

Melchizedek

The name Melchizedek means King of Righteousness. Genesis 14:18; 'Melchizedek, King of Salem (Jerusalem) brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High'. Who was Melchizedek and where did he come from? Melchizedek was one of the Godhead; another way Jesus Himself came to earth in the form of a Man before His heralded birth at God's appointed time, to die as our Sacrificial Lamb. Melchizedek was a king; so is Jesus. Melchizedek was a priest; so is Jesus. Melchizedek offered bread and wine; so did Jesus. Melchizedek continues to rule without interruption and without successor; as does Jesus. Melchizedek even resembled Jesus and Jesus bore the likeness of Melchizedek. Both will be priests forever. There are other parallels we will look at in this study. To see all of the parallels we need to read the whole of Hebrews 7, but we are unable to put the whole chapter here, so we will look at just a few verses.

Hebrews 5:6; "You (Jesus) are a priest, appointed forever after the order of Melchizedek."

Hebrews 5:10; 'Being saluted by God as High Priest after the order of Melchizedek'.

Hebrews 7:1, 2 & 3; 'For this Melchizedek, King of Salem (Jerusalem) and priest of the Most High God, met Abraham as he returned from the slaughter of the wicked kings and blessed him. And Abraham gave to Melchizedek, a tenth of all the spoils. He is a first, as his name when translated means King of Righteousness, and then he is also King of Salem which means King of Peace. Without father or mother or ancestral line, neither with beginning of days nor ending of life, but resembling the Son of God, he continues to be a priest without interruption and without successor'. Verses 10 & 11; 'For Levi was still in Abraham's loins when Melchizedek met Abraham. If a perfect fellowship between God and man had been attainable by the Levitical priesthood – why was it further necessary that there should arise another kind of Priest – One after the order of Melchizedek rather than one appointed after Aaron?' Verses 15, 17, 20 & 21; 'And this becomes more plainly evident when another Priest arises Who bears the likeness of Melchizedek. For it is witnessed of Him, "You are a Priest forever after the order of Melchizedek." And it was not without the taking of an oath that Christ was made Priest. For those who formerly became priests received their office without its being confirmed by the taking of an oath by God. But this One saluted with an oath: "The Lord has sworn and will not change His mind; You are a Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek." Verse 24; 'He holds His Priesthood unchangeably because He lives on forever'.

Melchizedek met Abraham and they shared bread and wine (Genesis 14:18). Jesus said in John 8:56 to 58, that He had met Abraham long before He came to earth as the Messiah, and Abraham was delighted to meet Him. It wasn't Jesus as the young Messiah that Abraham met; it was Melchizedek; a king and priest who looked just like Jesus, our King and Priest.

It seems almost inconceivable that we could minister to God the Father as priests; but Jesus has formed His people; the genuine and true Christians, into a Kingdom to be priests to His God and Father (Revelation 1:6). Again in Revelation 5:10 we see that we Christians are kings and priests and will rule over the earth. Jesus is the King of Eternity and He is the only God (1 Timothy 1:17). It is important for us to understand that Jesus is sitting at God's right hand, and He is ruling in the midst of His enemies in the unseen realm. If you are Christian, you can relax; God is ruling from above. Hebrews 8:1 says; 'Now the main point we have to say is this: We have such a High Priest; One Who is seated at the right hand of the Majestic God in heaven'.

Matthew 26:64; 'Jesus said to him, "You have stated the fact. More than that I tell you; you will in the future see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Almighty and coming on the clouds of the sky'."

Hebrews 12:2; 'Looking away from all distractions to Jesus, Who is the Leader, Source and Finisher of our faith (the Finisher: bringing faith to maturity and perfection). He, for the joy of obtaining the prize that was set before Him, endured the cross, despising and ignoring the shame, and is now seated at the right hand of the throne of God'.

