

**WHERE DO YOU  
GET YOUR  
AUTHORITY?**



# WHERE DO YOU GET YOUR AUTHORITY?

Some people claim that they get their authority through the priesthood of a particular church. These same people claim the Melchizedek priesthood has been restored in our day. Are they intellectually honest enough to carefully consider and take an objective [unbiased] look at what the Bible really says about authority?

## WHO WAS MELCHIZEDEK?

Melchizedek is only mentioned in three books in the Bible. Psalm 110:4 is quoted in Hebrews 5:6, and refers to Jesus Christ. In Genesis 14:18, Melchizedek, King of Salem, the priest of the Most High God, blessed Abram. Hebrews 7:1-10 explains this same Old Testament event and gives us some further insight into who Melchizedek was.

His name means king of righteousness and he was king of Salem, which means king of peace. He produced no priestly succession, and had NO priestly parent. He was "without father, without mother, without descent." In addition, there is NO record in the Bible of his birth and death. In these things he resembles the Son of God, who likewise came from NO priestly lineage, had NO priestly descendant or successor, and who lives forever.

## CHRIST IS A PRIEST AFTER THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK

The Bible very beautifully gives us pictures, types and shadows in the Old Testament of things in the New Testament that are now revealed. For instance, in the Old Testament, the innocent sacrificial lamb whose blood was shed to atone for the sins of the people

was a vivid picture of Jesus Christ, the lamb of God whose blood was shed for the sins of the world.

So Melchizedek, the priest of the Most High God, appeared in the Old Testament and was a picture of Christ who became our high priest after the SIMILARITY of Melchizedek. We know this to be true because as explained in Hebrews chapter seven, Christ was a priest after the order of Melchizedek, "for that after the SIMILITUDE of Melchizedek there ariseth another priest."

There are many things similar between Melchizedek and Christ and their priesthoods.

\*Melchizedek's name means "king of righteousness." Christ, our high priest, was completely righteous and never sinned.

\*Melchizedek was king of Salem which means "king of peace." "Being justified by *faith*, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

\*Melchizedek had *no* priestly parentage. Christ was *not* born unto parents of the priestly tribe of Aaron.

\*Melchizedek has *no* successor because he was "without descent." Christ had *no* successor for the same reason.

\*Melchizedek "abideth a priest continually." Christ is a priest *forever*.

\*There is *no* record of any other priest similar to Melchizedek in the Old Testament. Christ is the *only* priest similar to Melchizedek mentioned in the New Testament.

## THE MELCHIZEDEK PRIESTHOOD REPLACED THE AARONIC PRIESTHOOD

Hebrews 7:11-15 says, "If therefore perfection were by the Levitical [Aaronic] priesthood ... what further need was there that another priest [of a different kind] should rise after the order of Melchizedek, and not be

called after the order of Aaron? For the priesthood [Aaronic] being changed, [literally replaced] there is made of necessity a change also of the law. For he of whom these things are spoken pertaineth to another tribe of which no man gave attendance at the altar. For it is evident that our Lord sprang out of Judah; of which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priesthood. And it is yet far more evident: for that after the similitude of Melchizedek there ariseth another priest [of a different kind].

There are two things that are very clear in this passage:

1. The Aaronic priesthood was replaced by a priest after the order of Melchizedek. Hebrews 7:18-19 explain and state clearly that the commandment of the law regarding the Aaronic priesthood was disannuled" [made null and void].
2. Jesus Christ was not of the tribe of Aaron, but of the tribe of Judah. He never had been an Aaronic priest. Therefore, *no one* who had ever been an Aaronic priest ever became a priest after the order of Melchizedek.

**BESIDES MELCHIZEDEK, CHRIST IS THE ONLY PRIEST AFTER THIS ORDER AND THERE ARE NO OTHERS**

Hebrews 7:23-24 says, "And they [the Aaronic order] truly were many priests, because they were not suffered to continue by reason of death: but this man, [Jesus] because He continueth ever, hath an *unchangeable* priesthood.

There were many priests of Aaron through the years [before this priest was replaced by a better one in about the year 33 A.D.] because they were weak in that they were sinners and died. The Bible does not give any record of several priests after the order of Melchizedek, but of just one, Jesus Christ.

Because Christ lives forever, it is not necessary for his priesthood to be transmitted to anyone else. He has an *unchangeable* priesthood. The word "unchangeable" in the original language literally means *intransmissible* or *can not be passed on*. In other words, this portion of Scripture clearly teaches that Melchizedek priesthood *cannot* be transmitted or passed on to any other man. Jesus Christ is the *only* priest after the order of Melchizedek.

