

MELCHISEDEC

Melchisedec Priesthood is not the fivefold ministry of Ephesians 4:11 for those ministries were 'until' ... the priesthood of Melchisedec is forever; nor is it present-day ministries or even all born-again believers! In passing, in the Hb. and Gk. Melchisedec means **my king is righteous. . . or king of righteousness.** Salem' which was an old rendering of the city which became **Jerusalem** which in turn represents in this day, the Church.

WE ARE INTRODUCED

First we see that Melchisedec was **a king** . . . one with authority (Eccles.8:4). Hebrews 7:4 declares Melchisedec was **a man** . . . it could have been a 'Christophanie' (Where Christ appears in the form of a man), but we will go with him being **a man!** He was **a priest** not an angel. *The Book of Jasher* [16:11] (mentioned twice in the Bible) shows that Melchisedec was none other than Shem, son of Noah. Since he came from 'the other side' of the great flood, they would have no record of his lineage. Shem was the only man alive at this time who was born before the flood. The 'man' is not the important issue but rather **the priesthood order** that he introduced to us. This order was fulfilled by Jesus Christ in a distinctly different way to the old Levitical Priesthood order and thus He presents this priesthood challenge to us.

FIRST MENTION

(Gen 14:18) *And Melchizedek, king of Salem, brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God.* This bread and wine were simply supplies of sustenance for a weary victorious army. It was, of course, the same two elements that Christ used in His last supper. This Melchisedec represented the Most High God (*EL ELYON* in the original language). The later Levitical priesthood represented Jehovah (the I AM that I AM . . . Jahweh) and the priests held that office by being a part of the family of Levi. Man-appointed priests through natural birth. The Melchisedec priesthood was completely different as we shall see.

PROPHETIC WORD REGARDING JESUS CHRIST

(Psa 110:4) *The LORD hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.*

'Order' means dignity, state, example, style (which would include responsibility). . . in other words the same spirit and calling. There has to be more than one fulfilling the calling for it to be an 'order'. It also infers that these qualifications are to be met in order to fulfill the calling.

NEW TESTAMENT CONFIRMS AND FULFILLS THE OLD

(Hebrews 5:6) *Thou art a priest forever after the order of Melchisedec.* This quote is from Psalm 110:4 and links the Old Testament with the New. Not a spasmodic ministry but a 24-7 life-style.

JESUS CHRIST PLACED BY GOD AND NOT MAN

(v.10). *Called of God a priest after the order of Melchisedec.* [6:20 also].

Jesus could not be a priest after the old order that functioned with the 'law' for He was not of the tribe of Levi who produced all the priests of the old order, but of Judah. God had to make Jesus Christ, His Son a priest and in so doing had to override the existing now out-of-date law and its irresponsible priests.

THE PATTERN MELCHISEDEC'S QUALIFICATIONS

(Heb.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. (v.2) To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first by interpretation, King of Righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is King of Peace.*

This Melchisedec had to have a close two-way relationship with THE MOST HIGH GOD (El Elyon) and be a king who had righteousness as a priority in his rule as well as peace. The first was the first king of Salem (Jerusalem) which means peace and thus had a fatherly care of the people in it.

HAVE YOU GOT THE ISAIAH 53 PEDIGREE?

(Heb.7:3) *Without father, without mother and without descent, having neither the beginning of days nor end of life, but made like unto the Son of God; abides a priest continually.* The only mention in Genesis of Melchisedec . . .nobody knew him or where he came from. No pedigree . . . no forebears that can be blamed for anything! Just what appeared to be — a nobody (Isaiah 53) but willing to be MADE into a Priest. Jesus was made a priest when He attained the age of 30 and was initiated into this priesthood by a Levitical priest called John . . . thus the law was fulfilled wrapping it up as far as the old Levitical priesthood was concerned. Now the Son of God is released into being a priest of a new order.

