

Melchizedek

'Melchizedek, King of Salem (Jerusalem) brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High' (Genesis 14:18).

'The Lord (God) says to my Lord (Jesus, the Messiah), "Sit at My right hand, until I make Your (Jesus') enemies Your footstool" ... The Lord (God) has sworn and will not change it: You (Jesus) are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek' (Psalm 110:1 & 4).

"You (Jesus) are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek" ... 'He was named by God, a High Priest after the order of Melchizedek' (Hebrews 5:6 & 10).

'For this Melchizedek, King of Salem (Jerusalem) and priest of the Most High God, met Abraham as he returned from the slaughter of the wicked kings and blessed him. Abraham gave to Melchizedek a tenth of everything. He is a first, as his name when translated means King of Righteousness, and he is also King of Salem which means King of Peace. Without father or mother or ancestry, with no record of his birth or death, but like the Son of God, he continues to be a priest without interruption and without successor. How great was this man Melchizedek, for even Abraham gave him a tenth of his best spoils? It is true that the tribe of Levi were given the priestly office and are commanded in the Law to take a tenth from the people, the descendants of Abraham, but Melchizedek was not from the tribe of Levi, yet he received tenths from Abraham and blessed him. Without dispute, the lesser person is always blessed by the higher. In the priesthood tenths are received by men who will one day die; but with Melchizedek the tenths were received by a man of whom it is testified, that he lives forever. For Levi, a descendant of Abraham was not yet born when Melchizedek met Abraham and received a tenth. If a perfect fellowship between God and man had been attainable by the Levitical priesthood – why was it necessary that there be another kind of Priest – One after the order of Melchizedek rather than one appointed after Aaron? When there is a change in the priesthood, there is also a change in the Law. He of Whom these things have been said belongs to another tribe for it is evident that our Lord came from the tribe of Judah; about which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning the priesthood. This becomes more evident when another Priest arises Who bears the likeness of Melchizedek, One who has been made Priest on the basis of the power of an eternal life; for it is spoken of Him, "You are a Priest forever after the order of Melchizedek." ... Jesus was made Priest by the oath of God: "The Lord has sworn and will not change His mind; You are a Priest forever after the order of Melchizedek'." ... He holds His Priesthood forever because He lives on forever ... Jesus is a perfect Priest forever' (Hebrews 7:1 to 28).

Who was Melchizedek and where did he come from? He came from nowhere and left the earth without trace. He had no recorded birth, death nor family; he lives forever and was greater than Abraham. He was righteous and the king of peace. Melchizedek was one of the Godhead; another way Jesus Himself came to earth in the form of a Man before His heralded birth at God's appointed time, to die as our Sacrificial Lamb. Melchizedek met Abraham and they shared bread and wine (Genesis 14:18). Jesus said He had met Abraham long before He came to earth as the Messiah, and Abraham was delighted to meet Him (John 8:56 to 58). Melchizedek was a king; so is Jesus. Melchizedek was a priest; so is Jesus. Melchizedek offered bread and wine; so did Jesus. Melchizedek lives forever; so does Jesus. Melchizedek continues to rule without interruption and without successor; as does Jesus. Melchizedek even resembled Jesus and Jesus bore the likeness of Melchizedek. The name Melchizedek means King of Righteousness. Melchizedek will be a priest forever; so will Jesus. There are other parallels we will look at in this study. To see all of the parallels we need to read the whole of Hebrews 7, but we are unable to put the whole chapter here, so we will look at just a few verses.

It seems almost inconceivable that we could minister to God the Father as priests; but Jesus has formed His people; the genuine and true believers, into a Kingdom to be priests to His God and Father (Revelation 1:6). Christians are kings and priests and will rule over the earth (Revelation 5:10). Jesus is the King of Eternity (1 Timothy 1:17). Jesus is sitting at God's right hand, and He is ruling from above in the midst of His enemies in the unseen realm. 'Now the main point we have to say is this: We have such a High Priest; One Who is seated at the right hand of the Majestic God in heaven; as Priest, a Minister in holy places in the true tabernacle made by God' (Hebrews 8:1 & 2).

