

## 5 “Melchisedec and Jesus”

The name of Melchisedec conjures up many mysterious theories of this individual’s rank and origin. Some believe He was a myth, others claim He was a human king, and still others maintain the belief He was Jesus of the Old Testament. Are any of these theories based on fact? What role did Melchisedec play in the Old Testament and what role is He playing in our present age? An understanding of the true relationship between Jesus and Melchisedec opens the door to our own understanding of our true relationship with Melchisedec and our future destiny. The answer to the identity of Melchisedec and His relationship to Jesus, as well as us, are revealed in this chapter!

The central figure in the Christian faith for the past two thousand years has been Jesus. The name of Jesus Christ is the most recognized name in the Christian faith. It is from His name that the followers of His teachings derive their title of “Christian.” We are informed through scripture that there is no other path by which we can enter into the Kingdom of God except through Him as our savior (Acts 4:12). He is described as the “King of Kings” and the “Lord of Lords” for all eternity (Rev. 19:16). He is the “Prince of Peace” (Isa 9:6), our “Lord and Savior” (II Pet. 3:8), our hero, and our elder brother. All praise belongs to Him as the captain of our salvation (Heb.2:10). Therefore, we should look to Him as our guide and savior in reaching eternal life in God’s Kingdom! He was able to successfully encounter Satan “head on” and come out victorious!

We must all encounter and conquer deceit as Jesus did on the road to salvation. The future resurrection of all mankind will require everyone to achieve the same victory (Rev. 12:9). The whole world, from the Garden of Eden until now, has been immersed in confusion in regard to the purpose and plan of God for mankind. This deceit has worked its way down through history into every area of our lives to wreck havoc. Therefore, should it be a surprise to any of us that the pivotal role of Jesus, should also involve the element of deceit and confusion? Satan would not neglect the opportunity to blind us to some critical information on this vital subject of our salvation through Jesus Christ. The beginning step of exposing the deceit involving the role of Jesus in our salvation process lies in an understanding of the role of the individual known as Melchisedec (Gen. 14:18, Psa. 110:4, Heb. 5:6-10, 6:20, 7:1-21).

Jesus was destined to have a pivotal role as our savior in God's plan of salvation from the very beginning (Isa. 9:6)! The plan was actually laid out before the physical world we all know ever existed (John 1:1). There was a time many millions of years ago when the concept of creating man for the eventual entrance into the family of God was formulated for the first time. The original meaning of the term "word" in the book of John was the thought or plan of God (# 3056 in Strong's Concordance). This plan was brought into this world by God through Jesus' ministry almost two thousand years ago. The word "light" in John means a "revelation" (#5457 in Strong's Concordance). The plan of God was to be revealed by Jesus to mankind in the form of a New Covenant for the very first time! The exciting new element in that covenant message was that man would eventually have

eternal life as Priests in the Kingdom of God (Gen. 1:26). It was such a new concept that many rejected Jesus during His lifetime and accused Him of blasphemy (John 10:33)!

One of the most emphasized aspects of God throughout the Old Testament was that there was only one true God (Ex. 20:3). There was a strict prohibition against the worship of anything or anyone except that one God! The word “worship” means paying homage or worship to God (# 7812 in Strong’s Concordance). Mankind was only permitted to worship the one and only God. The originator of the marvelous plan of salvation for mankind revealed Himself to humanity in the Old Testament in the physical form of an individual known as Melchisedec. We are introduced in scripture to an individual called Melchisedec. He came on the scene in the Old Testament and also was referenced in the New Testament as someone who could be worshipped as a God. Melchisedec’s name means the “King of Right” or “Righteousness (Gen. 14:18). Melchisedec, who could be worshipped, had to be representing the Lord, High Priest, and the one and only God! Even Abraham, the father of the faithful, paid tithes and homage to this individual (Heb. 7:1-3). He was also described as having no beginning and no end in His existence. He also took on the name of Priest Melchisedec in the book of Hebrews. In this physical form of Melchisedec that Abraham encountered in the Old Testament, God was able to interact with Abraham and mankind in general on a personal physical basis. Through this physical form of Melchisedec, God was able to have a “hands on involvement” with the selection process of the 144,000 Kings (see chapter three). God was taking on a physical form of an individual known as Melchisedec as He interacted with mankind! He took on this physical form because mankind could not be in the actual presence of God and live

