

## Who is Melchizedek

Melchizedek was a King of Salem (Jerusalem) who lived at the time of Abram, the name of Abraham before the LORD God changed it to Abraham, and a priest of the Most High God. (Gen 14:18)

Melchizedek brought bread and wine to Abraham for his military victory. Abraham in return paid a tithe to Melchizedek of all the spoils taken in victory from the defeated army which Melchizedek refused to accept. This tithe was an acknowledgement of the Divine priesthood and the customary gift to all deities even among the pagans. There are but two verses in the Old Covenant where Melchizedek is mentioned, Genesis and Psalms.

Genesis 14:18

And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; now he was a priest of God Most High.

Psalms 110:4

The LORD has sworn and will not change His mind, "You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek."

Psalms foretells that Jesus the Messiah was to be a high priest from the order (or likeness) of Melchizedek. Melchizedek was the only priest of this order until the time of Jesus our Messiah. We learn most about Melchizedek from the New Covenant book of Hebrews.

Hebrews 5:5-6

5 So also Christ did not glorify Himself so as to become a high priest, but He who said to Him, "YOU ARE MY SON, TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU";  
6 just as He says also in another passage, "YOU ARE A PRIEST FOREVER ACCORDING TO THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK."

These scriptures as well of the other scriptures in Hebrews 6 and 7 appear to indicate the uniqueness of Melchizedek and his relationship to Jesus. It is also used to establish Jesus as our Great High Priest and establishes that priesthood as superior to the Levitical high priests established after Aaron and the tribe of Levi under Mosaic Law.

1. Abram paid a tithe Melchizedek does not accept for Melchizedek seeks souls to save, not money or goods;
2. Melchizedek blesses Abram;
3. Melchizedek is the type of a Eternal Priest, one who lives forever;
4. Levi, yet unborn paid and received tithes through Abraham;
5. The permanence of his priesthood in Christ implied the abrogation of the Levitical system;
6. Melchizedek was made priest not without an oath; and
7. Melchizedek's priesthood can neither be transmitted nor interrupted by death: "this man, because he continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood."

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Hebrews establishes further that Melchizedek was superior to Abraham (Abram) for he was a king and priest, and not only that but a king of righteousness and peace and had no beginning or end of days.

Hebrews 7:3

Without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, he remains a priest perpetually.

The question as to who this mysterious personage was has given rise to a great deal of modern speculation. It is an old tradition among the Jews that he was Shem, the son of Noah, who may have survived to this time. However, this interpretation stands in direct conflict with Hebrews 7:3 above.

Melchizedek offers an expressive type of Christ, our King and High Priest. For these reasons I believe Melchizedek to be a Christophany ... an appearance of the second person of the Triune God - Messiah, in bodily form. The order of the Melchizedek has but two beings (despite the claims of Roman Catholicism), Melchizedek and Christ. Therefore Jesus is the Christophany of Melchizedek and our "perpetual" and *only* High Priest.

Hebrews 7:23-25

23 The [former] priests, on the one hand, existed in greater numbers because they were prevented by death from continuing,

24 but Jesus, on the other hand, because He continues forever, holds His priesthood permanently.

25 Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

The Christophany of Melchizedek points us to the true High Priest when God had determined in Himself to beget our one, true and only High Priest ... Jesus the Messiah.

## Definitions and Scripture

**04442 מלכי-צדק Malkiy-Tsedeq (*mal-kee-tseh'-dek*)**

from [04428](#) and [06664](#); TWOT-1199i; n pr m; "my king is right," an early king of Salem:—

NAS-Melchizedek (2); AV-Melchizedek 2; 2

Melchizedek = "my king is Sedek"

1) king of Salem and priest of the Most High God to whom Abram paid tithe after the battle he fought to free Lot; 'the order of Melchizedek' the order of the priesthood to which Christ belongs

Genesis 14:18 And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; now he was a priest of God Most High.

Psalms 110:4 The LORD has sworn and will not change His mind, "You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek."

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### 3198 Μελχισεδεκ Melchisedek (*mel-khis-ed-ek*)

of Hebrew origin [04442](#) מֶלְכִי-צֶדֶק; TDNT-4:568, \*; n pr m;

*Melchizedek*, O.T. king of Salem:—

NAS-Melchizedek (8); AV-Melchisedec 9; 9

Melchizedek =" king of righteousness"

1) the king of Salem and priest of the most high God, who lived in the days of Abraham

Hebrews 5:6 As he saith also in another *place*, Thou *art* a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec .

Hebrews 5:10 Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec .

Hebrews 6:20 Whither the forerunner is for us entered, *even* Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec .

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 7:10 For he was yet in the loins of his father, when Melchisedec met him.

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 7:15 And it is yet far more evident: for that after the similitude of Melchisedec there ariseth another priest,

Hebrews 7:17 For he testifieth, Thou *art* a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec .

Hebrews 7:21 (For those priests were made without an oath; but this with an oath by him that said unto him, The Lord sware and will not repent, Thou *art* a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec :)