



Melchizedek

Genesis 14 introduces Melchizedek, King of Salem and priest of the Most High God. David in the Psalms and the writer of Hebrews regarded Melchizedek with great respect as God's representative, witness, and priest after Noah's flood. Under the inspirational guidance of the Holy Spirit these writers found that Melchizedek portrayed the ministry of the coming Messiah. Melchizedek is introduced at a time when Abram, with 318 select warriors, out strategize and route the armies of four kings to save Abram's nephew Lot, his family and his possessions. In the same way that David honored Saul, even though God's promises were to pass through David, so Abraham honored Melchizedek, God's representative in his day. Little is known about godly worship after the flood and before Abraham. Melchizedek is at the end of a line of worship, as God is beginning a new thing with Abraham that will ultimately end with Jesus as God's eternal priest and king.

In Psalm 110, King David describes in prophetic detail the ministry of the coming Messiah. In verses 1 through 3, his power at the right hand of the throne of God is displayed. Not a temporary power but an eternal power, for verse 4 says; **"The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind: "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek."** NIV

Hebrews states in Heb 5:9-10, **"and, once made perfect, he {Jesus} became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him and was designated by God to be high priest in the order of Melchizedek."** NIV It is the very nature of Melchizedek's existence that God uses back in Genesis, the book of beginnings, to reveal the nature of His Son and our Savior.

Serious students of scripture can capture the words and significance of Jesus' description in Hebrews 6:19 through 7:3. **"We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where Jesus, who went before us, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek. This Melchizedek was king of Salem and priest of God Most High. He met Abraham returning from the defeat of the kings and blessed him, and Abraham gave him a tenth of everything. First, his name means "king of righteousness"; then also, "king of Salem" means "king of peace." Without father or mother, without genealogy, without beginning of days or end of life, like the Son of God he remains a priest forever."** Hebrews 6:19-7:3 NIV. In eternity, Jesus stands before the Father doing God's work on our behalf, like Melchizedek did on earth. Though Christians in this world can easily lose hope through despair over health, ageing, family and financial problems Jesus is continually lifting us up. Please consider marking Genesis 14:18 in your Bible, for in it we see God's view of us, through Jesus' eyes, love, sacrifice and power.