

MELCHIZEDEK BLESSES ABRAHAM

Golden Text

“And he blessed Abram, saying, Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth” (Gn 14:19).

Useful Practice

The blessing of Melchizedek was not limited to Abraham, but it reaches all those who receive Jesus Christ as eternal priest.

Scripture Reading

Genesis 14:12-20

12 - They also carried off Abram's nephew Lot and his possessions, since he was living in Sodom.

13 A man who had escaped came and reported this to Abram the Hebrew. Now Abram was living near the great trees of Mamre the Amorite, a brother of Eshkol and Aner, all of whom were allied with Abram.

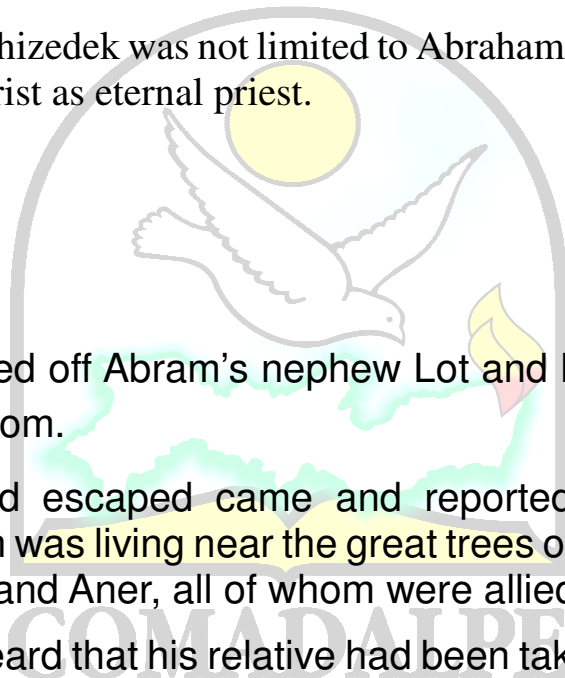
14 - When Abram heard that his relative had been taken captive, he called out the 318 trained men born in his household and went in pursuit as far as Dan.

15 - During the night Abram divided his men to attack them and he routed them, pursuing them as far as Hobah, north of Damascus.

16 - He recovered all the goods and brought back his relative Lot and his possessions, together with the women and the other people.

17 - After Abram returned from defeating Kedorlaomer and the kings allied with him, the king of Sodom came out to meet him in the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley).

18 - Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High,



19 - and he blessed Abram, saying, "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth.

20 - And praise be to God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand." Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

General objective

To know that the blessing of Melchizedek was not limited to Abraham, but it reaches all those who by faith received Jesus as Savior

Specific objectives

- I. To know** about Melchizedek as king of Salem;
- II. To analyze** the life of Abraham as a Gentile;
- III. To show** that Melchizedek blesses the patriarch when he brings bread and wine to Abraham.

Introduction

The story of Melchizedek is so short that the sacred writer was able to tell it in just three verses (Genesis 14:18-20). By the way, the mysterious man did not even have a biography. We only know that he was king of Salem and priest of God Most High. If the story is short, the theology is long. The importance of Melchizedek is made complete with the incarnation of Christ that, from Calvary, has exercised his priesthood with the Father. The king of Salem comes into play, when he comes out to meet Abraham, who was coming off a hard-fought battle to free Lot, his nephew. And there in ancient Jerusalem, the patriarch blesses the entire Israeli nation. This blessing also includes you.

I. MELCHIZEDEK, KING OF SALEM

1. King of Jerusalem. The old Salem, whose name in Hebrew means peace, is identified with the current Jerusalem. The aim of this kingdom was to promote peace through divine justice, since the name of Melchizedek brings this glorious meaning: King of righteousness (Heb 7:2). Therefore, his function was to spread God's knowledge throughout

that region because Israel did not yet exist as the priestly and prophetic people of the Lord.

