



Melchizedek: International Man of Mystery

Lesson Twenty • Hebrews 7:1-3

Melchizedek (10x): *Genesis 14:18-20 (1x) → Psalm 110:4 (1x) → Hebrews 5:6, 11; 6:20; 7:1, 10-11, 15, 17 (8x)*

His person only 3x: Genesis 14:18; Hebrews 7:1, 10

His priestly order 7x: Psalm 110:4; Hebrews 5:6, 11; 6:2; 7:11, 15, 17

The Meaning of the Man of Mystery

1. The Historical APPEARANCE of Melchizedek.

"For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham as he was returning from the slaughter of the kings..." (7:1-3)

Genesis 14:17-20

➤ The MANHOOD of Melchizedek.

"For this Melchizedek..." (v. 1a)

1. Is Melchizedek an ANGEL?

2. Is Melchizedek the preincarnate CHRIST? (Hebrews 7:3, 15)

3. Melchizedek is a MAN who *pictures and points forward* to the Son of God who became the Son of Man

"Melchizedek is set forth as a type of Christ, and a type is some other person who symbolizes and anticipates the one who is to come." – Richard Phillips

➤ The MINISTRY of Melchizedek. (7:1b-2)

1. Ministered as BOTH a king and a priest. (v. 1a)

"King of Salem" a city which would eventually become Jerusalem.

"Priest of the Most High God" as a Gentile in pagan Canaan.

2. Ministered with a RIGHTEOUS reign that resulted in PEACE. (v. 2b)

"For this Melchizedek... was first of all, by the translation of his name, king of righteousness, and then also king of Salem, which is king of peace. (v. 2b)

Melchizedek means *"King of Righteousness"*

King of Salem which means *"King of Peace"*

How did Melchizedek become a righteous king and a priest of the Most High God in pagan Canaan?

The first observation made about Melchizedek is about his CHARACTER as a king and the NATURE of his kingdom: *Righteousness and peace! Hebrews 1:8-8; 2:14-17*

Righteousness and peace come **TOGETHER** in the person and work of Christ
as royal King and eternal High Priest!

Isaiah 32:17; Psalm 72:7; James 3:17-18

Righteousness and peace **KISS** at the Cross of King Jesus!

"Lovingkindness and truth have met together; Righteousness and peace have kissed each other." Psalm 85:10

***"In Christ, mercy and truth have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
The barriers of alienation have been removed."*** — Philip E. Hughes

3. Ministered to **ABRAHAM** as a priest in the "Valley of the Kings." (vv. 1b-2a; Gen 14:18-20)

Kingly Meeting with Abraham – Not the Focus of Hebrews!

- **MEETS** with Abraham as an act of grace and **FEASTS** with him as an act of fellowship (*Genesis 14:18, "bread and wine"*)

Priestly Mediating with Abraham – Focus of Hebrews!

- **BLESSES** Abraham as an act of mediation **from** the Most High God.
- **RECEIVES** Abraham's tithe as an act of mediation **for** the Most High God.

- The **MYSTERY** of Melchizedek. (7:3)

"Without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, he remains a priest perpetually."

1. Mysteriously appears *without heredity* to foreshadow **DEITY**. *"without father, without mother"*
2. Mysteriously appears *without ancestry* to foreshadow **EXCLUSIVITY**. *"without genealogy"*
3. Mysteriously appears *without biography* to foreshadow **ETERNITY**. *"having neither beginning of days or end of life"*
"but made like the Son of God, he remains a priest perpetually"...literarily not literally!

"His point is that the Genesis account does not mention Melchizedek's parent's or genealogy or when he was born or died, thereby providing a fitting type of what would be fleshed out in the qualifications of Christ." – Philip E. Hughes

2. The Christological **SIGNIFICANCE** of Melchizedek.

"but made like the Son of God, he remains a priest perpetually." (v. 3)

Jesus, the Son Who Became Son, Is Our Greater Melchizedek!

The international God-Man is the Messianic King and Mediating High Priest forever!

