

*And if the bugler doesn't sound a clear sound, how will the soldiers know they are being called to battle? 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 14:8 NLV*

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First Love Ministries, Inc.

Prayer Study #156

## **MELCHIZEDEK PRIESTHOOD**

*The Lord hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.*

Psalm 110:4

*And he saith also in another place, Thou art a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.*

Hebrews 5:6

*Where the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.*

Hebrews 6:20

*For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, ...without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made 'like' the Son of God, remains a priest continually.*

Hebrews 7:1-3

*Now consider how great this man was, unto whom even the patriarch, Abraham, gave the tenth of the spoils. And verily they that are of the sons of Levi, who receive the office of the priesthood, have a commandment to take tithes of the people according to the law, that is, of their brethren, though they come out of the loins of Abraham; But he whose descent is not counted from them received tithes of Abraham, and blessed him that had the promises. And without all contradiction the less is blessed of the better. And here men that die receive tithes; but there he receiveth them, of whom it is witnessed that he liveth. And as I may so say, Levi also, who receiveth tithes, paid tithes to Abraham. For he was yet in the loins of his father, when Melchizedek met him.*

Hebrews 7:4-10

*And the king of Sodom went out to meet him after his return from the slaughter of Chedorlaomet, and of the kings that were with him, at the valley of Shaveh, which is the king's dale. And Melchizedek, king of Salem, brought forth bread and wine, and he was the priest of the Most High God.*

*And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the Most High God, possessor of heaven and earth, and blessed be the Most High God, who hath delivered thine enemies unto thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all. And the king of Sodom said unto Abram, Give me the persons and take the goods by thyself. And Abram said to the king of Sodom, I have lifted up mine hand unto the LORD, the Most High God, the possessor of heaven and earth, that I will not take from a thread, even to a shoelatchet, and that I will not take any thing that is thine, lest thou shouldest say, I have made Abram rich.*

*Genesis 14:17-23*

### Background

Abraham was from Ur, a populous town of the Chaldeans (Babylonians). He was a Gentile who became the first Hebrew. Herbert Lockyer, in his book *All the Men of the Bible*, says of him: *He was a rough, simple, venerable, Bedouin-like sheep master. He uttered no prophecy wrote no book, sang no song, gave no laws. Yet in the long list of Bible saints, he alone is spoken of as “the father of the faithful” and as “the friend of God” (Isaiah 41:8). The Bible offers us many types of Christ, Isaac being one of the chiefs, but Abraham is the only type in Scripture of God the Father.*

Abraham had tremendous faith, and his faith was accounted as righteousness by God the Father. The chief example of his faith was his willingness to offer up his only son, Isaac. He was certainly not a perfect man, and the world is still reeling from his treatment of his wife's maid, Hagar. Other mistakes that he made was leaving Canaan for Egypt when there was a famine on, instead of trusting God, and telling leaders that his beautiful wife Sarah was his sister to protect his own life.

In this latter situation, Abram [for his name had not been changed by God] feared the king would have him killed, if he knew Abram was her husband, so that he, the king, could marry Sarah. The king would have raped Sarah, if the Lord had not intervened. Instead, he commanded his men to send Abram and Sarah away.

After Abram is sent away he and Lot divide the land, and Lot picks Sodom to live near. When Sodom is captured and all the people taken into captivity, Abram sends his men to free Lot, and they return all the goods and people. The King of Sodom and the King of Salem go out to meet him. The King of Salem is also a priest and brings bread and wine and blesses Abram. To the King of Salem, Melchizedek, Abram pays a tithe.

The King of Sodom wants the people back, but offers to let Abram keep all the goods he has captured. Abram will not keep anything from Sodom so

that the King of Sodom cannot say that he is the one who made Abram rich, but only the most high God can get this credit. All of this took place about 4000 years ago.

### Who is Melchizedek?

In his excellent book *The Order of Melchizedek*, Dr. Francis Myles gives four possibilities of this mysterious man:

1. The First Adam
2. Shem, the son of Noah
3. The priest-king of ancient Salem
4. The pre-incarnation appearance of Christ.

According to Dr. Myles, the reason people say he was Adam is because Melchizedek had no earthly genealogy since he was the first man. Myles says that he could not be Adam because Adam fell and was thus not the King of Righteous. Also, Adam died and Melchizedek did not.

Shem was a priest and king and the son of Noah and tradition says this was Melchizedek. Shem, however, had a genealogy, and he would have had to be very old if he lived in the time of Abram. Furthermore, the Bible tells us that Shem died.

The third possibility also is not plausible since every human born of a woman is born into sin. Also, if the priest-king of ancient Salem had been a mortal and Melchizedek, he would have been the best candidate to be the father of many nations, instead of Abraham.

Myles concludes that Melchizedek has to be Christ Jesus manifesting Himself in bodily form to Abram before the virgin birth. Indeed, even Jesus said in John 8:56, "Abraham saw my day." Melchizedek literally means *King over the whole domain of righteousness*. We know that our righteousness is as filthy rags, so only Jesus could qualify as the *King of Righteousness*.

