

## JESUS, OUR GREAT HIGH PRIEST; THE HOLY SPIRIT, OUR COMFORTER

Week 10/JROC – Melchizedek

February 25, 2024

Jesus is greater than any other Priest. The “other priests” were human from the Levitical priesthood. They were appointed from among men. Jesus is God, Who took on flesh so that He could sacrifice Himself and shed His blood for us.

Heb. 2:9 - *But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.*

Heb. 4:14 – *Seeing then that we have (to possess; to be joined closely to) a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast (seize) our confession.*

Jesus passed through the heavens when He ascended – having passed through the atmospheric heavens, the planetary heavens, and into the third heaven, the abode of God. By entering God’s presence on our behalf, Christ has secured for us an “eternal redemption.”

Heb. 9:12 – *Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place (in heaven) once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.*

Passing through the heavens into the presence of God, Jesus then “sat down” (Heb. 1:3). He finished His work – obtaining for those who believe He is God the Son, the Redeemer, eternal redemption.

Heb. 7:11 – If perfection came through the Levitical priesthood, why are we talking about Melchizedek?

Firstly, why wasn’t perfection possible through the Levitical priesthood?

Heb. 10:1-4 - *For the law, having a shadow (silhouette; outline) of the good things to come, and not the very image (substance) of the things, can never with these same sacrifices (animal sacrifices), which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect. <sup>2</sup> For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins. <sup>3</sup> But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. <sup>4</sup> For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.*

Secondly, who is this Melchizedek? *Melech* means king. *Melchi/Zedek* means “My King of Righteousness.” Melchizedek is noted as the King of Salem and the priest of God Most High (Gen. 14:18).

Melchizedek was an historic King over Salem (to be called Jerusalem in the future) and he was a priest of God Most High. “God Most High” is our God over the entire earth. Remember, in the time of Melchizedek and Abram, Israel was not created as a nation as yet. God was not known as the God of Israel.

Melchizedek is not from the tribe of Levi. There were no tribes of Israel in Melchizedek’s day as Israel had not as yet been created a nation.

Heb. 6:20 - *...Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.*

Jesus is of Melchizedek's order because Jesus' priesthood is based on authority rather than lineage (Heb. 7:11-17). The Levitical priesthood was hereditary – based on lineage.

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There is no record of Melchizedek's birth or death. This does NOT mean that he wasn't born or that he didn't die! We do not know of Melchizedek's ancestry. Scripture does not reveal his lineage because lineage was not the issue! Authority is the focus!

Heb. 7:3 – re: Melchizedek – he is recorded as being *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.*

I'm suggesting that Melchizedek was made "like" the Son of God. Melchizedek is NOT a theophany (an appearance of God!). Melchizedek is a type of the Son of God. Melchizedek foreshadows Jesus in certain aspects:

Melchizedek - no lineage recorded. Jesus is eternal.

Melchizedek - King-Priest – foreshadowing Jesus as King-Priest. Within the monarchy of Israel, kings were not to take on priestly responsibilities. Kings were from Judah; Priests were from Levi. Jesus will return as King of Kings and reign in the Millennial Kingdom. And Jesus remains a priest continually – He ever lives to make intercession for us (Heb. 7:25).

Melchizedek - King of Salem/peace – Jesus is Sar Shalom/Prince of Peace.

Melchizedek lived apart from the Mosaic Law

Mel's priesthood was universal.

Priest of the Most High God – El Elyon, Sovereign Lord of the Universe. Lord over all. Again, Israel was not in existence at the time of Gen. 14. Jesus' sacrifice was for all – Jews and Gentiles.

Melchizedek lived apart from the Mosaic Law; he lived pre Mosaic Law.

Jesus is of Melchizedek's order because Jesus' priesthood is based on authority rather than lineage (Heb. 7:11-17). The Levitical priesthood was hereditary – based on lineage. And, the priests were of the tribe of Levi. Jesus is from the tribe of Judah.

When Jesus is called our High Priest, it is with reference to both priesthoods:

Like the Levitical priesthood, Jesus offered a sacrifice to satisfy the Mosaic Law. Jesus fulfilled the Law (Matt. 5:17-18). Jesus offered Himself as the sacrifice.

Unlike the Levitical priests who had to continually offer sacrifices, Jesus offered Himself once... for all...gaining eternal redemption for all who come to God through Him.

Through the Levitical priesthood, the sacrifices were essentially a promissory note to be paid in full at the sacrifice of Messiah Jesus followed by His victorious resurrection.

Like Melchizedek, Jesus is ordained as a priest apart from the Law given on Mt. Sinai (Heb. 5:6).

Melchizedek is a foreshadowing of Jesus – a type in the OT of Jesus: not of the tribe of Levi; apart from the Law (Jesus is the fulfillment of the Law); king-priest (Jesus continues as a priest forever); king of righteousness; king of peace.

*Heb. 7:25 - Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost (completely) those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.*

*I Peter 1:5 - who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*

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*Phil. 1:6 – being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;*

*Rom. 8:28-30 - And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. <sup>29</sup> For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. <sup>30</sup> Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.*