

When Abraham Met Melchizedek

- I. In **GEN 14**, Abraham's nephew, Lot, had been taken captive during a campaign by a confederation of kings that overcame and plundered Sodom. **vs. 1-12**.
 - A. Abraham raised up a small army of 318 men from his own household and cleaned up on those kings, recovering Lot. **vs. 13-16**.
 - B. Curiously, this was a case of a righteous man's war against forces of darkness which even wrought salvation for Sodomites. c/w **1CO 6:9-11**.
- II. After returning from the slaughter of the kings, Abram was met AND BLESSED by Melchizedek. **GEN 14:17-20**.
 - A. Mind that "The LORD is a man of war..." (**EXO 15:3**).
 - B. Military service is not forbidden in Scripture. **LUK 3:14; ACT 10:1**.
 - C. Blessing came after judgment had been executed.
 1. Christ, having executed judgment upon Satan and sin, was then worthy of blessing. **REV 5:12-13**.
 2. We are blessed because God executed judgment on our sins in Christ. **GAL 3:13-14**.
 3. Those who execute judgment upon themselves for sin and acknowledge it to God are blessed. **PSA 32:1-5**.
- III. Melchizedek appears suddenly with no mention of his pedigree and disappears as suddenly with no record of his death and transfer of his priesthood.
 - A. Melchizedek was *king of Salem* and *priest of the most high God*.
 - B. *Salem* is an abbreviated form of *Jerusalem*. **PSA 76:2**.
 - C. Christ was made an high priest after his order. **HEB 5:5-6 c/w PSA 110:4**.
 - D. Abraham was less than Melchizedek. **HEB 7:6-7**.
 1. Thus, Levi (from whom Israel's priests came) was also less. **HEB 7:7-10**.
 2. This shows that appeals to Abraham for favor have limitations. **LUK 3:8**.
 3. This also shows that perfection could not come through any descendant of Abraham other than the One Who was conceived by God. Perfection came not from a sinner or a system of mediation by sinners. **HEB 7:19**.
- IV. Melchizedek brought forth bread and wine. **GEN 14:18**.
 - A. Here was strength and refreshment provided after the battle. **PSA 104:14-15**.
 - B. Christ brings forth bread and wine to His servants in the Lord's Supper which also refreshes them. **LUK 22:14-20**.
 1. Melchizedek's supper refreshed a victorious Abraham.
 2. Christ's Supper refreshes us even when we are not so victorious. It reminds us that:
 - a. the victory is His, *for us*. **HEB 9:12; EPH 5:1-2; GAL 1:4**.
 - b. He died for our failings and came to save sinners. **1TI 1:15**.
 - C. When God's saints have been avenged on mystery Babylon, they shall be provided with the marriage supper of the Lamb. **REV 19:1-9**.
- V. Melchizedek blessed Abram and blessed God. **GEN 14:19-20**.
 - A. To bless (when referring to blessing a man) means to *declare to be supernaturally favoured; to pronounce or make happy*.
 - B. To bless (when referring to blessing God) means to *hold or call holy; to extol as holy, divine, gracious*.

- C. As a priest he mediated blessing between God and Abram.
- D. He blessed Abram in keeping with the holiness and glory of God, the same as Christ blesses us.
- E. In blessing God he called Him "...the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth."
 - 1. There can be none higher than the most high.
 - 2. This God is the absolute sovereign of the universe and thus owns and controls it all.
DAN 4:17, 34-35.
- F. It was this Sovereign that gave Abram victory over his enemies. **1CH 29:11; PSA 47:2-3.**
- G. Without the blessing of the Most High, Abram's astute military strategy would have availed him nothing. **PRO 21:31; JOS 7:1-12.**

VI. Compare what transpired between Abram and Melchizedek and what transpires in a Christian worship service today.

- A. As Melchizedek the priest of God brought forth bread and wine, so did Christ, our great high priest, in the Lord's Supper.
- B. Melchizedek blessed God. God is blessed in the Lord's Supper.
LUK 22:19-20 c/w 1CO 10:16.
- C. Abram, the servant of God, was blessed. So are we blessed in the Lord's Supper.
MAT 26:28 c/w ROM 4:7.
- D. Abram gave a gift to the minister of God as we give to the minister of God. **GAL 6:6.**
- E. When God says believers are *blessed WITH faithful Abraham* (**GAL 3:9**), He means it!
- F. Indeed, Christianity is the religion of Abraham. **JOH 8:56.**

VII. Mark the significance of *righteousness* and then *peace*.

- A. Christ is our High Priest after the order of Melchisedec. **HEB 6:20.**
- B. Paul explains that Melchisedec = "King of righteousness," and secondly, he was the King of Salem (peace). **HEB 7:1-2.**
 - 1. The King of righteousness IS the King of peace.
 - 2. Righteousness / purity precedes peace. **JAM 3:17.**
 - 3. Peace is the *work and effect* of righteousness. **ISA 32:17.**
 - 4. For Christ, the serenity of glory could only come after He was obedient unto death.
PHIL 2:8-9; HEB 12:2.
 - 5. Being justified, or made righteousness, by Christ we have peace with God.
2CO 5:21; ROM 5:1.
- C. Peace for a faithful Abraham and a compromising Lot came only after righteousness.
- D. Melchizedek's supper spoke of righteousness, then peace.
- E. Christ's supper speaks of the same.
- F. Contrast this with the communion of the wicked. **PRO 4:14-17.**