(Ex. 33:20). The God of the Old Testament known as Melchidedec would later take on an additional name of “Father” in the New Testament Covenant. No one in the Old Testament had a Father and son relationship with God because the Holy Spirit was not available to make them a “begotten Son” until the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4). God, in His physical role of Melchisedec, would work throughout the Old Testament Covenant era to establish a physical future government of 144,000 kings from the “House of Israel” to rule at the end of the one thousand year period following the seventh trumpet.

The terms “first Adam” and “second Adam” in the Bible are to designate the beginnings of the two groups of 144,000 in God’s plan (I Cor. 15:45). The first “Adam” appeared on the earth at the creation of the Garden of Eden on or near the end of the sixth day of the week (Gen. 1:27). It would be from this physical beginning of mankind that the selection of kings would begin. This selection process would continue until the end of the Old Testament Covenant. The second “Adam” appeared on the earth approximately two thousand years ago in the form of Jesus (Mat. 2:2). It would be from this spiritual beginning that the selection process of Priests would begin. This selection process will continue until the blowing of the seventh trumpet and the sealing of 144,000 Priests. The sealing of the 144,000 Kings was accomplished in the Old Testament Covenant (I Thes. 4:16-17). We are told that in Adam (physical) we all die, but in Jesus (spiritual) we all live (I Cor. 15:22, 45). Jesus’ journey to His salvation became the only path to salvation for everyone. When the plan for mankind was devised millions of years ago, there were many angels but only one God. Jesus was to be the first born among many brethren to have the opportunity of entering into God’s divine family. In referring to the future first

member of that family, God said, “I will raise someone up to be like me” (Deut. 18:15, Acts 3:22, Acts 7:37). Almost two thousand years ago that phase of the plan was enacted. Jesus came on the scene as the beginning individual of the Spiritual group of 144,000 Priests.

As the darkness of Satan’s deceit is cleared away, the real Jesus begins to immerge. Satan has successfully deceived the whole world on Jesus’ origin and His destiny (Rev. 12:9). Was Jesus a human when He walked on the earth as we are human? Did He feel physical pain and sorrow (Isa. 53:3)? How closely should we compare ourselves to His example in our pursuit of eternal life? It will be at His level of achievement that each of us will be measured. He set the “bar” of achievement required for entrance into the Kingdom that will never be lowered. We are admonished to walk in His footsteps on a daily basis (I Pet. 2:21). Jesus in His human existence on the earth refused to be called “good” (Mat. 19:17). He knew at that time of His physical existence that only the Father was at that level of perfection. Jesus had the pulls of human nature just as we do. Remember from chapter two that human nature is patterned after Satan’s mind. We are told that Jesus had like passions as we have today (Heb. 4:15). He also had to bring all obedience under subjection to God’s will (I Cor. 14:34). He was subject to the same requirements as we are today! His mind had to be filled with the “fruit of the Spirit” instead of the “works of the flesh.” We know from history that He was able to accomplish the task of converting His mind from physical to Spiritual (John 17:4). The Father was very pleased with Jesus’ growth and obedience toward Him leading up to the forty days of fasting in the wilderness (Luke 2:52). But, Satan was about to mount a major assault on His

commitment level! The first recorded major attack on Jesus personally from Satan was after the period of forty days of fasting in the wilderness. He was apparently given initial protection from birth from Satan' attacks until He was to begin His ministry. The Father worked closely with Jesus through the Holy Spirit to lead Him to a deep understanding of the plan of salvation just as He does with many today. The influence of God's Spirit working with Him resulted in scriptures coming alive to Him at an early age (Luke 2:49). He had the Spirit of God leading Him from birth to prepare Him for His role in the salvation of the many who would later be inducted into the Kingdom of God (John 3:34).

