

Hebrews 7.1-10 Mysterious Melchizedek and the Incomparable Christ

17After his (Abram's) return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley). 18And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. (He was priest of God Most High.) 19And he blessed him and said, "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; 20and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand!" And Abram gave him a tenth of everything. Genesis 14.17-20

HOW DOES THE BELIEVER IN GOD REACT AFTER GREAT SUCCESS?

Abe: Exhilarated, Tremendous Military VICTORY, RESCUED Lot w/ 318 Men
EXHAUSTED AND ANXIOUS will the 5 kings return? all 9 in revenge?
GOD SENDS A MESSENGER OF GRACE & BLESSING TO REFRESH HIM

1. The King of Salem

a. Greatness

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

VERSE CONTAINS MANY QUESTIONS > Most are UNANSWERED

Who is M? Name - NOT REALLY 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? Never appears again -

STRANGE SILENCE IN A BOOK FILLED WITH GENEALOGIES

How did Melchizedek learn about the true God?

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

If Mel was a greater man than Abe - why Abe Chosen instead of Melchizedek?

Hebrews 7.1-4

PRIEST OF EL ELYON = GOD MOST HIGH / CREATOR GOD

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

JERUSALEM?? – known as City of Peace / UNEASY PEACE there TODAY!

Our 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 - 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."

NOT by MERIT – Abram does NOT EARN or DESERVE God's FAVOR

Our FATHER in FAITH must live by SAVED by GRACE thru FAITH

As JOSHUA REVIEWS the History of ISRAEL – sees DUBIOUS PEDIGREE

Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'Long ago, your fathers lived beyond the Euphrates, Terah, the father of Abraham and of Nahor; and *they served other gods*. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan, and made his offspring many'"
Joshua 24.2,3

FAMILY of Abe NOT ORTHODOX Monotheists> PAGAN, IDOL Worshippers

What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness."
Romans 4.1-3

Abe & Mel – SINNERS Saved by GRACE – PRAISE & GLORY to God Alone

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

GREAT MAN, GREAT MISSION: Encourage & Refresh God's Servant Abram

REMIND and REFRESH Abe with the GOOD NEWS of their GRACIOUS God

PAUL DESCRIBED HIS MINISTRY TO THE CORINTHIANS SAYING

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

"The church is looking for better methods; God is looking for better men. The Holy Spirit does not flow through methods, but through men. He does not come on machinery, but on men. He does not anoint plans, but men - men of prayer."

E.M. Bounds

GOD knew ABE was to FACE a STRONG TEMPTATION - MEL PREPARES

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." Tithing Predates LAW of MOSES

Hebrews 7.4,6 “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....”

TITHE Timeless RESPONSIBILITY of God’s People – even in NEW Covenant

So these 2 GREAT MEN MET - Discussing the Things of God

IN OUR LIFE OF FAITH - SOMETIMES THE TIME OF GREAT VICTORY
CAN QUICKLY TURN TO AN ATTACK OF GREAT TEMPTATION

Like Jesus driven into Satan's wilderness after His baptism

"Let us be as watchful after the victory as before the battle" Andrew Bonar
KING OF SALEM - type of Christ // SALEM = peace/righteousness

This is what the LORD says: "Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom or the strong man boast of his strength or the rich man boast of his riches, but let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight," declares the LORD.
Jeremiah 9:23-24

During China's "Boxer Rebellion" Early 1900's > Churches suffered greatly
 Leader of China Inland Mission – Felt the WEIGHT of their SUFFERING

"I cannot read, I cannot think, I cannot even pray, but I can trust" J. Hudson Taylor

15.1 "After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram"

GOD Speaks to Abram by Name, Trust in Solid Word of UNCHANGING GOD

FAITH THAT CONQUERS FEAR IS FAITH IN THE WORD OF GOD

"word of the Lord came" 1st TIME PHRASE OCCURS IN THE BIBLE

ONLY TIME IN ENTIRE PENTATEUCH PHRASE OCCURS (2 X's 15.4)

OCCURS OVER 100 TIMES IN WRITINGS OF THE PROPHETS

WE ENTER INTO A SIMILAR INTIMACY WITH GOD THROUGH JESUS

John 15:15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

WHAT WAS GOING TO HAPPEN TO ABRAM NOW?

