

HEBREWS STUDIES – PART SEVEN BIBLE STUDY

by *HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG*

BACKGROUND: This sermon is based on Melchizedek (Hebrew) & Melchisedec (Greek).

00: 24 M/S

HWA: Why is it my friends, so many people say, I just can't understand the Bible? The Bible is full of mysteries to so many people. And indeed it is full of mysteries. Many mysteries of God have been closed and sealed until now. And that's one reason so many people do not understand the Bible. Some of it is cloaked in mystery. As a matter of fact, I wonder if you ever notice how much, even the gospel, is spoken of New Testament language as a mystery. It has been a mystery to so many people. But do know that we have now come to the time when these mysteries can be cleared up. When the curtain can be pulled back, and we can see these things as they are because all of the symbolic or allegorical language in the Bible is explained in plain language; either in the context or in some other place.

01: 23 M/S

HWA: Now, back in the twelfth chapter of Daniel, and I've quoted this so many times I'm not going to turn to it just now, the prophet Daniel, one of the great prophets of the Bible, who wrote a whole book. He didn't understand what he wrote, because He was not its real author, he was only the secretary. He was only, well like we'd say today a stenographer only he probably didn't have a typewriter in those days. Nevertheless, Daniel finally said that he heard and he wrote what he heard but he said, I understood not. And he had been spoken to by an angel and the angel said, "Go thy way, Daniel: These words are closed and sealed up until the time of the end." Until our time. --Dan 12: 8-9

02: 09 M/S

HWA: Now Jesus had explained over 1900 years ago, to His disciples, that many of the prophets of old that were as Peter would describes them, Holy men of old that were inspired of God, and yet Jesus told His disciples that many of those men had desired to know some of the things He was explaining to them but they had not been able to understand them because the time hadn't come. This knowledge is being opened up and revealed progressively as we go along.

02: 40 M/S

HWA: Now, I wonder if you realize that about a third of the Bible that was written for us today, refers directly to world conditions as they're taking place now in the

twentieth-century and as they will take place in the next five,.. ten years. This living, moving, pulsating present in which we live. This fantastic world that we're living through today. That is the one-third of the Bible that is [practically never quoted](#). Never preached from. Never mentioned. As a matter of fact, one man, that was a very prominent church man once said to me when I was quoting from some of that portion, as a matter of fact I was quoting from Daniel and the book of Revelation which are two of the books that refer to our time now. Why, he looked at me in astonishment, and he said, you don't preach anything like that, do you? He'd never heard anything like that preached in his church. Well, why is it, my friends, why do we neglect those portions of the Bible? Well, primarily because men have not been able to understand them.

03: 50 M/S

HWA: But there are keys to understanding. One of the keys is where is the United States mentioned in the Bible prophecies. You can't understand that whole third, well perhaps a portion but a very small portion let us say is all that you could understand unless you understand our identity and where we're mentioned in the Bible prophecies. But very few people have known. Well, all you have to do is write in for our booklet, *The United States in Prophecy*. It is what was written originally in the original manuscript to be quite a large book in very plain language so that any of you could understand it. Of course, you'll have to do a lot of reading in your own Bible if you're going to get it thoroughly but this tells you where can get it, it tells you can see it in your own Bible and it's the most fascinating interesting study you ever went into. It will tell you who you are, and who we are, and then you'll begin to understand a lot of the prophecies that you could not understand before. That's one of the keys. It is not the only one but perhaps the major key that has been lacking, without which the prophecies cannot be understood.

04: 58 M/S

HWA: Well, another one of these mysteries has been the identity of Melchizedek. Now, we've been going through this book of Hebrews, the book that tells Jesus Christ has been doing this last 1900 years. We haven't heard much about what Christ has been doing, where did He go, what's He been doing, has he been idle or has He had a job to do. I to want to tell you, my friends, Jesus Christ has been busy. Jesus Christ is busy this minute. Jesus Christ this very minute is the head of His church. Where is that Church? The church He heads, the Church that He is the active leader of and the active head of. He only works through human agencies in that church. But, no man is the head of that Church. And its exists, it's here, alive today and on the earth today. Do you belong to that Church? Or some other Church. And how do you know? I not going to answer that question on this program. But it's about time you look into some of these things, my friends. These are vital things. Jesus Christ said, "I will build My Church."