Jesus had to be exposed to the "learning environment" on the earth just as we are for training and growth (see chapter one). During this training period, He came to the point of understanding and acting upon God's plan of salvation for mankind. He also understood His role in the salvation of all mankind at a very early age (Luke 2:42). The finishing touches to this training period was applied as He went into a forty day fast in preparation for His encounter with Satan as the master test giver (Mat. 4:1-17).

Melchisedec (God in human form) was no doubt with Him for this period of preparation. These final touches of perfection were being applied for the masterpiece of God's creation, the first born Son! A similar test was given to Moses in the Old Testament. Moses failed the first test and had to take the test again (Ex. 31:18, 34:1). Jesus did not have the luxury of failing His initial test. He took the toughest test Satan could administer and passed with flying colors (Mat. 4:1-17). Was it possible that Jesus could have failed this important test? If it had not been possible, where would be the use of a test? Jesus

was the perfect student and became the captain of our salvation (Heb. 2:10). He learned obedience on this earth to God by the things He suffered just as we must learn (Heb. 5:8).

Jesus' triumph over Satan's temptations ushered in the beginning of His earthly ministry and a new age. It was the beginning of a New Covenant between God and man in the selection of 144,000 Priests. The Father announced that He was well pleased with His only begotten son as the first of many brethren (John 3:16). The "second Adam" was truly on the scene as our savior (I Cor. 15:45)! The physical Adam was created on or near the end of the sixth day of creation and there immediately followed a Sabbath of rest the next day. The Spiritual Adam (Jesus) came from God and will return to be King of Kings and Lord of Lords at the end of six thousand years of Satan's rule at the seventh trumpet and there will immediately follow a one thousand year Sabbath of rest for the earth (Rev. 20:5). We are told that "one day" is as a "thousand years" with God (II Peter 3:8) During His life-time on earth Jesus worked out His own salvation by obedience to God (Phil. 2:12). We must also work out our own salvation by following in His footsteps (I Pet. 2:21). We must clearly know the plan of God and be actively following it until the end of our lives (Mat. 10:22).

Jesus overcame Satan's influence in His mind and qualified to be the first born among many brethren (Rom. 8:29). He was able to replace the works of the flesh with the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:19-23). The "Mark of the Beast," Satan's mindset, has been an influence on mankind since the creation of man at the Garden of Eden. We must replace that mark by accepting the "Mark of God" in our lives (see chapter two). We are told that

by Jesus stripes we are healed (I Pet. 2:24). The word “stripes” should have been translated “mark” (# 3468 in Strong’s Concordance). Jesus had the “Mark of God.” If we want our minds spiritually healed and free from Satan’s influence, we must accept the same “Mark of God” as Jesus did. We must follow the plan God laid out for entrance into His Kingdom by making a true conversion in our thinking! Jesus as our elder brother and captain of our salvation blazed the trail for us (Heb. 5:9 and Heb. 12:2). Just as the early explorers of our country drew a road map for those that would come after them, Jesus drew our road map. We must consistently walk down that pathway if we are to join Him at the blowing of the seventh trumpet.

Jesus’ path to His personal salvation was a very difficult journey. He had to be on guard every day of His life in preparation for Satan’s fiery darts (Eph. 6:16). There were times when He cried out to God for relief from the pressure He was experiencing (Mark 14:36). There were other times when He asked if there could possibly be another way to accomplish His mission (Mat. 26:39). We sometimes ask those same questions of our Father when under extreme stress. But, we should conclude all those pleas of relief as Jesus did by saying, “thy will be done” (Mat. 26:42). Jesus had to endure until the end of His life to be saved (Mat. 24:13). Was Jesus ever left alone in pursuit of salvation? The last words by Jesus on the cross have led some to believe He was abandoned by the Father. He said, “Why have you forsaken me” (Mat. 27:46)? Some have falsely construed by that statement that He was briefly left alone by the Father. His Father never left His side! Jesus never doubted the Father by the uttering of these words! The word “forsaken” should have been translated “why are you letting me remain” (#1459 in Strong’s

