

HEBREWS 7

THE PRIESTLY ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK

Welcome to Melchizedek Sunday. There are 12 mentions of this King and Priest, Melchizedek, in the Bible. One in Genesis 14:18, One in Psalm 110:4... And nine mentions in the book of Hebrews.

In **Genesis 14** we read this story... V1-12 tell us that 4 kings attacked 5 other kings and the 4 kings ran the 5 kings out of their land, taking all of the people and property of the 5 kings captive. Abraham's nephew, Lot, was among the captives. Let's pick up the story in Genesis 14:13...

13 Then one who had escaped came and told Abram the Hebrew, **(1st use)** for he dwelt by the terebinth trees of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol and brother of Aner; and they were allies with Abram.

14 Now when Abram heard that his brother **(AKA Nephew)** was taken captive, he armed his three hundred and eighteen trained *servants* who were born in his own house, and went in pursuit as far as Dan.

- **Guzik** - Abram was a man who walked in faith, yet he was also a prudent man. Abram kept his own personal army, and he apparently kept them trained and ready to defend his interests.

15 He divided his forces against them by night, and he and his servants attacked them and pursued them as far as Hobah, which is north of Damascus. 16 So he brought back all the goods, and also brought back his brother Lot and his goods, as well as the women and the people.

ABRAM BLESSED BY MELCHIZEDEK

17 And the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley), after his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him. 18 Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High.

19 And he blessed him and said: "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; 20 And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand." And he gave him a tithe of all. 21 Now the king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give me the persons, and take the goods for yourself."

22 But Abram said to the king of Sodom, "I have raised my hand to the LORD, God Most High, the Possessor of heaven and earth, 23 that I *will take* nothing,

from a thread to a sandal strap, and that I will not take anything that is yours, lest you should say, 'I have made Abram rich'— 24 except only what the young men have eaten, and the portion of the men who went with me: Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre; let them take their portion."

The only other use of the name, Melchizedek in the OT is in **Psalm 110:1-4** – "The LORD said to my Lord, **(IE, The Father said to the Son...)** "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool." 2 The LORD shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion. Rule in the midst of Your enemies! 3 Your people *shall be* volunteers In the day of Your power; In the beauties of holiness, from the womb of the morning, You have the dew of Your youth. 4 The LORD has sworn And will not relent, "You *are* a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek."

A better Priesthood than that of man... An eternal Priesthood... Better than Abraham... Better than Moses... Better than Aaron... WHY?...

Hebrews 7:1 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,

- **THINK OF IT**... Paul is telling the Hebrews that JESUS met with Abraham... And Abraham paid tithes to Him.
 - ABRAHAM honored Jesus... AS GOD! **Listen...**

2 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**," 3 without (**Human**) father, without mother, (**at that time**) without genealogy, (**GOD HAS NO GENEALOGY**) having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, **IE, JESUS** remains a priest continually.

THINK ABOUT THIS

4 Now consider how great this man was, to whom even the patriarch Abraham gave a tenth of the spoils.

GENUINE LEVI GENES

5 And indeed those who are of the sons of Levi, who receive the priesthood, have a commandment to receive tithes from the people

according to the law, that is, from their brethren, though they have come from the loins (**IE, family genes**) of Abraham; 6 but he whose genealogy is not derived from them received tithes from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises.

- **COURSON** - Not only did Abraham pay tithes to Melchizedek, but, Abraham being the father of the nation of Israel, the entire Levitical priesthood did as well—further proof that Melchizedek was, indeed, worthy of great honor.

BLESSED BY THE BEST

7 Now beyond all contradiction the lesser is blessed by the better. **NLT - And without question, the person who has the power to give a blessing is greater than the one who is blessed.**

8 Here mortal men receive tithes, but there he *receives them*, of whom it is witnessed that he lives.

- **IE, You cannot take your money with you to heaven... BUT... You CAN send it ahead!**

9 Even Levi, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, so to speak, 10 for he was still in the loins of his father when Melchizedek met him.

- **9 In addition, we might even say that these Levites—the ones who collect the tithe—paid a tithe to Melchizedek when their ancestor Abraham paid a tithe to him. 10 For although Levi wasn't born yet, the seed from which he came was in Abraham's body when Melchizedek collected the tithe from him.**
 - **Think what you want to about giving, and about worship... God was worshipped with tithing by biblical heroes.**

JESUS COMPARED TO MELCHIZEDEK

11 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?

- **CEV** - Even though the Law of Moses says that the priests must be descendants of Levi, those priests **cannot make anyone perfect**. So there needs to be a priest like Melchizedek, rather than one from the priestly family of Aaron.
- **We needed an eternal Priest who CAN make us perfect!**

CHANGE OF PRIESTHOOD! CHANGE OF LAW!

12 For the priesthood being changed, of necessity there is also a change of the law. 13 For He of whom these things are spoken belongs to another tribe, from which no man has officiated at the altar.

- Jesus comes to do **new things...**
- **2 Corinthians 5:17** Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.
- **Revelation 21:5** Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful."

A NEW LAW FROM A NEW TRIBE

14 For *it is* evident that our Lord arose from Judah, of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood. 15 And it is yet far more evident if, in the likeness of Melchizedek, there arises another priest 16 who has come, not according to the law of a fleshly commandment, but according to the power of an endless life.

AN ETERNAL PRIEST

17 For He (**PSALMIST**) testifies: "YOU ARE A PRIEST FOREVER ACCORDING TO THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK." **PSALM 110**

A BETTER HOPE

18 For on the one hand there is an annulling of the former commandment because of its weakness and un-

profitableness, 19 for the law made nothing perfect; on the other hand, *there is the* bringing in of **a better hope**, through which we draw near to God.

- We are encouraged 13 times in Hebrews that Jesus is a better hope and a better priest.
 - His Gospel is better than religion alone... It is better than progressive faith, whatever that is... It is better than keeping rules... It is better than intellectual sounding philosophies...
 - It is better because HE IS BETTER!

THE NEW COVENANT

20 And inasmuch as *He* was not *made priest* without an oath (**Like the Levites**) 21 (for they have become priests without an oath, but He with an oath by Him who said to Him: "THE LORD HAS SWORN AND WILL NOT RELENT, 'YOU ARE A PRIEST FOREVER ACCORDING TO THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK' "), **PSALM 110 22** by so much more Jesus has become a surety of a better covenant.

- The Priests that the Hebrews had been SO loyal to were only Priests by birth. God did not make a covenant with each of them.
- But He did with Jesus! God called Him to be the eternal Priest.

AN UNCHANGEABLE PRIESTHOOD

23 Also there were many priests, because they were prevented by death from continuing. 24 But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood.

JESUS PRAYING FOR YOU

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

- **Jesus is in heaven praying for you!**

26 For such a High Priest was fitting for us, *who is* holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the

heavens; 27 who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.

28 For the law appoints as high priests men who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the law, *appoints* the Son who has been perfected forever.

Because Jesus has been perfected forever... We too can be perfected forever. How?

Romans 10:8-9 But what does it say? "THE WORD IS NEAR YOU, IN YOUR MOUTH AND IN YOUR HEART" **DET 30** (that is, the word of faith which we preach): **9** that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.