**DIFFERENT FROM ANY OTHER PRIESTS, CHRIST NEVER SINNED**

Hebrews 7:26-27 says, "For such a high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners...who needeth not daily, as those [Aaronic high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did *once* [for all men] when he offered up himself."

Jesus Christ never sinned, so as a priest He did not have to make two sacrifices [one for His own sins and one for the sins of people]. He made *one* sacrifice when He was crucified and suffered on the cross for our sins. No other man from any other priesthood has ever fulfilled these qualifications.

**WHAT IS THE SUMMARY OF THIS MATTER?**

The Scripture is crystal clear that this priesthood is *intransmissible* [cannot be passed on to any other man]. Also, that there is only *one* priest after the order of Melchizedek and he is Jesus Christ, a Hebrew of the tribe of Judah who never sinned; therefore, *no one* can take this priesthood unto himself or claim that God has ordained him to it.

God has spoken in His Word, the Bible, and He doesn't change. Like Christ, He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He doesn't give a clear revelation in the Bible and then later contradict it with a different revelation.

## WHAT KIND OF AUTHORITY DOES THIS PRIEST HAVE?

Hebrews 7:25 says, "Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost [completely] that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them."

Jesus Christ has the *authority* to save completely any sinner that will believe that He actually did *enough* work when He suffered on the cross to pay for all our sins. He has the *authority* to give eternal life as a free gift [now in this life before death] to anyone who comes unto God by *faith* alone in His work and not in any work that they can do. Titus 3:5 says, "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us,...."

Ephesians 2:8-9 says, "For by grace are ye saved through faith and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not of works, lest any man should boast."

Complete salvation is *not* of works, but *all* of grace. If it were ever partially of works, then God would be indebted to give you merit for those works toward your salvation. But because the work and sacrifice of Christ was complete, God will *not* do this. He does, however, give reward for faithful service to those who are *not* working toward their salvation, but who are presently saved and possess eternal life.

This service done after they have been saved is *not* to obtain more salvation in the future. Their future was settled when they believed that Christ's work on the cross on their behalf was sufficient for their complete salvation. The reason that they now serve is *not* for self, but because they love the Lord. The reward that God gives them is simply recognition for acceptable service done freely.

were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory...for what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness. Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. But to him that worketh *not* but BELIEVETH on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness."

No matter what church you belong to, you are either completely saved *now* and have as a present possession eternal life, or you are lost. John 3:36 says, "He that *believeth* on the Son hath everlasting life [as a present possession]: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life: but the wrath of God abideth in him."

## WHERE DO YOU GET YOUR AUTHORITY?

In John 1:12 Jesus Christ says, "But as many as received him, to them gave he power [authority] to become the sons of God, even to them that BELIEVE on his name."

1 John 5:12-13 says, "he that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that *believe* on the name of the Son of God: that ye may *know* that ye have [as a present possession] eternal life,...."

Do you have the Son as your Savior? Have you received Him as your only hope of eternal life apart from any works? Are you trusting only in His work for your complete salvation, eternal life, and the forgiveness of all your sins? If you are trusting in your own work, in membership in a particular church, or in any other *authority* besides that of Jesus Christ [the only priest after the order of Melchizedek], you are lost. The wages of sin is physical and spiritual death and the greatest sin is that of rejecting the simple message of grace.

He loved you so much that He suffered on the cross and was judged for all

our sins. Isaiah 53:5 says, "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities, the chastisement of our peace was upon him, and with his stripes we are healed.

But this is only beneficial to you if you accept Him now as your Savior. He offers eternal life and the forgiveness of sins to any one who will come by simple faith to *believe* that He has the power and authority to give it as a free gift. Romans 5:8-9 says, "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood [not our works], we shall be saved from wrath through him."

Won't you be saved today? Receive the gift of eternal life *now* by believing and trusting only in Jesus Christ. He is the *only one* who has the authority to give it to you.

Have you considered what the Bible teaches about *authority*? Will you now *believe* and trust only in the work of Jesus Christ for your complete salvation? If so, use the following statement as a guide in praying to God. Tell Him of your decision and thank Him for saving you and giving you eternal life and the forgiveness of all your sins as He promised.

### MY DECISION

I realize that I am a sinner and cannot help save myself in any way no matter what I do. I now truly believe and trust that Jesus Christ died for my sins, was buried, and rose again. I take Him to be my personal Savior. I am depending on Him to forgive all my sins, and give me eternal life now as He promised according to His Word, the Bible.

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