

## Part II, Week Five: Mysterious Melchizedek II

### Digging Deeper

*Read Hebrews 7:1-10*

What kind of priest is Jesus? The Jews knew about their Levitical priests, who performed all the functions of the temple service. They knew of the high priest, who alone could enter into the Most Holy place and make atonement for God's people.

The writer of Hebrews tells us that Jesus is a different kind of priest. Jesus is like Melchizedek. First, the name Melchizedek means "king of righteousness" and his title, "king of Salem," means "king of peace." Surely these two descriptions fit our Lord.

Second, Melchizedek has no genealogy and no birth or death, "like the Son of God." The writer did not say "like the son of David" or "like the son of Mary." Jesus had a genealogy that traced back to David, Abraham, and even Adam. That, however, was his human genealogy as the son of David. Jesus also had a divine genealogy that traced directly to God. He was the Son of God. Christ's divinity is seen in the comparison with Melchizedek, not in the sense that Melchizedek was divine, but that Melchizedek was different than other biblical figures in that he had no record of his birth or death and no genealogy.

Finally, Jesus is like Melchizedek in that Jesus stands outside of the people of God. Jesus as the son of David stood squarely within the people of God, but Jesus as the son of God was entering from outside. He is not one of us. So Jesus differs from the Levitical priests since they were all members of Abraham's children. The service they rendered was in part for their own benefit. Jesus comes to us from outside, however, and the service he renders is solely for our aid. He is not the beneficiary of his own sacrifice the way the Levites were.

We need such a priest as that—like Melchizedek and like Jesus—who stands apart from us and who stands above us to act as our true intercessor and who can make us right with God.

## Bible Study Questions

1. **Read Genesis 14:18-20:** What is the historical setting? Why was the king of Sodom there? Where did Melchizedek rule? To whom was this Melchizedek a priest? How did these people know of the true Creator God? Why did Abraham pay the tithe to Melchizedek?
2. **Read Genesis 14:21-24:** Why did Abraham refuse to keep the spoils of war?
3. **Read Hebrews 7:1-3:** In what way does the lack of genealogy for Melchizedek and Jesus matter?
4. **Read Hebrews 7:4-10:** The writer states that in essence Levi (the line of priesthood), paid the tithe through his great-grandfather Abraham rather than receiving the tithe as per the Law. What does this teach about the Levitical system that would not be instituted for more than 400 years?
5. Why is the writer of Hebrews going to such great lengths to link Jesus and Melchizedek?

## Group Application Questions

1. How do the titles “king of righteousness” and “king of peace” help you to understand the character of Jesus?
2. Why is it important for Jesus, our high priest, to be the son of God and not just the son of David?
3. Since we are being formed each day into the likeness of Jesus, what do you see in Jesus’ character from the passage that you need to emulate?

## Prayer

*Ps. 143:1 “Lord, hear my prayer, listen to my cry for mercy; in your faithfulness and righteousness come to my relief.”*

Take time to share prayer requests and pray for one another.

\*Overview was adapted from Richland Hills Community Church

\*Questions were adapted from “Hebrews, An Anchor for the Soul” by Kent Hughes and “The NIV Application Commentary” by George H Guthrie.

