

Melchizedek King of Salem — Teaching Notes

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MINISTRIES

Melchizedek King of Salem

✠ Gen 14:8-16 abbreviated The kings of Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, Zeboiim, Bela (Zoar) joined together in battle. They took all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah, and they also took Lot, Abram's brother's son who dwelt in Sodom. Then one escaped and told Abram the Hebrew, what had happened to Lot. When Abram heard that his brother was taken captive, he armed his three hundred and eighteen trained servants and went in pursuit. He attacked them and brought back his brother Lot and his goods, as well as the women and the people.

✠ Gen 14:17 And the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley), after his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him.

— Then, in the middle of this meeting, and suddenly:

✠ Gen 14:18 Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High.

✠ Gen 14:19 And he blessed him and said: Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth;

✠ Gen 14:20 And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand. And he gave him a tithe of all.

— The meeting now continues with Abram and the king of Sodom:

✠ Gen 14:21 Now the king of Sodom said to Abram, Give me the persons, and take the goods for yourself.

✠ Gen 14:22 But Abram said to the king of Sodom, I have raised my hand to the LORD, God Most High, the Possessor of heaven and earth,

✠ Gen 14:23 that I will take nothing, from a thread to a sandal strap, and that I will not take anything that is yours, lest you should say, I have made Abram rich.

— There is an interesting paradox in this story. Is Abram meeting with both the king of Sodom and the king of Salem, or does Abram have a separate spiritual encounter with the king of Salem during his meeting with the king of Sodom?

- Psa 110:4 The LORD has sworn And will not relent, You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek.
- Heb 6:20 Where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

- We have commonly understood in the Church that Jesus' priestly ministry is built upon the 'order' of Melchizedek. But would an eternal infinite God build His priesthood upon the ministry of a mortal finite man? The book of Hebrews tells us that God's priesthood would not be according to a mortal man:
- Heb 7:11 Therefore, if perfection were through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need was there that another priest should rise according to the order of Melchizedek, and not be called according to the order of Aaron?

- Let us read and translate the Hebrew from Psalm 110:4:
- נִשְׁבַּע יְהוָה וְלֹא יִנָּחֵם אֶת־הַכֹּהֵן לְעוֹלָם עַל־דִּבְרֹתַי מֶלְכִי־צֶדֶק
- Swears YHVH and will not relent, you are a priest to the world upon My word, Melchi-zedek (King of Righteousness).
- From the direct Hebrew translation it becomes clear that the Father YHVH is speaking to His son, Christ Yeshua, who is called the King of Righteousness, that upon His written word He will establish His priesthood, for Christ is the Word of God made flesh.

- Joh 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.
- Heb 7:1 For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him,
- Heb 7:2 to whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all, first being translated 'king of righteousness,' and then also king of Salem, meaning 'king of peace,'
- Heb 7:3 without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, remains a priest continually.
- Heb 7:4 Now consider how great this man was, to whom even the patriarch Abraham gave a tenth of the spoils.

- Abram has experienced what theologians call a pre-incarnate, a pre-birth encounter with Christ Yeshua.
- In conclusion, Melchizedek is Jesus.