

# The Mystery of MELCHIZEDEK!

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**F**EW MYSTERIES of the Bible have attracted more interest than the mystery of the identity of Melchizedec. Who is he?

You will read in Hebrews 6:19-20 that Amanuwal Ha'Mashyach, after His resurrection, is High Priest "after the order of Melchizedec." The English of the Moffatt translation words it: "...with the rank of" that is, equal status with "Melchisedec."

## **Melchizedec Was Yahuwah's Priest**

First, notice from both Old and New Testaments that the man of mystery, Melchizedec, was a priest of the Most High Aluhym Yahuwah. Turn now to the account in Genesis 14. During the war between a number of ancient city-states in Canaan and Mesopotamia, Abraham's nephew Lot had been captured. He and his family and goods were carted off.

One of them escaped and brought the news to Abraham, who armed 318 of his own servants and pursued the invaders to what was later named Dan and beyond. Abraham rescued Lot and his family and returned them safely to the Canaanite cities.

On Abraham's return a man of mystery comes upon the scene. Abraham was ministered to by Melchizedec.

Here is the account:

"And Melchizedec king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was priest of Aluhym Most High. And he [Melchizedec] blessed him [Abraham] and said, 'Blessed be Abram by Aluhym Most High, maker of heaven and earth; and blessed be Aluhym Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand!' And Abram gave him [Melchizedec] a tenth of everything" that is, a tithe of all, for a tithe means a tenth (Genesis 14:18-20, RSV).

Notice that Melchisedec was king of Salem. That is the city of Jerusalem. "Salem" comes from the Hebrew word meaning "peace." That would make Melchisedec the "King of Peace" (Heb. 7:2). The Hebrew name Melchizedec itself means "King of Righteousness" (Heb. 7:2). The same individual is mentioned in Psalm 110:4. Speaking prophetically of Ha'Mashyach, David stated: "The Eternal hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest forever after the order of Melchizedec." This verse is quoted again in Hebrews 5:6, 10.

Before we turn to Hebrews for the identification of Melchizedec, remember that this mystery figure is a mystery only to us. Abraham and the King of wicked Sodom knew exactly who he was. They must have seen him before. He could not have been a Canaanite, for they were steeped in pagan customs. And furthermore Canaan was a descendant of Ham, whereas Yahuwah basically chose the descendants of Shem to accomplish His work.

Then who is the mystery man Melchizedek?

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One other hint before we proceed. The land of Canaan from ancient time, before the days of Moses, was known among the Gentiles as "the divine land" the Kadosh land" the land of the place of worship!" Why? Was there someone in the Kadosh Land who was divine, kadosh, worthy of worship?

## The Mystery Clears

Coming to Hebrews 7, we find Melchizedec identified:

"For this Melchisedec, king of Salem, priest of the most high Aluhym, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him; to whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace" (Heb. 7:1-2).

Since Yahuwah names individuals what they are, that, then is what this man is - "King of Righteousness." Think of it! King of Righteousness.

Amanuwal Himself said: "There is none good but one, that is, Yahuwah" (Matt. 19:17). Human self-righteousness is, before Yahuwah, as filthy rags. None can be righteous but Yahuwah or one made righteous by Yahuwah's power - Amanuwal in a person! And certainly none but One of the Aluhym the divine Kingdom of Yahuwah could be King of Righteousness. Such an expression, applied to any but Yahuwah, would be blasphemous. Why?

Righteousness is obedience to Yahuwah's Law. Since Yahuwah made all laws (James 4:12), He is Supreme Ruler or King. He determines what righteousness is. "All thy commandments are righteousness" (Psalm 119:172). When speaking of one of the points of that Law, Amanuwal placed Himself superior to it. He is Sovereign of the Sabbath (Mark 2:28). No man is Master or King over Yahuwah's Law. Only Yahuwah could be! All human beings have sinned and broken that Law of righteousness (Romans 3:23).

To continue with Hebrews 7. Note, too, that this man was King of peace. "Salem" from which Jerusalem was named means "peace." And remember, Amanuwal is called the Prince of peace! No human being could be King of Peace. Men know not the way of peace. Read Romans 3:10 and 17: "There is none righteous, no, not one.... And the way of peace have they not known."

Observe further: Melchizedec was "without mother, without father, without descent," or as the Phillips translation renders it: "He had no father or mother and no family tree." He was not born as human beings are. He was without father and mother. This does not mean that Melchizedek's records of birth were lost. Without such records human priests could not serve (Ezra 2:62). But here Melchizedec had no genealogy. He must not have been an ordinary mortal. He had no descent or pedigree from another, but was self-existent. Notice Paul's own inspired interpretation of this fact: "Having neither beginning of days, nor end of life" (Heb. 7:3). Therefore He has always existed from eternity! He was not even created, like angels. But He is now eternally self-

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existing. And that is true only of YAHUWAH deity, not humanity!

## **Not the Father Nor the Ruwach Ha'Kadosh**

Yet Melchizedec cannot be Yahuwah the Father. He was the "priest of that Most High Yahuwah." Scripture says no man has ever seen the Father (John 1:18, 5:37), but Abraham saw Melchizedec. He cannot be Yahuwah the Father, but rather, "made like unto the Son of Yahuwah; abideth a priest continually" (Heb. 7:3).

And there it is! In the days of Abraham, He was not the Son of Yahuwah, for He had not yet been born of the virgin Mariam but He was made like unto the Son of Yahuwah in His manifestation to the ancients.

Notice again: Melchizedec, this scripture reveals, abides that is, remains permanently, continually, a priest. Yahuwah the Father is not the Priest of Yahuwah, but Ha'Mashyach the Son is! Yet, in the days when the Apostle Paul lived and wrote, shortly after Amanuwal ascended to heaven as High Priest, the scripture states that even then Melchizedec "abideth" which means does now abide "a priest continually." The Moffatt translation states it: "continues to be priest permanently" even while Amanuwal Ha'Mashyach is High Priest!

And notice that the order of Ha'Mashyach's Priesthood is named after Melchizedec. It is the High Priest's name that is placed upon an order just as Aaron's name was upon the Aaronic priesthood. Thus Melchizedec was then High Priest, in Paul's day, and even now, and He will rule forever! And at the same time Amanuwal was, is today, and shall be forever High Priest!

Are there two High Priests'? No! Impossible! The conclusion is inescapable. Contrary to many cherished man-thought-out ideas, Melchizedec and Amanuwal are one and the same! Some people have stumbled on the statement that Melchizedec has no "end of life." They contend that since Ha'Mashyach died, He had an end of life! If that be true then Amanuwal is still dead! But Ha'Mashyach is not dead. He is alive. It was not possible for Amanuwal to be held by death (Acts 2:24). Melchizedec would never have fulfilled His office of High Priest if He had not died for the sins of the people and risen again. It is the function of the High Priest to lead the way to salvation.

Indeed, Amanuwal Ha'Mashyach is the author and finisher of our salvation (Heb. 5:9; 12:2). He is "called of Yahuwah a high priest after the order of Melchizedec" (Heb. 5:10).

And no wonder. Melchizedec and Ha'Mashyach are one and the same Person!