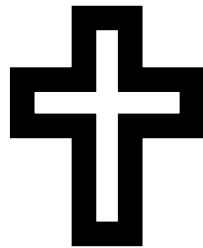


Twelve Lessons
on
Great Men of the Bible
Volume II

by
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ΧΑΡΙΣ

MELCHIZEDEC – LESSON 1

Psalm 10:4; Hebrews 5:6; Hebrews 7:1

Introduction: The name “Melchizedek” is a compound name: Melech, Moloch, Malcolm, all mean the “king.” Zedek means “righteousness” – Salem means “peace.”

1. Some have suggested that he was:
 - a. An angel (Origen, Didymus) Question – An angel would not receive homage much less tithes.
 - b. Enoch (Husius, Calmet) – Heb. 7:3 – Can’t be a man still living.
 - c. Shem (Jerome, Luther)
2. Others have taken the statements in Vs. 3 to suggest that he was a "theophany" (a pre-incarnate appearance of Christ).
3. Most take that he was simply a man because he appears suddenly in Scripture as a priest.

Lesson Goals:

1. To discover that Melchizedek was actually Shem.
2. To study the origin of Babylonian Mysticism.
3. To understand the King-Priest order of Melchizedek.

Definitions of Important Terms and/or Phrases:

1. Priests – The first priest mentioned in the Bible was Melchizedek, "king of Salem" and "the priest of God Most High" (Gen 14:18). Abraham paid tithes to Melchizedek and was blessed (Gen 14:18-20). Next mentioned was Jethro, Moses' father-in-law and the priest of Midian, who joined Moses, Aaron, and the elders of Israel for a sacrificial meal (Ex 18:1,12). But true priesthood began many years before their time in the Garden of Eden. After Adam and Eve sinned against God, He made them tunics of skin and clothed them. Thus, the death of animals became a symbol of the removal of man's guilt (Gen 3:21). After this event, Abel offered a sacrifice that pleased God (Gen 4:4). Still later Noah (8:20), Abraham (12:7-8), Isaac (26:25), Jacob (35:1-7), and Job (Job 1:5) all acted as priests, offering sacrifices to God. In fact, each family in Israel killed the PASSOVER lamb, offering it as sacrifice to God (Ex 12:6; 34:25). (Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary).
2. Theocracy – The direct government of the nation of Israel by God Himself or His earthly representatives. Although theocracy is not a biblical word, the concept of God's rule on earth is thoroughly biblical. In a theocracy human rulers interpret and carry out the divine ruler's will. In Israel's early days God ruled through men such as Moses, Aaron, and Joshua. Later, He ruled by using a group called the judges. (Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary).
3. Genealogy – A list of a person's ancestors that normally contains the members of each generation in succession. When compiled in the form of a "family tree," it begins at the bottom with the root stock from which the family came, then advances and branches out as the "tree" grows. When the genealogy records descent from ancestors by generations, the originating stock is listed first and all subsequent descendants are derived from it. A technical term that means "family history," "record," or "genealogy" occurs in 11 places in the Book of Genesis in the phrase, "These are the generations of." This phrase divides the book in such a way as to suggest that the units thus formed were the actual sources from which the first 37 chapters of Genesis were compiled. These "family records" sometimes included genealogies (Gen 10) in much the same way that tablets from ancient Babylonia would occasionally have "family trees" written on the back. This practice helped to date these tablets since they would obviously belong to the last generations to be mentioned. (Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary).

