

JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Lesson 6: Melchizedek – Priest of God Most High

Aim: To understand how Melchizedek is a Type of Christ; specifically Christ's role in His coming Kingdom as King and Priest.

Key Scriptures: Genesis 14:18-20; Hebrews 7:1-3

So far in our study of Jesus in the Old Testament we have seen how 2 of Adam's sons, Abel & Seth together, present a picture of Christ as the promised Seed of the Woman from Genesis 3:15. **Abel** portrays the death of Christ at the hands of His brother, Israel, while **Seth**, a replacement seed for Abel, foretells the resurrection of Christ following His death, and all for the purpose of rulership in the 7th Day.

Today we are going to look at Christ once again – this time in His future role as the **King and Priest** in the 7th Day, His Millennial Kingdom.

We finished our last lesson with an excerpt from Jesus's **genealogy** in Luke chapter 3 that traces Christ's ancestry all the way back to **Adam** via Seth.

We all have a genealogy that in some fashion leads us back to Adam and Eve, the very first parents. It's also interesting to note that following the Flood of Noah's day, only 8 people survived - **Noah**, his 3 sons, and their wives. Therefore, we are all descended from one of Noah's 3 sons: Shem, Ham, or Japheth.

There is, however, an individual in the Bible who is said to have no genealogy, neither mother nor father! How can that possibly be? Even Jesus has a mother, and His Father is God the Father by the Holy Spirit.

Let's read about this mysterious person called **Melchizedek**. We'll look first at what the New Testament tells us about him:

Hebrew 7:1 For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him,

2 to whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all, first being translated "king of righteousness," and then also king of Salem, meaning "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, remains a priest continually.

Q: In v.1, what are the two roles Melchizedek holds?

A:

The name '**Melchizedek**' is a compound word made up of '**Melchi**' meaning 'king'. And '**Tsedeq**' meaning 'right, prosperity, justice, righteous(ness)'. And that is exactly what has been revealed in v.2 where his name has been ... "*translated 'king of righteousness'*".

Q: What else in v.2 has been translated, and what does it mean?

A:

There would have been a literal place called 'Salem' when Abraham met Melchizedek, who was its king and priest. Psalm 76:2 tells us that Salem is where God had His tabernacle:

Psalm 76:1 To the Chief Musician. On stringed instruments. A Psalm of Asaph. A Song. In Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel.

2 In Salem also is His tabernacle, And His dwelling place in Zion.

Q: In fact, Salem is a place that exists even today. Where is it? *(Not the one in Massachusetts!)*

A:

The name given to Melchizedek described both his role and attributes – he was a king of righteousness and justice. Then more information about him is given through the meaning of the place from which he ruled: *‘king of Salem, king of peace’*. Finally we see he was a priest of the Most High God, and as a priest he received a tithe - a tenth - of what Abram owned.

Let’s now turn to the OT and read the account of their meeting. Once again we go back to where Moses began – the Book of Genesis. Abram’s nephew Lot had been dwelling in the Jordan plain near the Dead Sea in the city of Sodom, when a battle between nine kings took place. The king of Sodom had fled along with the other kings on his side, and Lot was taken captive by a king called Chedorlaomer. Unlike Lot, who dwelt in the plain, Abram was dwelling in the mountains above the plain, and when he heard what happened to Lot, he acted:

***Genesis 14:14** Now when Abram heard that his brother [his nephew Lot] was taken captive, he armed his three hundred and eighteen trained servants who were born in his own house, and went in pursuit as far as Dan.*

15 He divided his forces against them by night, and he and his servants attacked them and pursued them as far as Hobah, which is north of Damascus.

16 So he brought back all the goods, and also brought back his brother Lot and his goods, as well as the women and the people.

17 And the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley), after his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him.

Q: After Abram (Abraham) rescued Lot and all the others who had been taken captive, who came out to meet him on his return?

A:

18 Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High.

19 And he blessed him and said: “Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth;

20 And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand.” And he gave him a tithe [a tenth] of all.

Q: In addition to the king of Sodom, who else met Abram and the returning captives?

A:

On the map find Sodom & Salem



Q: Abram dwelt on the high ground above the Jordan plain, in a place called **Mamre**; can you find that on the map as well?

Q: What did Melchizedek bring out in his dual role as a king and priest?

A:

Q: What would you like to say about the significance of this?

A:

Q: What did Melchizedek do next?

A:

Q: What did Melchizedek say God Most High had done for Abram?

A:

In the blessing of Abram, and the acknowledgement of God Most High as the Possessor of heaven and earth, Melchizedek was prophetically linking a future time when Abraham and his descendants will again have victory over their enemies. There will be a future battle of the kings called the Battle of Armageddon, after which Abraham's physical and spiritual descendants will have positions of rulership in the heavens and on the earth.

