

**"SEEING JESUS...IN THE OLD TESTAMENT"**

**PART IV: "Seeing Christ In MELCHIZEDEK"**

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT, July 29th, 2009**

**SPEAKER: Rev. George W. Tuten III**

**OPENING TEXT: GENESIS 14:18-20**

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- I. Melchizedek has the distinction of being the first PRIEST mentioned in the Bible. (Gen 14:18; note "the" priest - not "A" priest!)
- II. He met Abraham nearly 1900 before the birth of Christ and was - by the design and purpose of the Holy Spirit - introduced with no record of his RACE, his ANCESTRY, DESCENDANTS, or SUCCESSORS ... AND this is the ONLY recorded appearance of this remarkable and important man!
- III. He was given the unique privilege by God for representing, or foreshadowing, the Son of God as BOTH KING and PRIEST, as can be seen in the second (and LAST) time his name appears in the Old Testament. (Psalm 110 : 4). Interestingly enough, his name appears 9 times within the New Testament - 7 of those times DIRECTLY associated with the everlasting PRIESTHOOD of CHRIST (Hebrews 5:6; 10; 6:20; 7:11, 15, 17, 21)
- IV. He is called BOTH "The King Of PEACE (Shalom)" AND "The King Of RIGHTeousNESS". This second title is actually taken directly from his name, which literally means: "KING" (HEBREW - "Melek") AND "RIGHTeousNESS" (HEBREW - "tsedeq")
- V. Melchizedek is the ONLY man on record to ever typify Christ by actually serving as BOTH PRIEST and KING. (Hebrews 7:1-3). Under Old Testament Law, there were dire consequences for KINGS who invaded the PRIESTHOOD.  
EXAMPLE #1 - KING SAUL (I SAMUEL 13:11-14)  
- Lost his KINGDOM  
EXAMPLE #2 - KING UZZIAH (II Chron. 26:16-21)  
- Became LEPROUS for the rest of his life.
- VI. Although some believe that Melchizedek was in fact a "Christophany" it is more likely that he was not LITERALLY "without FATHER or MOTHER" - NOR "without BEGINNING or ENDING." In fact, 11 times in OT Scripture we are told that camels, people, things, or days are "WITHOUT NUMBER" because of their number being UNTOLD. (see also II Kings 25:16; I Chron. 22:3, 14, 16; II Chron. 4:18). (vs. "UNKNOWN")

- VII. This interpretation is further enforced by the words, "was made like unto the Son of God." Therefore, because he had no RECORD of all of those things mentioned in Hebrews 7:1-3, He was permitted by God to perfectly typify CHRIST - Who LITERALLY had NO BEGINNING! (cf. Micah 5:2)
- VIII. In other words, though Melchizedec was BOTH KING and PIEST, his LINEAGE, his SUBJECTS and his PARISHIONERS are ALL kept out of the RECORD to BETTER TYPIFY:
1. The VIRGIN BIRTH of Christ;
  2. The UNIVERSALITY of Christ's UNIVERSAL kingdom and His UNIVERSAL priesthood.
- IX. Although ABRAHAM typifies the Father (Genesis 22:1-17) AND was called "the FRIEND of God" (James 2:23), Hebrews 7:4-7 actually places Melchizedec ABOVE the Patriarch! In fact, it is likely that Melchizedec was "the priest of the most high God" even before "ABRAM" was called out of idolatry! So WHY did not God choose Melchizedec rather than ABRAHAM?
1. It would have violated God's PROMISE, and
  2. It would have MARRED the great type!
- X. You see, BOTH MEN filled VITAL roles in God's eternal plan and purpose as well as in His recorded REVELATION of himself to man
- XI. That the Priesthood of CHRIST both SURPASSES and SURPASSES the Levitical priesthood, is clearly revealed in HEBREWS 7:11-28
- XII. Although Melchizedec was greater than ABRAHAM, it is also evident that he was ONLY a SHADOW of the SUBSTANCE...for as the Book of Hebrews would one day reveal, Jesus "ever liveth to make INTERCESSION for the SAINTS"! (1:25)
- XIII. Further Thoughts On MELCHIZEDEC:
1. God sent Melchizedec to ABRAHAM before the fateful and seductive meeting with the King of SODOM occurred.
  2. This showed God's CARE and CONCERN for his soul for God wanted to PREPARE him.
  3. Melchizedec poured out the WINE and served BREAD - both HIGHLY SYMBOLIC of the Lord Jesus' sacrifice on CALVARY
  4. Abraham gave TITHES "of ALL" as an act of WORSHIP;
  5. Abraham was fortified with a special BLESSING from God - as he learned a brand new name for God: "EL ELYON"...GOD MOST HIGH"!!!