I. PERSONAL APPLICATION – I will try to prove from the Scriptures that Melchizedek was Shem.

A. Shem was Alive in Abraham's Day

1. Gen. 11:10-11 – Scriptures tell us that Shem lived 600 years.
2. Gen. 11:10 – Shem lived 100 years and begat Arphaxad 2 years after the flood.
 - a. Vs. 12 – Arphaxad lived 35 years and begat Salah.
 - b. Vs. 14 – Salah lived 30 years and begat Eber
 - c. Vs. 16 – Eber lived 34 years and begat Peleg
 - d. Vs. 18 – Peleg lived 30 years and begat Reu
 - e. Vs. 20 – Reu lived 32 years and begat Serug
 - f. Vs. 24 – Serug lived 30 years and begat Nahor
 - g. Vs. 24 – Nahor lived 29 years and begat Terah
 - h. Vs. 26 – Terah lived 70 years and begat Abram, Nahor, and Haran

3. Don't add the years Terah lived (70) when he begat Abram but when Abram left Ur which in Vs. 32, Terah was 205 years old. If you add the years from Shem to Terah and the age Terah died you'll find that Shem was 525 years old and Abraham in Gen.12:4 was 75.
4. According to Gen. 21:4, Abraham was 100 years old when Isaac was born. (This would make Shem 550 years old at the birth of Isaac and Shem lived to be 600 years old).
5. 20 years earlier in Gen. 14:18 (according to Ussher's chronology) Abram met Melchizedec when Abram was 80 and Melchizedec (Shem) was 530 years old.
6. Interesting Note: Gen. 25:20 – Isaac was 40 years old when his wife Rebekah had twin boys, Esau and Jacob. So Shem lived long enough to see Isaac born, grow up, marry, and have twins. Shem died when Esau and Jacob were 10 years old. He lived 50 years beyond the birth of Isaac.

II. PROPHETIC APPLICATION – The facts are that Shem was alive in Abraham's day but was Shem, Melchizedec and why is it important?

A. The Order – Psa. 110:4 – *“The Lord hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedec.”*

1. Seven Times in Hebrews the above statement is repeated.
2. Many say “Jesus” is Melchizedec but Hebrews 5:6 says, *“Thou art a priest for ever after the ORDER of Melchisedec.”*
 - a. “Order” – taxis – fixed arrangement, fixed succession of rank by appointment. We get our word “tact,” “tactical,” which means to march in rank or order. “Tazo” – an orderly arrangement. The same word is used in Acts 13:48 and Rom. 13:1 where it is translated “ordained.”
 - b. “Order” was an “office” like the “office” of President. We have called every man from Washington to Clinton, “president” but each was a different man. It was a man who held the office of Melchizedec and his name was Shem.
Note: In George Matheson's book, Portraits of Bible Men Vol. 2, he says, “It is in this light that we must understand the remarkable words of the writer to the Hebrews when he speaks of Melchizedec as “without father, without mother, without descent” (7:3). What he means is that his priesthood was without father or mother or descent. Heb. 7:3 teaches there is *no genealogy in the priesthood.*”
 - c. The “order” was an “office” of “King-priests” which was different from the order of the Aaronic priesthood who were only priests.

B. The Origin – Gen. 4:4 – Abel – first to present an acceptable sacrifice.

1. The Pedigree – Gen. 5:6-32 – We have the lineage of Seth down to Shem. Everyone of these men were King-Priests.
 - a. Notice: Cain and Abel are left out of the lineage. This is a Prophetic Truth unfolding.
 - b. Cain was the “first born” and Abel was the “second born.”
2. The Prophecy – Gen. 25:3 – *“...the elder shall serve the younger”*
 - a. Abel was the second-born, a picture of Christ.
 - b. Abel was the second-born, a picture of the New Birth. The second birth receives the blessing of God. Example – Jacob the younger receives the blessing.
 - c. Abel was the second-born and Cain slew Abel.
 - (1) Israel was the first-born of God. Exodus 4:22, *“...Israel is my son, even my firstborn.”* So Jesus is the second-born of God in the flesh.
 - (2) Israel the “firstborn” slew Jesus the “second-born” like Cain slew Abel.
 - d. Seth took the place of Abel. We are the ones who have taken the place of Jesus who was slain by the “firstborn” Israel.