06: 00 M/S

HWA: The Bible shows you that Church is called, of course in twelve or thirteen places the church of God because it is God's Church. God's group, God's crowd, God's people, they're the people that are begotten of God. They are the begotten children of God. They're God's own children. By an actual begetting of God's spirit that comes out from Him. And so, they belong to Him. And the church of God means the Church God owns, Its God's Church. It belongs to Him. And it is made of those people who belong to God. And it is also called the body of Christ. It is a body that does the work of Christ. But Christ is still the head of that body. And He is still the leader, the dynamic living leader, who is leading it today, actively. Yes, I think we need to investigate some of those things because the gates of hell have never prevailed against that Church, its still alive and going and still doing the work, of Christ, on this earth. We need to find it.

07: 06 M/S

HWA: Well, who then is Melchizedek? Now, we've been going through Hebrews, we've come up here to the seventh chapter, and we find in the latter part of the sixth and beginning of the seventh, a strange character mentioned here by the name Melchizedek. Who is this Melchizedek? We read here in the latter part of the sixth chapter, where does the sentence here begin? You know, so many of these verses in the Authorized Version of the Bible, they're all indented with a number just like they were each one a paragraph; but they're not. Now here this twentieth verse, you look back at the nineteenth and you see a semicolon there. Which means it wasn't even the end of the sentence even and you go to the beginning of the nineteenth and look just ahead of that and you find a colon at the end of the eighteenth verse. Which means the eighteenth verse was not complete, it's still carrying on. And then you look at the end of the seventeenth verse and there's another colon. And you have to go clear back to the end of the sixteenth verse to find where a sentence ended. So, beginning with the seventeenth verse,

08: 10 M/S

HWA: ([Heb 6: 17](#)) "Wherein God, willing more abundantly to show unto the heirs of promise" [Now, if you have really repented, if have been conquered by God Almighty, your will, your spirit conquered by Him, until it's yielded to Him, and you have come under His glorious government until He rules and governs your life, and you are living by ever word of God as you diligently study that word and as you pray earnestly, continuously to God that He will open it up to your understanding that you can understand it and realize that the Bible is the revelation of God. It is revealed truth, the way of life, it's revealed to show you how to live, and you live by it, every single thing that you can find in the Bible and by its principles. Well, if you through Jesus Christ have been reconciled to God and received His spirit, with Christ as

personal savior, then you become of the heirs of the promise. And Christ is the heir of all things but you become as co-heir with Him. That's what its been showing us all the way through Hebrews. Christ, is very God, by a resurrection from the dead, and made a son of God and therefore, God, in the spiritual sense by a resurrection from the dead but, "He is firstborn of many brethren." And we're to be like Him. And, He is pictured as, in a sense, our elder brother, because He is the first born of many brethren.

Rom 8: 29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did [predestinate to be conformed](#) to the [image of his Son](#), that [he might be the firstborn among many brethren](#).

09: 27 M/S

HWA: Again, He is pictured as the bridegroom and the whole Church, the body of Christ is pictured as a bride to be married to Him. But, it's a bride that will obey the husband. We will obey Christ as Christ in turns obeys God.

Now, the promise was made originally to Abraham and his seed. But, Christ is that seed primarily, but we also become Abraham's children through Christ and co-heir with Him of the promise. Now if we are the heirs of the promise, wherein God willing more abundantly to show unto the heirs, that's unto us then, if we are converted, the immutability His counsel, confirmed it by an oath,

10: 14 M/S

HWA: ([Heb 6: 18-19](#)) "That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: Which hope" [And the hope is that Paul speaks of everywhere is the [hope of the resurrection](#) from the dead or the change that is to take place to many of us living in this time, we're going to be living at the second coming of Christ.]

([1 Cor 15: 52-54](#)) "...when the dead shall rise incorruptible, ...when this mortal shall put on immortality, this corruption; incorruption." [So many people will quote that and they don't know anything at all about what it is speaking of. Well, that is the hope, when we are born as children of God with Christ as even He was.]