'For Jesus must be King and reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet (Psalm 110:1). The last enemy to be abolished is death' (1 Corinthians 15:25 & 26; Revelation 20:14).

Jesus is seated at the right hand of God the Father; He is a King and a Priest. Christians are kings and priests of God, and as such we can now enter the holy presence of God without fear. In the ancient Tabernacle of Moses, there was the outer court, the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies. 'A tabernacle was erected. The outer division where the lampstand and the table with the loaves of showbread were, was called the Holy Place. But beyond the second veil stood another division called the Holy of Holies ... By this the Holy Spirit points us into the Holy of Holies. This was not revealed while the tabernacle was still standing' (Hebrews 9:2, 3 & 8). When Jesus died, that tall thick veil that separated the priests from the people was

supernaturally torn in two from top to bottom (Matthew 27:51; Mark 15:38 & Luke 23:45), opening the way for us to enter the Holy of Holies when we receive the Holy Spirit. (The details of the Tabernacle of Moses can be found in Exodus chapters 25 to 31; too much to add to this Bible study.) In order for the Israelites to be cleansed from sin, animals had to be sacrificed; but now once and for all, Jesus has been sacrificed to cleanse all people from their sins. The rending of the veil opened up salvation to all who believe, allowing us to be purified, washed in the sacrifice and blood of Jesus, making it possible to enter into God's presence within the veil. 'Now we have this hope as a steadfast anchor of the soul that reaches further within the veil; where Jesus has entered in for us, a Forerunner having become a High Priest forever after the order of Melchizedek' (Hebrews 6:19 & 20).

Jesus was the Forerunner, opening the way for us to follow Him right into the Holy of Holies. Melchizedek was the King of Righteousness, a King of Peace and a priest so Jesus was after this order. This is the first reference to a priest in the Bible. It is also the first reference to giving a tenth; and the first reference to the bread and wine. Receiving tithes and the bread and wine is from Melchizedek's priesthood. Melchizedek was both king and priest and he was different from the future Levitical priests. The Levitical priests could never offer anything to God, that the people had not first offered to the priest, but Melchizedek offered to Abraham something that Abraham had not offered to Melchizedek first. He was not dependent on Abraham's offering. The bread and wine is very significant. In the New Testament at the last supper, Jesus also offered bread and wine to the apostles. The bread and wine became the emblems of the new covenant of grace, which began at Jesus resurrection and will end at His second coming. Melchizedek's offer of bread and wine came 480 years before the old covenant of Moses was made. By giving the apostles bread and wine, Jesus was stating by that action, that He was the Priest after the order of Melchizedek and He was restoring the Priesthood started by Melchizedek. Melchizedek gave Abraham bread and wine and in return, Abraham gave Melchizedek a tenth.

Giving a tenth was not part of the Law of Moses, but it was a free will offering first given by Abraham 480 years before the Law of Moses. Giving a tenth is not part of the Law, but is part of the priesthood of Melchizedek. 'This person (Melchizedek) who does not have Levitical ancestry received tenths from Abraham and blessed him with the promises of God' (Hebrews 7:6). The Levitical priesthood began with Levi, Abraham's great-grandson, therefore Melchizedek could not have been a priest from that line.

"Thus says the Lord of Hosts: Behold the Man (Jesus) whose name is the Branch, for He shall grow up in His place and He shall build the true temple of the Lord. Yes, it is He Who shall build the true temple of the Lord and He shall bear the glory as the only Begotten of the Father and shall sit and rule upon His throne; and He shall be a Priest upon His throne, and the Counsel of Peace shall be between the two offices (of Priest and King)' (Zechariah 6:12 & 13).

