

Yeshua's Malki-Tzedek Cohenhood Surpasses the Levitical ~ Part 1b

Messianic Jews 7:1-10 Letter to the Messianic Jews

In my last post, we began a new mini-series on **Yeshua's Malki-Tzedek Cohenhood Surpasses the Levitical**. We're exploring **Messianic Jews 7:1-10** on **The Priority of the Malki-Tzedek Cohenhood**. We covered the first three verses in the last post and will examine the final seven verses in this passage.

The Priority of the Malki-Tzedek Cohenhood

¹ This Malki-Tzedek, king of Shalem, a cohen of God Ha'Elyon, met Avraham on his way back from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him; ² also Avraham gave him a tenth of everything. Now first of all, by translation of his name, he is "king of righteousness"; and then he is also king of Shalem, which means "king of peace."³ There is no record of his father, mother, ancestry, birth or death; rather, like the Son of God, he continues as a cohen for all time. ⁴ Just think how great he was! Even the Patriarch Avraham gave him a tenth of the choicest spoils. ⁵ Now the descendants of Levi who became cohanim have a commandment in the Torah to take a tenth of the income of the people, that is, from their own brothers, despite the fact that they too are descended from Avraham. ⁶ But Malki-Tzedek, even though he was not descended from Levi, took a tenth from Avraham. Also, he blessed Avraham, the man who received God's promises; ⁷ and it is beyond all dispute that the one who blesses has higher status than the one who receives the blessing. ⁸ Moreover, in the case of the cohanim, the tenth is received by men who die; while in the case of Malki-Tzedek, it is received by someone who is testified to be still alive. ⁹ One might go even further and say that Levi, who himself receives tenths, paid a tenth through Avraham; ¹⁰ inasmuch as he was still in his ancestor Avraham's body when Malki-Tzedek met him." ~ Hebrews 7:1-10 (CJB)

These last seven verses show five ways in which **Malki-Tzedek** is *great*.¹

1. He took a tithe of the spoils of battle from **Avraham**, even though:
 - a. **Avraham** was the **Patriarch**, the father of all the Jews and thus the greatest of them;
 - b. **Malki-Tzedek** had no family connection with **Avraham**, whereas the Levitical priests receive tithes **from their own brothers**, from whom support is more naturally to be expected than from non-relatives; and
 - c. **Malki-Tzedek** was not explicitly entitled to collect tithes from anyone, whereas the Levitical *cohanim have a commandment in the Torah to take a tenth of the income of the people*. The comparison of the Levitical priests with **Malki-Tzedek** leads later to their similarity with **Yeshua**.
2. **Malki-Tzedek** *blessed Avraham*, which implies that **Malki-Tzedek** was greater than Avraham.
3. The Levitical priests receive tithes even though mortal, whereas **Malki-Tzedek** *is testified to be still alive*, that is, the text of the **Tanakh** does not tell us that he died.
4. An ordering of greatness is set forth as follows: Greatest, **Malki-Tzedek**, who received a tenth from **Avraham**; second greatest, **Avraham**, who paid it; third, **Levi, who**, even though he *himself receives tenths, paid a tenth through Avraham, inasmuch as he was still in his ancestor Avraham's body when Malki-Tzedek met him*; fourth, **Levi's** descendants, the **cohanim**, who are the ones who actually receive tenths, rather than **Levi**; and least, the people of Israel, who pay them.

¹ Jewish New Testament Commentary by David Stern.

5. The Jewish people **were given the Torah** in connection with the system of cohanim derived from **L'vi**. But this system was not the final one, nor was it possible through it to reach the goal of being eternally in God's presence; this will be demonstrated in the next four chapters. This fact allows the possibility of and, more than that, shows the need for, another, different kind of *cohen*, to be compared with Malki-Tzedek, a *cohen* who by implication is greater than the greatest of the Levitical high priests, **Aharon**.

In my next post, we'll continue in our mini-series on **Yeshua's Malki-Tzedek Cohenhood Surpasses the Levitical Part ~ Part 2**. We'll explore **Messianic Jews 7:11-19** on the **Transitory Cohenhood of Aaron vs. the Eternal Cohenhood of Yeshua**.