C. The Outcome – Gen. 5:6-32 – We have the lineage of Seth down to Shem. Everyone of these men were King-Priests. Notice the similarity between these: Note: The Garden of Eden, the Tabernacle, the Temple, and the Heavenly Temple are exact in their arrangement. (1) Presence of God in both; (2) Tree of Life – Mercy Seat; (3) Seven Candlesticks-Tree of the knowledge of good and evil. (light – knowledge); (4) Cherubim & flaming sword – Cherubim on the veil; (5) Four rivers – Laver and Bronze Altar with four corners; (6) East to West Setting – The Fall was Eastward while the Atonement was Westward.

1. The Partition by God – Gen. 11:10-30 – We have the lineage from Shem to Abraham. Everyone of these men were King-Priests.
 - a. Abraham has the office of Melchizedec passed on to him by the blessing of Melchizedec (Shem). “Melchizedec...the priest of the most high God...” blesses Abram “...of the most high God.”
 - b. We know that Abraham built altars and sacrificed; so did Isaac, and Jacob *but the 12 sons of Jacob never sacrificed.* Why?

- c. God divides the Melchizedek “order” of King-Priest. He gives the Kingship to the tribe of Judah and the Priesthood to the tribe of Levi. Why? Israel wanted a King instead of a “theocracy” headed up by the office of Melchizedek, the King-Priest.
2. The Prophecy of God
 - a. 7 Times – Heb. 5:6; 5:10; 6:20; 7:11; 7:11; 7:17; and 7:21, the Bible says that Jesus was “*after the order of Melchisedec...*”
 - b. Twice in Psa. 110:4 and Heb. 7:21 God says, he “*...will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec*”
 - c. Seven is the number of Perfection and Two is the number of Witness – God is only interested in a “Theocracy”, a kingdom ruled by a “King-Priest.”
3. The Providence of God
 - a. John the Baptist – According to Luke 1:5 was of the lineage of Aaron – The Aaronic priesthood of the tribe of Levi.
 - b. Jesus – According to Matt. 1:3 was of the lineage of Judah – the Kingly line.
 - c. John 1:29-34 – John (the priest) baptizes Jesus (the king). A priest must be cleansed with water and anointed with oil. (decrease-John)
 - d. At this moment Jesus enters the office of Melchisedec and becomes a King-Priest. This makes Phil. 2:10 come alive, “That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow (Kingship), Vs. 11, “*And that every tongue should confess (Priesthood) that Jesus is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*”
 - e. Abel was the second-born and Cain slew Abel.
 - (1) Israel was the first-born of God. Exodus 4:22, “*...Israel is my son, even my firstborn.*” So Jesus is the second-born of God in the flesh.
 - (2) Israel the ‘firstborn’ slew Jesus the “second-born” like Cain slew Abel.
 - d. Seth took the place of Abel. We are the ones who have taken the place of Jesus who was slain by the “firstborn” Israel and in Rev. 1:6 – “*And hath made us kings and priests*” “Made” is “appointed” – Seth means “substitute” in Chapter 4:25 for Abel. “Order” means office or “appointment.” Notice 4:25, “*And Adam knew his wife again; and she bare a son, and called his name Seth: For God, said she, hath appointed me another seed instead of Abel, whom Cain slew.*”
4. The Problem with God – The “order of Melchizedek” is man’s problem. Authority has always been man’s problem.
 - a. Gen. 11:1 – “*And the whole earth was one language, and of one speech.*” Why? Shem was ruling.
 - (1) Shem was the second born. Gen. 10:21– Japheth the elder and Gen. 9:26 – Canaan shall be his servant.
 - (2) Shem was God’s Authority. The word “Shem” means “name.”
 - b. Nimrod – Gen. 10:8-12 – Nimrod built Babel and Nineveh. Nimrod’s name has a numerical value of 294 (7x42) 42 is connected with the Antichrist (3 ½ years). 7 stands for perfection. So Nimrod is the perfect type of the Antichrist:
 - (1) One – World Sovereignty
 - (2) One – World Society
 - (3) One – World Sanctuary – Gen. 11:1 – 4
 - c. The Tower of Babel was built out of rebellion.
 - (1) Gen. 11:4 – “*And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us build us a name (Shem)...*”
 - (2) Another city – Shem built Jerusalem – Alfred Edersheim – “They make it a compound of Jireh and Shalem, and say that Abraham called it “Jehovah-Jireh” while Shem had named it Shalem, but that God combined the two into Jireh-Shalem, Jerushalaim, Jerusalem – No Place of Worship
Note – Josephus thought Melchizedek first built, or rather rebuilt and adorned, this city, and that it was then called Salem, as Psalm 76:2; afterwards came to be called Jerusalem; and that Melchizedek, being a priest as well as a king, built to the true God therein a temple, or place for public Divine worship and sacrifice.
 - (3) Another tower – Shem built an altar exactly where Abraham was to sacrifice Isaac – No Blood just like Cain
 - (4) Another name – Shem – No Authority