10: 59 M/S

HWA: ([Heb 6: 19-20](#)) "Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both [sure and steadfast](#), and which enters into that within the veil; Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made [an high priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek](#)." [Now we find that Christ is High Priest now, and He is made a High Priest, here it says in the King James language, that's the Authorized Version, "after the order of Melchizedek." But if you read it in the Moffat translation, it says "with the rank of

Melchizedek.” In other words, an equal, equal with Melchizedek. Same identical rank. Now, there’s only one High Priest. So, if Christ is High Priest, another person by another name cannot be High Priest! But, who is or who was Melchizedek? That’s one of the very mysteries of the Bible. Now, let’s continue on here with the seventh chapter of Hebrews.]

12: 00 M/S

HWA: Heb 7: 1 “For this Melchizedek, king of Salem,” [That is Jerusalem but here, it was originally called Salem; and Salem means peace.] “King of Salem, priest of the most high God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him;” [So it goes back then to the time of Abraham. Now, that was way back before the time of Moses. About four hundred and thirty years before the time of Moses and the exodus out of Egypt for the children of Israel. So way back there four hundred and thirty years prior to the exodus of the children of Israel, out of Israel, Abraham was returning from the slaughter of the kings and Melchizedek blessed him.]

12: 38 M/S

HWA: Heb 7: 2 “To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all;” [So, he must have been God’s priest or God’s High Priest. Now, what is a priest? A [priest](#) is a [representative of God](#)! In other words, God is not here in actual person, only in spirit. But, [God had a priest represent Him](#). Now, God has priests or ministers as we call them today, to represent Him. But one who is called of God, a priest of God, is one who represents Him because God has selected and chosen the priest or representative and has delegated authority. Of course, there will be a limit on that authority but as far as it extends, God has given certain authority to those who represent Him.]

13: 29 M/S

HWA: Now, another thing, there is only one High Priest. There may be many priests, many representatives, but the top one is a High Priest. And there is only one. Now, at this present time it is revealed as Christ is the head of the church, Christ is the one High Priest in the true Church of God, the body of Christ today. Christ is the High Priest. There is only one High Priest. And that one is the top authority under God Almighty. The top authority. Now, let’s go on.

So, now here was Melchizedek. Back in Abraham's time, He was the Priest of God and was incidentally the High Priest, now notice, to whom Abraham gave the tenth part of all, that is, tithes, or tenth. Tithe is an old English word, t.i.t.h.e, tithe and it means one tenth. Now, it might be the first tenth, it might be the tenth, tenth or the seventh tenth because there are ten tithes in every crop that you produce or every dollar that you have, there are ten dimes or ten tithes. Now, actually what Abraham

gave to Melchizedek was the first tenth as we're going to see later. "To whom Abraham gave a tenth part of all," and it was the first tenth.

14: 44 M/S

HWA: "Being first being by interpretation" [That is Melchizedek is first by interpretation] "King of righteousness," [Now notice, my friends, none is righteous but God. Jesus Himself said that. None is righteous but God. The King of righteousness then would have to be one of the Godhead. The King of Righteousness is a divine person. The King of Righteousness is one higher than any angel or even an archangel. The King of Righteousness must be one who is very God but there is more than one person of God. You find the name Elohiym (el-o-heem') back in Genesis, a name used in a great many places in the Old Testament of the Bible; that is the Hebrew name Elohiym and it is plural meaning more than one person, a family of persons who constitute God.]

15: 35M/S

HWA: Now, Abraham saw this Melchizedek. Who was He? It couldn't been God the Father because Abraham saw Him. Also, you're going to see here he was made like the Son of God and He was a priest of God not God but a representative of God the Father. So it was not God the Father, and yet it was one of the Godhead, it was one who is one of the members of the God family or the God kingdom but was not the one we call the Father and when you think of God as one person you are of course thinking of the Father, as Christ was. But, there is more than one person in the family of God actually. Now, whoever this is, He was called King of Righteousness. And after that also King of Salem which is, King of peace because Salem means peace. Now, Jesus Christ is going to be called the [prince of peace](#) when He comes to rule the whole world. But here is one called the King of Peace. So, He must have been on a level at least with Christ. And since Christ is on the same rank or order of Melchizedek, their on equal level and Christ is God and very God as we read in the first chapter of Hebrew here and is called God, of the son or under the son, the Father says,

Heb 1: 8 "Thy throne, O God," that's what the Father says to Jesus, "Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of thy kingdom." And, in the second verse, it says that Christ is the one by whom also God made the worlds; "Who, third verse, being in the brightness of his glory, the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power," [Upholding the universe by the Word of his power as it is in other translations, so, consider how great Christ is. [Upholding the whole universe](#) by the word of His power. God created all things, everything in the whole universe, all the stars you see in the sky, this earth and everything upon it, all life on earth and in heaven and where ever it may be; God had created by Jesus Christ, that's how great Christ is.]

