

## MELCHIZEDEK AND CHRIST

Melchizedek is one of the most mysterious characters in the bible. However, one thing is clear: he is a type of Christ. We are introduced to him in Exodus 14 which describes a war between two groups of kings. One group included the king of Sodom where Lot, Abram’s (Abraham’s) nephew, lived. The king of Sodom fled and Sodom was captured by the opposing kings, who captured Lot and took all his goods. Abraham took 318 of his men and rescued Lot, his people and all his goods. On their way back home Abraham was met by Melchizedek described as follows. “And Melchizedek the king of Salem brought forth bread and wine. And he *was* the priest of the most high God. And he blessed him, and said, ‘Blessed *be* Abram of the most high God, possessor of Heaven and earth. And blessed *be* the most high God, who has delivered your enemies into your hand.’ And he gave him tithes of all.” (Exodus 14:18-20) Melchizedek is also discussed in Hebrews 7:1-10. From these scriptures we learn that Melchizedek was: king of Salem, king of righteousness, and priest of the Most High God. We are told that we know nothing of his ancestors or his descendants. In their meeting, Abraham gave him a tenth of the spoils from their battle. Melchizedek blessed Abraham, which indicated that he was superior to Abraham. Many conjectures have been set forth about the identity of Melchizedek including he was: Shem the son of Noah; Christ Himself; Canaan a son of Ham the son of Noah; a Canaanite prince. However there is no evidence that conclusively identifies Melchizedek as one of these. In fact, arguments can be made that he was not Shem, Christ, or Canaan. The following table compares Old Testament passages about Melchizedek with New Testament passages about Christ. Be prepared to discuss these similarities.

MELCHIZEDEK	CHRIST
Had a mysterious appearance – Hebrews 7:3	Born of a virgin – Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23
No predecessor or successor – Hebrews 7:3	No predecessor (according to the law) or successor – Hebrews 7:12-14; Hebrews 8:4
Priest of the most high God – Gen 14:18	Priest after the order of Melchizedek – Hebrews 6:20
King of righteousness – Hebrews 7:2	Scepter of righteousness was his scepter – Hebrews 1:8
King of peace – Hebrews 7:2	Prince of peace – Isa 9:6
Superior to Abraham – Hebrews 7:6-7	Superior to Abraham – John 8:58; Ephesians 1:20-23
Was not a priest according to the law – Hebrews 7:5-6	Was not a priest according to the law – Hebrews 7:12-14
Prophesied by David – Psalms 110:4	Realized in Christ – Hebrews 7:17
Levitical priests appointed without an oath – Hebrews 7:21	Christ made priest with an oath – Hebrews 7:21; Psalms 110:4
Priesthood changed – Hebrews 7:12	Christ has an unchangeable priesthood – Hebrews 7:24
A priest continually – Hebrews 7:3	A priest forever – Hebrews 7:17-28

## QUESTIONS

1. What argument can you make that Melchizedek was not:
  - Shem? Hebrews 7:3; Gen 5:32
  - Christ? Hebrews 7:3
  - Canaan? Gen 9:25-26
2. How do we know that Melchizedek was a type of Christ? Heb 5:6; Heb 6:20
3. What is meant by the statement that Melchizedek was without father and without mother? How is that typical of Christ? Heb 7:3
4. What are the titles of Melchizedek? Gen 14:18; Heb 7:1-2. Did Christ have all these titles?
5. How do we know Melchizedek was superior to Abraham? Heb 7:4-7
6. How is Christ superior to Abraham? John 8:58
7. In what ways were Melchizedek and Christ not priests according to the law? Heb 7:5-6, 12-14
8. Why was there a need for a priest to rise after the order of Melchizedek and not be called after the order of Aaron? Heb 7:11
9. What did a change in priesthood bring about? Heb 7:12
10. How is Melchizedek a priest continually? Heb 7:3