PERFECTION . . . THE VISION FOR ALL

(Heb 7:11) *If therefore perfection were by the Levitical priesthood, (for under it the people received the law [the desires of Jehovah]) what further need was there that another priest should rise after the order of Melchizedek, and not be called after the order of Aaron?* The need was for an incorruptible priesthood because the old failed as custodians of the old covenant. Christ Jesus was raised incorruptible and immortal to become **the HIGH PRIEST** of this order which would see that the new covenant would be 100% fulfilled.

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

(Heb 7:13) *For he of whom these things are spoken pertaineth to another tribe, of which no man gave attendance at the altar.* Now we are under *the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus.*

(Heb 7:14) *For it is evident that our Lord sprang out of Judah; of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood.* Jesus had to be made a priest and we have to be made priests also. We are included as we meet the requirements or qualifications for it is an 'order'. **An 'order' has to have many in it otherwise it would not be an order!** You can not have a High Priest if there are no subservient priests!

THE OLD TESTAMENT APPEARANCE OF MELCHISEDEC WAS A PATTERN FOR CHRIST-JESUS

(Heb 7:15) *And it is yet far more evident: for that after the similitude of Melchizedek there arises another priest.* Similitude = in exactly the same pattern. This Priesthood today is corporate just as the body of Christ is corporate and in the beginning Elohim was corporate. There is no record of a Melchisedec Priest before Shem held that title and the calling that went with it.

AFTER THE POWER OF AN ENDLESS LIFE

'Endless' is longer than 'eternal' for the latter means 'age-abiding' which has an end.

(Heb 7:16) *Who is made, not after the law of a carnal commandment (requires DOING), but after the power of an endless life (by BEING).* We have been given resurrected and ascended life . . . the life of the spirit that goes beyond the limits of earth and time. Do you consciously know that you have been specifically called into this Melchisedec priesthood that Jesus Christ patterned for you?

The power of an endless life! Many have believed this over the years and have gone by way of the grave and that's OK. The present challenge is do you believe it? Has God made it real to you to the point that you will *press towards this high calling in Christ Jesus*. One of the first things that will become real to you is that **YOU ARE NOT AFRAID OF DEATH**. FEAR is the deadly enemy that will hinder anyone from progressing forward into God Himself. It seems that each one of us has FEAR in some area or areas to overcome. How do we overcome such a formidable foe? By simply drawing upon God's grace that will enable you to believe and speak forth what He has spoken concerning you because of the provision that has been freely given to each through our Lord Jesus Christ . . . the Son of the Highest. As you become 'not afraid' of death, it will start to be released in you that, as death was overcome by Jesus Christ, we in Him can walk in that aspect of the Divine Nature. This is greater than the gifts of healing etc. **The Melchisedec Priesthood** comes into this aspect that we also have the capacity to not see death . . . in fact the inherent power of an endless life. *We shall not all sleep* (some will and that is O.K.) *but we shall be changed in a moment in the twinkling of an eye*. The word 'moment' in the Greek is ATOMOS . . . we shall be changed in our **atoms** or in our physical being . . . this is called 'transfiguration' or 'transformation' in our New Testament which is planned for our Day — the 7th Day — which is after six days as seen in Matthew 17:1.

THE OLD PRIESTHOOD WAS MADE BY THE LAW WITHOUT ANY OATH

'Man' has taught us that there is automatically a *'priesthood of all believers' for all saved folks*. Each can claim to be a priest, but without a specific calling as set out in the pattern Son, our High Priest, that priesthood is no different to those under Levi even if they call upon the name of Jesus to help them. Christ gave the provision for each to come into the calling of the **better** priesthood, but each one of us has to apply that provision and be **MADE** a priest just like Jesus, the Pattern Son, did. It is not just by **BIRTH** (i.e. being born again) but it is by being *'called of God'*. Water baptism — the act — is only the "type" of this initiation and preparation.

(Heb 7:18) *For there is verily a disannulling of the commandment going before for the weakness and unprofitableness thereof*. Such a priesthood just does not meet the requirements.

