

Shadows In the Bible

Melchizedek

In Bible lore, there are Fathers of religion. The Muslim, Jewish, and Christian faith begin with a man named Abram. His name is eventually changed by God to Abraham. In the first 11 chapters of the Bible we have an overview of how the world began. Yes, we have Adam, Eve, and Noah. Yet, we get no deep knowledge of them. In chapter 12 of Genesis the Bible takes a turn from overview to personal. The focus goes from creation to the journey of one man and his offspring the Hebrews.

Abram leaves his homeland and goes to a land that God chose for him. It's a land full of trouble from other nations. In time Abram fights a war with the company of several kings. At the end of that battle, we get a shadow figure in the Bible called Melchizedek. Who really is this man? The Bible says that he was the King of Salem. Further to that they called him a priest of the highest? What exactly is that?

Throughout Biblical history, the Hebrew/Jewish nation gained traditions. Some of these things were handed down by God like the Passover meal. At times, things that happen in history are only remembered by traditions. Let's skip ahead into the future way past Abram to a man

named Paul. He wrote several books of the New Testament. In Hebrews 7, this Paul goes on and on connecting Jesus to this man named Melchizedek. Paul was raised a scholar of the Old Testament Bible. He believed in the traditions of Melchizedek.

Paul is not alone. King David wrote many Bible Psalms. One of those is Psalm 110. It's a very famous Psalm because Jesus quoted it. In this Psalm David is saying "the Lord says to his Lord." In Bible circles it's a reference to someone higher than David. Who is the Lord of the Lord? The Lord Jesus is the Son of the Lord God the Father. Hence, the Lord God is speaking to Jesus who is the Lord over David.

Ok, so Paul is referring to Psalm 110 and this Melchizedek in Hebrews 7. By Jewish tradition the shadowy Melchizedek is on a similar plane to Jesus. There are scholars that believe the Melchizedek is Jesus incarnate. That means at times in the old testament certain figures appear to be Jesus in another form. What this all means in a nut shell is tradition. Paul called Jesus a high priest in the Order of Melchizedek. In John 8 near the end of this chapter Jesus makes reference to himself as the Priest of Abram.

So, who really is Melchizedek? The short answer is that we don't know. If you read Hebrews 7 you get a bigger understanding. Yet, Paul is hanging his knowledge on Jewish tradition. This shadowy Priest from the Old Testament was said to bring out bread and wine to bless Abram. He is of the most high. At the last supper Jesus broke bread and gave a blessing with wine to their meal. It's the Passover tradition. What Jesus did was very Melchizedek like.

So, where does that leave us with this shadowy figure? By tradition Melchizedek was sinless and above everyone in Abram's time. Abram brought this shadowy figure a tribute likened to a Priest. A payment or atonement for sin. This Melchizedek then blessed Abram as a

priest would. The connection to Jesus is in the “order.” Jesus is considered our high priest. We come to him as our Lord above all others. I fear too many people put this shadowy Melchizedek in the same vein as Jesus. Yet, by tradition, many do. Either way, Melchizedek is an obscure shadow figure in the Bible.