

Hebrews 6:13-7:28 A FIRM AND SECURE ANCHOR

A big storm will test out how secure a ship's anchor is. Occasionally things happen to us in life that test us and make us look at our foundations. Share an experience from life where that was the case for you.

Read Hebrews 6:13-20

1. What promise has God given us through Abraham? see Gen 12:1-3, 22:15-18
2. How do we know that the promise is secure?
3. Why is Jesus a secure Anchor for the soul?
4. Why is it encouraging to know that God's promises never change (verse 18)?

"He has become a high priest forever in the order of Melchizedek" This important theme about Jesus is developed in the rest of chapter 7. Read Genesis 14:17-20 for background on Melchizedek.

Read Hebrews 7:1-10

5. What offices and names did Melchizedek have that shows his similarity to Jesus? v1-3

v4-10 is a complicated argument that makes the point, Melchizedek was greater than Abraham for two reasons: he accepted tithes from Abraham, and bestowed his blessing on Abraham. Therefore Melchizedek's Priesthood is superior to the Levitical priesthood which traces its descent from Abraham. The Levitical priests' role was to be a mediator between God and His people by making sacrifices for their own sins and the sins of the people. For background read Leviticus 9:1-7

Read Hebrews 7:11-19

Read Hebrews 7:20-28

7. Why is Jesus able to be a High Priest forever?
8. The Levitical Priests were ordinary men set apart to do their job, how is Jesus different to them?
9. How is Jesus' sacrifice on the cross different to the high priests' sacrifices?

Implications

- In earlier chapters of Hebrews there have been warnings about falling away and getting cut off from God's people (2:1-3, 6:4-6), (from this passage) how can we be sure of going to heaven? and why?
- How has comparing Jesus to Melchizedek's and Levitical priesthood's helped you better understand Jesus and what he's done for you?
- If Jesus meets our need as high priest in the order of Melchizedek, what need do we have for human priests now? Where do you see the tendency to have human 'priests' as intercessors and mediators?
- Jesus did not come as a social worker, a doctor, an engineer, a philosopher, or even as a sportsman. He came as a high priest. What does this say about the real need of humanity?
- What are some other anchors that people seek to have in life and how firm and secure are they?