

...Who is made not after the law of a carnal commandment, but after the power of an endless life.

Heb 7:16

It's no mystery as to why human traditions stomp all over divine wisdom. Reality of a spiritual nature makes people uneasy and is especially dangerous to the comfortable illusions men have created. Truth is after all, very much the sword Christ said it was (**Matt 10:34 Rev 2:16**). In fact the truth barely stands a chance compared to personal and political philosophies that change on a whim. Our Lord clearly recognized what He was up against saying:

“You have thrown down the commandment of YHVH and replaced it with your own traditions”

Now there's a verse you won't see on anyone's car bumper. Despite having come out of Christ's own mouth (**Mark 7:9**) it's rarely heard anymore. Instead, we prefer our human tales since they seem benign, warm and even holy; yet eventually these lull us into forgetting the truth, even convincing us that the facts might have been a myth to begin with. Consider this: when something divine is replaced with a more palatable secular offering (like easter bunnies and santa claus), then it's best to assume that what survived historical and religious revision is neither innocent nor was it done in your best interest. What follows is a case in point.

Priesthood of One

Step back in time to the events of **Genesis 14**. A man named Abram alongside three-hundred and eighteen men rescued enslaved relatives from the grasp of tribal lords (**Gen 14:18-20**).

Abram, (later Abraham) followed his victory by tithing to a mysterious person known only as: **Melchizedek, King of Salem**. With the gift of his tithe, Abram received a blessing along with bread & wine*. This exchange of gifts was unusual since tithes were not then civil obligations nor was Abraham a subject to any king. Other kings were also present at this skirmish, though they received no tithe, aside from Sodom's ruler having recovered stolen possessions. Who was this "man" worthy of a tithe from Abraham, himself highly favored of the Lord? *Melchizedek King of Salem* itself is defined as "king of righteousness" right alongside "king of peace" (Salem, shiloh, shalom). That's right: "King of Righteousness, Prince of Peace" just as the apostle Paul understood it (**Heb. 7:1-2**). Genesis further mentions this mystery man as "a priest of the most High God". Pretty lofty title for a small city ruler. Odd too that this *man* worshipped **Elohim YHVH** as did Abram, in a region controlled by Egypt at a time when monotheism was practically non-existent. Most bizarre of all, mention of this individual is rarely heard within Christendom. Nonetheless, this truth deserves revelation, because it is crucial to completing a portrait of our Creator's power that is independent both of time and space.

Consider the points to follow, remembering to not attribute more authority to traditions of men than are due them. And do yourself a favor...**read all of Genesis 14 and Hebrews 7**.

*This foreshadowing of communion loomed long before such symbols were part of the eternal covenant. Even the tithe continues today. More interesting, this *Melchizedek king of Salem*, offered the implements of communion to a man *outwardly* no different from Gentiles, as he had not yet been circumcised nor was he yet sealed in a covenant. This amazing encounter foretold the ultimate covenant that was to supersede all others.

A word here: PAUL WAS A DOCTOR OF SCRIPTURAL LAW, A CITIZEN OF ROME, A HEBREW DESCENDANT OF THE BENJAMITE TRIBE HAVING TUTORED AT THE FEET OF ONE OF THE GREAT HEBREW TEACHERS (GAMALIEL). PAUL WAS THOROUGHLY FAMILIAR WITH HEBREW CULTURE, TRADITION AND SCRIPTURE. HE PERSONALLY SPOKE WITH CHRIST'S APOSTLES SINCE HE WAS THEIR CONTEMPORARY. ON THE OTHER HAND, THOSE SCHOLARS WHO SPECULATE ON MELCHIZEDEK'S IDENTITY LIVED LONG AFTER, HAVING LITTLE INTEREST IN ANYTHING OTHER THAN PROTECTING THEIR OWN RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS, CULTURE AND ACADEMIC POSTS. PAUL WAS THE PRINCIPAL AUTHOR OF THE NEW TESTAMENT FOR GOOD REASON: HE UNDERSTOOD THE COVENANT BETTER THAN ANYONE ALIVE. HIS WORDS REGARDING MELCHIZEDEK ARE SUPERIOR TO ANY WRITINGS THAT HAVE SINCE FOLLOWED.

#1 Anyone up for a game of genetics?