Psalm 110:1 & 4; 'The Lord (God) says to my Lord (Jesus, the Messiah), "Sit at My right hand, until I make Your (Jesus') enemies Your footstool." The Lord (God) has sworn and will not change it: You (Jesus) are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek'.

1 Corinthians 15:25 & 26; 'For Christ must be King and reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. The last enemy to be abolished is death'.

We know that death will not be abolished until after the final judgement (Revelation 20:14). Jesus is seated at the right hand of God the Father; He is a King and a Priest. Christians are kings and priests of God (Revelation 5:10), and as such we can now enter the holy presence of God without fear. In the ancient Tabernacle of Moses, there was the outer court, the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies. Hebrews 9:2 & 3 says; 'For a tabernacle was erected. The outer division where the lampstand and the table with the loaves of showbread were, was called the Holy Place. But beyond the second veil stood another division called the Holy of Holies'. The details of the Tabernacle of Moses can be found in Exodus chapters 25 to 31; too much to add to this sermon.

In order for the Israelites to be cleansed from sin, animals had to be sacrificed; but now once and for all, Jesus has been sacrificed to cleanse all people from their sins. That is all who accept and believe in Him. When Jesus died, the huge, thick veil in the Holy of Holies was supernaturally torn from top to bottom. When that happened, the earth shook, rocks split and many people were raised to life from the dead and appeared to many people in Jerusalem. We can read about that in Matthew 27:51 to 53; Mark 15:38 and Luke 23:45. The rending of the veil opened up salvation to all who believe, allowing us to be purified, washed in the sacrifice and blood of Jesus, making it possible to enter into God's presence within the veil. Hebrews 6:19 says; 'Now we have this hope as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul that reaches further within the veil; where Jesus has entered in for us, a Forerunner having become a High Priest forever after the order of Melchizedek'.

Jesus was the Forerunner, opening the way for us to follow Him right into the Holy of Holies. Melchizedek was the King of Righteousness, a King of Peace and a priest so Jesus was after this order. Read Genesis 14:18 again. This is the first reference to a priest in the Bible. It is also the first reference to tithing and the bread and wine. Melchizedek was both king and priest and he was different from the future Levitical priests. The Levitical priests could never offer anything to the people or to God that the people had not first offered to them, but Melchizedek offered to Abraham something that Abraham had not offered to Melchizedek first. He was not dependant on Abraham's offering. The bread and wine is very significant. In the New Testament, at the last supper, Jesus also offered bread and wine to the apostles. The bread and wine became the emblems of the new covenant of grace, which began at Jesus resurrection and will end at His second coming. Melchizedek's offer of bread and wine came 480 years before the old covenant of Moses was made. By giving the apostles bread and wine, Jesus was stating by that act, that He was the Priest after the order of Melchizedek. Jesus was restoring the Priesthood started by Melchizedek. Melchizedek gave Abraham bread and wine and in return, Abraham gave Melchizedek tithes.

Tithing was not part of the law of Moses, but it was a free offering, first given by Abraham 480 years before the law of Moses. Tithing is not part of the law, but is part of the priesthood of Melchizedek. Hebrews 7:6 says; 'This person (Melchizedek) who does not have Levitical ancestry received tithes from Abraham and blessed him with the promises of God'. Since the Levitical priesthood began with Levi, Abraham's great-grandson, Melchizedek could not have been a priest from that line. Receiving the bread and wine was also from Melchizedek's priesthood.

Zechariah 6:12 & 13; "Thus says the Lord of Hosts: Behold the Man (Jesus) whose name is the Branch, for He shall grow up in His place and He shall build the true temple of the Lord. Yes, it is He Who shall build the true temple of the Lord and He shall bear the glory as the only begotten of the Father and shall sit and rule upon His throne; and He shall be a Priest upon His throne, and the Counsel of Peace shall be between the two offices (of Priest and King)'.