WOULD HE be ATTACKED by CONQUERED KINGS & THEIR ARMIES?

SURELY THEY were ANGERED & EMBARRASSED BY THIS NOBODY

WHO SHAMED THEM IN MILITARY DEFEAT

NO! HE HAD A DIVINE PROTECTOR: v. 1 "I am your shield"

IS GOD YOUR SHIELD – YOUR SECURITY? / DEFENDER?

OR do you Trust in your Own Strength? Popularity? Family? Friends?

ALL THESE WILL ULTIMATELY DISAPPOINT- NEED REAL SHIELD?

EVEN IF DEVIL COMES LIKE ROARING LION / SECURE IN THE LORD
TRUST IN THE LORD - EXEMPT FROM ALL PROBLEMS??

Family RETURNED to USA from Missionary Service in Pakistan

SETTLED IN PORTSMOUTH, VIRGINIA - young son attacked by a gang

Hooligan Teen-agers SLASHED Son on FACE & Neck w/ Nail Studded Rope
RESULT = Left Eye - 90% Blind / Right Eye - No Central Vision

"In time, the boys involved were tried and sentenced by the courts. Throughout the course of the trial, the parents of the injured boy refused to give way to bitterness or to indulge their feelings of disappointment. They gave a Christian witness to the offenders. The mother told the newspapers,

"If necessary, we can live with a physical handicap. But we cannot live with bitterness."
Faithful Mother

In the SAME WAY - GOD CAN BE YOUR SHIELD AGAINST BITTERNESS

Did Abe wonder Was it FINANCIAL FOOLISHNESS Refuse Gifts from Sodom

No! HE HAD HEAVENLY RESOURCES - "(I am) your very great reward."

ARE YOU BANKING ON THE LORD? Is he your very great reward?

IF GOD IS YOUR REWARD - YOU SHARE IN ALL HE HAS

KNOW HIM AS ABRAHAM AS JEHOVAH-JIREH "the God who provides"

ANOTHER 1st time PHRASE in BIBLE "Fear not": "Do not be afraid, Abram.

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Isaiah 41:10

YOUR LIFE IS ONLY AS BIG AS YOUR FAITH

YOUR FAITH IS ONLY AS BIG AS YOUR GOD

The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. Romans 8.16,17

MAY WE LEARN THE LESSON OF FAITH -

ALL THAT GOD HAS PROMISED - HE WILL PERFORM

3. The King and Savior

ABE & MEL: Great SPIRITUAL LEADERS, ARGUABLY Greatest in O.T.

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

a. Promises ABE - GREAT PROMISES 1) Land 2) Son 3) Bless all People

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

THREE OBSCURE VERSES ABOUT MELCHIZEDEK IN GENESIS 14

MANY FORGET 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

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

1000 YEARS LATER - WRITER TO THE HEBREWS

DESCRIBING DAVID'S SON & DAVID'S LORD - almost 3 chs. on Melchiz

b. Priest and King Jews Misunderstood & Abused Levitical Priesthood

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

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?
Hebrews 7:11-16

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

Joining Office of PRIEST AND KING

KINGS OF ANCIENT WORLD - MANY THOUGHT DIVINE - PRIEST TOO!

TRYING to Become a PRIEST - SAUL – 1st King of Israel LOST KINGSHIP
Same Thing King UZZIAH of Judah – Dared 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

Unique ROLE of JESUS: PROPHET, PRIEST, & KING, Lord of All, Over All

c. Permanent

GOD MADE GREAT PROMISES TO ABRAHAM - FULFILLED IN CHRIST

Jesus “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... “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 7.21,22,26-27

OF ALL 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 ENDS, 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

Abram: Fresh from great victory - HAD AFTERNOON WITH **3** ROYALS
 2 Present in Body / 1 in Spirit > ONE ENDURES FOREVER

God's Word brought Comfort and Courage to Abe > 4000 years ago
 May Abe's Great, great, great Grandson Melchizedek's Mentor > Speak to You
 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

“Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other.”
 Psalm 85.10

I believe what the church believes

Jesus' Priestly Work

STRANGE to read Bible Verses that COMPARE anyone to Jesus
 Normally we read about HIS UNIQUENESS – Jesus is Better than ALL

