

Hebrews 7:1-3

Gifts and Blessings

The story of Melchizedek and his encounter with Abram is not a fluke. There are no coincidences. All things are in the hand of God ... God governs and ordains, prepares and fulfills His own purposes for His creation. He guides His creation so that what we do is what He has planned and prepared, every single thing which comes to us from scripture is curated for our understanding and preserved for our growth in Christ. Every command, every account, every promise is designed to show us Christ. He is ALWAYS the point of the story!

Genesis 14.18-20

I. MELCHIZEDEK INITIATED THE ENCOUNTER

A. God always is the initiator

Romans 2:4 (NKJV)

⁴ Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?

- B. God is always governing His creation to fulfil His intent –

Ephesians 1:11 (NKJV)

¹¹ In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will

Romans 8:28–29 (NKJV)

²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. ²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

- C. He is always guiding events to bring us to His will

II. MELCHIZEDEK PROVIDED FOR ABRAM'S NEED

- A. In all things God provides and sustains us
- B. In the bread and wine we see pictures, foreshadowing of Passover, and through it, the communion of Christ
- C. We see hidden in the folds, the sacrifice of Christ for the sins of His own people
- D. It was a kingly act, and in the blessing that follows, a priestly one

III. MELCHIZEDEK BLESSED ABRAM

- A. He gave words of truth and inclusion
- B. He gave voice to the binding nature of Abram's relationship to God and God's watch care over him
 - 1. Abram belongs to God
 - 2. Abram is victorious because - God
 - 3. Abram is who he is because - God
 - 4. We are who we are because – God

- C. He gave testimony of the nature of God
 - 1. His omnipotence
 - 2. His majesty
 - 3. His dominion

- D. He reminds that God is the author and master of all things

IV. ABRAM GAVE A TITHE OF THE SPOILS

- A. Abram gave unto God through this act
- B. He surrendered his own victory and acknowledged that the real victor was God who had fought for him
- C. In the giving of the tithe we do the same, all that we have comes from God, and all that we are returns to Him.

John 3:27 (NKJV)

²⁷ John answered and said, "A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven.

D. We do not need to cling selfishly and fearfully to our own provision, power or achievements.

Mark 10:29–31 (NKJV)

²⁹ So Jesus answered and said, “Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel’s, ³⁰ who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time—houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions—and in the age to come, eternal life. ³¹ But many who are first will be last, and the last first.”

John 19:11 (NKJV)

¹¹ Jesus answered, “You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above. Therefore the one who delivered Me to you has the greater sin.”

E. Everything we have comes to us by the power of God. And in all our obedience, we return honor to the source.

V. ABRAM SUBMITTED UNTO HIM

- A. This act of the tithe IS submission –
1. It is the place where many actively rebel as followers of Christ
 2. We feel that we own our money
 3. We feel that no one has the right to command us as to what to give...
 4. We give every excuse, not enough money to pay the bills, will give a little after everything else is paid, etc...
 5. But here is the truth –
- B. God has the right to demand all,
C. God has the right to withhold all
D. God has the absolute right over all His creation and we come to Him on His terms.
1. If we wait until we have "enough money" to tithe, we will never give anything
 2. Giving God a little out of the excess is disobedience,

3. Further, it is an insult to His goodness to you...
4. And it IS robbing God –

Mal 3.8-12

E. We rejoice in God's mercy in including us in Christ, let us also rejoice in His inclusion of us in the work of the Kingdom, in the provision for His people and in the joy of knowing that He is both pleased and honored as we give.