

Grace Q&A 10

with

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**1) How does Melchizedek
fit into the Trinity?**

- ✓ **Melchizedek is not a part of the Trinity. He was a priest in the time of Abraham and a type of Jesus our great High priest because:**
- ✓ **His name means 'king of righteousness' and he was the king of Salem (peace). See Heb.7:2**
- ✓ **He was *'...without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, remains a priest continually' (Heb.7:3).***
'You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek' (Psa.110:4; Heb.7:17)
- ✓ **His priesthood is superior to Levi. He blessed Abraham, and Abraham gave tithes to him**

Unlike the Levitical priests, Christ didn't need to offer sacrifices for His own sins, and He only offered one sacrifice for all sin forever

'But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood. Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself'

(Heb.7:24-27)

**2) What is universalism/inclusionism
and why is it heresy?**

***Inclusionism teaches that all have already been reconciled to God through the work of Christ on the cross based on '*God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself*' (2 Cor.5:19)**

***But this means that God reached out to the world through the Cross and has made a way for us to be reconciled to Him**

***In the same passage he refers to the gospel message as '*...the word of reconciliation...*' (2 Cor.5:19), and to evangelism as '*...the ministry of reconciliation*' (2 Cor.5:18)**

***God sends us with the gospel as a call to receive the reconciliation: '*Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God*' (2 Cor.5:20)**

The apostles never preached that everyone is already forgiven and reconciled to God. They always urged their listeners to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation. E.g.

'To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins'
(Acts 10:43)

'...to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me'
(Acts 26:18)

***Until a person believes the gospel they remain in a state of enmity towards God (See Eph.2:1-3)**

***In fact, about 150 times in the NT we read that a person is saved, justified, has eternal life etc. only by believing in Jesus. Until they do so they are 'condemned already' E.g. *'He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God... He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him'* (John 3:18, 36)**

***Therefore, inclusionism/universalism is a very dangerous and misleading teaching. It is, in fact, another gospel**

3) When we pray, does it make a difference to whom we address our prayer? Do we pray to God the Father, or do we pray to God the Father in the name of Jesus, or can we pray to Jesus?

***Jesus taught us to pray to the Father** *'In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven...'* (Matt.6:9)

***We pray through the Son** *'And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it'* (Jn.14:13-14). *'And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you'* (Jn.16:23)

***We pray in the Spirit** *'But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit...'* (Jude 20)
'... praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit...' (Eph.6:18)

4) For almost 2 years we have lived in a world of change with the pandemic. There is strife and separation between families, politicians, and everywhere between humans. Separation is not from God!

We feel, that the vaccination agenda is not helping and therefore we are very opposed to a mandatory vaccination

Do you have a scriptural opinion about the current events and the so called 'last days' and how we should behave as Christians?

- ✓ **My view concerning the situation created by Covid19 is that it is not the end of the world, but the beginning of the end**
- ✓ **Every nation has been greatly impacted by the pandemic and the world will probably never return to what it was before**
- ✓ **There seems to be no end in sight with fresh outbreaks and new variants**
- ✓ **The virus has led to many other problems such as mental health, economic stress, confusion, division, etc.**
- ✓ **The world is very volatile and this is seen in protests and unrest in many nations**

How should we respond?

- ✓ Do not be distracted from our calling
- ✓ Do not become divided over issues like conspiracy theories, mandatory vaccinations, etc.
- ✓ Do not be distressed. We know things will become worse as we approach the end, but we also know God is in control and our future is glorious

5) Who is authorized to baptize another person. Can any Christian do that? Male or female? Or does someone need a special calling or standing in order to baptize someone?

- ✓ **Any believer can baptize another believer**
- ✓ **Paul was aware that people might claim a superior baptism because of the person who baptised them, and so was careful not to baptise many, ' I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, lest anyone should say that I had baptized in my own name. Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas. Besides, I do not know whether I baptized any other' (1 Cor.1:14-16)**
- ✓ **In Christ there is neither male nor female so both men and women can baptize**

6) In the Old Testament, it was common that angels appeared to humans, as Lot walked into Sodom & Gomorrah they knew, that Lot came with angels – nothing surprised them

Somehow these appearances are less mentioned later on, between Malachi and Jesus there was a period of 400 years with no new Word or encounter with God. And then it was normal for Mary that an angel came and spoke to her about the conception and birth of Jesus

What is it like today? Do we have encounters with angels also today or has that become less?

Have you ever had an encounter with angels?

- ✓ **There are over 375 references to the appearances of God's angels in the Bible**
- ✓ **They appeared to someone in 34 of the 66 Books of the Bible**
- ✓ **The Devil and his angels are mentioned 300 times in the Bible**
- ✓ **At least 116 references to these are found in the Gospels alone – more frequently than we see the words 'love', 'gospel', 'peace' or 'repent'**
- ✓ **Only 4 of the N.T. books do not have a reference to Satan or his angels**

- ✓ **None of those visited by angels were seeking a visitation**
- ✓ **We should beware of those who say they have received extra-biblical revelation from angels. Many cults started this way**
- ✓ **Through Jesus we have a special connection to angels. *'But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels' (Heb.12:22). 'For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross' (Col.1:19-20). '...you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power' (Col.2:10)***

- ✓ **Angels are always present but rarely visible.**
'Do not let your mouth cause your flesh to sin, nor say before the messenger of God that it was an error' (**Ecc.5:6**)
- ✓ **They protect us (e.g. Daniel, Peter).** *'The angel of the LORD encamps all around those who fear Him, and delivers them'* (**Psa.34:7**).
(**Ex.23:20**). **Psa.91:11-12**
- ✓ **They strengthen and encourage us. Jesus in temptations and Gethsemane. Elijah.** *'For there stood by me this night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve, saying, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must be brought before Caesar; and indeed God has granted you all those who sail with you'* (**Acts 27:23-24**)

- ✓ **I believe that Christians can still encounter angels. Many have testified to this and their testimonies seem credible**
- ✓ **Remember, no one in the Bible who saw an angel was looking for this experience, or expecting it**
- ✓ **As far as I am aware I have not seen angel**