

Hope Revealed: From Shadows to Savior

Jesus the Perfect Priest in the order of Melchizedek

Expecting someone, see from distance (not quite sure) -watching intensely for them

The Bible is a book about Jesus: Promised in the OT (**expectant**) & Arrives in N.T. -revealed **Hope Revealed**: from **shadows** (OT) glimpse/prevue/peek pointing to the *revealed* Savior O.T. *Foreshadowing of the promised Messiah* & Jesus revealed at **Advent** & Life, Min. death. ress
*Messiah: 3 roles/offices -**Prophet, Priest, and King**

Last week: Jesus is the clear & better Moses (God's **Prophet**) who spoke the divine truth over God's covenant people. Then came to actually fulfill the Law perfectly; we get His righteousness

Today: Jesus is the Perfect **Priest** =He mediates, advocates, & intercedes for us to the Father:
-Who in the OT was the model priest? Aaron? Eliazor? Zadok? Nathan? Samuel?

***Melchizedek**: mysterious priest (no lineage); In a book obsessed w/lineage & patrimony
=**unique**; & **NO** mention of him *until* Abraham shows up and seeks his blessing; tithes to him!

Melchizedek means "king of righteousness," and he was both a king of Salem (Jerusalem) and priest of the Most High God (El Elyon) & (predates Levitical priests, offerings, sacrif)=**he's first!**

Genesis 14:17-20

Then after Abraham's return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet Abraham at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley).¹⁸ And Melchizedek the king of Salem brought out *bread and wine*; now he was a priest of God Most High. ¹⁹ And he blessed Abraham and said, "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, God Creator/Possessor of heaven and earth; ²⁰ And blessed be God Most High, Who has handed over your enemies to you." And Abraham gave Melchizedek (God's Priest) a tenth of everything.

That's it. A mysterious priest, a priest of God Most High, a holy man who represented God to the region, to represent truth, to speak on behalf of God, to lead people to the Lord, and this holy Priest of God Most high also happens to be the King of Salem. Now where was Salem? **Ever heard of Jerusalem...** (the city of Salem: city of safety/peace) **Ps. 76:1-2** "God is known in Judah; His name is great in Israel. ² His ^{la}tabernacle is in Salem; His dwelling place also is in Zion." Salem is the Jerusalem of old; where God chooses to dwell; the center of the world -forever

Before anything of Covenant Israel even existed; before the tabernacle; before the ark, before the temple, before Levites and priestly order; before the Levitical sacrifices...**Melchizadek was ALREADY there.** He was reigning over the most spiritually significant land in the history of the world, sacred geography. God had already marked this land; God was already providing for this Land and was preparing the ultimate priesthood and sacrifice for the sins of the whole world:

So, 1000 years later....Psalm 110:1-6 A Psalm of David; a Messianic Psalm describing Jesus' future reign **The Lord says to my Lord:** [the Father to the Son] "**Sit at My right hand Until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet.**" ² **The Lord will stretch out Your strong scepter from Zion, saying, "Rule in the midst of Your enemies."** ³ **Your people ^{la}will volunteer freely on the day**

of Your ^[b]power; In ^[c]holy splendor, from the womb of the dawn, Your youth are to You as the dew. ⁴ The Lord has sworn and will not change His mind, “You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek.” ⁵ The Lord is at Your right hand; He ^[f]will shatter kings in the day of His wrath. ⁶ He will judge among the nations, He ^[g]will fill *them* with corpses, He ^[h]will shatter the ^[i]chief men over a broad country.

So the Psalmist indicates that the Messiah, who is both God and Lord, would be a Priest forever according to the priesthood of Melchizedek. Basing His priestly ministry in Jerusalem significant

What did the Priest do for the people? The calling and necessity of the Priests were critical to Israel’s existence: This was God’s idea . . .

