

Genesis 14: Melchizedek: A Promised Messiah

Jesus is our King and High Priest

Section 1: 14:1-16 – Abram saves Lot: Jesus saves eternally

This is the second story involving Abram and Lot. Lot is in trouble and Abram saves him. Again, Lot's poor choices have placed him in a place where he needed to be rescued. And again, Abram's reliance upon the Word of God has placed him in a place where he can faithfully serve God.

Discussion Questions

- ❖ Why is our ability to glorify God so connected to our obedience to the Word of God?
- ❖ How are you preparing yourself to glorify God with every aspect of your life?

Section 2: 14:17-24 Melchizedek pointing us to Jesus

The interaction between Abram and Melchizedek has delighted and intrigued theologians for centuries. There is so much pointing us to Jesus in the person of Melchizedek.

But before we get into that we are first going to draw a distinction between the king of Sodom and the king of Salem. The king of Sodom came out empty handed to Abram wanting something. By contrast the king of Salem brought out things to Abram and gave a blessing.

This contrast between the king of Sodom and the king of Salem enlightens us on the difference between man's approach to salvation and God's approach to salvation.

The king of Sodom asked to meet with Abram wanted everything from him but brought nothing of value to the table. That is a picture of works-based salvation. The king of Sodom thought he earned everything...when in reality he had earned nothing. Religion after religion approaches God this way. They think they've earned something yet they've earned nothing but judgement. We will see later that the king of Sodom will be completely destroyed by the wrath of God. Thus, all those that come to God on their own terms will experience the wrath of God.

On the other hand, the king of Salem points us to Jesus and the gospel. Abram wasn't looking for the king or knew anything of him. Yet the king of Salem knew and came to Abram. The gospel teaches us that God came to us (John 1:1-5)...we didn't go after God (Rom. 3:11). Jesus comes to us bringing salvation for us...not based on what we've done (1 Peter 1:18-19) but based upon His grace and mercy (Eph. 2:8-9).

Discussion Questions

- ❖ Why is there such a difference between God's approach to man and man's approach to God?
- ❖ What does John 1:1-5 teach us about Jesus?
- ❖ What does Romans 3:10-18 teach us about man?
- ❖ What does Ephesians 2:8-10 teach us about the grace of God?

Section 3: Melchizedek points us to Jesus

Psalm 110:4

Hebrews 5:5-6

Hebrews 6:19-20

Hebrews 7 – Jesus our King and High Priest

For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of God Most High, met Abraham and blessed him as he returned from defeating the kings, ² and Abraham gave him a tenth of everything. First, his name means king of righteousness, then also, king of Salem, meaning king of peace. ³ Without father, mother, or genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but resembling the Son of God, he remains a priest forever.

- King of Righteousness & Peace = Jesus is our righteousness (2 Cor. 5:21) and peace (Isaiah 9:6).
- Without genealogy & No beginning or end = Jesus is eternal
- Priest forever = Jesus is our eternal high priest
- Abraham was given a glimpse of Jesus in Melchizedek. Later, Abraham will be given a glimpse of Jesus on the mountain with the ram caught in the thicket.
 - o John 8:56 (CSB) - *Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day; he saw it and was glad.*

*¹⁵ And this becomes clearer if another priest like Melchizedek appears, ¹⁶ who did not become a priest based on a legal regulation about physical descent but based on the power of an indestructible life. ¹⁷ For it has been testified: **You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.***

*²⁰ None of this happened without an oath. For others became priests without an oath, ²¹ but he became a priest with an oath made by the one who said to him: **The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind, “You are a priest forever.”** ²² Because of this oath, Jesus has also become the guarantee of a better covenant.*

*²³ Now many have become Levitical priests, since they are prevented by death from remaining in office. ²⁴ But because he remains forever, he holds his priesthood permanently. ²⁵ **Therefore, he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, since he always lives to intercede for them.***

In Christ salvation is:

- Complete (Romans 10:9; 1 John 1:9)
 - o **he is able to save completely**
- Centered upon a relationship (John 15; Hebrews 8:10)
 - o **those who come to God**
- Limited (Matthew 7:13; John 14:6; Acts 4:12)
 - o **through Him,**
- Eternal (John 3:16; Revelation 3:5)
 - o **since he always lives to intercede for them.**

We Need Jesus

²⁶ For this is the kind of high priest we need: holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. ²⁷ He doesn't need to offer sacrifices every day, as high priests do—first for their own sins, then for those of the people. He did this once for all time when he offered himself. ²⁸ For the law appoints as high priests men who are weak, but the promise of the oath, which came after the law, appoints a Son, who has been perfected forever.

- No one is like Jesus. Jesus is unlike any other high priest that has ever or will ever be. No one can compare themselves to Jesus. Jesus was perfectly sinless because He was completely and perfectly God.
- Jesus has been eternally perfected because He is fully God. The doctrine of the Trinity is essential for our salvation. Without the Trinity and the deity of Christ there is no gospel.

Discussion Question

- ❖ Why is it so important to properly understand the gospel?
- ❖ How does your view of Jesus impact the gospel?