In the scriptures from Zechariah, we have seven references to Jesus; (1) Branch. The name Branch is another title for Messiah. (2) Grow up in His place. If we want to grow spiritually, this is what we have to do; find our place in God and grow up. (3) Jesus shall build the temple of the Lord as is stated here twice. That is a reference to genuine believers. He will build the temple of the Holy Spirit; the body; the church; the bride. Jesus said, "On this Rock I will build My church" (Matthew 16:18). Here is something to think about and consider carefully; Jesus will not own any church He is not allowed to build. The church has only One Head and His name is Jesus. Any church that has another head does not belong to Jesus. In the books of Ezekiel and Revelation, they mention churches as being many headed monsters, but the true church has only One Head. The only church Jesus acknowledges is the church where He is allowed to be the Head. That is the place where God the Father put Him. (4) He shall bear the glory at God's right hand. In Hebrew, the words glory and heaven come from the same root word. (5) He shall sit and rule upon His throne. Only a King sits and rules from a throne. (6) He shall be a Priest upon His throne. Jesus is both our King and High Priest. It is the order of Melchizedek that combines King and Priest. (7) The Counsel of Peace shall be between both offices or between the two of them. The number 'two' is used here. Who are the two? Jesus and the Father. Every thing God the Father wanted done, has been done by Jesus. We read this in the Lord's prayer; 'Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven' (Matthew 6:10; Luke 11:2). Jesus and the Father are in perfect harmony. Jesus said, "I and the Father are One" (John 10:30).

Zechariah said; "Behold the Man" (Zechariah 6:12). When Jesus came out wearing the purple robe and the crown of thorns, Pilate said to the Jews; "Behold the Man" (John 19:5). When Jesus became a Man, He became a Man forever. He will never cease to be a Man. After His resurrection he was seen by hundreds of people as a Man. Jesus invited Thomas to touch His wounds (John 20:27). He has brought in the new covenant. He is God but He is also a Man. 'The first man (Adam) was out of earth, made of dust. The second Man is the Lord from out of heaven ... And just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, so shall we also bear the image of the Man of heaven' (1 Corinthians 15:47 & 49). 'For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men; the Man, Jesus our Messiah' (1 Timothy 2:5).

There is representative of mankind in the heavens at the right hand of the Father. There is not an angel there acting as mediator. There is not a seraph or a cherub, but there is The Man. From the Old Testament right through to the end of the New Testament, it leads us to see that Jesus is on the throne, ruling as a King. He

came to earth to take us there too, but only if we will believe. He decreed that before He created the world. 'We speak the wisdom of God, once hidden from our understanding and now revealed to us by God – that wisdom which God decreed before the world for our glory' (1 Corinthians 2:7).

We have already read that Melchizedek had no birth or death but appeared as the King of Salem and he was also a priest. In order for Jesus to be the indisputable Messiah, He would have to come from an impeccable bloodline; He couldn't just appear. To be a King, He would have to come from a royal tribe (Judah); to be a Priest, He would have to come from a priestly tribe (Levi). God the Father took great care to make sure Jesus came from both the tribes of Judah and Levi. The lineages written in the scriptures all record that Jesus was from the royal tribe of Judah, a descendant of David, so He could legally be King (Hebrews 7:14; Revelation 5:5; Matthew 1:1 to 17). Joseph was a descendant of the royal house of David (Luke 1:27). We see that Elizabeth (John the Baptist's mother) was Mary's kinswoman (Mary's cousin or aunt; Luke 1:36). Elizabeth was a descendant of Aaron, Moses' brother (Luke 1:5). Aaron was from the tribe of Levi (Exodus 4:14) and later became a priest (Exodus 28:3). Since Mary and Elizabeth were closely related, we can see that Mary would have been from the priestly tribe of Levi, so Jesus could legally be a priest. Jesus is a King and Priest after the order of Melchizedek. Hallelujah!

Amen and God bless you.

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