

Born a Priest

Genesis 14.17-20

Come to think about JESUS > Magnetic Attraction of World – Xtian Minority
Dec 25 – Probably NOT DAY of His Birth – MOST of World RECOGNIZES
WHO is this Child? WHY did He Come? > Bible Gives a CLEAR Answer

MANY do NOT Want to HEAR > Youth Group CAROLING for SHOPPERS
EVERY Day at NOON this Week in LOBBY of Building C of RAYCOM

Smiles on FACES – COOL Southern California DECEMBER Night

Pastor written TRACT – Handed Out > People’s SMILES turned to SCOWLS

BOLD PRINT title of in THEIR Hands: **Christmas is for Sinners Only**

“Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners”
1 Timothy 1.15

He can SAVE because he was BORN A PRIEST > ALL the Bible declares HIM

See HIM even in 1st Book of Bible – GENESIS – Go back 4000 yrs ago....

1. The Priest / 2. The Promise / 3. The Perfection

1. The Priest

Abe Exhilarated - Tremendous Military VICTORY - RESCUED LOT w/ 318 Men

318 RELEASED Captured NEPHEW > Caught in Battle of 5 Kings vs. 4 Kings

EXHAUSTED AND ANXIOUS will the 5 kings return? all 9 in revenge?

GOD SENDS A MESSENGER OF GRACE & BLESSING TO REFRESH HIM

a. Greatness v. 18 Melchizedek king of Salem...He was priest of God Most High

VERSE CONTAINS MANY QUESTIONS > Most are UNANSWERED

Who is Melchizedek? Name - NOT KNOWN, MELCHIZEDEK = TITLE

Did Abe know him? Why did Abe receive him? Not a trick by defeated enemy?

Where did he come from? Where did he go?

STRANGE SILENCE IN A BOOK FILLED WITH GENEALOGIES

God has a people for Himself – UNKNOWN to US / KNOWN to Him

Bible NEVER Claims to be EXHAUSTIVE History: HUMAN RACE or CHURCH

How did Melchizedek learn about the true God?

Was his a recognized priesthood? by whom? for what?

If Melchizedek was a greater man than Abe - why not chosen instead of Abe?

“This Melchizedek was king of Salem and priest of God Most High. He met Abraham returning from the defeat of the kings and blessed him, and Abraham gave him a tenth of everything. First, his name means "king of righteousness"; then also, "king of Salem" means "king of peace." Without father or mother, without genealogy, without beginning of days or end of life, like the Son of God he remains a priest forever. Just think how great he was!” Hebrews 7.1-4

TITLES "King of Righteousness" "King of Salem / Peace"

PRIEST OF EL ELYON = GOD MOST HIGH / CREATOR GOD

KING OF SALEM // SALEM = peace/righteousness > Later JERUSALEM

JERUSALEM?? - City of Peace / NOW place of bombs and carnage

PRINCE OF PEACE DRIVEN OUT OF CITY ON A CROSS

ONE OF GREAT TYPES OF THE LORD JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

b. Gratefulness GREAT MEN – M & A- POINT One Another to GREAT GOD

vs. 19,20 "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. And blessed be God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand."

“to him who alone does great wonders, His love endures forever” Psalm 136.4

M. GREAT MAN > Great MISSION > Encourage & Refresh God’s Servant Abram

PAUL DESCRIBED HIS MINISTRY TO THE CORINTHIANS SAYING

“everything we do, dear friends, is for your strengthening” 2 Corinthians 12.19

c. Giving v. 18 “Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine”

LATER TO BECOME SYMBOLS OF THE BODY AND BLOOD OF JESUS
FOR ABRAHAM > EVIDENCE OF GOD'S GRACIOUS REFRESHMENT

v. 20 "Abram gave him a tenth of everything." UH OH! Tithe Predates MOSES!!

LAW of Moses CODIFIES God's TITHE but does NOT CREATE it

NT Teaches that TITHE CONTINUES Even Today in Church of Jesus Christ

“Even the patriarch Abraham gave him a tenth of the plunder!...This man...did not trace his descent from Levi, yet he collected a tenth from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises....”