In the scriptures from Zechariah, we have seven references to Jesus; (1) Branch. The name Branch is another title for Messiah. (2) Grow up in His place. If we want to grow spiritually, this is what we have to do; find our place in God and grow up. (3) Jesus shall build the temple of the Lord as is stated here twice. That is a reference to Christians. He will build the temple of the Holy Spirit; the body; the church; the bride. Matthew 16:18 Jesus said, "On this Rock I will build My church." Here is something to think about and consider carefully – Jesus will not own any church He is not allowed to build. The church has only One Head and His name is Jesus. Any church that has another head does not belong to Jesus. In the books of Ezekiel and Revelation, they mention churches as being many headed monsters, but the true church has only One Head. The only church Jesus acknowledges is the church where He is allowed to be the Head. That is the place where God the Father put Him. (4) He shall bear the glory at God's right hand. In Hebrew, the words glory and heaven come from the same root word. (5) He shall sit and rule upon His throne. Only a King sits and rules from a throne. (6) He shall be a Priest upon His throne. Jesus is both our King and High Priest. It is the order of Melchizedek that combines King and Priest. (7) The Counsel of Peace shall be between both offices or between the two of them. The number two is used here. Who are the two? Jesus and the Father. Every thing God the Father wanted done, has been done by Jesus. We read this in the Lord's prayer; 'Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven' (Matthew 6:10; Luke 11:2). Jesus and the Father are in perfect harmony. In John 10:30, Jesus said, "I and the Father are One."

Let's take another quick look at Zechariah 6:12; "Behold the Man." John 19:5 tells us that when Jesus came out wearing the purple robe and the crown of thorns, Pilate said to the Jews; "Behold the Man." When Jesus became a Man, He became a Man forever. He will never cease to be a Man. After His resurrection he was seen by hundreds of people as a Man. Thomas touched His wounds (John 20:27). He has brought in the new order/covenant. He is God but He is also a Man. In 1 Corinthians 15:47 & 49 we read; 'The first man (Adam) was out of earth, made of dust. The second Man is the Lord from out of heaven. And just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, so shall we also bear the image of the Man of heaven'. Then in 1 Timothy 2:5 we read; 'For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men; the Man Christ Jesus'.

There is representative of mankind, in the heavens at the right hand of the Father. There is not an angel there acting as mediator. There is not a seraph or a cherub but there is The Man. From the Old Testament right through to the end of the New Testament, it leads us to see that Jesus is on the throne, ruling as a King. He came to earth to take us there too; if we will believe and He decreed that before He created the world. 1 Corinthians 2:7; 'But rather, what we are setting forth is a wisdom of God, once hidden from human understanding and now revealed to us by God – that is wisdom which God decreed before the world for our glorification into the glory of His Presence'.

We have already read that Melchizedek had no birth or death but appeared as the King of Salem and he was also a priest. In order for Jesus to be the indisputable Messiah, He would have to come from an impeccable blood line; He couldn't just appear. To be a King, He would have to come from a royal tribe (Judah); to be a Priest, He would have to come from a priestly tribe (Levi). God the Father took great care to make sure Jesus came from both the tribes of Judah and Levi. Hebrews 7:14; Revelation 5:5; the lineage written in Matthew 1:1 to 16 and the lineage in Luke 3:23 to 38, all record that Jesus was from the line of Judah so He could legally be King. In Luke 1:36, we see that Elizabeth (John the Baptist's mother), was Mary's kinswoman (Mary's cousin or aunt). Elizabeth was a descendant of Aaron, Moses brother (Luke 1:5). Aaron was from the tribe of Levi (Exodus 4:14) and later became a priest (Exodus 28:3). Since Mary and Elizabeth were closely related, we can see that Mary would have been from the tribe of Levi, so Jesus could legally be a priest. In Luke 1:27 we see that Joseph was a descendant of the royal house of David. Jesus is a King and Priest after the order of Melchizedek. Hallelujah!

Amen and God bless you.

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