

## Hebrews 7.1-3

### Glimpsing Obscured Glory

Who was Melchizedek? What was his role? What was his purpose in scripture. What can we learn about what God is doing today by considering this obscure figure from ancient times? What God has given us this remarkable mystery in the midst of the Bible, this glimmer of greater things and partially hidden revelation of greater glory. God often uses things that do not seem to fit, do not seem to follow the normal pattern. These times are historical dissonance, a hiccup in the predictable flow of history and time. These dissonances are quite intentional; they cause us to stagger just a moment in the normal advance of our lives, give us space to consider that greater things are going on, to grasp and grope after the larger patterns the truer pictures that lie just beyond our normal reach... as Paul said when addressing the Areopagus:

## *Acts 17:26–29 (NKJV)*

*<sup>26</sup> And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, <sup>27</sup> so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; <sup>28</sup> for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.' <sup>29</sup> Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man's devising.*

God is even now calling us to turn from our sin and seek Him with all our hearts... and to that end He has chosen to use men and women to carry the message of peace to a dying world. And into that realm of decay, He sends His children with a message of hope.

# I. GREAT DARK, GREAT LIGHT

God can raise up the greatest light in the midst of the greatest darkness

A. Salem was probably the city that became known as Jerusalem

B. Salem means peace

C. Jerusalem means depending upon translation

1. Teaching of peace
2. Possession of peace
3. Foundation of peace
4. Vision of peace

D. The land was the possession of the Canaanites

1. Given to pagan worship of the most debased kind

2. To recount their acts of human sacrifice and ritual abuses would curdle milk, and yet we too are guilty of these crimes and so much worse. To pretend that we are somehow more pure than they is to deny scripture

### **Romans 3.23**

3. Their acts of rebellion (and ours) are worthy of the death that has been pronounced over the guilty

### **Romans 6.23**

E. The city later was the possession of the Jebusites

1. During the conquest of Canaan they remained in the city and could not be driven out
2. Both Judah and Benjamin failed to remove them

3. David was the one who finally took the city away from them

F. The very place where David would establish his city, where the temple would be built, where the sacrifice of Messiah would be offered and accepted by God

## II. KINGLY PRIEST

### Genesis 14.18-20

- A. The work of giving provision for the people was not the priest's duty. It belongs to the king.
- B. Melchizedek brought forth bread and wine to refresh Abram's army
1. Not a small task
  2. Not the duty of the priestly service he came to offer

C. Jesus was the bread of heaven, given to sustain us

*Nehemiah 9:15 (NKJV):*

*You gave them bread from heaven for their hunger,  
And brought them water out of the rock for their thirst,  
And told them to go in to possess the land Which You  
had sworn to give them.*

**John 6.32-58**

**D.** Jesus gave His followers bread and wine,

**Matthew 26.26-29**

- a) Inviting them to partake of the offering
- b) Providing them the manna of God
- c) Functioning as king even as He served as priest

E. When we come to Jesus as Priest, He also serves as King and Prophet

1. Our hope is found here, in the death and burial of Jesus who offered Himself as a sacrifice for us that we would be forgiven

**Romans 5.8**  
**Romans 10.9-13**

### **III. GOD'S PURPOSE, GOD'S TOOLS**

God can raise up instruments for His service and to His glory, when where and how He pleases

- A. Out of nowhere this man appears
  1. to bless Abram
  2. To provide sustenance
  3. To receive worship/tithes
  4. To honor him and to receive honor from him
- B. His whole life's story is not the story
  1. There is no necessity for us to know his lineage

2. There is no need for us to understand his history
  3. There is no requirement for us to know his future
  4. This moment God has brought him to the fore, and will do all His will with him
- C. The unlikelyest of places and times produced the vessel used for God's purpose
- D. It is not necessary for Melchizedek to be a pre-incarnate Christ (although I think He is - we will get to that in the weeks ahead)
1. If he is only a man the power and the point of what God is doing here is just as great.
  2. The work that God intends to do in this world He has ordained to largely do **THROUGH** human vessels.
  3. We tend to think that we the arbiters of
    - a) who is able to do what
    - b) who is qualified to do what



c)who is supposed to do what

4. This does not preclude our obligation to be obedient to the standards that God HAS put in place - but many of our fences are man made

For instance the prohibition against women preachers is scriptural, but the requirement of a man going to seminary is man-made...

**Cf: 1Timothy 2.9-15**

*Acts 4:13 (NKJV)*

*13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.*

E. In some ways, the full humanity of Melchizedek would make this case even stronger. It certainly would remove some of our objections to God's calling in our lives. How many times do we refuse that calling

because we don't feel qualified to do what God is clearly telling us to do?

F. If God has a job for you to do, and calls you to do it, then He will be sure of equipping you for that task when the time comes for you to fulfill it!

G. He can produce what He requires – always

**Matthew 3.7-12**

**Luke 19.37-44**

#### **IV. OTHER PEOPLE, PROMISED HARVEST**

This appearance gives pledge and assurance of the sure and certain harvest of the gentiles

**Isaiah 9.1-2**

**John 10.7-17**

A. This priest rising up in the midst of the gentile, pagan land of the Canaanites reminds

us that God is at work all over the world with every tribe and tongue.

B. There is no longer a special ethnic group of people who are the sole focus of God's work

1. there is no excuse for us to exclude any group based on their ethnicity
2. the church MUST be the death of racism
3. those who name the name of Christ MUST kill every hint of racial prejudice in themselves, and allow it no quarter in the world around them.

C. this means both overt hatred and covert diminishing and destruction

1. for instance, abortion targets black Americans disproportionately
  - a) Margaret Sanger was a white supremacist who believed that racial eugenics was the answer to the "black problem"

b) even today 80% of planned parenthood clinic are in predominantly black areas, and the vast majority of abortions murder black babies.

2. Subtle degradation is used to make people seem less than they are, for example, refusal to require voters to provide ID is vocally based on the idea that it is a hardship for black people to get and keep ID. This is so condescending, so full of subtle degradation... it is covert diminishment. Make people believe that they are too stupid or whatever the idea is but do it "in a nice way..." it is hatred, plain and simple.

D. It also means that we must understand that the gospel is commanded to go forth unto EVERY tribe and tongue, every people group needs to hear the gospel.

1. God does not NEED us to carry the Gospel, He will accomplish His aim no matter what.

- a) But this is our calling and
- b) it is our opportunity to show our love for the God who saved us,
- c) It is our best avenue to show our love for our fellow man
- d) It is a path by which we can lay up treasures in heaven

*Matthew 6:19–21 (NKJV)*

*19 “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

2. Our refusal hurts us more than it hurts anyone else.