Hebrews 7.4,6

Greater than Abe > 1) BLESSES him / 2) RECEIVES Tithe

APPEARS and DISAPPEARS – Like 100's of Other Characters in Scripture

2. The Promise

THREE OBSCURE VERSES ABOUT MELCHIZEDEK IN GENESIS 14

MANY FORGET him Almost as QUICKLY AS HE COMES ON THE SCENE

ANOTHER OF THE HUNDREDS OF UNUSUAL BIBLE NAMES

1000 YEARS LATER - OUT OF NOWHERE HE APPEARS AGAIN

IN PROPHETIC WRITINGS OF KING DAVID

Psalm 110 – Song to Honor CORONATION of King David

The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet."... The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind: "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek." Psalm 110:1,4

Strange Name – Mentioned just 2 x's in OT – with 1000 years in BETWEEN

1000 YEARS Later – 2nd Reference to Melchizedek – Also OBSCURE

2nd Mention – HOOKED his Star to David's LORD – King at God's Right Hand

1000 years earlier SALEM – Now called JERUSALEM – City of Peace

NOW David's CAPITAL City for Israel – NOW CALLED the City of David

a. Promise of God to Abraham

God to Abraham: "I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me." Genesis 22.17,18

1000 yrs LATER – David's SON Solomon > God of Abraham KEEPS Promises

The people of Judah and Israel were as numerous as the sand on the seashore; they ate, they drank and they were happy. And Solomon ruled over all the kingdoms from the River to the land of the Philistines, as far as the border of Egypt. These countries brought tribute and were Solomon's subjects all his life. 1 Kings 4.20,21

b. Priests of God from Aaron

LEVITICUS – Priestly Manual > How to RIGHTLY Approach/Worship God
Name AARON – PRIESTHOOD of Aaron's Sons – Occurs 100's of Times

The LORD called to Moses and spoke to him from the Tent of Meeting. He said, "Speak to the Israelites and say to them: `When any of you brings an offering to the LORD...Aaron's sons the priests shall bring the blood and sprinkle it against the altar on all sides at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting...The sons of Aaron the priest are to put fire on the altar and arrange wood on the fire. Then Aaron's sons the priests shall arrange the pieces...Aaron's sons the priests shall sprinkle its blood against the altar on all sides..." Leviticus 1.1-11

OT Theme > Keep LINE of Aaron – Priesthood of LEVI – PURE, RIGHTEOUS ONLY Acceptable OFFERING in God's SIGHT > Offered by son of AARON
MOSES Never tells NATION of Israel ANYTHING about MELCHIZEDEK?
Again, WHY did God NOT bring a LINE of Priests through Melchizedek?

c. Priests and Kings Apart – David 2nd KING of Israel > 1st King: SAUL
 LOST Kingship – Brought God SACRIFICES but NOT OBEDIENCE!

Pagan Neighbor Nations – King-Priest-God / God of Israel > GREAT KING!

Human Kings of Israel mere DEPUTIES of the Sovereign

DAVID – Chosen to be KING because HE GOT IT! The Lord said to My Lord!

Saul was [thirty] years old when he became king, and he reigned over Israel [forty-] two years...The Philistines assembled to fight Israel, with three thousand chariots, six thousand charioteers, and soldiers as numerous as the sand on the seashore... When the men of Israel saw that their situation was critical and that their army was hard pressed, they hid in caves and thickets, among the rocks, and in pits and cisterns...Saul...and all the troops with him were quaking with fear. He waited seven days, the time set by Samuel; but Samuel did not come...and Saul's men began to scatter. So he said, "Bring me the burnt offering and the fellowship offerings." And Saul offered up the burnt offering. Just as he finished making the offering, Samuel arrived, and Saul went out to greet him. "What have you done?" asked Samuel. Saul replied, "When I saw that the men were scattering, and that you did not come at the set time, and that the Philistines were assembling...I thought, 'Now the Philistines will come down against me...and I have not sought the LORD's favor.' So I felt compelled to offer the burnt offering." "You acted foolishly," Samuel said. "You have not kept the command the LORD your God gave you; if you had, he would have established your kingdom over Israel for all time. But now your kingdom will not endure..." 1 Samuel 13.1-14

