

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS

MAY 25, 2022

GENESIS 14:18-24

INTRODUCTION:

1. Abram pursued the kings who had kidnapped Lot and *“brought back his brother Lot and his goods, as well as the women and the people”* (Gen. 14.16; 1 John 5.4)
2. His victory over the four kings prompted the king of Sodom to honor Abram. (Gen. 14.17)
3. Genesis 14.18-24 introduces a well-known yet unknown king named Melchizedek.

I. THE IDENTITY OF MELCHIZEDEK

- A. Melchizedek was a king.
 1. **GENESIS 14.18:** *“Then Melchizedek king of Salem”*
 - a) Salem (shalem): “peace” Israelite greeting, shalom.
 - b) Salem was later known as the as Jerusalem conquered by David. (2 Sam. 5.6,7)
 2. **HEBREWS 7.2:** *“king of righteousness”* (Heb. 7.2)
 - a) Malek: Hebrew for “king”
 - b) Saddiq: Hebrew for “righteousness”
- B. Melchizedek was a priest.
 1. **GENESIS 14.18:** *“Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High.”* (First mention of a priest)
 2. How did Melchizedek become the *“priest of God Most High”*? (Heb. 5.1-4; 7.1-3)
 - a) **HEBREWS 5.4:** *“no one takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God”*
 - b) **HEBREWS 7.3:** *“without father, without mother, without genealogy”* Likely a reference to a kingship which was not inherited. (cf. 2 Kings 1.17)
 3. **GENESIS 14.19,20:** *“And he gave him a tenth of all”* A tenth of all his spoils.

II. CHRIST: THE LIKENESS OF MELCHIZEDEK

- A. **HEBREWS 7.4:** *“Now consider how great this man was”*
 1. Abraham paid tithes to Melchizedek. (Heb. 7.1)
 - a) The Israelites paid tithes to the Levitical Priesthood according to the Law of Moses. (Heb. 7.5; Num. 18.21; Neh. 10.37)
 - b) **HEBREWS 7.5:** *“though they have come from the loins of Abraham”*
 2. Melchizedek, who was *“not derived from them,”* received tithes from Abraham who *“had the promises”* (Heb. 7.6,7)
 3. Through Abraham, the Levites paid tithes to Melchizedek. (Heb. 7.8-10)
- B. **HEBREWS 5.6:** *“As He also says in another place: ‘You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek’”* (cf. Ps. 110.4; Heb. 6.20). Why?
 1. **HEBREWS 7.11:** Perfection was not accomplished through the Law. (Heb. 10.1-4)
 2. **HEBREWS 7.12:** A change in order requires a change in Law.
 - a) One can only serve as high priest if he was of the lineage of Aaron. (Ex. 29.44)
 - b) Only those of the tribe of Levi could serve as priests. (Deut. 21.5)
 - c) But Jesus is from the tribe of Judah. (Heb. 7.13,14)
- C. Christ: One who came in the likeness of Melchizedek. (Heb. 7.15,16)
 1. Like Melchizedek, Christ is our King.
 - a) He is the king of peace. (Eph. 2.14-18; Rom. 5.1)
 - b) He is the king of righteousness. (1 John 2.1; Rom. 5.17-19)
 2. Like Melchizedek, Christ is our High Priest.
 - a) **HEBREWS 5.2:** He is a sympathizing High Priest. (Heb. 4.15)
 - b) **HEBREWS 5.4-6:** He was appointed as priest by God.
 - c) **HEBREWS 5.7-11:** He offered Himself as a sacrifice.