

## **The Mysterious Melchizedek: A Foreshadow of Christ - Hebrews 7:1-10**

Comparison is a powerful means of describing something or someone. For comparison to be helpful however, we must have some knowledge of the person or thing that is being referenced. If we do not know anything about object of the comparison, the comparison though true is not helpful.

**Who is Melchizedek? Background (Genesis 14:14-20)** The author of Hebrews reaches back into the old Testament Scriptures and presents to his readers one of the most obscure and mysterious figures.

**There may be many theories concerning the identity of Melchizedek, but two views seem most likely:**

- **Melchizedek is Pre-Incarnate appearance of Jesus.**
- **Melchizedek is a historical figure that serves as a foreshadow or type of Jesus.**

**While I hold lean toward the second view, either way the significance of Melchizedek is tied to Christ!**

**Melchizedek's priesthood is a foreshadow or type of Christ's priesthood.** The only other reference to Melchizedek, other than the historical record in Genesis and the Hebrew reference is found in Psalm 110:4.

**We need to consider a few simple rules concerning types and typology:**

- ✓ **The type is historically real and relevant in it's immediate context, but also used to describe a future reality.**
- ✓ **Types are simply illustrations and are therefore frail and incomplete.**
- ✓ **Types usually relate to the antitype in a limited and restricted way.**
- ✓ **Often the type in the Old Testament finds it's fulfillment in the New Testament. Example.**

**Melchizedek a priesthood of a different order.** The phrase repeatedly used in Scripture is "order of Melchizedek" and usually includes the descriptor, "priest forever".

**Melchizedek's role of King-Priest.** The writer of Hebrews begins by acknowledging the unique dual role of Melchizedek. We occupied the office of king and priest.

- **King of Salem (Righteousness & Peace)**
- **Priest of the Most High God.**

**Jesus occupies a three-fold office; Prophet, Priest and King!**

- **Jesus as Prophet declaring the will of God to the people (Hebrews 1:1-2)**
- **Jesus as Priest interceding for His people on the basis of His shed blood. (Hebrews 1:3)**
- **Jesus as Reigning King makes us citizen's of a new kingdom. (Hebrews 1:3b-4 & 13)**

**Melchizedek's priesthood represents an eternal priesthood. One without end! The most difficult verse in this text is verse 3. How literally should we interpret "without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of life or end of days"**

**Melchizedek was described as being greater than Abraham. (Hebrews 7:4-10)** In order to demonstrate the superiority of the priesthood of Christ over the Levitical priesthood, the writer of Hebrews expounds upon the fact the Abraham paid tithes to Melchizedek; and Melchizedek blessed Abraham.

The lesser is blessed by the greater (7), Abraham gave tithes to Melchizedek and he is the father of the Hebrew people, therefore Levi is represented because he was still in the loins of his father Abraham.

**The writer of Hebrews declaring the superiority of Jesus! Greater than the prophets (1:1), Greater than the angels (1:4-2:16); greater than Moses (3:1-6); greater than Joshua (4:1-11); greater Aaron and the high priest; greater than Abraham (7:4-10)**