17: 46 M/S

HWA: Now, consider how great Melchizedek was. He was equally great, I want you to notice: King of Righteousness, King of Peace, verse three in Hebrews seven:

Heb 7: 3 “Without father, without mother, without descent,” [In other words, He was not born, now was He a created being? Was there a time when He began to exist? Next we find:] “having neither beginning of days,” [There was no time when He began to exist. Why? Because, like God the Father, and like Christ as you read in the first chapter of John’s gospel, He has always existed! Without beginning of days that’s just Bible language for telling you he has existed for all eternity. Your mind cannot grasp that. We just can’t conceive of something that has always been, that never started. And yet, if God had to start at some time, if Christ had too, if Melchizedek had to start at some time, there’d have to have been another power that started them or brought them into existence, wouldn’t there? And you still have to go back to some power, some being who has existed forever, who always existed. Now my mind want go back there that far and I know yours won’t either. I don’t care how high your IQ is, it won’t go back that far. You can’t conceive of it. We have to accept it as a fact. You can’t see the power of gravity. You can’t see wind, or electricity but we know they exist. And we have to accept them.] “having neither beginning of days, nor end of life,” [Then He is immortal. Melchizedek is still alive, Melchizedek did not die, He does not have an end of life.] “but made like unto the Son of God;” [Not God the Father but like unto the Son of God. And He’s the same rank as Christ,] “abideth a priest continually.” [Now abideth in the King James language means: ‘does abide.’ Continually means continually abides a priest.]

19: 45 M/S

HWA: Continually, always and forever remains God’s High Priest! And yet, my friends, there is only one High Priest. He’s of the same order as Christ, He is divine, He is the King of Righteousness, the King of Peace. He is immortal, has always existed, was never born, was not created like an angel, but like Christ and like God the Father, has always existed. Now the next verse,

Pays worship to Him, therefore he is on the level with God, because if you worship anyone less than God, it is idolatry! And you’re breaking a command, and the Bible couldn’t tell you to do that, in fact, the Bible is [inspired by the Holy Spirit](#) and that means that the [Holy Spirit is inspiring the Apostle Paul](#) in writing Hebrews here to pay worship, homage that is worship to Melchizedek. When it says here,

Heb 7: 4 “Now consider how great this man was unto whom even the patriarch Abraham gave the tenth of the spoils.”

20: 43 M/S

HWA: Why, you read right over here how human beings will be worshipping this symbolic beast which merely means a revived Roman Empire, a resurrected Roman Empire and its Fuhrer or its Emperor or leader. When they say, consider “how great this empire is, who can make war with this great empire,” that is called worship. It says, they worshipped the Beast in that manner saying that. Well, when the Bible says, Consider how great this man is, it is [paying worship to Melchizedek](#). Therefore He is worthy of worship and is God and very God, but not God the Father. He is the priest of God the Father. He not only was the priest of God the Father in Abraham’s day but He’s still abides a Priest. And yet Christ is the High Priest and there’s only one High Priest, well now it seems inevitable. There’s only one High Priest: Melchizedek is that High Priest. Christ is that High Priest! THEN MY FRIENDS THEY ARE ONE AND THE SAME PERSON EXACTLY!

