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**BIBLE STUDY**

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**“MELCHISEDEC AND CHRIST”**

**Hebrews 7:1-12**

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***﻿Hebrews 7:1 "For this Melchisedec, king of Salem, priest of the most high God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him;***

***Hebrews 7:2 "To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace;"***

***Hebrews 7:3 "Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually."***

Melchizedek appears only twice in the Old Testament and here in the book of Hebrews. Yet knowledge of ministry is essential in understanding the ministry of Christ.

***Genesis 14:17-24***

***17 And the king of Sodom went out to meet him after his return from the slaughter of Chedorlaomer, and of the kings that were with him, at the valley of Shaveh, which is the king's dale.***

***18 And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God.***

***19 And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth:***

***20 And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all.***

***21 And the king of Sodom said unto Abram, Give me the persons, and take the goods to thyself.***

***22 And Abram said to the king of Sodom, I have lift up mine hand unto the Lord, the most high God, the possessor of heaven and earth,***

***23 That I will not take from a thread even to a shoelatchet, and that I will not take any thing that is thine, lest thou shouldest say, I have made Abram rich:***

***24 Save only that which the young men have eaten, and the portion of the men which went with me, Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre; let them take their portion.***

***Psalm 110:4 “The Lord hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.”***

However, here in Hebrews, he suddenly becomes a key figure in the Bible. Melchizedek’s name means king of righteousness (based on the Hebrew) and king of peace (Salem means “peace”). He was king of Salem and priest of God Most High (that is, of the God who overrules every other power). This High Priest comes from God and not through bloodline into the Levitical tribe. The author of Hebrews isn’t saying that he literally had no parents and never died. He’s saying that there is no record of his birth or death. Thus, he remains a priest forever. The point is that Melchizedek is a prototype of Jesus, the true King of righteousness and peace. As the divine Son of God, he had no beginning of days. And as the resurrected Lord, he has no end. This without father and without mother, just means that He was in His Spirit body and had not taken on the form of flesh. The only time Jesus was in His flesh body, was when He came to earth to save His people. Without descent tells us that this Melchisedec is of heavenly nature. No beginning and no ending says beyond a shadow of doubt that this is the Lord of Glory.

***Psalm 90:2 “Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.”***

***Jeremiah 23:6 "In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this [is] his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS."***

Like Melchizedek, Jesus is both a priest and a King. Such a dual role was unheard of in Israel, where the offices of priest and king were intentionally distinct. The Levitical priests didn’t rule, and the king didn’t perform priestly duties. Nevertheless, resembling the Son of God, Melchizedek is an Old Testament illustration of what Jesus Christ would be like. Jesus has a unique priesthood that, like the priesthood of Melchizedek, brings blessing and renews the spiritual strength of his people with the bread and wine of Communion so that we can live in spiritual victory. This is describing the Eternal One Jesus Christ. The main element in all of this, is that the only one He appeared to, was the father of the believers, Abraham. He, also, had some heavenly authority, because He blessed Abraham. When Abraham experienced God’s provision and deliverance in a battle with several kings, Melchizedek met Abraham and blessed him. He also renewed Abraham’s strength with bread and wine. In response, Abraham honored this priest-king with a tithe (a tenth of everything he had).

***Hebrews 7:4 "Now consider how great this man [was], unto whom even the patriarch Abraham gave the tenth of the spoils."***

***Hebrews 7:5 "And verily they that are of the sons of Levi, who receive the office of the priesthood, have a commandment to take tithes of the people according to the law, that is, of their brethren, though they come out of the loins of Abraham:"***

Not only is Jesus different from the Levitical priests (since he’s both priest and king), but he’s also superior to them. This alone recognized Him as High Priest of God. The difference in the sons of Levi and Melchisedec is that they are priest, because of their blood line and they are priest just for a short time. This Melchisedec is a Priest forever, and has no bloodline, He is divinely appointed of God for this service. The Scripture above is clearly making a difference in the type of priesthood.

How so? Because he’s a priest like Melchizedek. The author draws attention to the fact that Abraham paid a tithe to Melchizedek. The Levites also collected tithes. They received them from the people of Israel, Abraham’s descendants.

***Hebrews 7:6 "But he whose descent is not counted from them received tithes of Abraham, and blessed him that had the promises."***

***Hebrews 7:7 "And without all contradiction the less is blessed of the better."***

We clearly see the distinction made here that the Levitical priesthood and the priesthood of Melchisedec are totally different. The Scripture above, again, says, He blessed Abraham. Blessings come from God. This is just saying, here, that as great a man as Abraham was, he was less than Melchisedec. Abraham is thought of as one of the best men who ever lived. Then, is this saying, that Melchisedec was more than man? Jesus was more than mortal man, He was Immanuel, God with us. But, without a doubt, the inferior is blessed by the superior. In other words, as great as Abraham was as the father of Israel, he was inferior to Melchizedek because Melchizedek blessed him.

