


Identifying Melchizedek

Q/A: Sunnyside Church of Christ

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Introduction:

1) Who is Melchizedek? Was he a mere man? Was he a Canaanite priest? Was he the Son of God in a pre-incarnate form?

2) We will look at several scriptures and we shall see that the most plausible choice is that Melchizedek is the Son of God

Discussion:

- Genesis 14:18-20
This is the first place where we read of Melchizedek. It is an encounter with Abraham after Abraham battled other kings and delivered Lot.
 - Melchizedek is king (of Salem. . .peace). Jerusalem at this time was inhabited by idolatrous Jebusites who were not purged from city until David's reign (Gen. 15:18-21; Joshua conquered the king of the Jebusites, but they were unable to drive them out of Jerusalem, see Josh. 12:7-10, cf. 15:63; Jud. 3:5; 1 Chron. 11:4-8). It doesn't seem that Melchizedek was king of Jebus, a city filled with idolaters, but of the spiritual Salem/Jerusalem.
 - Melchizedek is priest. We see him bringing "bread and wine," which seems to have significance when attached to a "priest." It makes the Bible student think of the elements of the Lord's Supper that our Priest, Jesus ordained. **Some may rebut and say that Jesus was not a priest until after he died and ascended. But he is called a priest in Melchizedek's order 1000 years before he came (see Ps. 110:4).**
 - True, Jesus accomplished the work to become our high priest after he died (Heb. 6:20). But consider two parallel truths:
 - Jesus is said to have been begotten as the Son of God when he was raised from the dead (Acts 13:33). Yet, he was in reality the Son of God before he died and was raised (Prov. 30:4).
 - Jesus is said to have become higher than the heavens (Heb. 7:26). Yet, his deity was always higher than the heavens as he is the creator of the heavens (Col. 1:16; Jn. 17:5; Ps. 113:4)
 - He blessed Abraham. . .Abraham gave him a tenth of all he had.
- Hebrews 7:1-3

- The Holy Spirit reflects upon Genesis 14:18-20 and gives extra commentary on Melchizedek.
- Note the qualities of Melchizedek:
 - *king of righteousness*
 - *king of peace*
 - *without father* (human) – The Lord’s deity is without human father.
 - *without mother* (human) – The Lord’s deity is without human mother; His humanity is by mother.
 - *without genealogy* (no human ancestors)
 - *no beginning of days* (cf. Mic. 5:2)
 - *no end of life* (Rev. 1:18)
 - *but made like the Son of God*. Sometimes people use this as evidence he was not the Son of God, but made like the Son of God.
 - First of all, Melchizedek was not “made” in that sense seeing that he had no beginning or end . . . he is eternal!
 - The proper understanding is that his appearance in the Old Testament is like the appearance in the Son of God in the New Testament (cf. similar expression: Dan. 3:25)
 - Incidentally, regardless of how you approach the subject of Melchizedek, you will find here in Heb. 7:1-3 an absolute and irrefutable statement declaring the deity of Jesus. If Melchizedek is like the Son of God and Melchizedek is without beginning of days and end of life, the J.W. doctrine that Jesus was a created being is hereby bombed out!
 - *remains a priest continually* – now think about it! If Melchizedek is not the Son of God, then we currently have two priests working today, Melchizedek and Christ! Further, we have more than three persons in the Godhead. We should be teaching that there is the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit and Melchizedek as Melchizedek certainly has traits of divinity?

Conclusion:

- 1) We submit these things that you might “consider how great this man was” (Heb. 7:4).
- 2) The most plausible understanding is that Melchizedek was the pre-incarnate Christ. Such scenes should not be foreign to Bible students (cf. Dan. 3:25; Gen. 18:1-2; Josh. 5:13-15).