Concordance). He was merely saying I am ready to die! The stress and pain had to be enormous for Jesus at the very end of His life. When His job was over He uttered the words, “it is finished” (John 19:30). The word “finished” means completed or accomplished (#5055 in Strong’s Concordance). The same word means made perfect in John seventeen and verse four (#5046). Jesus had reached the perfection God required for His first begotten Son! Jesus then died, was resurrected, accepted by the father, and now is at the right hand of the Father (Rom. 8:34). In this physical life He refused to be treated and worshiped as a God. He is now the first born among many brethren (Rom. 8:29). The “one God” rule of the Old Testament no longer applies in the New Testament! Jesus is fully God just like the His Father. He is now a Priest after the order of Melchisedec (Heb. 5:5-10, 6:15 and 20, Heb. 7:1-21). Jesus, who was fully human, is now fully God! Jesus is truly a hero to all who desire to walk the same path He blazed.

After being accepted and welcomed by the Father, Jesus would return to begin the training of others. He also, came back in a physical form just as His Father did in the role of Melchisedec. Jesus in His new position of “Priest after the Order of Melchisedec” in the family of God began to teach the disciples for forty days just as He had been taught for forty days by Melchisedec in the wilderness (Acts 1:2-4). He appeared to them behind locked doors to begin their final training before the “Day of Pentecost” (John 20:15, 19). That is why the disciples were not at a loss for what to do upon receipt of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. They were thoroughly trained by their elder brother. They would have to meet their personal tests with courage in the future just as Jesus did. We are also encountering our personal tests and trials today in our pursuit of perfection.

Instead of comparing ourselves to other people, we are to compare ourselves to Jesus as the early New Testament Church was admonished (II Cor. 10:12). Jesus is now actively rooting for our success as our personal intercessor (Rom. 8:34).

We are told in scripture that in a few short years 144,000 individuals will be transformed from physical to a Spiritual existence. In a moment, in a twinkling of an eye we will be changed at the seventh trumpet (I Cor. 15:52). It will be our moment to say triumphantly “it is finished!” The job of reaching perfection will have been completed! God set in motion a plan for mankind before time ever existed. He later came in human form by the name of Melchisedec to interact personally with mankind. He personally hand-picked the first candidate for the 144,000 Priests almost two thousand years ago to blaze the trail for everyone. Jesus became the first candidate of that journey by passing all tests and therefore gave us an example to follow. Now, at the seventh trumpet we and the rest of the Spiritual group of 144,000 will be inducted into the family of God! When that resurrection happens, we will be in the likeness of our elder brother Jesus (Rom. 6:5). We also will be Priests after the Order of Melchisedec! Upon Jesus triumphant return to this earth we will join Him as members to complete the group of 144,000. That group of Priests plus the group of Kings of the Old Testament will make a total of 288,000 individuals that will have been sealed for service in the resurrection of the masses.

A thousand years after the return of Jesus to the earth, the remaining resurrections will open the door for all of humanity to reach perfection (see chapter four). How can we reject or neglect such a fantastic plan that God designed in His love as our Father (Heb.

2:3). We should be so actively involved with the process of our personal conversion from physical to Spiritual that we excitedly anticipate getting to the point of being tempted as Jesus was but not committing sin (II Tim. 4:7 and Rev. 10:7). Jesus set the perfect standard for admittance into the Kingdom of God. The invitation from our Father has been sent out to mankind. You are personally being called by Melchisedec and Jesus to join them as a Priest after the Order of Melchisedec! Let's give our Father and elder brother the praise they deserve!