- Our *greater royal King and eternal High Priest* in one person: Fully Man *like us* and fully God *with us* and *for us*!
- Our *greater King of Righteousness* who will meet and feast with us in the Millennial Kingdom after the final battle against evil has been won. (*Revelation 17:14; 19:16*)
- Our *greater King of Peace* who blesses us by bringing us into God's presence with His people in His place in perfect peace! (*cf. 6:18-20; Isaiah 9:6; 11:1-9; Zechariah 6:13*)
- Our *greater Savior* who gives us His perfect righteousness and peace by not only being our eternal High Priest who always lives to intercede for us but also our sinless sacrifice to atone for our sins once and for all! (*7:23-28*)

*Jesus stands in no one's shadow and is superior to all kings, priests, and priesthoods
as the Son of God and Son of Man!*

MELCHIZEDEK • HEBREWS 7

The Man of Mystery & the Meaning of His Ministry as a Priest “Forever”

Melchizedek Mentioned: **Genesis 14:18 (1x)** → **Psalms 110:4 (1x)** → **Hebrews 5:6, 11; 6:20; 7:1, 10-11, 15, 17 (8x)**
His Person Only 3x: **Gen 14:18; Heb 7:1, 10** but His Priestly Order 7x: **Ps 110:4; Heb 5:6, 11; 6:2; 7:11, 15, 17**

Hebrews 7:1-10 → Genesis 14:18-20

Hebrews 7:11-28 → Psalms 110:4

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| MANHOOD of MELCHIZEDEK (7:1-3) | MAJESTY of MELCHIZEDEK (7:4-10) | MYSTERY of MELCHIZEDEK'S PRIESTHOOD (7:11-28) |
| HIS PERSON (vv. 1-3) | HIS PREEMINENCE (vv. 4, 7) | HIS PICTURE of PERFECTION (vv. 11, 19, 28) |
| HISTORICAL APPEARANCE <i>Textual First Mention</i> | LOGICAL IMPORTANCE <i>Theological Foreshadowing</i> | CHRISTOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE <i>Typological Fulfillment</i> |
| MELCHIZEDEK is GREATER <i>than Abraham Whom He Blesses and Receives a Tithe</i> | MELCHIZEDEK is GREATER <i>than Abraham the Patriarch with the Promises and Levi's Priesthood by Law in Abram's Loins</i> | JESUS is GREATEST <i>Melchizedek's Person and Priesthood Foreshadows Another Priest Who Will Appear and Arise The Lord Jesus Who is Both Royal King and Eternal High Priest, a Son made perfect forever</i> |
| POINTING to the SON of GOD <i>"Without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but MADE LIKE the SON of GOD, HE REMAINS a PRIEST PERPETUALLY." (v. 3; cf. 10:12, 14)</i> | PREPARING for ANOTHER PRIEST to ARISE <i>"No observe how great THIS ONE was to whom Abraham, the patriarch, gave a tenth of the choicest spoils." (v. 4) But THE ONE whose genealogy is not traced from them collected a tenth from Abraham and blessed the one who had the promises." (v. 6) "In this case mortal men receive tithes, but in that case ONE receives them, of whom it is witnessed that HE LIVES ON." (v. 8) "for [Levi] was still in the loins of his father when MELCHIZEDEK met him." (v. 10) Note: No mention of "Melchizedek" until v. 10, no mention of his priestly order, and no mention of Jesus. This section links the historical appearance (vv. 1-3) to the Christological significance (vv. 11-28). "This one" in the past who was a historical person with a perpetual priesthood foreshadows "the One" in the future who will "appear" and "arise" to <i>literally</i> hold His priesthood permanently like Melchizedek does his <i>literarily</i>!</i> | PERFECTED by the RISEN LORD, JESUS the EXALTED SON: The ETERNAL KING-PRIEST by GOD'S OATH! <i>"Now if PERFECTION was through the Levitical priesthood (for on the basis of it the people received the Law), what further need was there for ANOTHER PRIEST TO ARISE according to the order of Melchizedek, and not be designated according to the order of Aaron?" (v. 11) "For it is evident that our LORD arose from Judah, of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood." (v. 14, NKJV) "And this is clearer still, if ANOTHER PRIEST RISES according to the likeness of Melchizedek" (v. 15) "for the Law made NOTHING PERFECT, and on the other hand there is a bringing in of a BETTER HOPE, through which we DRAW NEAR to God. And inasmuch as it was NOT WITHOUT an OATH (for they indeed became priests WITHOUT an OATH, but He WITH an OATH through the One who said to Him "The Lord has sworn and will not change His mind, "You are a priest forever!"); so much the more also JESUS has become the GUARANTEE of a BETTER COVENANT." (vv. 19-22) "but JESUS, on the other hand, because He continues forever, HOLDS HIS PRIESTHOOD PERMANENTLY" (v. 24) "but the WORD of the OATH, which came after the Law appoint a SON MADE PERFECT FOREVER." (v. 28; cf. 1:2; 2:10)</i> |

JESUS IS OUR GREATER MELCHIZEDEK!

The ETERNAL HIGH PRIEST by God's UNCHANGING OATH Who Is the RESURRECTED, EXALTED, and PERFECTED SON of GOD and SON of DAVID!