

# Seeing Only Jesus

## 6) Abraham and the Mysterious Melchizedek

**Four Great Patriarchs  
(Chapters 12-50)**

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graph TD; A["Four Great Patriarchs  
(Chapters 12-50)"] --- B["ABRAHAM  
(12:1-25:18)"]; A --- C["ISAAC  
(25:19-26:35)"]; A --- D["JACOB  
(27:1-36:43)"]; A --- E["JOSEPH  
(37:1-50:26)"];
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**ABRAHAM**  
(12:1-25:18)

**ISAAC**  
(25:19-26:35)

**JACOB**  
(27:1-36:43)

**JOSEPH**  
(37:1-50:26)

***'And the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley), after his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him. Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High. And he blessed him and said: "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; and blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand." And he gave him a tithe of all. Now the king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give me the persons, and take the goods for yourself." But Abram said to the king of Sodom, "I have raised my hand to the Lord, God Most High, the Possessor of heaven and earth, that I will take nothing, from a thread to a sandal strap, and that I will not take anything that is yours, lest you should say, "I have made Abram rich"'***

**(Gen.14:17-23)**

- ✓ **The King's Valley was the Valley of Kidron, just outside of Jerusalem. It separated the Mount of Olives from the city**
- ✓ **Melchizedek met him with bread and wine and blessed Abraham in the name of El Elyon**
- ✓ **Then Abraham gave tithes to him**
- ✓ **The King of Sodom wanted to give Abraham everything, acknowledging he had gotten the victory. Abraham gave the glory to God by giving the tithe to Melchizedek and honouring his vow to God. *'Honor the Lord with your possessions, and with the firstfruits of all your increase'* (Prov.3:8-9)**

- ✓ **Jesus is our High Priest after the order of Melchizedek**
- ✓ **This is His heavenly ministry**
- ✓ **A high priest represents the people. If the high priest fails, God rejects the people. If the high priest is accepted, the people are accepted. Every blessing comes through our High Priest**
- ✓ **This is the central theme of Hebrews, but it is a difficult subject to explain, not because of its depth but because of the spiritual condition of those the writer is addressing**
- ✓ **God appointed Jesus as our High Priest so that our eternal salvation is assured**

***'So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him: "You are My Son, today I have begotten You."  
As He also says in another place: "You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek"; who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear, though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him, called by God as High Priest "according to the order of Melchizedek," of whom we have much to say, and hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing'***

**(Heb.5:5-11)**

**□ Jesus replaced the Levitical priesthood with that foreshadowed by Melchizedek**

*'He who is the high priest among his brethren, on whose head the anointing oil was poured and who is consecrated to wear the garments, shall not uncover his head nor tear his clothes'*  
**(Lev.21:10)**

*'And Moses said to Aaron, and to Eleazar and Ithamar, his sons, "Do not uncover your heads nor tear your clothes, lest you die, and wrath come upon all the people"'* **(Lev.10:6)**

*'Then the high priest tore his clothes, saying, "He has spoken blasphemy! What further need do we have of witnesses? Look, now you have heard His blasphemy!"'* **(Matt.26:65)**

## **□The tunic of Jesus was not torn**

***'Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took His garments and made four parts, to each soldier a part, and also the tunic. Now the tunic was without seam, woven from the top in one piece. They said therefore among themselves, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be," that the Scripture might be fulfilled which says: 'They divided My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots.'" Therefore the soldiers did these things' (Jn.19:23-24)***

**Instead, the veil in the temple was torn**

□ *'Melchizedek...being translated "king of righteousness," and then also king of Salem, meaning "king of peace," 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.7:1-3)**

*'Consider how great this man was'*

**(Heb.7:4)**

**If we grasp the greatness of Melchizedek it will help us to comprehend the greatness of Christ, our High Priest**

**□ 'Therefore, if perfection were through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need was there that another priest should rise according to the order of Melchizedek, and not be called according to the order of Aaron?'**

**(Heb.7:11)**

- ✓ **Perfection was never obtainable through the Levitical priesthood because it never took away sin, it never purged the conscience, it never transformed a person's life**
- ✓ **Two words for another: *allos* - another of the same kind; *heteros* - another of a different kind. The second meaning used here. The first was law-based; the second was life-based**

- ✓ **The law that brought in the old priesthood was powerless, 'For on the one hand there is an annulling of the former commandment because of its weakness and unprofitableness, for the law made nothing perfect; on the other hand, there is the bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God' (Heb.7:18-19)**
- ✓ **When the priesthood of Aaron gave way to that of Melchizedek, the law which supported it, gave way to a new principle, '...in the likeness of Melchizedek, there arises another priest who has come, not according to the law of a fleshly commandment, but according to the power of an endless life' (Heb.7:15-16)**

**□ *'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'***

**(Heb.7:25)**

***Who does He save completely?***

***Those who draw near to God through Him***

***Why does He save completely?***

***Because He always lives to make intercession for  
US***

- ✓ **The new priesthood is also superior because it was confirmed by an oath. Aaron was inaugurated by the Word of God only because his priesthood was temporary. Jesus was inaugurated by the Word *and* the oath of God, *'And inasmuch as He was not made priest without an oath (for they have become priests without an oath, but He with an oath by Him who said to Him: "The Lord has sworn and will not relent, 'You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek"'') by so much more Jesus has become a surety of a better covenant' (Heb.7:20-22)***
- ✓ **Jesus himself is the Surety of God's oath. In the old covenant the people did the undertaking; in the new covenant Jesus does the undertaking**

- ✓ **Christ, our High Priest after the order of Melchizedek, has secured for us: first righteousness, then peace, resulting in access with boldness into God's presence and and grace to save us to the uttermost**
- ✓ ***'For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham. Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted' (Heb.2:16-18)***

**□ 'Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need'**

**(Heb.4:14-16)**

**He was tempted in all points like we are, yet without sin, so He can sympathize with us**

**Therefore, we can come boldly to the throne of grace to obtain mercy and find grace to help**

***'So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate'***

**(Gen.3:6)**

***'Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever'***

**( 1 John 2:15-17)**

- ✓ **In Hebrews 5 we read that as a Son He learned obedience by the things He suffered. With Calvary in view, He 'offered up' prayers and supplications to the Father with 'strong crying and tears'. This prayer concerned His death for our sin which He knew that the Father could save Him from, and He cried earnestly that the Father would do so**
- ✓ **Though the Father heard Him, He did not deliver Him but gave Him the strength to endure, (Lk.22:43). In this way He was 'perfected' as our High Priest, and can sympathize with us and give us grace in our time of need when we come to God through Him**

## □ Summary

- ✓ **We do not have earthly priests, but a heavenly priest after the order of Melchizedek**
- ✓ **This priesthood is not based on law, but on endless divine life**
- ✓ **Our Great High Priest is both King and Priest**
- ✓ **Jesus Himself guarantees this priesthood forever**
- ✓ **Jesus can give us grace for all our needs because He was tested in all points as we are**