

Genesis 14.18-20

The King of Righteousness

The mysterious figure we see in Genesis 14 is one that has intrigued and confused Christians for millennia... I will not clarify this matter today much more than anyone who has come before me... but I will attempt to share something of what I see here in this final Pre-Incarnate appearance of Christ. This King of Salem, Melchizedek. This was Christ demonstrating that He is superior to every single aspect of the religion of Moses that will be passed on to His chosen people. When we get back to Hebrews and make it to chapter 7, we will spend a fair bit of time on that subject... but this morning I want to focus on an aspect of this Christophany which is hidden in a name. The name Melchizedek.

I. WHO HE WAS

- a. Pre-Incarnate Christ. The Name Melchizedek means King of Righteousness.

b. We know nothing about His lineage, nothing about His city. He is mentioned 11 times in the whole scripture. We have this passage and we have Psalm 110 - apart from these two passages all that we know of Him comes from the writer of Hebrews. (9 of the 11)

c. Many Jewish scholars believe that Salem is Jerusalem, but really the actual place is far less important than the message conveyed to us by the interaction between Abram and Melchizedek.

II. What He did

a. He brought out bread and wine

- i. Nourishment - providing strength and comfort.
- ii. Hospitality - providing what was needed to the best of his ability
- iii. Sharing the blessings that have been given displays a right understanding of

why all of our blessings HAVE been given.

- b. He blessed Abram for belonging to God
 - i. He belongs to the God most High - there is no other and whether we see this and live it out does not change the truth of the matter one bit
 - ii. He reminded Abram that God was the author of this victory (and every other)
 - iii. Possessor of all things - He is the rightful owner of all things
 - iv. He gave Abram an opportunity to praise the God who holds him and who has chosen him out of all mankind.
 - v. In the same manner we are blessed by the gift of the bread of heaven, and the wine of the Spirit of God

John 6.35-40

Ephesians 5.18-21

c. He blessed God

- i. God IS God most High and is always worthy to be blessed and praised just for that fact alone. Regardless of anything else He may or may not have done. Always begin with praise!!
- ii. Absolute perfections in Himself
- iii. For His aid to Abram
 - 1. The victory was God's - 318 men against the armies of 5 kings...
 - 2. He is higher than our enemies, and higher than us
 - 3. God did not have to help Abram
 - 4. God did not have to allow Abram to help Lot
- d. He received the tithe of Abram - indicating His superiority
 - i. A gift honoring the gift of provision and blessing
 - ii. A token of fealty to God, a vow of obedience - when God blesses us, a

thanks offering is always a very appropriate response

- iii. Jesus - our great High priest is ALWAYS worthy to have every homage possible given to Him.

III. What He Is - King of Righteousness

- a. Righteousness is right standing with God –
- b. It is possible to look good to men without any real righteousness

Matthew 23.13-36

- c. This is impossible to be truly righteous without the intervention of God

Romans 3.23

Ephesians 2.1

- d. It is the condition of being exactly aligned with God who Himself is completely Right in all that He does.

Romans 3.21-26

e. Righteousness for us is the work of Jesus Christ who is the King of our righteousness!

i. being forgiven

Romans 5.19

being presented to God, alive, clean and fully acceptable

Romans 6.10

1 Corinthians 1.30

ii. It is that state of being in which all of your actions, all of your nature, all of YOU is completely acceptable in the sight of God.

2 Corinthians 5.21

iii. It is being counted as a child of God with the full rights and privileges therein

Romans 8.14-17

1. being loved and accepted
2. given an inheritance that we did not earn, do not deserve and cannot ever fully comprehend.

Philippians 1.9-11

- iv. It is that state of being in which you are completely at one with, at peace with God... and we will pick it up there next week as we complete this passage and one final study of the Pre-Incarnate Christ, with Melchizedek - King of Salem, King of Peace.