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### What About Melchizedek?

There are few people in the history of man that are a mystery and remain so to the present day due to the vague record of their lives that conclusive facts are impossible, so is the record of Melchizedek.

He is an interesting individual in that he is mentioned only three times.

1. Melchizedek appears out of nowhere as Abram returned from recovering the people and goods taken from Sodom and Gomorra. Gen. 14:18
2. Melchizedek is mentioned by David as a type of the Messiah to come. Ps. 110:4
3. Melchizedek is used by the author of Hebrews to reveal the superiority of the Priesthood. Heb. 5-7

Taking these three units of Scripture we want to take a three-fold look at Melchizedek.

- I. The person of Melchizedek.
- II. The proto-type of Melchizedek.
- III. The priesthood of Melchizedek.

#### **I. The person of Melchizedek.**

A. His appearance is in the days of Abram. Gen. 14:16-17

1. The occasion is the victorious recovery of the people and goods taken from Sodom and Gomorra by Chedorlaomer and the

confederacy of kings, “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.” Gen. 14:16

2. The king Sodom had come out to meet Abram in the Kings Valley, with the intent of rewarding him, “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.” Gen. 14:17

B. His appearance is identified. Gen. 14:18

1. The man is identified as a real person. “Then Malchizedek.” Gen. 14:18a
  - a. The name of his person is Melchizedek “Malkiy-Tsedeq “ means “my king is Zedek” righteousness. Gen. 14:18a
    - 1) He is not fictitious, not an angel, but a real person, like any other.
    - 2) The general consensus is that he was probably a Canaanite king of pre-Israelite Jerusalem.
  - b. Josephus says he was, a Canaanitish prince, a pious and religious man, eminently raised up by God, and whose genealogy was kept a secret.
    - \* The objection to this view is that Ham the father of Canaan was cursed by Noah. Gen. 9:22, 25

2. The man Melchizedek is declared to be, “King of Salem brought out bread and wine.” Gen. 14:18a
  - a. The name Salem means “peace”.
    - 1) The majority of Jewish and Christian commentators believe this is a reference to Jerusalem. Ps. 76:2
    - 2) Others seem to think it was nearer to Sodom, between Damascus and Sodom; whereas Jerusalem was in a contrary situation, and lay nearly forty miles from Sodom.
  - b. Josephus says, the lake Asphaltites, where Sodom once stood, was three hundred furlongs from Jerusalem, which is about thirty-eight miles.
  - c. Jerome relates that Salem was a town near Scythopolis, which was so called in his times, and where was showed the palace of Melchizedek, which, by the largeness of the ruins appeared to have been very magnificent, and takes it to be the same place with Shalem in Gen. 33:18; and Salim, near to which John was baptizing. Jn. 3:23 (Gill)
    - \* The bread and wine perhaps prophetic of Jesus and the Passover?
3. The man is declared to be the priest of God Most High. Gen. 14:18b
  - a. His Office was a priest of the most high God, Yahweh.

- 1) The word priest “כֹּהֵן” cohen”, signifies both prince and priest, because the patriarchs sustained this double office, has both its root and proper signification in the Arabic; kahana signifies to approach, draw near, have intimate access to; and from hence to officiate as priest before God.
- 2) Thus have intimate access to the Divine presence: and by means of the sacrifices which he offered and he received counsel and information relative to what was yet to take place, and hence another acceptation of the word, to foretell, predict future events, unfold hidden things or mysteries; so the lips of the priests preserved knowledge, and they were often the interpreters of the will of God to the people. (Clarke: Gen. 14:18)
- b. The Hebrew “kohen”, Greek “hierus”, Latin “sacerdos”, always denote one who offers sacrifices.
  - 1) The head of the family was the priest of the home.
    - a) Noah. Gen. 8:20
    - b) Abraham. Gen. 12:7 13:4
    - c) Isaac. Gen. 26:25
    - d) Jacob. Gen. 31:54