- The Priest **represented** God and His will toward His covenant people; the Priest was holy, set-apart to do the holy work of ministering *to the* Lord, His Temple, and God’s people.
- The Priest **mediated** between sinful man and Holy God; the priest was to prepare himself to represent broken and sinful people to a righteous and holy God.
- The Priest **interceded** on behalf of the sinful, needy people of God -begging God for His mercy
- The Priest **sacrificed** animals on behalf of the sinful people to cover/atone for their sins
- The Priest **blessed** the people of God (Numbers 6:22-27)

SO...1000 years later, the Author of Hebrews weighs in:

Hebrews 7:1-3; 22-28

For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham as he was returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, ² to whom also Abraham apportioned a tenth of all *the spoils*, was first of all, by the translation of *his name*, king of righteousness, and then also king of Salem, which is king of peace. ³ Without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, he remains a priest perpetually.

V. 22 by the same extent Jesus also has become the ^[j]guarantee of a better covenant. ²³ ^[k]The *former* priests, on the one hand, existed in greater numbers because they were prevented by death from continuing; ²⁴ ^[k]Jesus, on the other hand, because He continues forever, holds His priesthood permanently.²⁵ Therefore He is also able to save ^[l]forever those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. ²⁶ For it was fitting for us to have such a high priest, holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens; ²⁷ who has no daily need, like those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the *sins* of the people, because **He did this once for all time when He offered up Himself.** ²⁸ For the Law appoints men as high priests who are weak, but the word of the oath, which came after the Law, *appoints* a Son, who has been made perfect forever.

Melchizedek: ‘King of Righteousness’ who is also King of Salem (King of Peace)

Jesus= **THE King of Righteousness and King of Peace** [Salem/shalom]: Peace]

In Jerusalem (where Heaven would meet earth); Where Jesus would die as the ultimate sacrifice in order to bring eternal peace to lost souls and receive a righteousness not our own from Him – Jesus is the better, and perfect priest forever!

Melchizedek is a SHADOW of the Messiah to come. When Jesus arrives on the scene having been *promised* through all the OT, and **now announced** to Mary, then at His Birth announced to the Shepherds; Zechariah/Elizabeth, and Simeon & Anna -the lost, hurting, desperate, hoping world was about to receive earth's greatest gift in the coming of the Messiah -God in the Flesh -Jesus!

This IS the GOOD NEWS – that God has come down to man to rescue him from his sins; more than that, that God has become a man to represent mankind to God; more than that, that God in becoming a man became the ultimate sacrifice -*that through His death we all might have et. life!*

This GOOD NEWS brought hope for the hurting, the anxious, the confused, the distant, the fearful, the enslaved, the broken, the forgotten, and the unloved: This is good news for US!!!

Isaiah 9:2-7 “The people who walk in darkness Will see a great light; Those who live in a dark land, The light will shine on them. ³ You will multiply the nation, You will increase their joy; They will rejoice in Your presence As with the joy ^{of} of harvest, As *people* rejoice when they divide the spoils. ⁴ For You will break the yoke of their burden and the staff on their shoulders, The rod of their oppressor, as at the battle of Midian. ⁶ For a Child will be born to us, a Son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ There will be no end to the increase of *His* government or of **peace** On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore.”

Jesus is and will forever be our High Priest!! Jesus as our High Priest not only mediated between sinful people and holy God, but Jesus Himself BECAME the actual sacrifice on behalf of the sins of the whole world. Jesus is the sacrificial lamb that was slain for us!