You might have read that this *Melchizedek* was merely a "just man", most likely the person of **Shem**, son of Noah since Shem was Abraham's contemporary. This belief persists, despite having *no* record listing Shem as a priest-king. Yet Paul wrote:

Heb 7:6-7 *But he (Melchizedek) whose descent is not counted from them received tithes of (from) Abraham, and blessed him (Abraham) that had the promises. (v.7) And without all contradiction the less (Abraham) is blessed of (by) the better (Melchizedek).*

Some scholars take the phrase “**whose descent is not counted from them**” as simply denoting that Melchizedek was not of the Levitical priesthood, (these Levites being Abraham's descendants). Yet on examining context, Paul in fact is stating that Melchizedek was not related to Abraham. Whether Melchizedek is an ancestor or whether He is kin to the Levites who were yet unborn is immaterial. Either Melchizedek and Abraham are kin or they aren't. Further, were Melchizedek related to Abraham as critics believe, then that would force Melchizedek's alleged human priesthood to take a back seat to Abraham since Abraham was the recipient of the promises and covenant - **not** Melchizedek. Instead, this *King of Salem* and His priesthood from all we read in scripture was *superior* to that of Abraham and of the Levitical priesthood that followed down the road. Paul explains:

”**The less (Abraham) is blessed of (by) the better (Melchizedek)**”...

Bear in mind: the Levitical Order was considered the apex of any human priesthood since the Hebrews alone worshiped *Elohim YHVH*. Therefore, in accordance with this belief, only a **divine** priesthood and a **perfect priest** could occupy a superior order to that of the Levitical priesthood - it couldn't be another Order inhabited by other, fallen humans. Paul's statements summarized =>

- a) There is no blood kinship between *Melchizedek, king of Salem* and Abraham, the holder of the promises, **and** according to scripture,
- b) It is **impossible** that another *human* priesthood could claim superiority over the Levitical Order; therefore Melchizedek's Order is supernatural and its High Priest is also - supernatural.

These two factors alone are devastating to the erroneous theory that Shem held the title of Melchizedek. The "Shem is Mel" argument is moot. One could stop right here and on the basis of what's written above, state that YHVH visited Abraham in His spiritual body using the title Melchizedek, King of Salem and be absolutely justified in that statement. There is more however...

#2 The Maker's many roles

In **Hebrews 7**, Paul stated: “This Melchisedec, King of Salem...by interpretation, (is the) King of Righteousness...King of Peace” **Heb 7:1-2** The phrase *by interpretation* has one intent...that this word Melchizedek, "King of Righteousness" inseparably linked with “King of Salem” (shalom, peace) is inherent to a *specific* person. Otherwise, Paul would have left the title alone. Yet he did not, as he wanted us to see beyond the words themselves. This inherent specificity is also linked to the word "Jesus". Mention this name and everyone knows exactly who you're talking about. Less obvious is that *by interpretation*, Jesus or Yeshua means "YHVH, the savior", and that "Jesus" was only the Lord's role while in the flesh - a name reflecting humility and His job as our kinsman redeemer. YHVH (meaning: I AM) wears many hats...Father, counselor, sovereign, creator, savior and yes, **King of Righteousness, Prince of Peace**.

Because this Melchizedek was a unique role, versus that of a mere title, as men and women often possess, Paul drove the point home by noting that Melchizedek was: **“Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life...”** **Heb 7:3**, showing that unlike the priestly Orders of flesh men, which relied on lineage, this priest's office was not passed on from father to son. Yet not, as commonly assumed, because he had no pedigree to list; rather, because he had no parents, having never been born. Now the critics believe this phrase “neither beginning of days, nor end of life” is a confession of ignorance by the Genesis writer for having failed to know this priest's age at the time he was ordained, or because his years of service were unknown. Yet the whole context of the Hebrews passage clearly shows Paul explaining an eternal priest and his priesthood, while contrasting it to carnal priesthoods inhabited by flesh men. Even the present-day reader on consulting a Greek concordance will be struck by the clarity of the phrase "...neither beginning of days, nor end of life". **Make no mistake**: Paul used this phrase to convey nothing less than a declaration of immortality.

Word games and fuzzy logic...

#3 Can't call something an idiom if the rules say it isn't one

Frankly, there are no examples of Paul's phrases *by interpretation* and *neither beginning of days, nor end of life* having been used as idioms. According to common sense and scholarship there must be a precedent in language for a phrase to qualify as an idiom. Accusations of Hellenistic (Greek) influence and attempts to elevate the Jewish midrash (traditions of men) as interpreters of these phrases fall by the wayside because there exists neither authority nor evidence in any source to support their claims.