- e) Job. Job 1:5
  - 2) Later God introduced the Levitical priesthood to sacrifices before God and redeemed the first-born.
    - a) Aaron was the high priest.
    - b) The Levites were his assistance, divided into three divisions.
  - 3) Their genealogy had to be provided or they were rejected. Ezra 2:59, 62
- C. His appearance was in order to bless Abram. Gen. 14:19-20
1. Melchizedek stands in contrast to the king of Sodom.
    - a. Peace versus war.
    - b. Righteousness versus unrighteousness.
    - c. Priest of the Most High God versus a praiser of men.
  2. Melchizedek's blessing was superior to the King of Sodom.
    - a. The king of Sodom wanted to reward Abram for his good deed, Melchizedek wanted to remind Abram of the good God would do for Abram, "And he blessed him and said, "Blessed be Abram of God Most High." Gen. 14:19a-b
      - 1) The reward was physical and temporal.
      - 2) The blessing was spiritual and eternal.
    - b. The king of Sodom possessed the goods of Sodom, but God Most High was,

- "Possessor of heaven and earth." Gen. 14:19c
- \* The king of Sodom was from the earth, "God Most High" from above.
  - c. The king of Sodom did not help Abram defeat the confederacy of kings, but God, "And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand." Gen. 14:20a-b
3. Melchizedek received a offering from Abram, "And he gave him a tithe of all." Gen. 14:20c
    - a. Abram acknowledged that all he had was God's.
    - b. Abram declared his devotion and love for God Most High in a tangible way, a tenth of all he had.
    - c. Abram who was the lesser and blessed by the better or greater Melchizedek. Heb. 7:7

### **Illustration**

Many believed for a long time that the Hittites were not historical, then God had some archeologist dig up their civilization by an Irish missionary William Wright in 1884 and a German Archeologist Hugo Winckler 1906 by 1912 Winckler had discovered 10,000 tablets from the Hittite royal archives.

***The person of Melchizedek was historical!***

## II. The proto-type of Melchizedek.

### A. The meaning of the prototype of Melchizedek.

1. A prototype is an original type, form, or instance that serves as a model on which later stages are based or judged. (American Heritage Dictionary)
2. A prototype is sometimes simply called a "type" a person or thing having the features of a group or class. (Am. Hert. Dict.)
3. Melchizedek is a prototype and type of Jesus Christ.
  - a. Some believe Melchizedek is a Christophany, Jesus appearing in the Old Testament, but I believe this is wrong.
  - b. Jesus cannot be both the type and the anti-type, the type is the original pointing to the coming anti-type the fulfillment!
    - a. Melchizedek is allowed to appear in the time of Abram as an announced representative of something to come in the future, namely the person of Christ.
    - b. Melchizedek is an example in class, office and the person of the Messiah to come at God's appointed time. Gal. 4:4
4. The prototype emphasizes the office of priest of God Most High. Gen. 14:18b
  - a. A priest exercised a two-fold office.
    - 1) He represented the people to God as he went in to speak to God.

2) He represented God to the people when he came out to speak to the people.

b. A priest exercised the position of a mediator.

1) A go between two parties. 1Tim. 2:5

2) An umpire to lay his hands on both to make them reconciled as one. Job 9:33

c. Abram was the recipient of the intercession of Melchizedek towards God Most High.

1) He blessed Abram according to promise.

2) He blessed Abram announcing divine protection.

3) He accepted the tithe from Abram as an act of inferiority, gratitude and love.

B. The prototype of Mechizedek appears a second time in the Psalms.

1. The first appearance of Melchizedek is in Genesis before Abram, as we noted, then he disappeared as quickly as he appeared.

a. Nothing is known of about the descen or genealogy of Melchizedek for 2,000 year since Adam.

