



The Mysterious Melchizedek

Hebrews 7:1-8; 15-19 (ESV)

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- For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, ² and to him Abraham apportioned a tenth part of everything. He is first, by translation of his name, king of righteousness, and then he is also king of Salem, that is, king of peace.
- ³ He is without father or mother or genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but resembling the Son of God he continues a priest forever.

Hebrews 7:1-8; 15-19 (ESV)

- ⁴ See how great this man was to whom Abraham the patriarch gave a tenth of the spoils!
- ⁵ And those descendants of Levi who receive the priestly office have a commandment in the law to take tithes from the people, that is, from their brothers, though these also are descended from Abraham.
- ⁶ But this man who does not have his descent from them received tithes from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises.
- ⁷ It is beyond dispute that the inferior is blessed by the superior.
- ⁸ In the one case tithes are received by mortal men, but in the other case, by one of whom it is testified that he lives.

Hebrews 7:1-8; 15-19 (ESV)

- ¹⁵ This becomes even more evident when another priest arises in the likeness of Melchizedek, ¹⁶ who has become a priest, not on the basis of a legal requirement concerning bodily descent, but by the power of an indestructible life. ¹⁷ For it is witnessed of him,
- “You are a priest forever,
after the order of Melchizedek.”
- ¹⁸ For on the one hand, a former commandment is set aside because of its weakness and uselessness ¹⁹ (for the law made nothing perfect); but on the other hand, a better hope is introduced, through which we draw near to God.

Previous Passages Regarding Melchizedek

- So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”; ⁶ as he says also in another place, “You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek [Psalm 110:4]” (Hebrews 5:5-6).
- ¹⁹ We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, ²⁰ where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek [Psalm 110:4]. (Hebrews 6:19-20)


An open antique book with a red, blue, and gold braided ribbon bookmark. The pages are aged and yellowed, with some text visible. The book is set against a dark background.

Biblical Typology

“The New Testament is hidden in the Old and the Old is made manifest in the New” – Saint Augustine

Definition of “Typology”

- **“A theory or doctrine of types, as in scriptural studies”** *The American Heritage Dictionary*
- A person or event in the Old Testament that foreshadows (is a type of/has similarities to/points to) a person or event in the New Testament
- **Examples:**
 - The garden of Eden foreshadows the New Jerusalem
 - The false accusations against Joseph foreshadows those against Jesus
 - Melchizedek as a type of king-and-priest that points towards the everlasting reign and priesthood of Jesus Christ.

A dramatic illustration of Abraham, an elderly man with a long white beard and a white turban, riding a brown horse. He is wearing a red tunic and a white shawl. He holds a spear in his right hand and a sword in his left. He is surrounded by other men on horseback, also in traditional attire. The scene is set in a desert landscape with a cloudy sky and a large, bright light source, possibly the sun or moon, creating a hazy, golden atmosphere. The overall style is reminiscent of classical painting or a detailed digital illustration.

Abraham Rescues Lot

Genesis 14

The Backstory:

Genesis 14: 8-12

- ⁸ Then the king of Sodom, the king of Gomorrah . . . and they joined battle in the Valley of Siddim ⁹ with Chedorlaomer king of Elam . . .
- ¹⁰ Now the Valley of Siddim was full of bitumen pits, and as the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled, some fell into them, and the rest fled to the hill country.
- ¹¹ So the enemy took all the possessions of Sodom and Gomorrah, and all their provisions, and went their way.
- ¹² They also took Lot, the son of Abram's brother, who was dwelling in Sodom, and his possessions, and went their way.

The Backstory:

Genesis 14: 13-16

- ¹³ Then one who had escaped came and told Abram the Hebrew, who was living by the oaks of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol and of Aner. These were allies of Abram.
- ¹⁴ When **Abram** [a “kinsman-redeemer” similar to Boaz in the Book of Ruth] **heard that his kinsman had been taken captive**, he led forth his trained men, born in his house, 318 of them, and went in pursuit as far as Dan.
- ¹⁵ And he divided his forces against them by night, he and his servants, and defeated them and pursued them to Hobah, north of Damascus.
- ¹⁶ Then he brought back all the possessions and also brought back his kinsman Lot with his possessions, and the women and the people.

Abraham and Melchizedek:

Genesis 14: 17-20

- ¹⁷ After his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley). ¹⁸ And **Melchizedek king of Salem** [Jerusalem] brought out bread and wine. (He was priest of God Most High.) ¹⁹ **And he blessed him** and said,
 - “Blessed be Abram by God Most High,
Possessor of heaven and earth;
²⁰ and blessed be God Most High,
who has delivered your enemies into your hand!”
- **And Abram gave him a tenth of everything.**







PSALM 110:1

THE LORD SAYS TO MY LORD:

“SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND
UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES
A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET.”

Psalm 110:4

The coming Messiah

- The LORD has sworn
and will not change his mind,
“You are a priest forever
after the order of Melchizedek.” (Psalm 110:4 ESV)

Hebrews 7:1-3 (ESV)

- For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, ² and to him Abraham apportioned a tenth part of everything. He is first, by translation of his name, king of righteousness, and then he is also king of Salem, that is, king of peace.
- ³ **He is without father or mother or genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but resembling the Son of God he continues a priest forever.**

Hebrews 7:4-8 (ESV)

- ⁴ See how great this man was to whom Abraham the patriarch gave a tenth of the spoils!
- ⁵ And those **descendants of Levi who receive the priestly office** have a commandment in the law to take tithes from the people, that is, from their brothers, though these also are descended from Abraham.
- ⁶ **But this man who does not have his descent from them received tithes from Abraham** and blessed him who had the promises.
- ⁷ It is beyond dispute that **the inferior is blessed by the superior**.
- ⁸ **In the one case tithes are received by mortal men, but in the other case, by one of whom it is testified that he lives.**

Hebrews 7:15-19 (ESV)

- ¹⁵ This becomes even more evident **when another priest arises [Jesus] in the likeness of Melchizedek,** ¹⁶ who has become **a priest, not on the basis of a legal requirement concerning bodily descent,** but by the power of an indestructible life. ¹⁷ For it is witnessed of him,
- “You are a priest forever,
after the order of Melchizedek.”
- ¹⁸ For on the one hand, a former commandment is set aside because of its weakness and uselessness ¹⁹ (for the law made nothing perfect); but on the other hand, **a better hope is introduced, through which we draw near to God.**

Conclusion:

Jesus as Superior to Melchizedek

- “The figure of **Melchizedek is a semblance or shadow, a signpost pointing to someone greater than himself**. He is like a primeval John the Baptist who testifies in effect: ‘After me comes one who ranks before me, for he was before me’ (John 1:30). **The *reality* foreshadowed by Melchizedek is Christ, the One who is *for ever***, first because he is the Son, and, second, because by his incarnation and sacrifice of himself **he *has become* mankind’s high priest**, who by the power of his resurrection from the dead and the glory of his exaltation to the right hand of the Majesty on high **has redeemed and raised up with himself our fallen nature**” (Philip Edgcumbe Hughes, *A Commentary on the Epistle to the Hebrews*, p. 264).



Let Us Pray