2. Priest of God Most High. Melchizedek was the first character in sacred history to receive the title of priest. Of course, from the beginning, there were priestly actions. An example of this is Able's offering to the Lord (Gen 4:4). In the biblical text, he is identified as a priest of the Most High God (Gen. 14:18). Unlike Aaron's position, whose continuity was assured by heredity, that of Melchizedek is eternal. With one offering his ministry became complete. Yes, with the death of Christ we were guaranteed eternal redemption before God (Heb 7:23-28).

3. Figure of Jesus. As the Son of man, Jesus has a genealogy that, in Matthew, dates back to Abraham (Matthew 1:1,2), and, in Luke, it gets to God Himself (Luke 3:38). But as the Son of God, He is eternal: he has no genealogy (John 1:1-3). In this sense, Melchizedek is a perfect figure of Christ (Heb 7:1-6). This does not mean that Melchizedek was eternal, or a pre-incarnation of Jesus Christ. What the sacred writer says is that this character, in spite of his importance, does not have a written biography. Moses was inspired not to record his parents' names, age, origin, or the day of his death.

II. ABRAHAM, THE GENTILE

1. The father of the Hebrew nation. God needed a nation, through which he could redeem mankind, as he had told Adam and Eve (Gen. 3:15). This nation would have to come from the lineage of Shem, the eldest son of Noah (Gen. 9:26,27). And, as we all know, Abraham was Semitic. His choice became evident by an unshakable faith in God (Rom 4:3). Through him all the nations of the earth would be blessed with the proclamation of the Gospel of Christ (Gen. 12:3). After all, Jesus according to the flesh, came from the seed of Abraham (Mt 1:1). The mission of the Hebrew family was, therefore, to testify to the world about love, justice and God's Word (Rom 9:4,5). In spite of the apparent failure by Israel, its mission was fully accomplished, because salvation came to us through the Jews (John 4:22).

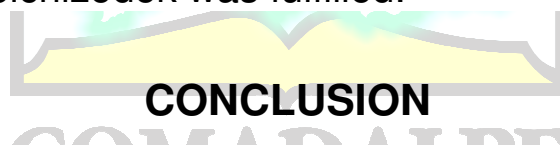
2. The father of believers. When called by God, the Gentile Abraham believed and, without delay, accepted his order. Immediately he was justified (Gen. 15:6). From that moment on, he began to be seen by the Lord as if he had never committed any fault: a just and perfect man. Anyway, a friend of God (Isaiah 41:8). For this reason, all who believe in God, like Abraham, are considered to be his children in the faith (Gal 3:7).

III. THE TIME OF THE BLESSING

1. The purpose of the visit. After a victory so decisive, Abraham, already in the vicinity of Salem, thanks God for being welcomed by Melchizedek. The greater receives the lesser (Hb 7:7). The patriarch knew very well that he was before the priest of God Most High. So he reveres him with the tithes of his personal property and not of the spoils of war, as he refused to receive them (Genesis 14:20). True worship and service toward God. What an example for us!

2. Melchizedek's authority. Through Abraham, the entire Hebrew nation revered Melchizedek, even the priests of the tribe of Levi, who had not even been born (Heb 7:9). Now if the Levitical priesthood was temporary, that of Melchizedek could not be interrupted by death, because it is forever. In fact, a priesthood that would be exercised by Christ (Psalm 110:4).

3. The symbolism of the visit. When Melchizedek brings bread and wine to Abraham, he blesses him, "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. And praise be to God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand" (Genesis 14:19, 20). What could result in a loss to the patriarch becomes a moment of triumph. His little army dispersed the powerful forces of Chedorlaomer. In the bread and wine that Melchizedek brought to Abraham was the symbolism of the death of Jesus Christ, the unblemished Lamb. Later, the Son of God would serve a similar meal to his disciples (Mt 26:26-30). With the death of the Son of God the priesthood of Melchizedek was fulfilled.



Through Abraham, all we who believe in Christ have been reached by the blessing of Melchizedek. Today, we have the Lord Jesus who, with the Father, intercedes for us, as the apostle John writes: "My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world" (1 John 2:1,2).