1) He is without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither

- beginning of days nor end of life.  
Heb. 7:3a-d
- 2) He had no pedigree or genealogy to speak of, but not that he was not conceived as all other humans.
2. The second appearance of Melchizedek is in the Psalms.
- Nothing is heard of Melchizedek after Abram till one-thousand years later.
  - The Psalm is the 110th Psalm.
  - The Psalm is quoted 21 times in the New Testament and some by Jesus Himself.
  - This is a Royal Psalm looking to the ultimate fulfillment In Christ.
2. The Psalm is of David and Messianic describing the Messiah and connecting Melchizedek as a type of Jesus Christ.
- The first verse describes the Son in glory waiting to set up the kingdom, “The LORD said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.” vs. 1  
 \* Jesus asked the Pharisee who this was.  
Matt. 22:44
  - The second verse describes the battle of Armageddon, “The LORD shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion. Rule in the midst of Your enemies!” vs. 2
    - The day of vengeance, “The Lord *is* at Your right hand; He shall execute kings in the day of His wrath. He shall

- judge among the nations, He shall fill *the places* with dead bodies, He shall execute the heads of many countries. He shall drink of the brook by the wayside; Therefore He shall lift up the head.” vs. 5-7
- 2) Parallel passages. Ps. 2; 2Thess. 1:8-10; Rev. 6:15-17; 19:11-16
- The third verse identifies the remnant in that day of His coming, “Your people *shall be* volunteers In the day of Your power; In the beauties of holiness, from the womb of the morning, You have the dew of Your youth.” vs. 3
  - The fourth verse makes the priesthood of Melchizedek a proto-type of the priesthood of Christ,” The LORD has sworn And will not relent, “You *are* a priest forever According to the order of **Melchizedek.**” vs. 4
    - This verse is quoted seven times in Hebrews. Heb. 5:6; 10; 6:20; 7:11,15, 17, 21, to show the superiority of Christ’s priesthood over the Aaronic priest.
    - Jesus is a Surety and eternal priest who offered Himself over for all. Heb. 7:24-27
- C. The prototypes and types of Christ in the Scriptures are many and indicated to be so.

1. Isaac as he is offered up is a prototype of Christ as the substitute for the sins of the world.
2. Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness as a type of Christ to become sin and belief in Him would impart spiritual salvation.
3. Joseph gives a great parallel of Christ who suffered at the hands of his brethren in order to become their benefactor, but he never said to be a type in Scripture.
4. The entire Tabernacle is types, signs, emblems and pictures of Christ.
5. The Messiah would come through David.
  - a. “He shall **build a house** for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his Father, and he shall be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men. 1Sam. 7:13-14
  - b. “He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David.” Lk. 1:32
  - c. “Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the **seed of David** and from the town of Bethlehem, where **David** was?” Jn. 7:42
- 4) “Concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the **seed of David** according to the flesh.” Rom. 1:3

- d. “Remember that Jesus Christ, of the **seed of David**, was raised from the dead according to my gospel.” 2Tim. 2:8

### **Illustration**

Prophecy is the greatest evidence to the divine Inspiration of the Scriptures, predicting things hundreds and thousands of years in advance in order to provide tangible evidence of the existence of God!

***The proto-type of Melchizedek was prophetic!***

### **III. The priesthood of Melchizedek.**

- A. The priesthood of Melchizedek spoke of a future intercessor through which Jew and Gentile would be blessed.
  1. Abraham was promised that through him all the families of the earth would be blessed. Gen. 12:3
    - a. The Old Testament economy was for Jews only.
    - b. The New Testament economy was for Jew and Gentile through the person of the Messiah.
  2. Abraham met Melchizedek who declared the Most High God to be possessor of heaven and earth. Gen. 14:19c
    - a. All was created by Him. Col. 1:16
    - b. All things consist in Him. Col. 1:17
    - c. All things will be reconciled to Him.

- 1) Creation itself. Rom. 8:20
- 2) Created man through repentance.

