

# Hebrews 7:1-10

## Melchizedek – priest of God Most High



## Important background information

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).



Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High, and he blessed Abram, saying, "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. And blessed be God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand." Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything. Genesis 14:18-20

# Melchizedek

There are only 4 verses referring to Melchizedek in the entire Old Testament whereas Abram/Abraham is named 213 times in the Old and 76 times in the New Testament!

And yet in the context, he appears as someone “higher up the spiritual ladder” than Abraham.

Something interesting and unusual is going on!

# Melchizedek

It appears to be a title as well as his actual name.

Cf. Joshua 10:1 - Adoni-Zedek (lord of righteousness!!!)

Other titles - Pharaoh

Abimelech king of Gerar - Genesis 20:2

Queen Candace of Ethiopia

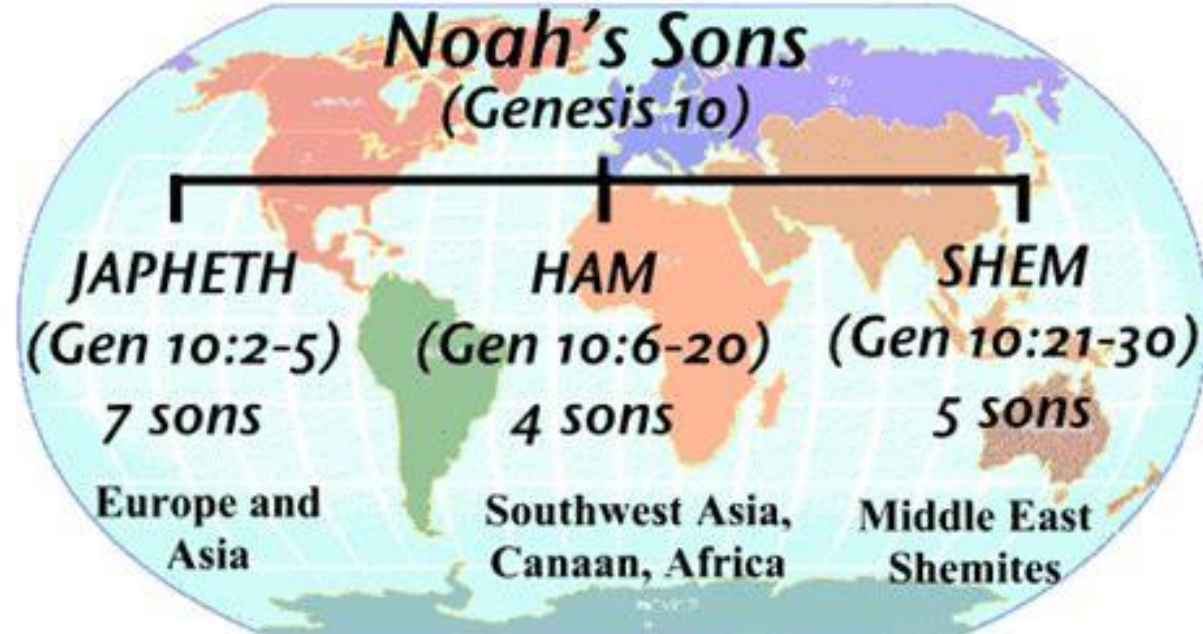
Acts 8:27 an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means "queen of the Ethiopians").

## Melchizedek

There is no reference to his ancestry

(genealogies are generally only with reference to Abraham – Israel – Messiah)

*Some have suggested he was Shem (still alive in Abraham's day after flood)*



Most unlikely – wrong area, Abraham would have visited before now

But he still carries the spiritual line – vs. Abram's father and grandfather

king of Salem

King = Head of the city

Alternative name for the Jebusite city of Jerusalem



Some have suggested it was a town near Shechem in central Canaan – but it is unlikely



He brought out bread and wine.



Middle eastern hospitality – refreshment for the returning guests.  
This isn't about “communion”

He was priest of God Most High,



The combined role of King-Priest was not allowed in Israel  
- until Jesus!



He was priest of God Most High,

Not just any old priest for any old god

One of God's names appears  
here for the first time  
as does the word 'priest'

**El Elyon**

versus

Melchizedek had a unique role

Caananite gods!



and he blessed Abram



The Priest's role - not just a warm greeting

saying, "Blessed be Abram by God Most High,

Calling for God's blessing on Abram



God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth.

The one true God – the creator of all

Cf. sailors' response to Jonah's answer

Ch1:9-10, So he said to them, "I am a Hebrew; and I fear the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land." Then the men were exceedingly afraid,



And blessed be God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand."



Worship and recognition of God giving  
Abram the victory

Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

Tithe – gift expressing thanks to God  
from his property and share in the plunder



In Hebrews chapter 7 we see some amazing principles of the interpretation of Scripture under the guidance of the Holy Spirit



## Hebrews 7:1-10

### Melchizedek – priest of God Most High

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, and Abraham gave him a tenth of everything. First, his name means "king of righteousness"; then also, "king of Salem" means "king of peace." Without father or mother, without genealogy, without beginning of days or end of life, like the Son of God he remains a priest forever. Just think how great he was.. Even the patriarch Abraham gave him a tenth of the plunder! Now the law requires the descendants of Levi who become priests to collect a tenth from the people--that is, their brothers--even though their brothers are descended from Abraham.



This man, however, did not trace his descent from Levi, yet he collected a tenth from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises. And without doubt the lesser person is blessed by the greater. In the one case, the tenth is collected by men who die; but in the other case, by him who is declared to be living. One might even say that Levi, who collects the tenth, paid the tenth through Abraham, because when Melchizedek met Abraham, Levi was still in the body of his ancestor.



