



PREACH THE
WORD
It's Still All About
Jesus

Who is Melchizedek?

Genesis 14:14-20 Psalm 110 Hebrews 7:1-10

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Melchizedek is one of the most mysterious people in the entire Bible. He appears out of nowhere in the book of Genesis to bless the patriarch Abraham --> one of the greatest men in the Old Testament. **Melchizedek** is both a King and a Priest; he blesses Abraham, and Abraham responds by tithing to him. This makes **Melchizedek** greater than Abraham! After this, **Melchizedek** disappears from pages of Scripture.

Now, jump ahead **a thousand years** ---> out of the blue **Melchizedek** reappears --- *not physically and bodily, because he has long since died* --- but he appears as a **type¹** of Christ; a **foreshadow** of the Messiah. **Melchizedek teaches us about Jesus!** A thousand years after he lived, Melchizedek's name reappears in a **Messianic Prophecy** of Christ in the Old Testament:

The LORD has sworn and will not change His mind, "You are a Priest forever after the order of Melchizedek." Psalm 110:4

¹ **Typology** is a term in Biblical exegesis to describe the relationship between the Old and New Testaments. **People and events in the Old Testament pre-figure events in Christ's life in the New Testament.** Typology, derived from the Greek word for "mark", teaches that Old Testament events or statements are the "types" pre-figuring an aspect of Christ, who is the "antitype" to each type. ("anti" = "like, in the place of") Besides Melchizedek, some other examples include the Bronze serpent, Manna, Day of Atonement, Adam, and the Holy of Holies.

Jesus is a priest in the order of Melchizedek. NOWHERE does the Bible talk about the “*order of Melchizedek*” --> except in the book of Hebrews! We learn that there are several significant points of comparison between *Melchizedek* and **Jesus**:

The name *Melchizedek* means “King of Righteousness.” Jesus is the *real, true, and greater* **King of Righteousness** who Himself is Holy and Righteous as the Son of God. Jesus also earns righteousness for all people through His life, death and resurrection. In Christ you are **declared righteous**; that means that God pronounces the verdict of “**not guilty**” over you because of Jesus’ death and resurrection. You are pronounced Holy and Righteous by God in Heaven! Jesus is greater than Melchizedek: He is the King who gives **righteousness** as a free gift. Jesus is the *real, true, and greater* **King of Righteousness**

† *Melchizedek’s* title is the “King of Salem.” *Salem* is an Old Testament word that means *peace*. Like *Melchizedek*, Jesus is the *real, true, and greater* **King of Peace** who has made peace between you and God through His sacrifice on the cross. Your sins had been dealt with, there is no enmity between you and God, you have peace with God through the Lord Jesus Christ. You are reconciled and restored to God in Heaven; you have a perfect relationship with Lord God Almighty through the death of Christ! Jesus is Jesus is greater than Melchizedek: He is the *real, true, and greater* **King of Peace**.

† In the Scriptures, we are told precious little about *Melchizedek*; nothing about his heritage, his parents, his birth, his life, nor his death; nothing about who followed him as priest and king when he died; it’s like he is “*eternal*” – no beginning and no end. The book of Hebrews picks up on that and teaches us that Christ is greater than Melchizedek: He is *really and truly* eternal: Jesus is our **Eternal High Priest** who serves forever!

Melchizedek is one of the most mysterious people in all of Scripture; but in the book of Hebrews, we do learn about Christ from him. Jesus is our **King of Righteousness**, our **King of Peace**, and our **Eternal High Priest**. Just as *Melchizedek* was a unique, one-of-a-kind King and Priest, so too Jesus is a *much more unique, one-of-a-kind* King and Priest.

Unlike the other high priests, He does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for His own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when He offered Himself. Hebrews 7:27

Remember that with Christ as our Great High Priest, the work of salvation is pictured as **sacrifice** and **atonement**. The sacrifice of Christ, *once and for all*, happened on the cross, when He died as the Lamb of God who took away the sins of the world.

He died just once; and He died for all people.

Jesus' death is the only sacrifice that God accepts for our sins; nothing else is ever needed. **God will never accept another sacrifice on your behalf.**

In the **Great High Priest** word picture, *the work of Christ continues after the cross*, as Jesus takes His blood --- which was shed on the cross --- into the Heavenly Holy of Holies and *makes atonement* for you --> that is, Christ covers over your sins with His blood, and you have peace with God. Your sins are covered by the blood of the sacrifice --- that is what the word "**atonement**" means. It's as if when God looks at you, He does not see your sin, but He sees the blood of His Son which *covers over* your sins. Jesus has "*made atonement*" for you. The work of Christ, our **Great High Priest**, happened at the cross where He died; and it's power continues *perpetually* throughout your life as it covers over your sins!

In the word picture of **atonement**, Jesus is your **Great High Priest** who is *continually* making **atonement** for you; He is *always* covering over your sin with His blood. It's like *live action, real-time, play-by-play forgiveness* throughout your life. This is what the Risen and Ascended Lord Jesus, our

Great High Priest, does for you in Heaven! He is faithful and He is merciful: your sins are atoned for; they are *continually* covered over by the blood of Christ.

This *live action, real-time, play-by-play forgiveness* motivates you to live a holy and godly life. Your response to God's great love and **atonement** is to hear, believe, and obey His Word. You are to pay ever increasing attention to the Gospel. Christ your *Great High Priest* has **sanctified** you; He has made you holy and set you apart to live a holy and godly life in your thoughts, words, and actions! This *real-time, play-by-play forgiveness* of your **Eternal High Priest** motivates you to live a holy and godly life.

⇒ Righteousness becomes a way of life for you. You do the *right* things according to God's Holy Word; you do *righteous* things according to His 10 Commandments.

⇒ You live your life in peace; peace with God and peace with other people. We live in a world of turmoil and dissension; a world marked by envy, bitterness, racism, and rebellion. But that's not how we live our lives. We live our lives in peace; trusting God each day, and loving our neighbor as ourselves. All lives matter to Christ; so all lives matter to us. We live peaceful lives as Christ has taught us: *loving one another* John 15:12 and following the golden rule: *do unto others as you would have them do unto you* Luke 6:31. *As far as it depends on us, we live at peace with all people* Romans 12:18. *We hate what is evil, and we cling to what is good* Romans 12:9. We live lives of peace: peace with God and peace with other people.

Your response to God's great love and **atonement** is to hear, believe, and obey His Word. Your **Eternal High Priest**, the Lord Jesus Christ, motivates you to live a holy and godly life: **He sanctifies you!**

Melchizedek is one of the most mysterious people in the entire Bible --- but He does teach us about our Lord Jesus Christ! Like Melchizedek, Jesus is the *real, true, and greater* **Righteous** and **Eternal King of Peace**, who *made atonement* for your sins *once and for all!* Because of Jesus, we now live faithful and holy lives of righteousness and peace. Amen!