



MELCHIZEDEK

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For the time is coming,” says the Lord, “when I will raise up a righteous descendant from King David’s line. He will be a King who rules with wisdom. He will do what is just and right throughout the land 6 And this will be his name: ‘The Lord Is Our Righteousness. ‘In that day Judah will be saved, and Israel will live in safety. (Jeremiah 23:5-6, NLT)

For at just the right time, Christ will be revealed from heaven by the blessed and only almighty God, the King of all kings and Lord of all lords. (1 Timothy 6:15, NLT)

Melchizedek is known as a mysterious man in the Bible because we are not given much information on him. He appears in Genesis for a few verses and disappears from the scene never to return, although he is mentioned by King David in Psalm 110 and then highlighted in Hebrews as a significant figure. In fact, if it were not for Hebrews, he could easily go unnoticed.

Melchizedek’s name means ‘King of righteousness’ and he was a Canaanite priest and king. He was king of Salem which means peace. There is no record of his family or the beginning and end of his life.

Various Interpretations

Historical figure.

Canaanite king-priest.

Type of Christ.

Pre-incarnate of Christ (christophany).

After Abram returned from his victory over Kedorlaomer and all his allies, the king of Sodom went out to meet him in the valley of Shaveh (that is, the King’s Valley) And Melchizedek, the king of Salem and a priest of God Most High, brought Abram some bread and wine. Melchizedek blessed Abram with this blessing: “Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. And blessed be God Most High, who has defeated your enemies for you. “Then Abram gave Melchizedek a tenth of all the goods he had recovered. (Genesis 14:17-20, NLT)

- Abraham and Melchizedek are strangers but they serve the same God (The God of the Most High).
- Melchizedek blesses Abraham.

- He comes a king-priest.
- Melchizedek reminds Abraham that God is the one that won the victory.
- Abraham recognises Melchizedek’s higher spiritual ranking (Hebrews 7:4-7).
- Melchizedek was not an Israelite/jew but he honoured and worshiped God.

How is Melchizedek presented to us:

- King-Priest – a model of the coming messiah.
- Eternal person – the bible says he did not die.
- A type of Christ – his priesthood was not based on genealogy.

The Lord has taken an oath and will not break his vow: “You are a priest forever in the order of Melchizedek.” (Psalm 110:4, NLT)

Turn to Hebrews 7 – Connecting Melchizedek to Christ

Take aways from Hebrew 7

- Jesus is blameless.
- Jesus can do what the law couldn’t.
- Through Him we have access to God – no longer need to go to a priest.
- We no longer need to offer sacrifices each day – Jesus paid the price we offered himself as the true sacrifice for people’s sin.
- Melchizedek points to Jesus – he is the High priest and king.

Strengths of Melchizedek

- The first priest/king of scripture – a leader with a heart tuned to God.
- An encourager of the faith for others to serve God wholeheartedly.
- A man who had a genuine and authentic faith.
- A priest that did not fail.
- A shadow of Jesus – reminds us of Jesus in the Old Testament.



Conclusion

Although Melchizedek appears for a very short time in Genesis with very little information given about him, we know from reading on in Psalm 110 and Hebrews 7 that he is foundational in understanding how Jesus functions as priest and king. Like we see with Adam, that God had created humans to rule as priests and kings, the priests failed this. Melchizedek gives us hope among the failed and corrupted Levitical priests that there is hope because there is another king-priest in order of Melchizedek, who will soon come that will atone for our sins once and for all and he will be the perfect high priest. Melchizedek points us to Jesus and tells us where the law failed, Jesus never will.