Melchizedek brought bread and wine. Jesus Himself said, "*I am the **bread** of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.*" (John 6:35) And in Matthew 26:27-28 he says: *And he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God for it. He gave it to them and said, "Each of you drink from it, for this is my blood, which confirms*

*the covenant between God and his people. It is poured out as a sacrifice to forgive the sins of many.*

### Types

In the Bible types are a prophetic representation foreshadowing something or someone. A Symbol is a representation of something, which is itself, yet stands for something else and may represent something in the past, present or future. A Type always prefigures something future.

1. King of Sodom: Sodom was an ultra liberal society that practiced every form of sexual perversion, including homosexuality and bestiality. The sodomites destroyed the institution of the family. That may be why Lot's daughters were so quick to have incest with Lot. The society also was very corrupt in financial dealings and open to witchcraft. Sodom was so wicked that God Himself came down from heaven to check out what was going on. (Genesis 18:20-21) The King of Sodom thus types the Spirit of Antichrist. It also represents the Spirit of Babylon, which is the corrupt and perverse world system that finds people dealing dishonestly in business and using sex to climb the corporate ladder. It is what is behind the porn industry, the homosexual agenda, child sex trade and other abominations.
2. Abraham, although not a perfect man, types the Heavenly Father, the Father of the Faithful, and I believe also a spirit-filled Christian. After meeting with Melchizedek, Abram's name became Abram of God Most High. This God Most High then changed Abram's name to Abraham: *What's more, I am changing your name. It will no longer be Abram. Instead, you will be called Abraham, for you will be the father of many nations (Genesis 17:5).*
3. I believe that Lot types the carnal Christian life- a life that leads to judgment by fire. Luke 17:28-30 tells us: *Also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built: But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom, it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.*
4. Melchizedek was the priest of God Most High, the King of Righteousness, and the King of Salem, which means peace. (Salem is the current city of Jerusalem.) I believe he was a theophany, a visual manifestation of God, and thus not only types but was Jesus Christ.

### So Why is it important to be a part of the Order of Melchizedek?

According to Dr. Myles, *“The Order of Melchizedek is the only spiritual order that God has made available to New Testament believers that has the power to intercept the seductive power and corrupting influence of the king of Sodom. ...The divine interception of Abram by Melchizedek, the priest of God Most High, right before the king of Sodom intercepted him, has far reaching spiritual implications for the present day ministry of the Church. Hidden in this historical and divine encounter between Abram and Melchizedek are divine strategies for closing demonic portals of spiritual and sexual perversion in our generation. In light of the devil’s plan to flood the earth’s spiritual atmosphere with the wickedness of sexual perversity, we cannot overemphasize the importance of the Order of Melchizedek in our lives. There is a supernatural grace available to us under this royal-priestly order to rise above sexual perversity and walk in purity. I am convinced that if Melchizedek’s priesthood had not intercepted Abram, the king of Sodom would have succeeded in seducing him.”*

### How do we become part of the Order of Melchizedek?

The key to being part of the order of Melchizedek is his offices. He was the King of Righteousness. Therefore, first, we must walk in righteousness or holiness. We are already righteous through the blood of Jesus, if we have a personal relationship with Him, but we must walk in that righteousness and can only have the power to do that by dying to our flesh nature and being filled with the Holy Spirit. In our day carnal believers have and are increasingly going to fall under the seduction of the spirit that was in the King of Sodom, unless they throw off their carnality, which includes pride and ego as well as sensuality, among other struggles, and are baptized and walking in the Spirit.

Secondly, we must walk in peace which is a fruit of the Holy Spirit. That means we have to forgive others and build bridges instead of walls. I believe that joy is a natural product of peace and righteousness in a believer’s life. We know that the joy of the Lord is our strength (Nehemiah 8:10). I also believe that we are not going to be victorious in the challenging days ahead if we do not walk in joy. Paul said that the Kingdom of God was righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Ghost (Romans 14:17).

## Kingdom Believers

Kingdom believers are those, such as the leadership of First Love and those in the Order of Melchizedek, who believe that the Lord desires us to put our resources and money and efforts into seeing the Kingdom come more fully on the earth today. We know that the fullness of the Kingdom will not come until He comes to rule and reign, but we also know that we are to walk in the revelation and manifestation of the Kingdom that we have now. Therefore, our intention is to use the resources that God has given, including our money, to further the Kingdom of God on the earth today. Money, for example, thus becomes no longer an idol or a goal, but a means to further the Kingdom. We recognize that we are pilgrims only passing through, and that life on this earth is short but a necessary preparation for living eternally.

### Battle Hymn of the Republic

By Julia Ward Howe

(5<sup>TH</sup> verse by Don Moen)

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord,  
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored.  
He hath loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword.  
His truth is marching on.

I have seen Him in the watchfires of a hundred circling camps,  
They have builded Him an altar in the evening dews and damps.  
I can read His righteous sentence by the dim and flaring lamps.  
His day is marching on.

He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat.  
He is sifting out the hearts of men before His judgment seat.  
O be swift, my soul, to answer Him! Be jubilant my feet!  
Our God is marching on.

In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,  
With a glory in His bosom that transfigures you and me.  
As He died to make men holy let us live to make men free,  
While God is marching on.

We can almost hear the trumpet sound, the Lord's return is near.  
There are still so many people lost, His message they must hear;  
Father, give us one more moment, one more day, just one more year-  
With God we're marching on.

### CHORUS

Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!  
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! His truth is marching on.