2 Chronicles 26.3-21 > PROUD, POWERFUL King of JUDAH > UZZIAH

DARED to USURP Role of PRIESTS > Offered INCENSE on ALTAR of God
 LEPROSY Broke Out on FOREHEAD: HURRIED Out of Holy Place UNCLEAN
 DIED Leprous OUTCAST ALONE > EXCLUDED from the TEMPLE of the Lord
 Everywhere he Walked he had to SHOUT "unclean, unclean, unclean"

Year the King UZZIAH Died > Isaiah saw GOD – High & Lifted Up

Forever Worshipped by SERAPHIM Praising Him "HOLY, HOLY, HOLY"

TRYING to Become a PRIEST - SAUL – 1st King of Israel LOST HIS KINGSHIP
Same Thing King UZZIAH of Judah – Darered to ENTER MOST HOLY PLACE

NO O.T. KING COULD BE A PRIEST - NO PRIEST COULD BE A KING

EARLIEST VERSION OF SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE

How UNDERSTAND v. 4 > IS God TEMPTING King David with Priesthood?

d. Promise is Absolute - LORD...*sworn...will not change his mind...forever*

LANGUAGE of v. 4 could HARDLY be MORE DEFINITE

The LORD has *sworn* and *will not change his mind*: "You are a priest *forever*, in the order of Melchizedek." Psalm 110.4

When SAMUEL was a BOY the High Priest of Israel was ELI:

Now a man of God came to Eli and said to him, "...Why do you scorn my sacrifice and offering that I prescribed for my dwelling? Why do you honor your sons more than me by fattening yourselves on the choice parts of every offering made by my people Israel?" "Therefore the LORD, the God of Israel, declares: 'I promised that your house and your father's house would minister before me forever.' But now the LORD declares: 'Far be it from me! Those who honor me I will honor, but those who despise me will be disdained. The time is coming when I will cut short your strength and the strength of your father's house...And what happens to your two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, will be a sign to you--they will both die on the same day. I will raise up for myself a faithful priest, who will do according to what is in my heart and mind. I will firmly establish his house, and he will minister before my anointed one always.

1 Samuel 2.27-35

Many EMBARRASING Examples of UNFAITHFULNESS in Israel's Priesthood
1000's of PRIESTS committed 1000's of SINS > Offered Unacceptable Offerings

FUTURE Anticipation / PRIEST of NEW ORDER Would be FOREVER!

Eternal PRIESTHOOD that God Will Appoint NOT from AARON'S Line

PRIEST who is ALSO a KING – With the BLESSING of God's ENDORSEMENT

3. The Perfection

1000 Yrs LATER Name 8 X's in NT – All 3 chpts HEBREWS – Sermon to Church

...Christ also did not take upon himself the glory of becoming a high priest. But God said to him, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father." And he says in another place, "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek." During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him and was designated by God to be high priest in the order of Melchizedek. We have much to say about this, but it is hard to explain because you are slow to learn.

Hebrews 5.5-11

Teaching: How they NEED to GROW UP / How in Christ they CAN Grow Up!

OK – NOW READY for this Great Truth...Jesus BETTER than Melchizedek

a. Promises Fulfilled Story of Bible: God Keeping His Promises to His PEOPLE

Much of OT Unfolds 3 Promises to ABE 1) Land 2) People 3) Blessing all People

In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son... Hebrews 1.1,2

Simple THEME of Hebrews: Jesus is BETTER: Angels, Moses, MELCHIZEDEK!

ABE & MEL - Great SPIRITUAL Leaders - ARGUABLY GREATEST OF O.T.

WHAT DID THEY TALK ABOUT? THINGS TAUGHT TO THEM BY GOD -

MEL - Priesthood - MEANING & FULFILLMENT OF SACRIFICES

DO YOU THINK THEY WERE ABLE TO PUT THE PIECES TOGETHER??

