

GENESIS: Where Grace Begins

A Tale of Two Kings

Genesis 14

EVENTS OF GENESIS 14

- 1) A war with the king of Sodom and his allies (Gen. 14:1-11)
- 2) Lot is taken captive in the war (Gen. 14:12)
- 3) Abram rescues Lot from captivity, and is victorious in war (Gen. 14:13-16)
- 4) A tale of two kings (Gen. 14:17-24)

WHO WAS MELCHIZEDEK?

Four common interpretations:

- 1) He was simply a respected king of Salem who we don't know much about.
- 2) The name *Melchizedek* was a standing title for all kings of Salem.
- 3) Melchizedek was a *type* of Christ (a *type* is an Old Testament event or teaching that is so closely related to what Christ did that it illustrates a lesson about Christ).
- 4) Melchizedek was the appearance on earth of the pre-incarnate Christ in a temporary bodily form. ("Christophany")

Melchizedek in Genesis 14

- Melchizedek was king of Salem, the future Jerusalem. (Gen. 14:18)
- Melchizedek was a "priest of God Most High." (Gen. 14:18)
- Melchizedek blessed Abram. (Gen. 14:19)
- Melchizedek was blessed by Abram with a tithe. (Gen. 14:20)
- Melchizedek's name literally means "king of righteousness."

Melchizedek in Psalm 110

- "The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind, 'You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.'" - Psalm 110:4

Melchizedek in Hebrews 5-7

- Hebrews 5:5-6 and 6:20 calls Jesus "a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek."
- Hebrews 7:4 reminds us Abraham paid tithes to Melchizedek.

- Hebrews 7:6 tells us Melchizedek was not of the priestly line of Levi.
- Hebrews 7:7 tells us Melchizedek is superior to Abraham.
- Hebrews 7:8 tells us it's testified that Melchizedek lives.
- Hebrews 7:9-10 tells us Levi paid tithes to Melchizedek through Abraham.
- Hebrews 7:11-28 compares Melchizedek to Jesus.

Conclusion about Melchizedek

- Melchizedek was not a _____.
- Melchizedek was a _____.
- Melchizedek is the earliest biblical example of a person who was both _____ and _____.
- Melchizedek was king and priest of both _____ and _____.

JESUS AS PRIEST (AND KING)

Jesus' priesthood is greater than the Levitical priesthood because:

1) Jesus is from a better _____

“For the one of whom these things are spoken belonged to another tribe, from which no one has ever served at the altar. For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, and in connection with that tribe Moses said nothing about priests.” - Hebrews 7:13-14

2) Jesus intercedes _____

“For it is witnessed of him, ‘You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek.’”
– Hebrews 7:17

“The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office, but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.” - Hebrews 7:23-25

3) Jesus' priesthood is _____

“And it was not without an oath. For those who formerly became priests were made such without an oath, but this one was made a priest with an oath by the one who said to him: ‘The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind, ‘You are a priest forever.’” - Hebrews 7:20-21

“This makes Jesus the guarantor of a better covenant.” – Hebrews 7:22

4) Jesus is a _____ priest

“For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself. For the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.” – Hebrews 7:26-28