

## **“Melchizedek, King of Salem – Part 2”**

Hebrews 6:19-7:4 (Excursus on Melchizedek)

### **MELCHIZEDEK IN THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS**

#### **1. In the OT, the name/word “Melchizedek” is only mentioned 2 X’s: Genesis 14:18 and Psalm 110:4.**

- Gen. 14:18: And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread & wine. (He was priest of God Most High.)
- Psalm 110: David, speaking of the coming Messiah, records the words of the LORD (God the Father) about his Lord (Jesus, the Son of God)...
- Melchizedek is a “type” of Christ (something or someone in the OT that points to/reflects Jesus Christ).

#### **2. In the NT, “Melchizedek” is mentioned 8 X’s—all in Hebrews, between chapters 5-7.**

- Not just ‘Melchizedek’—but the “order of Melchizedek.” Ref. Ps 110:4; Heb. 5:6, 10; 6:20; 7:11, 17
- And ‘a priest after (according to) the order of Melchizedek.’ = talking specifically about Jesus Christ

→ We largely do not understand priesthood – the concept or the necessity (God’s judgment and wrath).

- Ref. Gen 3,4,6-9,11; Rom 1; 2:5; Eph. 2:3; Col. 3:5-6; John 3:36

### **MELCHIZEDEK RESEMBLED THE PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST. Hebrews 7:1-3**

#### **1. Melchizedek resembled Jesus as a King, Priest and Prophet. Heb. 7:1-2**

- Melchizedek was KING of Salem. Salem = “peace” (‘shalom’). Possibly from ‘Jeru-SALEM’ -His name is translated “king of righteousness.” Melekh [king] + Sedeq [righteousness]
- Melchizedek was PRIEST of the Most High God (Heb. *El Elyon*). Genesis 14:22 links to *Yahweh* (“LORD”)
- Melchizedek was a PROPHET who spoke words of blessing on Abram and God.
- Abram gave Mel. a tenth (“tithe”) of the spoils of war after defeating Chedorlaomer. Ref. Gen. 14:16-20

#### **2. Though Melchizedek was merely a man, he resembled Jesus in other ways. 7:3**

- No father, mother, or family genealogy is found in Genesis for Melchizedek.
- There is no birth (“beginning of days”) or death (“end of life”) recorded in Genesis for Melchizedek.
- From what little we know about Melchizedek, his priesthood appears to be eternal (like Jesus). Heb. 7:25

→ Jesus was a ‘Melchizedek Priest’.

### **THE “ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK” IS A GREATER PRIESTHOOD THAN THAT OF THE LEVITES.**

#### **1. Melchizedek’s priesthood was superior in the matter of the tithe. v.4-10**

- In the Levitical priesthood, tithes were given by the descendants of Abraham.  
→ But Melchizedek received tithes from Abraham himself! **v.5-6**
- In the Levitical priesthood, tithes were received by mortal men (priests).  
→ But Melchizedek received tithes as one who is ‘immortal’ (no birth and no death; ref. v.3). **v.8**
- Biologically, you could even say that Levi himself actually paid tithes to Melchizedek because he was still in the loins of Abraham when Abraham paid tithes to Melchizedek. **v.9-10**

#### **2. Jesus (the ‘Melchizedek priest’) replaced the Levitical priesthood. v.11-12, 18-19**

- The Levitical priesthood was imperfect. **v.11** “...if perfection had been attainable...”
- The Levitical law (of animal sacrifices, offerings, ceremonial cleansing) was imperfect as well. **v.12**
- The Levitical law was “weak” and “useless” because it cannot make us perfect. **v.18-19**

→ Hebrews 10:4: For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

→ Hebrews 9:9: ...gifts and sacrifices are offered that cannot perfect the conscience of the worshiper...

#### **3. Jesus’ priesthood is different and greater than the Levitical priesthood. v.13-24**

- Jesus is from the tribe of Judah; priests were from the tribe of Levi. **v.13-14**
- Jesus’ priesthood is better because He will never die. **v.15-17, 23-24** (Levitical priests died in office)
- Jesus’ priesthood is better because it is established by God’s oath. **v.20-22** Ref. Psalm 110:4

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This TUESDAY, Sept. 23 @7:00PM: **Sarasota Night of Prayer and Worship** for the Will Graham Crusade.  
Hosted by Church of Hope, 2300 Lakewood Ranch Blvd., Sarasota, FL

Next SUNDAY, September 28: **“Be the Light”** – Stay after worship for a light lunch to hear how you can be used by God to reach your neighbors with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Childcare provided through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade. 12 to 1 PM.