(Heb 7:19) *For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God*. This better hope dispensed through the Melchisedec priests will bring all men back into God (Romans 11:36-37) and also minister the heart of God to each one manifesting a perfect reconciliation. All this over a period of time that includes every man in his own order. This surely adds up to a better hope for all the effect is dependent upon the grace of God and not achievements of man.

MELCHISEDEC PRIESTS MADE WITH AN OATH

(Heb 7:21) *(For those priests were made without an oath; but this with an oath by him that said unto him, The Lord swore and will not repent (= won't change His mind) Thou art a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek:)* This Melchisedec priesthood is unchangeable because it is dependent upon His nature in you which does not and cannot change.

THIS PRIEST WAS MADE A GUARANTEE OF THE BETTER COVENANT

(Heb 7:22) *By so much was Jesus made a surety (= guarantee) of a better testament*. The new covenant will bring all who have been redeemed back into God . . . and God in Christ redeemed all men . . . what a glorious triumphant conclusion to His great plan of the ages for the earth and all in it. Thus the Love of God cannot fail . . . not even in the slightest detail for His priesthood will see to that as they manifest God's love and compassion. That makes the 'Gospel' really GOOD NEWS and a better hope and a better covenant.

(Heb 7:23) *And they truly were many priests, because they were not suffered to continue by reason of death:* There is a provision for the Melchisedec priests that they will not see the grave but be changed in their atoms and being as first-fruits demonstrating that corruption has put on incorruption and mortality has put on immortality (1 Cor.15).

AN UNCHANGEABLE PRIESTHOOD

(Heb 7:24) *But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood.* . . . and we are in that priesthood. Remember a priest is known by what he does just as a house painter is known by his painting abilities. One cannot call oneself a priest if the qualifications are not present. A Priest will take the needs of every situation to the Father (the Most High God) and declare the Father's heart concerning each person and circumstance.

OUR HIGH PRIEST MAKES INTERCESSION TOWARDS ALL MEN

(Heb 7:25) *Wherefore he is able also to save them* (all men) *to the uttermost* (however far they may have sunk) *that come unto God by him* (the corporate Melchisedec priesthood), *seeing he ever lives to make intercession for them.* The Greek says Christ-Jesus makes intercession TOWARDS us. He, by the Spirit will speak into our hearts the desire of Father's will.

QUALITIES OF THIS PRIESTHOOD

FEAR of death has already gone and so has the next fear that of failure! The qualities of being a part of the Melchisedec Priesthood include being holy, sincere, undefiled, separate from the ways of the world system, be living out of an ascended place of the throne of Father-God where the provision of Christ has been made available to all. The first-fruit expression of how the ruling and reigning with Christ will be achieved.

(Heb 7:26) *For such a high priest became* (= stood up for us) *us, who is holy, harmless* (= sincere), *undefiled, separate from sinners* (i.e. self-centered ones), *and made higher than the heavens;* the authority of a king is yours, are you exercising that right and provision? Are you 'under the circumstances' or endeavouring to be the one who controls those circumstances?

ALL IS ACHIEVED THROUGH THE COMPLETED WORK OF CALVARY

(Heb 7:27) *Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this He* (Jesus Christ) *did once, when He offered up himself.*

THE OATH FROM GOD MADE ALL THE DIFFERENCE

(Heb 7:28) *For the law* (given by Jehovah) *maketh men high priests which have infirmity; but the word of the oath, which was since the law, makes the Son, who is consecrated forevermore.* A priesthood with infirmities is not therefore the Melchisedec priesthood! Christ is still in the 'consecration business'. It is a life of sacrifice . . . a walking out of the '*being crucified with Christ*'. Are you 'open' to meet the challenges?

This calling will have you continuously in the teachable mode. You will be fully convinced on who the Most High God is and is like and who you are in Christ . . . unchangeable for the changes will have taken place in you even to a sure belief that immortality etc. is for you in this hour for He said, You will not all sleep (some will and that is OK.) but you will be changed. Everything is definitely supernatural. The workings of God will happen IN YOU and maybe outside of you afterwards. Now you can send in your resumé!!!

Amen.