

~**MELCHIZEDEK (328)**

(Mel-chiz'e-dek) [King of Righteousness]

• **Christ's Priesthood Typified**

• **Direct Appointment**

• **To Jesus Christ**

• **Received Tithes From Levi**

• **No Predecessors Or Successors**

• **Melchizedek, Neither A Beginning Of Days, Nor An End Of Life**

- **King of ancient Salem and priest of the Most High God, Yehowah.**
- **And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine, and he was priest of the Most High God. (Genesis 14:18)**
- **At this Abram said to the king of Sodom; I do lift up my hand in an oath to Yehowah the Most High God, Producer of heaven and earth. (Genesis 14:22)**
- **He is the first priest mentioned in the Scriptures, he occupied that position sometime prior to 1933 B.C.E. Being the king of Salem, which means, Peace, Melchizedek is identified by the apostle Paul as King of Peace and, on the basis of his name, as, King of Righteousness.**
- **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. (Hebrews 7:1)**
- **And to whom Abraham apportioned a tenth from all things, is first of all, by translation, King of Righteousness, and is then also king of Salem, that is, King of Peace. (Hebrews 7:2)**
- **Ancient Salem is understood to have been the nucleus of the later city of Jerusalem, and its name was incorporated in that of Jerusalem, which is sometimes referred to as Salem.**
- **And his covert proves to be in Salem itself, and his dwelling place in Zion. (Psalms 76:2)**
- **After Abram, Abraham, defeated Chedorlaomer and his confederate kings, the patriarch came to the Low Plain of Shaveh or the king's Low Plain.**

- There **Melchizedek** brought out bread and wine and blessed Abraham, saying; Blessed be Abram of the Most High God, Producer of heaven and earth, and blessed be the Most High God, who has delivered your oppressors into your hand!
- At that Abraham gave the king-priest a tenth of everything, that is, of the chief spoils he had acquired in his successful warfare against the allied kings.
- Then the king of Sodom went out to meet him after he returned from defeating Chedorlaomer and the kings that were with him, to the Low Plain of Shaveh, that is, the kings Low Plain. (**Genesis 14:17**)
- And **Melchizedek** king of Salem brought out bread and wine, and he was priest of the Most High God. (**Genesis 14:18**)
- Then he blessed him and said; Blessed be Abram of the Most High God, producer of heaven and earth. (**Genesis 14:19**)
- And blessed be the Most High God, who has delivered your oppressors into your hand! At that Abram gave him a tenth of everything. (**Genesis 14:20**)
- Behold, then, how great this man was to whom Abraham, the family head, gave a tenth out of the chief spoils. (**Hebrews 7:4**)

·· **Christ's Priesthood Typified**

- In a notable Messianic prophecy the sworn oath of Yehowah to David's Lord is; You are a priest to time indefinite according to the manner of **Melchizedek**!
- The utterance of Yehowah to my Lord is; Sit at my right hand until I place your enemies as a stool for your feet. (**Psalms 110:1**)
- Yehowah has sworn, and he will feel no regret: You are a priest to time indefinite according to the manner of **Melchizedek**! (**Psalms 110:4**)
- This inspired Psalms gave the Hebrews reason to regard the promised Messiah as the one in whom the office of priest and king would be combined.

- The apostle Paul, in the letter to the Hebrews, removed any doubt about the identity of the one foretold, speaking of Jesus, who has become a High Priest according to the manner of **Melchizedek** forever.
- Where a forerunner has entered in our behalf, Jesus, who has become a High Priest according to the manner of **Melchizedek** forever. (**Hebrews 6:20**)
- Because he has been specifically called by God a High Priest according to the manner of **Melchizedek**. (**Hebrews 5:10**)

See Also COVENANT

•• Direct Appointment

- Yehowah evidently appointed **Melchizedek** to be a priest. In discussing Jesus status as the great High Priest, Paul showed that a man does not take the honor of his own accord, but only when he is called by God, just as Aaron also was.
- He also explained that the Christ did not glorify himself by becoming a High Priest, but was glorified by him who spoke with reference to him; You are my son. I, today, I have become your father, and the apostle next applies the prophetic words of;
- Yehowah has sworn, and he will feel no regret; You are a priest to time indefinite according to the manner of **Melchizedek!** (**Psalms 110:4**)