**B.** The priesthood of Melchizedek spoke of the priesthood of Jesus the Son of God.

1. God spoke at various times and in different manners in times past to the fathers by the prophets. Heb. 1:1
2. God has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high. Heb. 1:2-3
  - a. Two-thousand years from Adam, Melchizedek appeared to Abram.
  - b. One-thousand years after Melchizedek he appears in David's Psalm.
  - c. One-thousand years more and Melchizedek's prototype is fulfilled in the anti-type of Jesus Christ.
3. God declares four times in the book of Hebrews that Jesus was a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek. Heb. 5:6; 6:20; 7:17, 21
4. God says Jesus is much better than angels, Moses, Aaron, better hope, covenant, promises and sacrifice. Hebrews

5. Melchizedek was called King of righteousness and King of peace, made like the Son of God, a prototype of Jesus. Heb. 7:2-3
6. Melchizedek met Abram with bread and wine, the elements Jesus used for communion, symbolic of His body and blood. Gen. 14:18a

**C.** The priesthood of Melchizedek spoke of a superior priesthood than that of Aaron.

1. Jesus was made like unto His brethren and release man from death through His death and is a merciful High Priest, able to aid those who are tempted. Heb. 2:14-18
2. Jesus is to be considered as Apostle and High Priest, One counted worthy of more glory than Moses. Heb. 3:1-3
  - a. An apostle "apostolos" is one sent forth, as an ambassador who speaks and acts in full authority and power for his country.
    - \* Being man, he was sent by God to man to speak and act for God the Father
  - b. As High Priest Jesus presented man to God, being a faithful High Priest as the anointed, Messiah. Heb. 2:17
    - \* Being a faithful High Priest he represents the people to God!
  - c. The admonishment is to consider "katanoeo" which means to fix one's

attention with eyes and mind so as to learn and comprehend. Heb. 3:1

\* The same word is used by Jesus when he says, "Consider the lilies", "consider the raven", Lk. 12:24, 27

3. The priesthood Jesus entered the heavenly tabernacle while Aaron entered the earthly tabernacle. Heb. 4:14
4. The priesthood of Jesus was the result of God's calling as His Son, Aaron as an adopted son. Heb. 5:4-5
5. The priesthood of Jesus could impart eternal salvation unlike Aaron's. Heb. 5:9
6. The priesthood of Jesus takes us right into the Holy of Holies behind the veil by virtue of His own blood unlike Aaron who entered in only once a year after many washings and sacrifices. Heb. 6:19-20; 10:20
7. The priesthood of Melchizedek was superior to that of Aaron in that Abraham paid tithes to Melchizedek, even Levi since he was still in his father's loins. Heb. 7:9-10

**D.** The priesthood of Melchizedek spoke of an unchangeable priesthood.

1. If the Levitical priesthood was unto perfection what further need would there be for the priesthood of Melchizedek. Heb. 7:11

2. The Messiah was from the tribe of Judean not Levi, after the order of Melchizedek. Heb. 7:14-15
3. The priesthood of Jesus after the order of Melchizedek was unchangeable, due to the simple fact that Jesus dies no more, but lives to ever make intercession for man and He does not have to offer continual sacrifices, for He died once and for all when He offered up Himself. Heb. 7:22-23, 25-27
4. The priesthood of Jesus after the order of Melchizedek is untransferable. Heb. 7:24
  - a. There is no other that is honored by God.
  - b. There is no need of another change for it is perfect and superior to all.

### **Illustration**

The Persians Kings Ahashuerus had a law that if anyone entered his presence without being summoned they could be killed, unless he raised his scepter in acceptance, exactly what Jesus does for us who have repented as our High Priest before the Father.

***The priesthood of Melchizedek is untransferable!***

### **Conclusion**

These three units of Scripture have revealed that:

- I.** The person of Melchizedek was historical!
- II.** The proto-type of Melchizedek was prophetic!

**III.** The priesthood of Melchizedek is untransferable!