***Hebrews 7:8 "And here men that die receive tithes; but there he [receiveth them], of whom it is witnessed that he liveth."***

***Hebrews 7:9 "And as I may so say, Levi also, who receiveth tithes, payed tithes in Abraham." Hebrews 7:10 "For he was yet in the loins of his father, when Melchisedec met him."***

Abraham acknowledged his submission to Melchizedek and expressed his gratitude by giving him a tithe. And notice this: he didn’t tithe to get a blessing; he tithed out of thankfulness for the blessing he received. In a sense, though, Levi also paid tithes to Melchizedek because he was still within his ancestor Abraham at the time. We were told in another Scripture above of His eternity. He had no beginning and no end. The word liveth means continues to live. This statement, here. is saying that not only did Abraham pay tithes to Melchisedec, but the high priest of the Levitical tribe paid tithes to Him in reality, because he is descended from Abraham. We see in this that not even the high priest of the temple on earth was of the same stature as this Melchisedec. Melchisedec was more than man. Melchizedek’s priesthood is superior because he blessed Abraham (and his descendants) and received tithes from them. Furthermore, his priesthood is superior because, though the Levitical priests died, Scripture testifies that [Melchizedek] lives. It is because of Jesus’s continuity with the Melchizedekian priesthood that it is legitimate for the church to receive tithes today. They are, in fact, a tangible indication of submission to our great high priest who has already “blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavens” (Ephesians 1:3). Jesus mediates the experience of these blessings to his people people around Communion (1 Corinthians 10:16; 11:23-26). What the author is saying is that the priesthood of Jesus (in the order of Melchizedek) is superior to the Levitical priesthood. Melchizedek is a prototype of Jesus Christ, who is an eternal priest-king with the spiritual responsibility to dispense blessings and the authority to authorize them.

***Hebrews 7:11 "If therefore perfection were by the Levitical priesthood, (for under it the people received the law,) what further need [was there] that another priest should rise after the order of Melchisedec, and not be called after the order of Aaron?"***

***Hebrews 7:12 "For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law."***

Melchisedec, like Jesus Christ was not of the world order. Their priesthood was of God and not through man.

***Galatians 3:11 "But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, [it is] evident: for, The just shall live by faith."***

The law did not save, it just showed us how badly we needed a Saviour. The law, then and now, shows that no man can live up to the law and all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.

***Galatians 3:24 "Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster [to bring us] unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith."***

The Tabernacle in the wilderness was patterned after the real Tabernacle in heaven. The holy place and the most holy place that Moses had built in the wilderness was just a model of the real Holy of Holies in heaven. Moses was warned to make it in detail as the one in heaven. The Tabernacle in the wilderness had a high priest. This leaves no doubt, that the Holy place in Heaven has a great High Priest, also. We are told over and over that The High Priest forever is the One we call Jesus Christ. We are told here, that this Melchisedec is The High Priest forever, not of the Levitical tribe, but is of the same order as Jesus. This leaves no doubt in my mind that Jesus Christ, The Word, High Priest Forever is one and the same as Melchisedec. The priesthood of Aaron was faulty as their leader was. Remember, Aaron made the golden calf. The priesthood through Aaron was worldly. The Priesthood through Jesus Christ and Melchisedec was from God in heaven and was faultless. We see from this that even this appearance to Abraham was not even associated with the law but was in fact The High Priest of Grace. Abraham believed, and it was counted unto him as righteousness.

***Romans 8:3 "For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:"***

***Romans 5:20 "Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:"***

Abraham was saved by grace through faith just as we Christians are. God knew that man could not live up to the law, so He gave us a way of escape. That Way is Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**QUESTIONS**

1. What 2 things was Melchisedec called in Hebrew chapter 7 verse 1?
2. Where was Abraham coming from when he met Him?
3. What is the meaning of Salem?
4. What was different about His priesthood?
5. What are the 2 things we call communion elements?
6. What blessing did Melchisedec speak on Abraham?
7. What did it show about who He was, when Abram paid tithes to Him?
8. Name 3 titles given Melchisedec in Hebrews Chapter 7 verse 2.
9. Who is King of Peace?
10. What shows His eternity in Hebrews chapter 7 verse 3?
11. Who was Melchisedec made like unto?
12. What does abideth mean?
13. What is meant by the statement {without father and without mother}?
14. What does without descent tell us about Melchisedec?
15. Whose sons are the earthly priesthood?
16. Who was these earthly priests' ancestor?
17. Who blesses mankind?
18. The less is blessed of the \_\_\_\_\_\_.
19. What one word in Hebrews chapter 7 verse 8 shows eternity?
20. How did Levi pay tithes to Melchisedec?
21. Melchisedec was no mere \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
22. The Levitical priesthood was not \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
23. The tabernacle in the wilderness was patterned from what?
24. Who is our High Priest forever?
25. Where sin abounded, \_\_\_\_\_ did much more abound.