Conclusion: The city of Babel was built upon the sand, “*in the land of Shinar...*”

- I. Sand – “*...house built upon the sand*” was destroyed and “works” religion will not stand. Babylon, the Roman Catholic Church will not stand in the day of judgment.

2. God overcome and scattered that city. Gen. 11:5-9 – Rev. 17
3. Gen. 11:10 – We see Shem back in control, the order of Melchizedek. In Rev. 19-22, we see the Kingdom of Priests ruling and reigning.

III. PRACTICAL APPLICATION – Gen. 14:17

A. Melchizedec's Gifts – Vs. 18-19

1. Melchizedec gave Abram bread and wine.
 - a. Bread – Symbol of Life
 - b. Wine – Symbol of Strength
2. Melchizedec transferred the Office of Melchizedec to Abram – Vs. 19 – *“And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God...”* This is the same title of Melchizedec in Vs. 18.
3. Abram's Gifts – Vs. 20
 - a. Abram Gave Tithes to Melchizedec.
 - (1) The tithe, or tenth, is always the mark of ownership.
 - (2) To pay a tithe is to indicate that God owns the whole.
 - (3) Abraham was saying, “The One whom you represent has the right to ownership over everything in my life.”
 - b. The provision of strength from Melchizedec was exactly equaled in the degree of commitment on the part of Abraham. Life, Sustaining Power for that life, and an Office was Equaled by a Commitment for Life by the Recipient.
 - c. Abraham became Redeemer, Ruler in the stead of Melchizedec.
 - (1) You may exercise dominion to the same degree you are prepared to submit to the dominion of Jesus Christ in your heart.
 - (2) You can fulfill your God-given right as man to be king over all you survey, to the same degree you are prepared to recognize the Kingship of Jesus Christ in your own life.
 - (3) You can have as much of Christ as, in turn, you are ready to permit him to have of you.

B. Melchizedec's Authority

1. The name “Melchizedec” means “King of Righteousness”
2. “King of Salem” means “King of Peace”
3. In bestowing this “order” on Abraham, he gave him what he was.
4. Salvation is getting what He is. It takes Christ to be a Christian.
5. It takes becoming a King and Priest in order to be a Christian.
 - a. As King – We Rule with Right Conduct
 - b. As Priest – We Rest with Right Control. (TAKES BOTH!)

C. Melchizedec's Continuity, Permanence, Perpetuation – Heb. 7:3 – *“Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually.”*

1. His “office” perpetuated continually from one man to another and was “made” (appointed) like unto the Son of God.” Jesus is eternal and so is the “order of Melchizedec.”
 - a. This means He is available 24 hours a day.
 - b. When Jesus was crucified, the veil of the Temple was rent – the Levitical Priesthood was replaced by the Melchizedec Priesthood.
2. Access to God is no longer determined by a Place or a Person but we can come anytime. Heb. 10:19-21

Conclusion: WHAT A TRADE!

1. My Rags for His Riches.
2. My Rebellion for His Rule
3. My Limitations for His Liberations.