

Melchizedek

In both Old and New Testaments, Melchizedek was a priest of the Most High God.

Genesis 14:18-20 [New King James] *“Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High. And he blessed him and said: ‘Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; and blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand.’ And he gave him a tithe of all.”*

This took place during the war between a number of city states in Canaan and Mesopotamia. Abram’s nephew Lot had been captured and he and his family with their goods had been carried off.

One servant of Lot escaped and told Abram what had happened.

Abram armed 318 of his servants and pursued the invaders, rescued Lot and his family and returned them to the safety of Canaanite cities, [**Genesis 14:1-17**].

Salam was the ancient site of the city of Jerusalem, [**Psalms 76:1-2**].

The word “*salam*” means “*safe and at peace.*”

This would make Melchizedek the “*King of Peace,*” [**Hebrews 7:2**] also the **Hebrew name Melchizedek itself means “king of righteousness.”**

The same individual is mentioned again in **Psalms 110:4**, where King David is speaking prophetically of Jesus Christ, and this verse is quoted in **Hebrews 5:6, 10**.

As Melchizedek was known by Abram and the King of Sodom, they must have met with him before.

Hebrews 7:1-2 [New King James] *“For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, to whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all, first being translated ‘king of righteousness,’ and then also king of Salem, meaning ‘king of peace,’”*

Since God names individuals what they are, then this man named Melchizedek is “king of righteousness.”

Jesus Christ Himself said “there is none good but One, that is God.” [**Matthew 19:17**] Human righteousness is seen as “*filthy rags*” by God, [**Isaiah 64:6**].

No human being can be righteous unless it is by Jesus Christ and his righteousness being in that person.

Romans 4:13, 16, 18-24 [New King James] *“For the promise that he would be the heir of the world was not to Abraham or to his seed through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.” ... “Therefore it is of faith that it might be according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed, not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all” ... “who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, ‘So shall your descendants be.’ And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah’s womb. He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform. And therefore ‘it was accounted to him for righteousness.’ Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him, but also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead,”*

This is imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ the king of righteousness, that comes through faith and obedience in Him.

To apply “righteousness” or “reverence” to any human being is blasphemous.

Note also that Melchizedek was called “*king of peace*,” [Hebrews 7:2] and Jesus Christ is called “*prince of peace*,” [Isaiah 9:6]. **No human being could be given this title, for humans do not know the way to peace, [Isaiah 59:8; Romans 3:17].**

Hebrews 7:3 [New King James] “*without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, remains a priest continually.*”

Melchizedek had no genealogy, therefore he must have always existed.

John 1:1-3, 14 [New King James] “*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.*” ... “*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.*”

Jesus Christ as One Person of the Triune God existed [“was”] before the beginning, when all that existed was God: no universe, time or space, [this is really beyond our human minds to understand].

Hebrews 7:11 [New King James] “*Therefore, if perfection were through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need was there that another priest should rise according to the order of Melchizedek, and not be called according to the order of Aaron?*”

Melchizedek was the name given to an “order” of priests, just as Aaron’s name was given to the Aaronic priesthood.

Hebrews 7:12-17 [New King James] “*For the priesthood being changed, of necessity there is also a change of the law. For He of whom these things are spoken belongs to another tribe, from which no man has officiated at the altar. For it is evident that our Lord arose from Judah, of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood. And it is yet far more evident if, in the likeness of Melchizedek, there arises another priest who has come, not according to the law of a fleshly commandment, but according to the power of an endless life. For He testifies: ‘You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.’”*

A priesthood that was eternal.

Melchizedek would never have fulfilled his office as high priest if he had not died for the sins of all humanity and risen again back to life, [John 3:16-17].

Indeed, Jesus Christ is the author and finisher of our salvation, [Hebrews 5:9-10; Hebrews 12:2].

Hebrews 9:23-28 [New King James] “*Therefore it was necessary that the copies of the things in the heavens should be purified with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another, He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.*”

Jesus Christ fulfilled the duty of the High Priest, taking atoning blood into the Holy of Holies on the Day of Atonement, but because of Who He is, God, that one offering was of greater value than all that has ever been created, that includes all human beings who have and will ever exist.

Let us always thank and praise Jesus Christ as our High Priest of the eternal order of Melchizedek.