COULD JESUS SAY: Your father Abraham (*and his friend Melchizedek?*) rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad." John 8:56

SEE Jesus as PERFECT: Complete, Fulfilled, Unique, Absolute, Incomparable

b. The Point – 13 Chap Letter by Unknown Author > Tells us MAIN Point...

The point of what we are saying is this: We do have such a high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, and who serves in the sanctuary, the true tabernacle set up by the Lord, not by man. Hebrews 8.1,2

ETERNAL Priesthood of Jesus: MAIN POINT of this Magnificent Letter to Church

No Question MORE Important > How can I KNOW God? How can FIND God?

How can I be MADE RIGHT with this ETERNAL, HOLY God?

Hebrews 7

This Melchizedek was king of Salem and priest of God Most High. He met Abraham returning from the defeat of the kings and blessed him, and Abraham gave him a tenth of everything. First, his name means "king of righteousness"; then also, "king of Salem" means "king of peace." Without father or mother, without genealogy, without beginning of days or end of life, like the Son of God he remains a priest forever. Just think how great he was: Even the patriarch Abraham gave him a tenth of the plunder! Now the law requires the descendants of Levi who become priests to collect a tenth from the people--that is, their brothers--even though their brothers are descended from Abraham. This man, however, did not trace his descent from Levi, yet he collected a tenth from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises. And without doubt the lesser person is blessed by the greater. In the one case, the tenth is collected by men who die; but in the other case, by him who is declared to be living. One might even say that Levi, who collects the tenth, paid the tenth through Abraham, because when Melchizedek met Abraham, Levi was still in the body of his ancestor. If perfection could have been attained through the Levitical priesthood (for on the basis of it the law was given to the people), why was there still need for another priest to come--one in the order of Melchizedek, not in the order of Aaron? For when there is a change of the priesthood, there must also

be a change of the law. He of whom these things are said belonged to a different tribe, and no one from that tribe has ever served at the altar. For it is clear that our Lord descended from Judah, and in regard to that tribe Moses said nothing about priests. And what we have said is even more clear if another priest like Melchizedek appears, one who has become a priest not on the basis of a regulation as to his ancestry but on the basis of the power of an indestructible life. For it is declared: "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek." The former regulation is set aside because it was weak and useless (for the law made nothing perfect), and a better hope is introduced, by which we draw near to God. And it was not without an oath! Others became priests without any oath, but he became a priest with an oath when God said to him: "The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind: `You are a priest forever.'" Because of this oath, Jesus has become the guarantee of a better covenant. Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office; but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them. Such a high priest meets our need--one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself. For the law appoints as high priests men who are weak; but the oath, which came after the law, appointed the Son, who has been made perfect forever.

c. Priest and King Jews Misunderstood & Abused Levitical Priesthood

JESUS > PRIEST from New LINE - GOD DOES AN END RUN AROUND LEVI

This Melchizedek was king of Salem and priest of God Most High. He met Abraham returning from the defeat of the kings and blessed him, and Abraham gave him a tenth of everything. First, his name means "king of righteousness"; then also, "king of Salem" means "king of peace." Without father or mother, without genealogy, without beginning of days or end of life, like the Son of God he remains a priest forever.
Hebrews 7.1-3

ONE who RULES World as KING / One who REDEEMS World as PRIEST

ONLY He who CREATED People Truly KNOWS how to CURE Them

Mel. & Jesus > SOMETHING THE LAW OF MOSES WOULD NOT ALLOW

Melchizedek was not an angel or some superhuman creature; nor was he an Old Testament appearance of Jesus Christ. He was a real man, a real king, and a real priest in a real city.
Warren Wiersbe

Joining Office of PRIEST AND KING > God does NEW THING

UNIQUE ROLE of JESUS - PROPHET, PRIEST, & KING > Lord of All, Over All

PRIEST > Lead us INTO the PRESENCE of God > DOORWAY to God

NOT – BIBLE > Book, Inspired, Inerrant, Word of God > Words about Jesus

NOT Worship > Great Songs & Singers > Passion > ONLY Jesus is our Priest

No Song, No Book, No Sermon, No Prayer, No Church CAN TAKE Us TO GOD

Jesus: "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."
John 14.6

c. Permanent > UNIQUE PRIEST > Never DIES, Always ON DUTY

And what we have said is even more clear if another priest like Melchizedek appears, one who has become a priest not on the basis of a regulation as to his ancestry but on the basis of the power of an indestructible life. For it is declared: "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek." Hebrews 7.15-17
on the basis of the power of an indestructible life > Alive FOREVER!

