

**MELCHIZEDEK: KING AND PRIEST
GENESIS 14:18-20 / MAY 7, 2017 PM**

INTRODUCTION

- A. We continue our study of people in the O.T.
- B. Today we look at a mysterious person--Melchizedek. Why was he mysterious?

- 1. His name means "king of righteousness".
- 2. His family isn't mentioned.
- 3. There is more information about him in the N.T. than in the O.T.

O.T.--Gen. 14:18-20 / Psa. 110:4.

N.T.--Heb. 5:6-10; 6:19-8:6.

Mentioned 10 times in the Bible

2 in the O.T.

8 in the N.T.

- 4. Family not mentioned, perhaps on purpose--Heb. 7:3.

Hebrews 7:3

Without father or mother, without genealogy...

- a. Jews were all about genealogies long before ancestry.com and their DNA test.
 - b. Without parents doesn't necessarily mean he had a supernatural birth.
 - c. Could just mean we know very little about him.
- 5. He had neither beginning or ending again may only mean we know little about him--Heb. 7:3.

Hebrews 7:3

.....without beginning of days or end of life.....

- 6. He is called a priest forever, but it may simply mean all of his life not that he himself was eternal--Heb. 7:3.

Hebrews 7:3

.....he remains a priest forever.

I. HIS INFORMATION

A. Abraham encountered him on the way back from rescuing Lot after he was kidnapped.

1. Mel gave Abraham food--Gen. 14:18-20.

Genesis 14:18-20

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 praise be to God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand."

2. Abraham gave Mel tithes of the spoils from rescuing Lot--Gen. 14:20.

Genesis 14:18-20

.....Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

- a. This was a recognition of Mel's authority as king and priest.
- b. According to Hebrews it also was Levi's recognition of his authority since Levi was a descendant of Abraham and the first priest of Israel--Heb. 7:9-10.

Hebrews 7:9-10

9 One might even say that Levi, who collects the tenth, paid the tenth through Abraham, 10 because when Melchizedek met Abraham, Levi was still in the body of his ancestor.

B. King David made a reference to Mel in Psalms 110:4.

Psalms 110:4

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

1. This obviously is where the author of Hebrews pulled his statement in Heb. 7:3 that Mel was a priest forever.
2. It also establishes that Mel was an historical figure.

II. HIS RELATIONSHIP TO JESUS CHRIST.

- A. Some think Mel was a “theophany” (appearance of God) or more specifically a “Christophany” (preincarnate appearance of Jesus).
- B. The author of Hebrews may suggest this in Hebrews 7:3.

Hebrews 7:3

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

- 1. Mel was without genealogy--suggesting a supernatural birth.
 - 2. Mel was without beginning or end--suggesting he is eternal.
 - 3. Mel resembled Christ--Heb. 7:3.--may in fact be the preincarnate Christ.
 - 4. Mel remains a priest forever--as Jesus is in heaven on our behalf.
- C. Two other explanations for the author of Hebrews comparison of Mel and Christ.
 - 1. First, Mel may be a “type”, “symbol” or “picture” of Christ, but not actually Christ.
 - 2. Second, the author of Hebrews may be saying that Jesus’ priesthood is far superior to the O.T. priesthood and serves as another proof that Jesus is the Son of God, Messiah and Savior of the world.--Heb. 7:7.

Hebrews 7:7

And without doubt the lesser (O.T. Priesthood) is blessed by the greater (Christ’s Priesthood).