



# MELCHIZEDEK.....

## “THE PRIEST OF GOD MOST HIGH”

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**The character of Melchizedek is surrounded by many great mysteries.** Who Melchizedek actually was has often been the topic for speculation. Was he simply an ordinary man, or an historical king, or a priest of God over the City of Salem, or was Melchizedek one of the Lord Jesus Christ’s appearances in the Old Testament (as He appeared to Abram with the two angels, to Jacob and to the three men in the burning fiery furnace)? The word “Melchizedek” means the king of righteousness and/or the king of peace.

**Melchizedek was a descendant of Shem, the son of Noah.** Noah instructed his sons Shem, Ham and Japheth to bring Adam’s remains with them to place in the Ark. Years later, prior to Noah’s death, he asked his sons to bring Melchizedek (his great grandson) and together they would all bury Adam’s remains in the “middle of the earth.” He also instructed them to keep Melchizedek single, pure and in virginity all his life. He asked Melchizedek neither to offer animal sacrifices nor to shave his head. Noah knew that Melchizedek was to become a Priest of God the Most High.

**After Noah’s death, Shem took his grandson, Melchizedek and secretly, they took Adam’s remains.** An angel appeared and guided them to where they should bury Adam’s remains and they called that place Golgotha. Here, Shem asked Melchizedek to stay and serve God.

**Melchizedek remained in the nearby forest worshipping God.** When the kings of the

surrounding areas heard of him they came to present gifts and offerings, as they knew he was a man of God. When Melchizedek refused to accept their gifts, they built him an altar on top of Adam’s tomb. The kings also built a city called Shalom (which means peace) and they appointed him king and priest. The name of the city was later changed to Jerusalem, meaning “the light of peace.”

**Melchizedek was the priest who blessed our father Abram** after he attacked Chedoraoamer the king of Elam. Melchizedek offered bread and wine as the priest of God and blessed Abram saying “Blessed be Abram of God Most High, possessor of heaven and earth; and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hands.” (Gen 14: 18-20)



*Melchizedek*

**It was clear in the Book of Hebrews, chapter seven, that Melchizedek was older than Abram, therefore St. Paul thought that he resembled the Lord Jesus Christ for the following reasons:**

1) Offering of bread and wine: The priesthood in the New Testament, which is for the Lord Jesus Christ, offers bread and wine not animal sacrifices as during the priesthood of Aaron. Aaron was a priest for the symbol, but the Lord Jesus Christ stopped the way offerings were done in the Old Testament and instead, He gave us His own flesh and blood through bread and wine as Melchizedek did.

2) Inheritance less priesthood:



The priesthood of the Lord Jesus Christ was not through inheritance. The Lord Jesus descended from the tribe of Judah and not from the tribe of Levi. We see that all the Lord Jesus' apostles and priests of the New Testament did not inherit priesthood. Therefore St Paul said "Without a father, without a mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, remains a priest continually." (Hebrews 7:3)

3) King of Peace: Jesus is the King of Peace as Prophet Isaiah said. "That is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them." (2 Corinthians 5: 19).

He is the King of Peace who gives us Peace beyond our imagination and understanding. "Peace I leave with you, My Peace I give to you, and not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." (John 14:27).

Melchizedek was a king over the City of Salem and was a priest who blessed whomever came to him.

4) The offering of alms: God asked us to offer the tens of everything we own, He said "Bring all alms to the treasury so there will be food in My house and try Me." In the New Testament, God asked us for our hearts when He said "You shall love The Lord with all your heart (Matthew 22: 30)" Our hearts are the tens of our spiritual lives. As for materials, He asked us to give as much as we can, even more than the tens as He said 'He who has two of clothes or food is to give to who has not.' Melchizedek did the same when he blessed our father Abram. Abram gave him the tens of all his belongings (Genesis 14: 20) that was long before the Lord Jesus Christ commandment that the alms are given to God and not to anyone else. Therefore St. Paul said that Melchizedek was the picture of the Lord Christ "

Now consider how great this man was, to whom even the patriarch gave a tenth of the spoils. And indeed those who are of the sons of Levi who receive the priesthood, have a commandment to receive tithes from the people according to the law, that is, from their brethren though they have come from the loins of Abram, but he whose genealogy is not derived from them received tithes from Abram and blessed him who had the promises." (Hebrews 7: 4-6).

5) The Golgotha Mountain: Our Lord, Jesus Christ was crucified and died on the cross. He shed His pure blood over Golgotha and reached and purified Adam's remains, which were buried there. Melchizedek lived as a worshiper and priest on that mountain. He buried his great grandfather and lived there until he himself died.

6) His Majesty: The Lord Jesus Christ is greater than Abram because He is God who created Abram. The Lord Jesus said "Your father Abram rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it was glad" and He also said "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abram was I AM." (John 8: 56 -58). Melchizedek was older, greater and higher than Abram. Therefore Abram submitted and was blessed by him "Now beyond all contradiction the lesser is blessed by the better" (Hebrews 7:7).

**As a result, the church maintained this tradition** and always in her praise prayers asks Melchizedek's intercession. In many of our hymns to His Holiness the Pope and the Bishops during the Divine Liturgy, we recite the hymn of "Masavet" and also after the reading of the Psalms, the deacon rejoices saying "You are the priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek."

May the blessings of the great saint Melchizedek, the Priest of God the Most High be with all of us. Amen