The Mystery of Melchizedek's Order
Heb 7:1-17
May 28, 2023

1. Why some things are harder than others in our Bible study.
2. Why the Bible tells us things that are challenging to understand.
3. Are all the Scriptures for us and applicable to us? Rom 15:4; 2 Tim 3:16-17

Earlier mentions of Melchizedek: Heb 5:5-6; 9-10; 6:20

What we don't know…

- We don't know where he came from.
- We don't know his parents.
- We don't know when he died, or if he died!
- We don't know how he got his job or why he got his job.
- We don't really know why he is mentioned in Gen 14; Ps 110 or here in Heb.

Hebrews 7:1–3

How can he be a king and a priest? There was a clear division: priests were from the tribe of Levi (and within that, more specifically, from the family of Aaron); kings were from the tribe of Judah. How is this like Jesus?

Things we know about Melchizedek…

- King of Salem
- Priest of the Most High God
- Met Abraham
- Blessed Abraham
- Received from Abraham a tithe
- King of Righteousness
- King of Peace (Salem).
- He 'resembles' Jesus.
- He is a priest 'forever'.

Jesus and Melchizedek were both kings and priests.

- Melek:
- Zedek:

Genesis 14:18–20 What do we learn from this passage about Abraham and Melchizedek?

Hebrews 7:4–7

How is Melchizedek a type of Christ? What are some other ways people interpret this?

Much is revealed of this mystery in the last part of Gen 14. see 14:22-24

- What just happened? Summarize your observations:

- How significant is it that Abraham saw Melchizedek before the king of Sodom?

Hebrews 7:13–17

Wrap up from one commentator: *This section asserts unequivocally that the death and resurrection of Jesus has introduced a new and permanent priesthood that brings the Levitical priesthood to an end and, with it, the demise of the law of Moses. It is important to note in verses 11–12 that the law was originally given to support the priesthood, not the other way around. The priesthood and the tabernacle with its sacrifices were the means God employed to render the sinful people acceptable to himself. They constituted the shadow of Jesus in the Old Testament.*

So the answer to our mystery is that Melchizedek was a man. He appeared as a priest who was greater than Abraham, from whom all of Israel would come and all priests. He was a type or a foreshadow of Jesus, as High Priest. All bow down before Jesus!

When we encounter Jesus on the way, we avoid foolish deals with the enemy!

Applications:

1. It is okay to work hard at Bible study. Reading is great, digging in is worth the work.
2. Ask for help.
3. Encounter Jesus and be ready for what's coming your way!