Scholars also like to tout the existence of **Ebed Tob**, a ruler of Jerusalem and supposed successor to Melchizedek as an example of someone who also professed having no "roots" to gain his position. Yet it was Ebed Tob, the idolator who claimed it was by Egyptian favor that he gained his rule. Ebed Tob in fact appealed to an Egyptian ruler for help against an obscure ethnic group known as the "Habiru" yet *it's known that this event must have occurred much later than Melchizedek's day*; therefore, he couldn't have been Melchizedek's immediate successor. Also, the word salem was once assumed to derive from "Ur-Salim" (god of salim), but *there has never been any tablet evidence* mentioning this "god"; therefore, the idea has died out. The word salem is now known to be from the Semitic word "shalom" and "shiloh", words recognized by virtually all readers as meaning "peace".

4 Paul makes it clear - Melchizedek is one of the Lord's titles

If **Shem** held the title of *Melchizedek* - he being merely a "very righteous man" then one should know right away that scripture never compared Shem to that of God's son. **Paul states:**

Melchizedek is..."made like unto the Son of God, abiding a priest continually" (Heb 7:3).

Strong's Greek # 871 *apbomoioo*: "made like unto" is defined as a facsimile, or image of

Watch closely: In **Hebrews 7:15** a few verses down Paul continues:

Christ is ..."for that after the similitude of Melchizedek there arises another priest"

Question: How can person **A** be "made like unto" person **B**, yet person **B** is acting "after the similitude of" person **A** - unless they happen to be: **the same person.**

In addition, putting to rest another misunderstanding re: Hebrews 7:15

"...for that after the similitude of Melchisedec there arises another priest"

Does the word *another* throw the reader? "Another" here means different as in *form* vs. denoting someone else altogether. This timeless quality was emphasized in **Heb 7:8** where Paul noted:

"And here men that die receive tithes; but there he (Melchizedek) received them, of whom it is witnessed that he lives."

Paul's word is "lives" - not "lived" as in past tense. In all these verses, Paul is comparing the immortality of **Christ** to the immortal Order of *Melchizedek*, while contrasting the Levitical priesthood (mortal priests who receive tithes), to Melchizedek, who received tithes also, but "of whom it is witnessed that he lives". We know that Melchizedek's existence was witnessed by Abraham.

Think about it. Why would Paul contrast the death of other priests to the life of this *one* particular priest? Answer: because Melchizedek "abided a priest continually" **Heb 7:3**. The word *continually* expresses an unbroken period of service. The context both of Abraham's witness in **Genesis 14** and in Paul's understanding of that event as written in *Hebrews* reveal a person whose life and priesthood did not exist in the dimension of time as we understand it. **Melchizedek's Order** is described as *seamless* because **Elohim YHVH is continually found throughout time existing without interruption**. An Order that isn't continual would imply a beginning and naturally all that begins must end. Of course the Creator has neither beginning or end; therefore His Order most certainly would be described as continual.

The Priesthood and the Law

#5 The Lord didn't need ideas for His priesthood

One person consisted of the "Melchizedek Order", having no scriptural or historical evidence that another preceded or followed him. If the critics are right, and the Melchizedek Order was occupied by a flesh man, then it's odd that only one person started the Order, odd again that no flesh man continued it and oddest of all - that this priesthood of "one" was seen as superior to all others. Ponder this:

Question: Would God's only begotten Son have His Order patterned after – a sinner?

Answer: YHVH would not have His Son's Order patterned after a mortal Order; therefore, Melchizedek *can't* be a flesh man as scholars make him out to be.

In spite of these glaring facts, some strange thinking persists that our Creator somehow was "impressed" with this holy earthling who lived down yonder, so much so, that He decided to adopt the pattern of this lone man's priesthood making it His own, thereby transforming it into an eternal Order. It goes against all sense that a perfect Being would admire a spiritual office occupied by a fallen man; then, use that pattern to formulate His own Order, as though the Lord had run out of ideas and needed some help. The idea that our Lord would somehow scoop up a man-made pattern as His own comes straight out of pagan mythology and is contrary to all that we know about Him. This idea concerning a mortal Melchizedek reminds me of all those Greek and Roman myths describing quaint relationships between flawed gods taking cues from "their clever" mortals as told me from my school days.

#6 If a human priesthood is okay, then why wasn't Christ a Levitical priest?

Why shouldn't the only begotten Son of YHVH take on Aaron's priesthood, which was of a covenant and nation sanctified by Himself? Yet He did not. In fact, Paul pointed out this very thing in **Heb 7:11** =>

"If therefore perfection were by the Levitical priesthood, (for under it the people received the law,) what further need was there that another priest should rise after the order of Melchisedec, and not be called after the order of Aaron?"