Q: What did Abram do as a result of what Melchizedek said?

A:

Does anyone have any questions about the tithe?

Melchizedek made it clear to Abram, and anyone else who might be listening (such as Lot, or the king of Sodom), who it was that enabled Abram to have the victory in the battle with the kings of the north. It was God Most High, the Possessor of heaven and earth that delivered his enemies into his hand. Yes, Abram armed the men of his household to pursue and fight the kings from the north, but it was God who gave Abram the victory!

21 Now the king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give me the persons, and take the goods for yourself."

22 But Abram said to the king of Sodom, "I have raised my hand to the LORD, God Most High, the Possessor of heaven and earth,

23 "that I will take nothing, from a thread to a sandal strap, and that I will not take anything that is yours, lest you should say, 'I have made Abram rich' –

Q: What did the king of Sodom offer Abram?

A:

Q: What did the king of Sodom want for himself?

A:

Q: What are we to make of Sodom and its king?

A:

Q: What 2 reasons (in vv.22 & 23) did Abram give for declining the king of Sodom's offer?

A:

The Order of Melchizedek

Genesis 14:18-20 tells us nothing about Melchizedek's genealogy. If we now return to where we began in the Book of Hebrews, which provides commentary on what we have just studied in Genesis chapter 14, we are given details as to why Melchizedek is such an important figure and why he is a Type of Christ.

Hebrews 6:19 This hope [of rulership in the 7th Day with Jesus] we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil,

20 where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

Q: What does Hebrews 6:20 say Jesus has become?

A:

Q: Is this currently happening, and is it 'forever'? What do you think?

A:

Since Jesus's return to the heavens He has become our High Priest, where, because of the blood He shed, He is now able to enter behind the veil in the heavenly tabernacle and provide cleansing for our sins. Jesus is currently exercising the role of High Priest according to the order of Aaron, something He is able to do from the heavens for those who believe on Him for their salvation in this dispensation. He could not operate in that capacity on the earth as He is from the tribe of Judah, not Levi. It will not be forever but for the Age to Come, when a priest will still be required. Hence the reason Christ will be a King & Priest. Only once Christ makes the new covenant with Israel can a change in the priesthood from the Aaronic to Melchizedek priesthood take place.

Does anyone have any questions or comments on the last paragraph?

Jesus's priesthood in the 7th Day will be in the same manner ('according to the order') as that which Melchizedek had. This is why the Book of Hebrews continues on with the details about Melchizedek that we looked at earlier.

***Hebrews 7:1** For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him,*

2 to whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all, first being translated "king of righteousness," and then also king of Salem, meaning "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, remains a priest continually.

Re-read v.3 and underline what is NOT known about Melchizedek.

Circle what IS known.

Verse 3 is telling us that there is no record of Melchizedek's parents, his birth, or death. And because of that he '*remains a priest continually*'. It is as if he never died, and so he continues. However, Melchizedek was a man that existed. He was born to parents, and would at some point have died.

God, in His Word, has **chosen not to reveal** the details of Melchizedek's parents, birth, or death, because by not doing so it appears as if he is continuing to live and function as a priest forever. Melchizedek was '*made like the Son of God*' - made like Jesus Christ, but is not Jesus Christ. Jesus, because He is God, has and will always exist, even though He was born to Mary (*Gal.4:4*). God, as the Son, has no beginning of days nor end of life, and in that way He can become a priest after the order of Melchizedek 'forever', [for the age].

Jesus was born King of the Jews, and He is currently our great High Priest in the heavens according to Aaron, Israel's first high priest, but He IS NOT currently ruling as King in Jerusalem. And Jerusalem, the city of peace, is yet to be at peace. That will not transpire until the Prince of Peace returns to the earth, restores the nation of Israel, and deals with Gentile world power. In the 7th Day, in His Millennial Kingdom, Jesus will be both a king and a priest, and Jerusalem will be at peace.

***Luke 2:13** And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: **14** "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"*

So as we conclude our lesson for today, we have seen that the mysterious Melchizedek is a picture of Jesus Christ during His Millennial Kingdom. And when Jesus was talking to the 2 disciples on the road to Emmaus, He would had to have talked about Melchizedek to reveal His future role of King & Priest when He enters into His glory. Jesus could have also taken them to Psalm 110, the other OT reference to Melchizedek outside of Genesis 14.

Psalm 110:1 The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool."

2 The LORD shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion [another name for Jerusalem]. Rule in the midst of Your enemies!

4 The LORD has sworn And will not relent, "You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek."

Let us pray.