

THE PRIESTHOOD OF MELCHIZEDEK, PART 1:  
WHAT WE KNOW  
(Hebrews 7:1-3)

- I. Introduction: Background summary of the Levitical Priesthood
  - A. Priesthood was HEREDITARY
  - B. Priests could not RULE, but were SUBJECTS of the KING
  - C. Priestly EFFECT was only TEMPORARY
  - D. Priestly SERVICE was only TEMPORARY
- II. Melchizedek's INTRODUCTION (Heb. 7:1*a*; Gen. 14:18)
  - A. Identified as KING of SALEM (cf. Josh. 10:1)
    - 1. RULED a HISTORIC city
    - 2. Probably JERUSALEM, but not especially RELEVANT
  - B. Identified as PRIEST of "the MOST HIGH GOD," whom he calls "POSSESSOR of HEAVEN and EARTH" (cf. Gen. 14:22)
    - 1. Emphasizes God's UNIVERSAL DEITY
    - 2. Indicates Melchizedek's UNIVERSAL PRIESTHOOD
- III. Melchizedek's MEETING with ABRAHAM (Heb. 7:1*b*-2*a*; Gen. 14:19-20)
  - A. Occurred following a GREAT TRIUMPH
  - B. Pronounced a BLESSING upon ABRAHAM

- C. Received TITHES from ABRAHAM
- IV. Melchizedek's CHARACTERIZATION (Heb. 7:2b-3)
- A. Name means "KING of RIGHTEOUSNESS"
  - B. Regency means "KING of PEACE"
  - C. A person "without FATHER, ... MOTHER, ... or GENEALOGY"
    - 1. His priesthood INDEPENDENT of LINEAGE
    - 2. Therefore, his priesthood neither INHERITED nor BEQUEATHED
  - D. Had neither "BEGINNING of days nor END of life"
    - 1. Possibly an ETERNAL BEING
    - 2. Possibly a FIGURE of ETERNITY
  - E. Was "MADE LIKE the Son of God" in his PERPETUAL priesthood
- V. Melchizedek's NATURE
- A. If Hebrews 7:3 is (mostly) LITERAL
    - 1. May have been an ANGELIC BEING (Dan. 10:13, 20)
    - 2. May have been a THEOPHANY of CHRIST
  - B. If Hebrews 7:3 is (mostly) FIGURATIVE, may have been a HUMAN as a TYPE of Christ (Num. 21:8 with John 3:14; John 1:29 with Rev. 5:6, etc.)
    - 1. A "type" is REAL and HISTORICAL
    - 2. A "type" is IMPERFECT and TEMPORARY
    - 3. A "type" is PREDICTIVE of an "anti-type" to come
    - 4. A "type" is PICTORIAL/PRE-FIGURATIVE of the "anti-type"