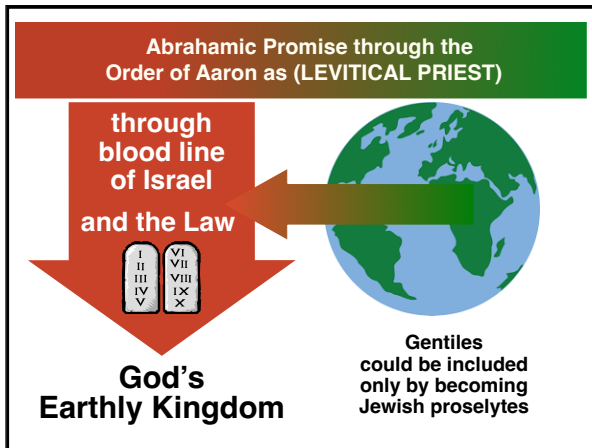
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Hebrews 7

“11 Now if **perfection** was through the Levitical priesthood (for on the basis of it the people received the Law), what further need was there for another priest to arise according to the order of Melchizedek, and not be designated according to the order of Aaron? 12 For when the priesthood is changed, of necessity there takes place a **change of law** also. 13 For the one concerning whom these things are spoken belongs to another tribe, from which no one has officiated at the altar. 14 For it is evident that our Lord was **descended from Judah**, a tribe with reference to which Moses spoke nothing concerning priests.”

Melchizedek represents a better Covenant / Law than the inadequate Law of Moses.

9



10



11

Three witnesses

1. True GOSPEL

Ephesians 3:3-5

“that by revelation there was made known to me the **mystery**,...which **in other generations was not made known** to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit;”

2. True SABBATH

Colossians 2 (Rom. 14:4-5)

“16 Therefore let no one act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a **Sabbath day** — 17 things which are a mere **shadow of what is to come**; but the substance belongs to Christ.”

12

3. True ISRAEL

Romans 9

“6 But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For they are **not all Israel who are descended from Israel**; 7 neither are they all children because they are Abraham’s descendants, but: “*through Isaac your descendants will be named.*” 8 That is, **it is not the children of the flesh who are children of God, but the children of the promise are regarded as descendants.**”

Galatians 3

“7 Therefore, be sure that it is **those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham.** . . . 29 **And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to promise.**”

13

Applications to our lives

Are we retaining Old Covenant baggage?

Holiness defined by superficial issues (Sabbath, buildings, certain behaviors).

Galatians 3

“2 This is the only thing I want to find out from you: did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith? 3 Are you so foolish? **Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?**”

Promises tied to real estate (Israel).

Genesis 12:3

“**And I will bless them that bless you, and curse him that curses you: and in you shall all families of the earth be blessed.**”



14



15

Why does the USA support Israel?

- It is a friendly democratic and military stronghold in the middle east.
- The Jewish lobby in Washington is very active and powerful.
- The American media has been generally pro-Israel.
- **Many American citizens (including evangelical Christians) support Israel for Biblical reasons.**

16

Christians in support of Zionism believe -

1. Prophecy is being fulfilled.

Ezekiel 36:24

“24 I will gather you from all the countries and **bring you back to your own land.** . . . 28 You will live in **the land that I gave to your forefathers;**

2. Those who support Israel(?) will be blessed.

Genesis 12:3

“**And I will bless those who bless you (Abraham, Israel, Jesus, Body of Christ?), and the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.**”

17

Bereans must consider:

Jesus was the “seed” of Abraham through which the world would be blessed.

Galatians 3:16

“Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, “**And to seeds,**” as referring to many, but rather to one, “**And to your seed,**” that is, **Christ.**”

The promises to Abraham’s descendants was a blessing based on faith not law.

Galatians 3:8

“**And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith,** preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “*All the nations shall be blessed in you.*””
(Acts 3:25)

18

Jesus moved the emphasis from Israel and Palestine to the World and the Body of Christ.

Jesus pronounced a curse on disbelieving Israel -

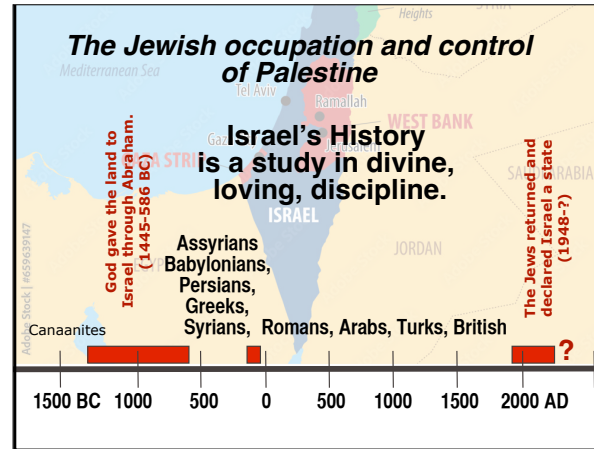
Luke 14:35

“Behold, your house is left to you desolate; and I say to you, you will not see Me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!’”