The truth is, Christ couldn't take a carnal priesthood as He is already a High Priest in His own right of a priesthood and kingship not of this world. A carnal priesthood such as the Levitical one would not do. John the Baptist's life exemplified this very thing. Recall that John was a full-blooded descendant of Aaron, the High Priest, born six months prior to Jesus, his cousin. The Baptist's words: **"He must increase but I decrease"** (**John 3:30**), speaks of the Baptist's impending death, but as well revealing the truth behind the necessary demise of all that transpired before as represented by the Levitical or "law age". **The mortal priesthood wasn't to continue...it was to be replaced with a perfect Order.** John's purpose was twofold: usher out the old and become the forerunner of the One who represented the new.

#7 The law says “no way” to adopting a carnal priesthood

Simply put, *adopting a carnal priesthood is against the law* – against carnal law that is.

Under the law, Christ wasn't a full-blooded Levite. He was of the House of Judah, “of which no man ever gave attendance at the altar” (**Heb 7:13**) meaning, He couldn't adopt any earthly priesthood because his lineage would not permit it. His mother was part Levite, specifically descended from Aaron the High Priest due to Mary's relation to Elizabeth (the Baptist's mother); however since our Lord was only half-Levite, *under the law*, He had no claim to Aaron's priesthood. Interestingly too, Jesus of Nazareth could not have laid claim to a carnal kingship via Joseph's line even had He been Joseph's biological son. Recall that Joseph was King Jeconiah's descendant (**Matt 1:12**). According to Jeremiah's prophecy (**Jer 22:28-30**), none of Jeconiah's descendants was allowed to assume the kingship of Israel - ever. As Mary's child, Jesus could lay claim to David's lineage, but not to the earthly throne, since lineage was reckoned through the father. So on both sides, so far as law was concerned, our Lord was “blocked” from both the carnal priesthood and the carnal kingship. Of course, that posed no problem for Him, since His kingship and priesthood preceded all earthly institutions and His kingdom is yet to come (**John 18:36**).

Recall...Christ established David's House and Aaron's priesthood, not the other way around; His kingdom and priesthood preceded theirs. Our Lord made this very point as recorded three times in scripture: “Why do the scribes call Christ the son of David?... David...called Him Lord, how (is it possible) He can be his son?” (Matt 22:42-45, Mark 12:35-37, Luke 20:41-44).

Jesus was referring to **Psalm 110**, where David recognized the pre-existence of the Messiah in his own day, rightly calling Him Lord. **David directly linked Melchizedek to the Messiah.** David's words are astonishing in light of the fact that the Levitical priesthood was going strong in David's day.

“The LORD said to my Lord, Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies beneath your feet...The LORD has sworn, and will not go back on it: You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.”

This psalm authored by David, along with Paul's seventh chapter in Hebrews make it crystal clear that the Messiah and Melchizedek are directly linked, which can mean only one thing: Melchizedek's Order was divine and inhabited by a divine priest from the get-go. The remaining points will further illustrate this. What Christ's Priesthood boils down to...

#8 A Continual & non-transferable priesthood

Paul wrote of Christ: **“But this Man, because He continues forever, has an *unchangeable* priesthood” (Heb 7:24).** This word **unchangeable** is (#531 Strongs) *aparabatos*...not passing away, non-transferable, *not liable to pass on to a successor* (Brown/Driver/Briggs/Thayer's lexicon). Compare this to Paul's statement in **Heb 7:3** concerning Melchizedek...“*abides or remains a priest continually*”, where **continually** derives from Strong's #1336 *dienekes*, meaning...perpetually. All accounts indisputably show that Christ and Melchizedek alone share the same continual, non-transferable, perpetual priesthood, in contrast to those Orders occupied by humans. Others must sire new priests or recruit people if their Order is to continue.

#9 The Order of Melchizedek is a transformed priesthood

Here's the evidence that adopting a carnal priesthood would have violated divine law. Imagine for a moment Melchizedek as a flesh man. Being flesh, he would be a sinner as we are. Yet had he been part of the Lord's priesthood, then no prerequisites would be necessary for any other person to join the Lord's Order. Clearly, this couldn't work as it would completely obliterate the purpose of the Aaronic priesthood and the necessity of Christ as prophesied and fulfilled in scripture. Instead, the whole process evolved very differently.

