

Jesus has entered within the Holiest within the veil, a forerunner and anchor for our souls. A Man in heavenly glory. But not simply a man, a Great High Priest after the order of Melchisedec. He is there having prepared this place for us by dying for us, John 14:1-3. Now He is representing us, interceding for us and actually anchoring our place there for us. He is Head of a **different** priestly order, one not previously recognized among the Israelites.

But, as the writer points out, His is an order more **ancient** than the Aaronic Priesthood to which they had been subject. Melchisedec lived in Abraham's time long before Aaron.

Not only is this priesthood more ancient but it has a far **higher** status than the Aaronic priesthood. Its priest both blessed Abraham and received tithes from him. The lesser is blessed by the better. Aaron was descended from Levi who in turn was descended from Abraham. Levi had tithed Melchisedec through his ancestor six generations removed. (This line of reasoning may seem to be a "stretch" by human reasoning but remember, God's thoughts are not our thoughts . . . , Isaiah 55:7,8. As we walk with Him we learn to think and act like Him. Enjoy!)

Not only is it more ancient, it is **permanent**, not passing, as was the Aaronic. Melchisedec, the order's namesake, has no recorded genealogy or descendants. His description is therefore likened to the Son of God, the Great High Priest. He has no beginning or end. He abides continually. Therefore succession is not part of His priesthood's constitution. Succession had been provided for Aaron and his sons' priesthood for they were subject to aging and death. This Great High Priest will never die. Indeed, He has already died and risen again, conquering death. He ascended bodily into heaven and entered within the Holiest and sat down on the right hand of God.

Not only is it more ancient, permanent and higher it was proclaimed by God more **recently** than the Aaronic priesthood was given by God through Moses, therefore **replacing** it.

Not only was it more recently proclaimed but God used no less than the first ancestral anointed king of the Davidic dynasty, to **announce** the new Priesthood in Psalm 110. And this while David was still a refugee in flight from king Saul after having been anointed king by Samuel. Saul was not only unwilling to yield his throne to God's anointed successor, he was seeking to destroy him. It was while under this duress David was given the glorious prophetic revelation regarding his royal and priestly Descendent. This One Who would not only become Israel's permanent delivering then reigning King but its permanent Priest. A

priest after the order of Melchisedec.

It was only **after** the incarnation of God the Son and His learning obedience in His earthly walk, His faithful testimony before the world, His suffering, death and resurrection that He was **appointed** High Priest. It is as the resurrected Man, Jesus obtained and became Head of the Priesthood after the order of Melchisedec.

It is time for converted Jews to let go of the old and lay hold heartily upon the new. The better.

This Melchisedec, who is he? So much of Hebrews seems to rest upon his brief appearance on the stage of biblical history and his blessed encounter with Abraham. Perhaps we aren't told more about him because that information would mask the wonderful type he is of Christ's royal priesthood. Nevertheless there is much speculation, but it is beside the point. In fact, there were many patriarchs, heads of families, who filled the role of priest for their family and sometimes neighbors. They communicated with God and presented offerings to Him on behalf of themselves and their families. Noah did that. Abram, Isaac and Jacob did that. Job did that. Melchisedec was simply one of the patriarchs who lived after the Flood. Some of them were very long lived. Some recorded early in Abraham's ancestral genealogy were still living in his lifetime. His recent ancestors were idolatrous, Joshua 24:2. Melchisedec was probably one of the ancients. Eber, for whom some think the designation "Hebrew" is derived, was living. Noah himself had just died fairly recently. Shem was living. Take your pick. It is of no importance.

The meaning of Melchisedec's name is given in Hebrews, "King of Righteousness," as well as his position as King of Salem — "King of Peace." Isn't he a wonderful type of the Lord Jesus Christ's future exaltation! Salem is taken to refer to the city that later became Jerusalem, the site of King David's palace and Solomon's temple situated on mount Moriah, 2Chronicles 3:1. It may be the very place where Abram was sent to offer Isaac about 1000 years before. Hmm. Was Melchisedec residing on Moriah when Abraham offered Isaac there? It belonged to the Jebusites then and still had Jebusite residents in David's time. Jebusites were idolatrous Canaanites so apparently Melchisedec was not a Jebusite. He apparently was absent later in Abraham's life when he offered Isaac. But the remarkable type of Christ that God made of this faithful godly man, both in his person and his position's as priest and king, remains to bless the following generations over the last 4000 years. It will be a blessing to meet him.

By Ron Canner February 11, 2009

Psalm 110:1 A Psalm of David. The LORD [Jehovah] said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool. 2 The LORD shall send the rod of thy strength out of Zion: rule thou in the midst of thine enemies. 3 Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power, in the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning: thou hast the dew of thy youth. 4 The LORD hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek. 5 ¶ The Lord at thy right hand shall strike through kings in the day of his wrath. 6 He shall judge among the heathen, he shall fill the places with the dead bodies; he shall wound the heads over many countries. 7 He shall drink of the brook in the way: therefore shall he lift up the head. (Over)

To heart and soul how fair Thou art,

To heart and soul how fair Thou art,
O great High Priest of God!
To hearts brought nigh to God's own heart
By Thy most precious blood.

No more my countless sins shall rise
To fill me with dismay:
That precious blood before God's eyes
Hath put them all away.

Forgotten ev'ry stain and spot!
Their mem'ry past and gone!
For me, O God, Thou seest not
Thou lookest on Thy Son.

Thy Word, O Lord, which cannot lie,
Thy Spirit, and Thy blood,
Proclaim to sinners, such as I,
The boundless love of God.

They tell Thy love, so deep, so free!
They tell the Father's heart!
Not what I am, nor yet must be,
They tell me what Thou art!

Come, weary sinners, great and small!
The Door stands open wide
His blessed heart, Who welcomes all;
The Lamb of God who died!

Author: "Selected"
Hymns of Grace and Truth

4. The vail is rent: our souls draw near

The vail is rent: our souls draw near
Unto a throne of grace;
The merits of the Lord appear,
They fill the holy place.

His precious blood has spoken there,
Before and on the throne;
And His own wounds in heaven declare
The atoning work is done.

'Tis finished! here our souls have rest;
His work can never fail :
By Him, our Sacrifice and Priest,
We pass within the vail.

Within the holiest of all,
Cleansed by His precious blood,
Before the throne we prostrate fall,
And worship thee, O God!

Boldly the heart and voice we raise,
His blood, His name, our plea;
Assured our prayers and songs of praise
Ascend, by Christ, to Thee.

Author: James G. Deck
Hymns of Grace and Truth