



MELCHIZEDEK, THE KING OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

GOLDEN TEXT

“For it is declared: “You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.”(Heb. 7:17)

USEFUL PRACTICE

The priesthood of Christ is higher than all priesthoods, for He is the perfect and eternal High Priest.

SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 14:18-20; Hebrews 7:1-7, 17

Genesis 14:18-20

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.

Hebrews 7:1-7,17

1 - This Melchizedek was king of Salem and priest of God Most High. He met Abraham returning from the defeat of the kings and blessed him,

2 - and Abraham gave him a tenth of everything. First, the name Melchizedek means “king of righteousness”; then also, “king of Salem” means “king of peace.”



3 - Without father or mother, without genealogy, without beginning of days or end of life, resembling the Son of God, he remains a priest forever.

4 - Just think how great he was: Even the patriarch Abraham gave him a tenth of the plunder!

5 - Now the law requires the descendants of Levi who become priests to collect a tenth from the people—that is, from their fellow Israelites—even though they also are descended from Abraham.

6 - This man, however, did not trace his descent from Levi, yet he collected a tenth from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises.

7 - And without doubt the lesser is blessed by the greater.

17 - For it is declared: "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek."

GENERAL OBJECTIVE

To present some lessons about Melchizedek's profile, as king of righteousness.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- **To explain** who Melchizedek was;
- **To show** lessons of Melchizedek's character;
- **To reflect** on Melchizedek's priesthood.

INTRODUCTION

Melchizedek is an enigmatic character in biblical history. But he was a true worshiper in the midst of an idolatrous and corrupt people. He played the role of a king and priest, without being part of the lineage of Israel. "Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High."(Gen. 14:18). His priestly order, with peculiar aspects, became a type of the priesthood of Christ, who, in all things, is higher than all priestly orders.



I- WHO MELCHIZEDEK WAS.

1. A mysterious character.

Melchizedek appears in the historical Bible scenario in an unexpected and even mysterious way. He is mentioned a few times in the biblical text, which makes him more enigmatic. His name, in Hebrew, is *malkisedeq*, or "king of righteousness" or "my king is righteous". The account of Genesis 14 reports that he was the "king of Salem" (king of peace), a Canaanite priest-king.

The author of Hebrews says that he was "without father or mother, without genealogy, without beginning of days or end of life, but resembling the Son of God, he remains a priest forever" (Heb. 7:3).

2. Where it appears in the Bible.

Melchizedek appears in the biblical history when Abram returned from a perilous journey in which he had saved his nephew, Lot, who had been taken prisoner with his whole family, when the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah, where the patriarch dwelt, were defeated by a confederation of four kings, led by Chedorlaomer king of Elam (Gen. 14: 1-13). It was the first war recorded in the Bible. Abraham went to war with 318 servants, born in his house, defeated the invaders and liberated Lot and his family.

3. Characteristics of Melchizedek.

He had special qualities. His generous attitude shows that he recognized that such a victory, with a smaller number of fighters, could only be the result of God's blessing on Abram.

A) He was king of Salem. "Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine [...]" (Gen. 14:18).

B) He was a "priest of God Most High" - El Elyon - (Gen. 14:18b); According to Gardner, "Melchizedek knew God from a tradition that spread after the Flood or from a supernatural revelation. He realized that Abraham served the same God." The fact is that he believed in God and served him, because he was a priest "of God Most High." (in a free translation).

C) He blessed Abram.

As a priest, he blessed Abram by saying, "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, the Creator of heaven and the earth. And praise be God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hands." (Gen 14:19, 20).



D) Abram gave Melchizedek a tenth.

"Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything" (Gen. 14:20b). Here is the first biblical reference to tithing, centuries before the Law, which included tithing as a mandatory precept for Israel (Num. 18: 21-24; Deut. 14:23; Malachi 3:10). Abram understood that because he had been blessed by the priest of God Most High, he should be grateful to God for the blessing of victory. Tithing is more about gratitude than obligation.

II - LESSONS FROM THE CHARACTER OF MELCHIZEDEK

1. A righteous character.

"King of Righteousness" It is the first translation of his name. Melchizedek stood out for being a just man who practiced righteousness. His name matches his character. His attitudes stemmed from his unblemished and holy character, hence his moral and spiritual greatness. The Bible says about him: "Just think how great he was: Even the patriarch Abraham gave him a tenth of the plunder!" (Heb. 7:4).

2. A peaceful character.

The quoted text says that besides being "King of righteousness", Melchizedek was also "king of Salem, which means king of peace" (Heb. 7c). He was "priest of God Most High" (*El Elyon*), and also king of a city called Salem. Certainly, Melchizedek was a peaceful man and also ruled over a city whose name means "peace." We Christians have a moral and spiritual duty to promote peace, firstly, in our homes; then, in the church environment, in the fraternal, ministerial and ecclesiastical relationship, and also with people outside our environment.

III- IN THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK

1. A new priesthood.

In the book of Hebrews, it is seen that there was a need for a change of the Levitical priesthood into a higher one. "If perfection could have been attained through the Levitical priesthood—and indeed the law given to the people established that priesthood—why was there still need for another priest to come, one in the order of Melchizedek, not in the order of Aaron?" (Heb 7:11). This way, we Christians are under the priesthood of Christ, in which we are all considered real priests with a very high mission



(1 Peter 2:9). Therefore, in our behavior, we must conduct ourselves in such a way that the name of the Lord be glorified.

2. Jesus Christ, the perfect priesthood. This "other priest," who would be raised up, is our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom it was said, "The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind: "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek" (Psalm 110:4). It was a prophetic and messianic message that pointed to Christ through David. This "order of Melchizedek" was not recognized by the Jews, who only accepted and recognized the "order of Aaron" or the "Levitical one". In Hebrews, the writer refers to the prophetic message of David concerning Christ by saying, "In the same way, Christ did not take on himself the glory of becoming a high priest. But God said to him, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father." And he says in another place, "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek." (Hebrews 5: 5,6).

3. The order of Melchizedek. The expression "in the order of Melchizedek" is typological (Heb. 7:15). Jesus did not belong to the tribe of Levi. Therefore, he would not be ordained a priest according to the Law. He belonged to the tribe of Judah. "He of whom these things are said belonged to a different tribe, and no one from that tribe has ever served at the altar. For it is clear that our Lord descended from Judah, and in regard to that tribe Moses said nothing about priests" (Heb. 7:13,14). But the priesthood of Christ is greater than Aaron's (Hebrews 5: 6; 7: 7); it was an everlasting priesthood (Hebrews 5:6); With these characteristics, Jesus is greater than Levi, Aaron, Abraham, and all his Levite descendants (Heb. 7: 6-10).

CONCLUSION

The Bible records the story of men who played an important role in history. Melchizedek was one of these characters. He appeared unexpectedly and disappeared in the same way. But his priesthood became a type of the priesthood of Christ, holy, perfect, and eternal. Melchizedek died, though no one knows when and how. Christ also died, but on the third day he rose and lives forever. "For it is declared: "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek" (Heb. 7:17).