INESCAPABLE, UNAVOIDABLE, You Cannot GET AROUND Jesus Christ
 Dec 25 – Day for Jesus – EVERY Day / ‘Christian Nations’ – EVERY Nation
 Believers who FOLLOW Jesus > Everyone / Everywhere MUST FACE Him
 Many Think People in DIFFERENT Places Know God in DIFFERENT Ways

He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him. John 5.23

Who is the liar? It is the man who denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a man is the antichrist--he denies the Father and the Son. No one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also. 1 John 2.22,23

He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. 1 John 5.12

“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.” Acts 4.12

No Matter your City – Country – Continent > No other Savior in ALL UNIVERSE

d. Paid in Full

“Such a high priest meets our need--one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself.”

Hebrews 7.26-27

OF ALL THE PIECES OF FURNITURE IN THE O.T. TEMPLE - ONE MISSING

A CHAIR!! NO PLACE FOR THE PRIEST TO SIT - NO TIME TO SIT!!

WORK of SACRIFICING NEVER ENDED - DAY after DAY - NO STOPPING

“Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God.”

Hebrews 10.11-12

No other Religion, Philosophy, Spiritual Teacher: Truly Answers World’s Problem

God does not DENY, IGNORE, or OVERLOOK Sin > Awful, Terrible, Painful
Why we FEEL Guilty & Ashamed by our FAILURES > Wake us UP!

NOT Only does Bible give BAD NEWS > NT is GREAT News

GOD we have SINNED Against SAVES! JUDGE takes our JUDGEMENT

We should go to HELL > HE Himself GOES There for US > On the CROSS!

Truth is CONFIRMED by Resurrection: INDESTRUCTIBLE LIFE!

Melchizedek > Disappeared from the Scene > Died and turned to Dust

“Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office; but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.” Hebrews 7.23-25

e. Predicted at His Birth – Abe & Mel saw Jesus from FAR Distance 2000 yrs

Luke 2 – Man who saw Jesus FACE to Face / Held Him in his ARMS

Met Lord Jesus Christ when He was just 8 Days Old > Mary & Joseph

Mary & Joseph – ONE Surprise AFTER Another

ANGEL! PREGNANT! CENSUS! NO ROOM! SHEPHERDS! MAN grabs Son!

Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too." Luke 2.25-35
SIMEON - Prophet of God – Righteous, Devout, filled with HOLY SPIRIT!

JESUS = Savior / Not just ISRAEL – ALL PEOPLE, LIGHT for the GENTILES

To Mother Mary > "sword will pierce your soul too" wd. Large BROAD SWORD
FRIGHTFUL PIERCING ANGUISH > 30+ yrs STANDING at Foot of His Cross

NEUTRALITY about Jesus is IMPOSSIBLE > Destined to Cause Falling & Rising

Have you fallen in repentance to rise in newness of life?

Jesus will either SAVE you from SIN / or SENTENCE you to HELL for your Sin

SIMEON – Common IDEA is OLD MAN – MIGHT have Been, Bible NOT SAY

CLEAR > Simeon is READY! HELD His High Priest in his own Arms

SAVIOR for his SINS was in his STRONG EMBRACE

BLESSED Him who would take him to PLACE of Endless BLESSING

Young or Old – Not Matter – Are you READY?

**"Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss
your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation"**

After Abram returned from defeating Kedorlaomer and the kings allied with him, the king of Sodom came out to meet him in the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley). 18. Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High, 19. and he blessed Abram, saying, "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. 20. And blessed be God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand." Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

Genesis 14.17-20