•• To Jesus Christ

- For every High Priest taken from among men is appointed in behalf of men over the things pertaining to God, that he may offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. (**Hebrews 5:1**)
- Also, a man takes this honor, not of his own accord, but only when he is called by God, just as Aaron also was. (**Hebrews 5:4**)
- So too the Christ did not glorify himself by becoming a High Priest, but was glorified by him who spoke with reference to him: You are my son. I, today, I have become your father. (**Hebrews 5:5**)

- Just as he says also in another place; You are a priest forever according to the manner of **Melchizedek**. (**Hebrews 5:6**)

· Received Tithes From Levi

- **Melchizedek's** priestly status was not linked with the priesthood of Israel, and as the Scriptures point out, it was higher than the Aaronic priesthood.
- One factor indicating this is the deference accorded to **Melchizedek** by Abraham, the forefather of the entire nation of Israel, including the priestly tribe of Levi. Abraham, Yehowah's friend, who became the father of all those having faith.
- And the scripture was fulfilled which says; Abraham put faith in Yehowah, and it was counted to him as righteousness, and he came to be called, Yehowah's friend. (**James 2:23**)
- And he received a sign, namely, circumcision, as a seal of the righteousness by the faith he had while in his uncircumcised state, that he might be the father of all those having faith while in uncircumcision, in order for righteousness to be counted to them. (**Romans 4:11**)
- Gave a tenth, or a tithe, to this priest of the Most High God. Paul shows that the Levites collected tithes from their brothers, who also issued from the loins of Abraham. However, he points out that **Melchizedek** who did not trace his genealogy from them took tithes from Abraham, and through Abraham even Levi who receives tithes has paid tithes, for he was still in the loins of his forefather when Melchizedek met him.
- Thus, though the Levitical priests received tithes from the people of Israel, they, as represented in their ancestor Abraham, paid tithes to Melchizedek. Furthermore, the superiority of **Melchizedek's** priesthood is shown in that he blessed Abraham, Paul pointing out that the less is blessed by the greater.
- Such factors are among those making **Melchizedek** a suitable type of the great High Priest Jesus Christ.
- Behold, then, how great this man was to whom Abraham, the family head, gave a tenth out of the chief spoils. (**Hebrews 7:4**)

- True, the men from the sons of Levi who receive their priestly office have a commandment to collect tithes from the people according to the Law, that is, from their brothers, even if these have issued from the loins of Abraham. (**Hebrews 7:5**)
- But the man who did not trace his genealogy from them took tithes from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises. (**Hebrews 7:6**)
- Now without any dispute, the less is blessed by the greater. (**Hebrews 7:7**)
- And in the one case it is men who are dying that receive tithes, but in the other case it is someone of whom it is witnessed that he lives. (**Hebrews 7:8**)
- And, if I may use the expression, through Abraham even Levi who receives tithes has paid tithes. (**Hebrews 7:9**)
- For he was still in the loins of his forefather when **Melchizedek** met him. (**Hebrews 7:10**)

•• **No Predecessors Or Successors**

- Paul clearly indicates that perfection was unattainable through the Levitical priesthood, thus necessitating the appearance of a priest according to the manner of **Melchizedek**.
- He points out that Christ sprang from Judah, a non-priestly tribe, but, citing Jesus similarity to **Melchizedek**, shows that he became a priest, not according to the Law of a commandment depending upon the flesh, but according to the power of an indestructible life.
- Aaron and his sons became priests without an oath, but the priesthood conferred on Christ was ordained by an oath of Yehowah. Also, whereas the Levitical priests kept dying and needed to have successors, the resurrected Jesus Christ because of continuing alive forever has his priesthood without any successors and, therefore, is able to save completely those who are approaching God through him, because he is always alive to plead for them.
- If, then, perfection were really through the Levitical priesthood, for with it as a feature the people were given the Law, what further need would there be for another priest to arise according