Christ's own priesthood was instead transformed *to adopt us* so that we could qualify for divine benefits. For this reason we're called *adopted sons* (Gal 4:5). The Order was and is occupied solely by a Person possessing both a spiritual body with immortal soul, *and in turn this Order was transformed by that same person*, this one being He who always held the title *Melchizedek*. There is one key difference between Christ and Melchizedek. Christ as Melchizedek embodied both immortal spiritual body and immortal soul, devoid of the mortal element. The Lord, once born, enduring death and undergoing resurrection incorporated all three elements to link us to this cycle. Paul was describing a **SEA CHANGE** in the priesthood. This priest is the same Person - it was the priestly dimensions that changed. We still have only ONE high priest. Remember, even the apostles weren't ordained nor did they form a rigid hierarchy. In the centuries that followed the apostolic age, men invented an artificial system to provide "structure", i.e. gain control and power. Humans ordain themselves, but *Elohim YHVH* alone chooses His saints (John 15:15-19, other places) and too, His ministers of fire (Psalms 104:4).

Scholars try hard to dismiss this "Christ in the spirit" (Christophany), as phony, yet Paul, who lived during the apostolic age writes otherwise. Once this priest became flesh, He was resurrected to prove that even humans could be salvaged. To ascend back to His realm, He once more was transformed to an immortal body & soul. Keep in mind, even angels have never experienced flesh, resurrection and transformation. Recall, Paul noted (Heb 7:12) that since the priesthood changed, so too did the law (new covenant replacing the old). Keep in mind, this was all done to accommodate *you and me*.

#10 Nothing says that our God couldn't walk among us before He was made flesh

Scripture makes it clear that the ****Image of YHVH** Himself alongside two angels appeared before Abraham and Sarah, (Gen 18:1-3), and we know that this "man" who met Abraham to announce the soon-to-be conception of Isaac was the Lord Himself, because Christ is the "Image of the Invisible God" (Col 1:15), so what would be contrary to scripture to say that this Melchizedek was not the spiritual body manifestation of Christ? Paul all but said it. In fact he *did* say it. Is this refusal to see what is apparent all because the scholars are blinded by Jewish tradition, which fails to recognize Yeshua of Nazareth? Apparently so.

Scholars say the concept of Christ having visited here prior to his flesh advent "presents all sorts of problems". The problem actually lay with the anthropomorphic limitations that men place on their Creator. Time is ever with us, its constraints, the loss of the past, the fleeting present and the unknowable future. **But with the Lord, there is no past, present or future.** This means that He sees all in a moment and yet He is able to draw out each moment to a leisurely pace. He is present in all of time yet is not constrained by time. Peter showed that he understood this when he noted: "**With God a day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years is as one day**" (2 Pet 3:8). Therefore, what would prevent the Image of the Invisible God from appearing in His spirit body here at any time when in fact, all things with Him are real and in the same moment. It is the Lord who is the ultimate reality...not this world or our perception of it. The Lord made His pre-existence known:

"YOUR FATHER ABRAHAM REJOICED TO SEE MY DAY: AND HE SAW IT, AND WAS GLAD. THEN THE JEWS SAID TO HIM, YOU ARE NOT YET FIFTY YEARS OLD, HOW COULD YOU HAVE SEEN ABRAHAM? JESUS ANSWERED THEM, IN TRUTH, BEFORE ABRAHAM EXISTED, I AM".

John 8:56-58

“Melchizedek” merely winked at us for a moment in time then quickly left, allowing the eventual human throne and priesthood to take their place for a season. In all truth, had Melchizedek’s Order been earthly derived, then its appearance wouldn’t have been so fleeting. Its suddenness and rapid departure only to re-emerge much later is strongly reminiscent of the “hit and run” style common to angelic encounters with humans. The case rests solidly on the side of knowing exactly who this “man” was/is. Ultimately, the law both carnal and divine, plus *the straightforward words of Paul and David expose the fatal arguments of detractors*, while a careful evaluation of the scriptures and the overall plan reveal the truth of Melchizedek’s identity.

Scripture and YHVH's purpose come full circle when we reveal the truth and shed traditions regardless of their origin. The priesthood was always in place, perfect from before time transforming itself to accommodate and shepherd us into eternity.

****The Sopherim (scribes) out of reverence changed "YHVH" to "Adonai" in 134 passages throughout the bible. The Massorah lists them. Genesis 19:3 is one such passage. This subject is also referred to in E.W. Bullinger's *The Companion Bible*, appendix 32:**

<http://www.lewendwater.org/companion/append32.html>

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