# What's in a name?

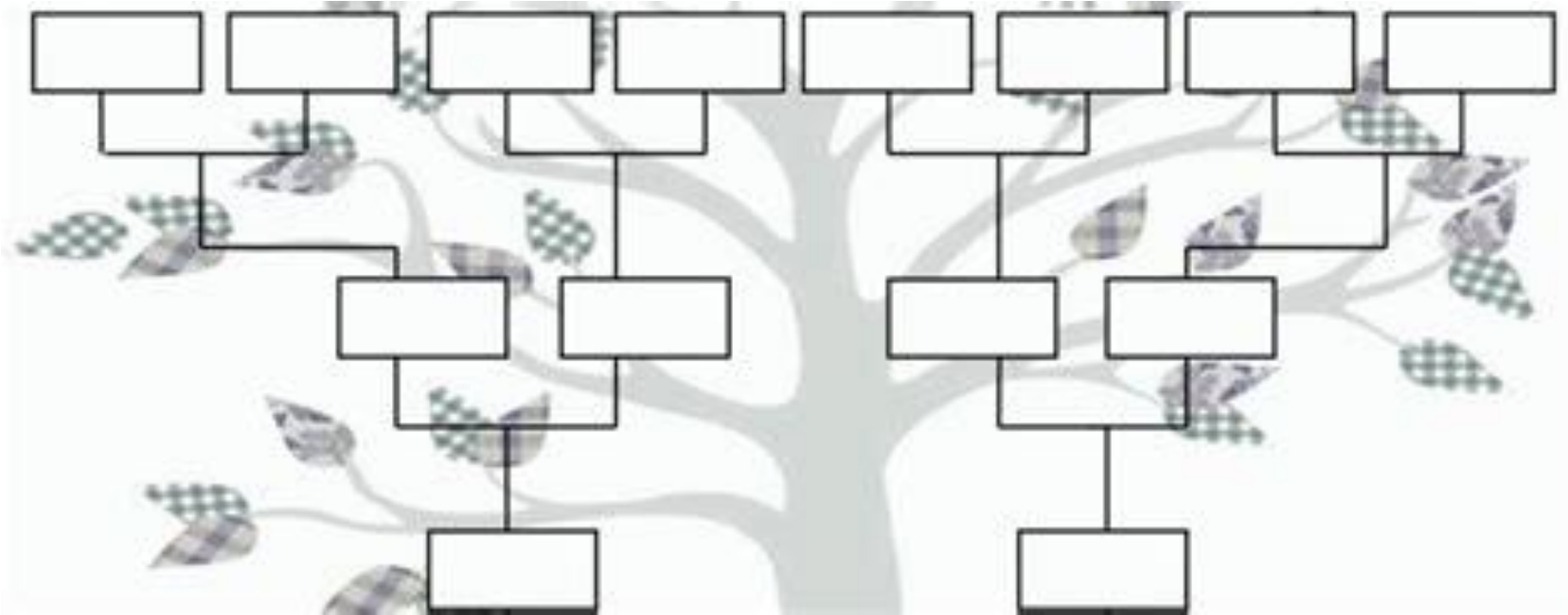
First, his name means "king of righteousness"; then also, "king of Salem" means "king of peace."

In the Bible names usually have significant (sometimes – prophetic) meaning

Here we have the linking of righteousness and peace in him

Psalm 85:10 Love and faithfulness meet together;  
righteousness and peace kiss each other.

Without father or mother, without genealogy,



The writer infers that the reason the Scripture leaves out these details for this important person is significant

without beginning of days or end of life,



Again, the absence of these details point to the eternal nature of his work



like the Son of God he remains a priest forever.

**A** is like **B**

**like** the Son of God

– this means that this wasn't a pre-incarnation  
appearance of Jesus

Jesus' priesthood is eternal

And we will see Melchizedek one day too

Just think how great he was..

Something to seriously consider about Melchizedek



## 2 examples of Melchizedek's “superiority” above Abraham

Even the patriarch Abraham gave him a tenth of the plunder!



1. The tithe given recognises that the ‘rank’ of the priest is higher

1. The tithe given recognises the 'rank' of the priest is higher – but Melchizedek's priesthood is superior to the later Levitical

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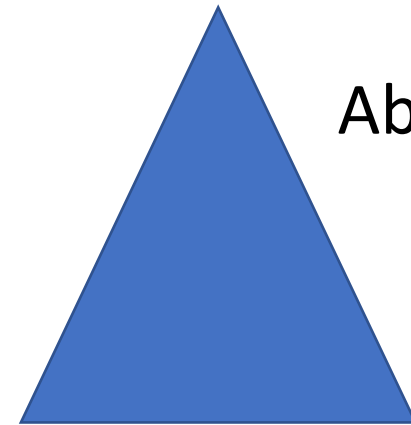
In the one case, the tenth is collected by men who die; but in the other case, by him who is declared to be living.

*(This is an introduction to a later argument in the letter)*

One might even say that Levi, who collects the tenth, paid the tenth through Abraham, because when Melchizedek met Abraham, Levi was still in the body of his ancestor.

This is a further inference of the superiority of the order of Melchizedek's priesthood

Melchizedek



Abraham

Levi



## 2 examples of Melchizedek's “superiority” above Abraham

he collected a tenth from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises. And without doubt the lesser person is blessed by the greater.

2. Melchizedek blessed Abraham.



Melchizedek is like (a type of) Jesus  
according to the Messianic reference in Psalm 110

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

Jesus' role as the King-Priest is superior and eternal.