- to the manner of **Melchizedek** and not said to be according to the manner of Aaron? (Hebrews 7:11)
- For since the priesthood is being changed, there comes to be of necessity a change also of the Law. (Hebrews 7:12)
 - For the man respecting whom these things are said has been a member of another tribe, from which no one has officiated at the altar. (Hebrews 7:13)
 - For it is quite plain that our Lord has sprung up out of Judah, a tribe about which Moses spoke nothing concerning priests. (Hebrews 7:14)
 - And it is still more abundantly clear that with a similarity to **Melchizedek** there arises another priest. (Hebrews 7:15)
 - Who has become such, not according to the Law of a commandment depending upon the flesh, but according to the power of an indestructible life. (Hebrews 7:16)
 - For in witness it is said; You are a priest forever according to the manner of **Melchizedek**. (Hebrews 7:17)
 - Certainly, then, there occurs a setting aside of the preceding commandment on account of its weakness and ineffectiveness. (Hebrews 7:18)
 - For the Law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in besides of a better hope did, through which we are drawing near to God. (Hebrews 7:19)
 - Also, to the extent that it was not without a sworn oath. (Hebrews 7:20)
 - For there are indeed men that have become priests without a sworn oath, but there is one with an oath sworn by the One who said respecting him; Yehowah has sworn, and he will feel no regret: You are a priest forever. (Hebrews 7:21)
 - To that extent also Jesus has become the one given in pledge of a better covenant. (Hebrews 7:22)
 - Furthermore, many had to become priests in succession because

of being prevented by death from continuing as such. (**Hebrews 7:23**)

- But he because of continuing alive forever has his priesthood without any successors. (**Hebrews 7:24**)
- Consequently he is able also to save completely those who are approaching God through him, because he is always alive to plead for them. (**Hebrews 7:25**)

•• **Melchizedek, Neither A Beginning Of Days, Nor An End Of Life**

- Paul isolated an outstanding fact respecting **Melchizedek**, in saying of him; In being fatherless, motherless, without genealogy, having neither a beginning of days nor an end of life, but having been made like the Son of God, he remains a priest perpetually.
- In being fatherless, motherless, without genealogy, having neither a beginning of days nor an end of life, but having been made like the Son of God, he remains a priest perpetually. (**Hebrews 7:3**)
- Like other human's, **Melchizedek** was born and he died. However, the names of his father and mother are not furnished, his ancestry and posterity are not disclosed, and the Scriptures contain no information about the beginning of his days or the end of his life. Thus, **Melchizedek** could fittingly foreshadow Jesus Christ, who has an unending priesthood.
- As **Melchizedek** had no recorded predecessor or successor in his priesthood, so too Christ was preceded by no High Priest similar to himself, and the Bible shows that none will ever succeed him.
- Furthermore, although Jesus was born in the tribe of Judah and in the kingly line of David, his fleshly ancestry had no bearing on his priesthood, nor was it by virtue of human ancestry that the offices of both priest and king were combined in him. These things were as a result of Yehowah's own oath to him.
- A view that appears in the Targums of Jerusalem and of Jonathan and that has gained wide acceptance among the Jews and others is that **Melchizedek** was Noah's son Shem. Shem was then alive and even outlived Abraham's wife Sarah. Also, Noah specifically blessed Shem.

- **And he added; Blessed be Yehowah, Shem's God, and let Canaan become a slave to him. (Genesis 9:26)**
- **Let God grant ample space to Japheth, and let him reside in the tents of Shem. Let Canaan become a slave to him also. (Genesis 9:27)**
- **But this identification has not been confirmed. The fact remains that **Melchizedek's** nationality, genealogy, and offspring are left undisclosed in the Scriptures, and that with good reason, for he could thus typify Jesus Christ, who by Yehowah's sworn oath has become a High Priest according to the manner of **Melchizedek** forever.**
- **Where a forerunner has entered in our behalf, Jesus, who has become a High Priest according to the manner of **Melchizedek** forever. (Hebrews 6:20)**