

Character Study: Melchizedek
A Type of Christ
Genesis 14:17-20

What's happening?

- Melchizedek is first mentioned in Genesis 14:17-20 where he is said to be the King of Salem (a reference to Jerusalem) and also the priest of God Most High (a "priest" is someone who represents man before God). When Abraham returned from battle, Melchizedek blessed him and recognized God as delivering his enemies into his hand. Abraham responded by giving him a tithe of all he had gained from the battles he fought.
- Melchizedek is not mentioned again in Genesis, but is referred to in Psalm 110:1-4. Here, David points to Jesus as "a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek." (Note Heb. 5:6; 6:20)
- In Hebrews 7, we get an explanation of why Christ is compared to Melchizedek. Melchizedek was a type (picture) of Christ in several ways:
 1. Neither were levitical priests (from the tribe of Levi) (vv. 5-6, 14).
 2. Both were superior to Abraham (v. 7, 22).
 3. Both of their beginnings and ends are unknown (Melchizedek has no listed genealogy, birth/death info, and Christ is eternal) (v. 3, 16).
 4. Both served as a priest, as well as a king.

What's God doing?

- > Hebrews 7 shows that Christ came from the order of Melchizedek, which reveals some great things about Christ's role as our High Priest today:
1. The levitical priests were not perfect, so we needed a better priest. God provided that Priest in His Son, Jesus Christ (vv. 11-16).
 2. Levites were born with the role of priest, but Christ became our Priest through an oath. His work is based on God's promises (v. 21).
 3. Because Christ lives forever, we can be confident in His ongoing work on our behalf (v. 24).
 4. Jesus Christ does not need to daily offer sacrifices for our sins; He did it once and for all with His own life (v. 27).

What's to learn?

→ God provided us with a perfect High Priest in the person of Jesus Christ, and we can have confidence as He represents us before our heavenly Father. Plus, with Christ as our High Priest, we are given direct access to God as we are considered now "priests" ourselves (I Peter 2:9).

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