The Kingdom has to do with faith, justice, peace, and grace more than zionism (a promised land).

The Apostolic teaching to the church does not mention Palestine as a promised land.

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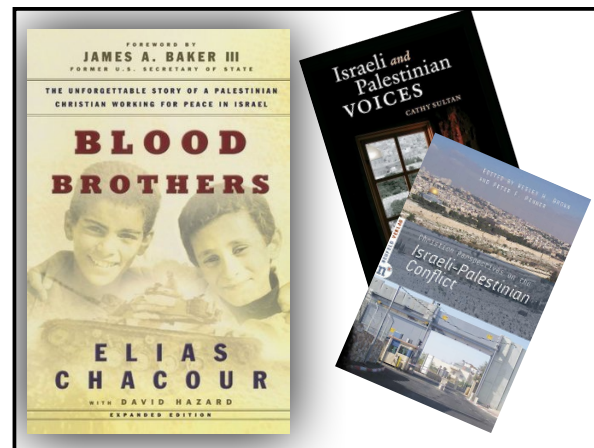
Even if Zionism is assumed -

Prophetic faith and justice precedes prophetic fulfillment of restoration to the promised land.

Deuteronomy 30

“¹ So it shall be **when** ... ² ... you return to the Lord your God and obey Him with all your heart and soul according to all that I command you today, you and your sons, ³ **then** the Lord your God will restore you from captivity, and have compassion on you, and will gather you again from all the peoples where the Lord your God has scattered you.”

22



23

Benjamin Netanyahu

The purpose of the Jewish state is to secure the Jewish future. That is why Israel must always have the ability to defend itself, against any threat.”

The present conflicts in Palestine did not start with Hamas.

Ariel Sharon (2001-2006)

“There is no Zionism, colonialization, or Jewish State without the eviction of the Arabs and the expropriation of their lands.”

David Ben-Gurion (1955-1963)

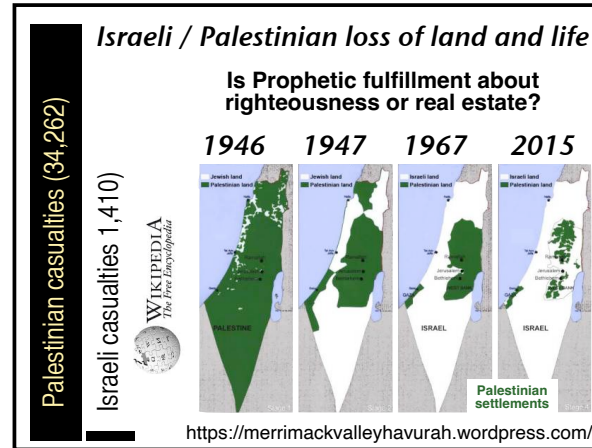
“We must use terror, assassination, intimidation, land confiscation, and the cutting of all social services to rid the Galilee of its Arab population.”

24

“If Israel is making a Biblical, theological claim to the Land, then it must also uphold Biblical standards of nation-building and justice. Both modern Israeli writers and Christians committed to justice see grave shortcomings in this country that was to be a “light to the gentiles.” They recognize that Judaism holds precious ideals of justice and truth within its heritage. But the current political program of Israel’s government is neglecting them.”

Gary M. Burge
Calvin Theological Seminary

25



26

Romans 4:13
“For the promise to Abraham or to his descendants that he would be heir of the world was not through the Law, but **through the righteousness of faith.**”

Galatians 3
“26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. 28 **There is neither Jew nor Greek**, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you belong to Christ, then **you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to promise.**”

**The true (spiritual) Israel is the Body of Christ
- all and only those who have faith in Christ.**

27

Romans 11

“25 For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery, lest you be wise in your own estimation, that **a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in**; 26 and thus all Israel will be saved; just as it is written, “*The Deliverer will come from Zion, He will remove ungodliness from Jacob.* 27 *And this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins.*”

**Who is the “Deliverer” that will save Israel?
Has Israel’s response to the Gospel changed yet?**

28

How should Christians respond to present day Israel?

**If Jesus is the Messiah (Christ)
what does that tell us about the fulfillment
of the Promises to Abraham?**

- Promote Kingdom values (peace, justice, grace, etc.) and a universal Gospel with no national favoritism.
- Recognize that prophetic restoration starts with spiritual renewal not political power.
- Acknowledge and repent of joining the world in discriminating against Jewish people in past history.
- Respect God’s continued love (through discipline) of His people.

29



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