21: 40 M/S

HWA: Now, one question that I’ve had from a businessman in New York. And one of the questions was, Why do we read back in Isaiah a virgin shall conceive and bare a son and call His name Immanuel which is God with us? This man question was, Why didn't they call His name Jesus? Well, if you read in the first chapter of Luke in one place is name shall be called Immanuel which is God with us and in another place His name shall be called Jesus. Now, Jesus means: God is savior. It means that His name is God, it comes from Yah or Yahweh of the Old Testament with the words added in the Hebrew language is savior or saves. In other words, God our savior. Now, Christ as savior is called Jesus. But Christ, in the form of God in the human flesh, was called, he was there called Immanuel, which is God with us. Now, you find that He was called back in the fifteenth chapter of Exodus, Yahweh-Roper which is our healer. God our healer. He is God our healer. He has many names. And the answer is, my friends, [Melchizedek](#) is [another of the names](#) of the [one who became Jesus Christ](#), that we know as Christ the savior.

22: 58 M/S

HWA: He existed from eternity. [Was he less than a High Priest then way back there? Of course not!](#) Who was the Rock that followed the ancient Israelites that you read, ...let me see, isn't that in the tenth chapter of I Corinthians, is it? The rock that follow them in ancient Israel, yes, the tenth chapter and the fourth verse, I Corinthians? Back there in the time of Moses,

I Corinthians 10: 4 “...They did all eat the same spiritual meat, they all drank, the children of Israel, all drank the same spiritual drink for they drank of that Spiritual Rock that followed them and [that Rock was Christ](#).” And you'll find back there that that was also the one falsely called Jehovah, because Jehovah is not the correct word, that's what I mean. Not falsely called but, I should say, falsely pronounced Jehovah. Yahweh is the or Yahweh; we don't know how to pronounce it.

23: 47 M/S

HWA: A Hebrew word and it means the Eternal and I prefer to use the word Eternal because we have the example of the Holy Spirit in translating the names of God as they are found in the Old Testament in the Hebrew language and into the Greek language in the New Testament as it was inspired in Greek. And so we speak the English language today and it should be translated into the English language today. God's names have meaning. And the meaning of the name you find Lord, in the King James translation and in most places in the Old Testament is merely the Eternal or the self existing one or the ever living. That is His name showing immortality and eternal life and the fact that He has life to give and life inherit to impart to us. The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Now, that spiritual Rock that follow them that Rock was Christ, Christ was the God of Israel, He was the personal God of Israel, not very many people seem to know that. Most people think it was God the Father. No, it was Christ, and one of His names back there was Melchizedek. Now there's one of the very mysteries of God at last cleared up and made plain. Well, now let's go on,

25: 00 M/S

HWA: Heb 7: 4-5 “Consider how great this man was unto whom even the patriarch Abraham gave the tenth of the spoils. And verily they that are of the sons of Levi, who receive the office of the priesthood, have a command to take tithes of the people according to the law,” [Now, from the time of the Levitical Priesthood in the day of Moses until Christ, we had a different priesthood and we had human High Priest! You see [Israel](#), my friends, [was not a spiritual nation](#). It was God’s church but it was not a spiritual church.]

Why, you read back here, let me see that's the Church in the wilderness, spoken of in Acts, the seventh chapter of Acts, and the thirty-eight verse, here again,

Acts 7: 38 [This was he that was in the church in the wilderness with the angel that spoke to him in the mount Sinai, speaking of Moses there and how] “the angel spoke to him in mount Sinai and with our fathers: who received the lively oracles to give unto us.”

26: 00 M/S

HWA: HWA: Now there it's called the Church in the Wilderness, but in Old Testament language, Israel was called the Congregation of Israel. And Congregation is just a synonym for church, assembly, church, congregation they all mean the same thing. You can call a church, the Church of God or the Assembly of God or the Congregation of God. Any one of those names are correct and proper according to the

Bible, is the name of God's True Church today. Well, that church was merely a flesh born church. They didn't have the Holy Spirit and so they had a mortal human High Priest; Aaron was their first High Priest. And, so there was a High Priest all the way down until Christ but after the crucifixion of Christ and His resurrection, Christ was resurrected to become the High Priest and once again the spiritual ministry was restored. And we have a High Priest who is very God Himself in the person of Christ of the same rank as Melchizedek, as a matter of fact since Melchizedek still continues to be High Priest they are one and the same!

27: 00 M/S

HWA: Now, I want to carry on about that and what Christ is doing today and finish this seventh chapter so much that it's just wonderful what follows it. We'll kick up there again in next program but, I want to break off now. I want to announce a booklet that I think many of you ought to read: *Where is the True Church?*