



Lesson Thirteen: Abram and Melchizedek

Genesis 14:17-24; Psalm 110:1, 4; Hebrews 7:1-18

Robby Higginbottom– April 25, 2023

Genesis 14:17-24

¹⁷ After [Abram's] return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley). ¹⁸ And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. (He was priest of God Most High.) ¹⁹ And he blessed him and said,

“Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth;
²⁰ and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand!”

And Abram gave him a tenth of everything. ²¹ And the king of Sodom said to Abram, “Give me the persons, but take the goods for yourself.” ²² But Abram said to the king of Sodom, “I have lifted my hand to the Lord, God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth, ²³ that I would not take a thread or a sandal strap or anything that is yours, lest you should say, ‘I have made Abram rich.’ ²⁴ I will take nothing but what the young men have eaten, and the share of the men who went with me. Let Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre take their share.”

Psalm 110:1, 4

¹ The LORD says to my Lord: “Sit at My right hand,
until I make Your enemies Your footstool.”

⁴ The LORD has sworn and will not change His mind,
“You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.”

Hebrews 7:1-10

¹ For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of Most High God, met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, ² and to him Abraham apportioned a tenth part of everything. He is first, by translation of his name, king of righteousness, and then he is also king of Salem, that is, king of peace. ³ He is without father or mother or genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but resembling the Son of God he continues a priest forever.

⁴ See how great this man was to whom Abraham the patriarch gave a tenth of the spoils! ⁵ And those descendants of Levi who receive the priestly office have a commandment in the law to

take tithes from the people, that is, from their brothers, though these also are descended from Abraham.⁶ But this man who does not have his descent from them received tithes from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises.⁷ It is beyond dispute that the inferior is blessed by the superior.⁸ In the one case tithes are received by mortal men, but in the other case, by one of whom it is testified that he lives.⁹ One might even say that Levi himself, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham,¹⁰ for he was still in the loins of his ancestor when Melchizedek met him.

¹¹ Now if perfection had been attainable through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need would there have been for another priest to arise after the order of Melchizedek, rather than one named after the order of Aaron?¹² For when there is a change in the priesthood, there is necessarily a change in the law as well.¹³ For the one of whom these things are spoken belonged to another tribe, from which no one has ever served at the altar.¹⁴ For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, and in connection with that tribe Moses said nothing about priests.

¹⁵ This becomes even more evident when another priest arises in the likeness of Melchizedek,¹⁶ who has become a priest, not on the basis of a legal requirement concerning bodily descent, but by the power of an indestructible life.¹⁷ For it is witnessed of Him, “You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek.”¹⁸ For on the one hand, a former commandment is set aside because of its weakness and uselessness¹⁹ (for the law made nothing perfect); but on the other hand, a better hope is introduced, through which we draw near to God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is interesting, fascinating, or mysterious about Melchizedek to you?
2. What does Melchizedek’s sudden appearance in Genesis 14 teach us about God’s work in the world? How could this encourage us today?
3. Compare and contrast the Levitical priesthood and “the order of Melchizedek”.
4. How does the author of Hebrews understand the relationship between Melchizedek and Jesus Christ?
5. Why do we need a priest? Why is Jesus the priest we need?
6. Why do we need a king? Why is Jesus the king we need?