Normally we COMPARE with People that are Well-Known
 Her VOICE like ADELE, SWIMS like M. Phelps, FOOTBALL like MESSI

Seems ODD to Compare Jesus with Someone MOST People NEVER Heard Of!
If asked to Name 10 Most Impt OT Characters, Mel. Not make Many Lists

Comparing PRIESTHOODS of Aaron and Melchizedek
One was ETERNAL & EFFECTIVE the other TEMPORARY, IMPERFECT

KEY to Understanding OT > It ALL Points to Jesus, even OBSCURE Figures

After meeting with ABE, Melch. DISAPPEARS
HISTORICAL Importance and SPIRITUAL Message

The ONE, TRUE God who CREATED the World PROTECTS His Children
Bigger than the WI-FI Little gods of the People in Abraham's Day

RELIGIOUS RITUAL can get a DEEP GRIP into People's Hearts
One of Hardest Things for Roman Catholics who Understand/Receive Salvation
is to get FREE of Taking the MASS > Told Whole Life – Only Way to be Saved!

Jewish Christian looking FONDLY BACK to Rituals of Aaron's Priesthood
Their whole Life told Same Thing > These Religious Rituals are Forever Binding

People CRAVE Authoritarian Religious Rules, Somebody Tells what Do/Believe
Millions of People submit willingly SHARIA Law, Comfortable with Boundaries
KZ – Lived 11 yrs before moving here 8 yrs ago – More J.W.'s than Evangelicals
Even some Xtians prefer have Man calls self Prophet/Apostle tell What's what

Hebrews > Jesus is Prophet, Priest, & King – chapter 1

As king he is just and as priest he justifies all who trust in his atoning sacrifice.
Philip E. Hughes

Peace and Righteousness
“peace with God is based upon the righteousness of God” F.F. Bruce

Just because Mel's PARENTS Not Mentioned does not Mean Did NOT Exist

It's Not Jesus who resembles Mel., but Mel. who resembles the Lord Jesus

a. Timeless Priesthood

7.3 “Without father or mother, without genealogy, without beginning of days or end of life, like the Son of God he remains a priest forever.”

Does NOT MEAN HAD NO Parents > Bible SILENT about Ancestry & Destiny

6 X's in Hebrews – Priesthood of Christ is FOREVER, ETERNAL
RONCO'S Religious Ordination > \$ 19.95 Every Year BUT Jesus Reigns Forever

b. Royal Priesthood

ISRAEL'S PAGAN NEIGHBOR NATIONS > merged office of King and Priest
God FORBADE such a RELIGIOUS MERGER – Tilted the Balance of Power

CONTRA - King Saul who invaded the priesthood, and lost his kingship

CONTRA King Uzziah who offered incense on God's altar – and died a LEPER

ONLY SON OF GOD CAN BE PROPHET, PRIEST, AND KING

MELCHIZEDEK from a Different Order than Aaron – FORESHADOWED THIS

7.1 “Melchizedek was king of Salem & priest of God Most High... First, his name means "king of righteousness"; then also, "king of Salem" means "king of peace.”

c. Changeless Priesthood AARON's Order 1000's of priests

Endless of Rota Duties / DIED – Replaced

7.16 JESUS in order of Melchizedek “became a priest not on the basis of a regulation as to his ancestry but on the basis of the power of an indestructible life.”

PRIESTHOOD CONTINUES NOW - 7.25 “he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.”

MAN IN HEAVEN PRAYING FOR YOU - "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail.”

Luke 22.30,31

Hebrews 7.¹For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, ²and to him Abraham apportioned a tenth part of everything. He is first, by translation of his name, king of righteousness, and then he is also king of Salem, that is, king of peace. ³He is without father or mother or genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but resembling the Son of God he continues a priest forever. ⁴See how great this man was to whom Abraham the patriarch gave a tenth of the spoils! ⁵And those descendants of Levi who receive the priestly office have a commandment in the law to take tithes from the people, that is, from their brothers, though these also are descended from Abraham. ⁶But this man who does not have his descent from them received tithes from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises. ⁷It is beyond dispute that the inferior is blessed by the superior. ⁸In the one case tithes are received by mortal men, but in the other case, by one of whom it is testified that he lives. ⁹One might even say that Levi himself, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, ¹⁰for he was still in the loins of his ancestor when Melchizedek met him.