Ways Jesus Is Our Great High Priest

- 1. He Represents Us Before God.** Jesus stands before the Father *on our behalf* (Heb. 9:24). He is our mediator—our representative—carrying *our* needs into the very presence of God (1 Tim. 2:5).
- 2. He Offers the Perfect, Final Sacrifice.** Unlike human priests who offered repeated sacrifices, Jesus offered Himself *once for all* (Heb. 7:27; 9:26–28). His sacrifice removes sin, not just covers it.
- 3. He Is Without Sin.** He is the only perfect High Priest—holy, innocent, unstained, and undefiled (Heb. 7:26). Because He is sinless, He doesn't need to offer sacrifices for Himself.
- 4. He Sympathizes With Our Weaknesses.** He experienced every kind of temptation and suffering yet remained without sin (Heb. 4:15). This means He understands us fully and compassionately.
- 5. He Gives Access to God's Presence.** Through Jesus, the curtain is torn and believers now have bold access to the throne of grace (Heb. 4:16; 10:19–22).
- 6. He Intercedes for Us Continually** Jesus lives forever to pray for His people (Heb. 7:25; Rom. 8:34). Your name is on His lips.
- 7. He Is the Mediator of a Better Covenant.** Jesus brings a new and better covenant—based on better promises and completed redemption (Heb. 8:6–13).
- 8. He Cleanses the Conscience.** Human priests could never touch the conscience. Jesus, by His blood, purifies the inner person (Heb. 9:14).
- 9. His Priesthood Is Eternal.** Because He lives forever, His priesthood never ends (Heb. 7:24). Unlike Aaron, He has no successor, no term limit.

10. He Is Both Priest and Sacrifice. Jesus fulfills both sides of the sacrificial system.

He is the Priest **and** the Lamb (John 1:29; Heb. 9:12).

11. He Ministers in the True Heavenly Sanctuary. Earthly priests served in shadows; Jesus serves in the real, heavenly tabernacle (Heb. 8:1–2; 9:11).

12. He Perfects Forever Those Who Draw Near. By one sacrifice, He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified (Heb. 10:14). No other priest could ever do this.

13. He Is Appointed by God, Not Man. Jesus was set apart by a divine oath:

“You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek” (Heb. 7:17, 21). His authority is eternal and unchallenged.

14. His Priesthood Brings Peace and Rest. As Melchizedek (king of righteousness and peace) foreshadowed, Jesus brings true soul-rest and peace with God (Heb. 7:1–2; Matt. 11:28–30; Rom. 5:1).

15. He Brings Us All the Way to Glory. He doesn’t just save—He shepherds us until we reach glory (Heb. 2:10; 5:9). A High Priest who completes what He starts.

16. He Reverses the Curse and Restores God’s Presence As the true priest-king, Jesus reverses what Adam lost, bringing humanity back into communion with God (Heb. 2:17; Rev. 21:3).

APPLICATION

Jesus is our **perfect representative** before the Father.

Jesus offered the **final and perfect sacrifice** for sin—Himself.

Jesus **sympathizes with our weaknesses** and understands our struggles.

Jesus gives us **bold access** to God’s presence.

Jesus **intercedes continually** for His people.

Jesus’ priesthood is **eternal, superior, unbreakable =PERFECT.**

Community Group Discussions

1. Jesus Represents Us Before God Q: Why is it good news that Jesus represents you before God? How does this shape your identity when you feel guilt, shame, or insecurity?

2. Jesus’ Sacrifice Was Once For All Q: Hebrews emphasizes that Jesus’ sacrifice is “once for all.” How does that truth challenge the ways we sometimes try to “work off” our sins?

3. Jesus Sympathizes With Our Weaknesses Q: In what area of life right now do you most need to remember that Jesus *understands* you?

How does His compassion change the way you approach Him?

4. Bold Access to the Throne of Grace Q: What keeps people from approaching God boldly—fear? guilt? pride? distractions? What does “confidence” look like in prayer for you personally?

5. Jesus Intercedes for Us Continually Q: How would your daily life change if you lived with real awareness that Jesus is praying for you right now?

6. Eternal Priesthood & Unshakeable Hope Q: Hebrews says Jesus is a priest *forever*. How does His unchanging, never-ending priesthood provide stability in seasons of uncertainty?

7. Moving From Knowledge to Worship Q: Which aspect of Jesus’ priesthood most fuels worship, gratitude, or trust in your heart today? What practical response is the Spirit leading you toward?

-What is one specific area where you will draw near to God this week because of Jesus’ priestly work? Is there a sin you’ve held onto that you need to release because Jesus’ sacrifice is enough?