



Pastor Scott Velain

## Genesis Chapter 13b and 14a The Line of Melchizedek

Last week we spoke about the fact that the promise God made to Abram concerning the land that he had given him, was an everlasting covenant. And we spoke about how that everlasting covenant even extends into our time to this very day. According to the Genesis Apocryphon, which many biblical scholars believe is an extension of the book of Genesis that was found in the caves of Qumran back in 1947 along with the Dead Sea Scrolls, we're told that Abram was standing in Ramath-Hazor, which is about 5 miles northwest of Bethel when God told him that he was going to give him all the land for as far as the eye could see. This particular place in Israel has an altitude of almost 3,300 feet, and it is from this very spot, that you can see the Mediterranean Sea to the west, and well into the kingdom of Jordon to the east. This was the very place that God told Abram that he was going to give him all of the land for as far as the eye could see.

In Genesis chapter 13 versus 17 God tells Abram to rise and walk through the length and breadth of the land that he's going to give him. Now at first, this might seem like an odd request, that God would ask Abram to walk the length and the breadth of the land that he's going to give him, but there's a good reason why God wanted Abram to walk the circumference of the land that he was getting. There's an early Hebrew commentary called the "Targum Jonathan" that says that what was happening here, was that Abram was executing what is known as the "Chazakah". Chazakah was a custom back in that era, and it was used by various tribes and peoples of the Middle East back in that time, and we even see evidence of this within the ancient documents of the Hittites. The tradition of what was known as "*Chazakah*" was to walk the perimeter of the entire property that someone had acquired. In other words, if you were to acquire a piece of land, you were required to perform a "*Chazakah*", which meant that you would walk the whole perimeter of that new land that you just acquired. And it wasn't until the owner had done this, that the transaction was complete. In some cultures, we even find that a king or a ruler would walk the perimeter of his kingdom from time to time just to reestablish his sovereignty over that territory.

I want us to think about this for just a moment. Our Father in Heaven knew that this was a very common tradition of men. And he also knew that when the people in different communities in that area saw Abram walking the perimeter of the land that God had given him... they were going to be put on notice. God wanted Abram to make it very clear to all the surrounding communities that had squatted on that particular piece of land... that this was Abram's land that God had given to Abram. And there's no doubt in my mind that when Abram began to walk the

perimeter of this land for as far as the eye could see... he probably didn't make too many friends. Think about this for just a moment. Your traveler, and you come upon an empty piece of land and you build a home there, maybe even a whole community. And after several years... along comes this fellow out of nowhere, and he starts claiming the land that you've built on. This is a place that you've made your home. This is a community that you've built with your own hands, and along comes this stranger who says that God gave him this land, and he's walking the perimeter claiming that the land that you and your family are on... belongs to him. So once again I highly doubt that Abram made too many friends while establishing the land that God had given him, but the land was indeed Abram's land.

What we need to understand is that this was nothing new to Abram. Abram knew that walking the perimeter of this land meant that the land was indeed his because this was always done as a tradition of men. It was kind of like putting your signature on the paperwork. So, Abram would've not thought anything of this because it was nothing new to him. In fact, if God would not have told him to walk the perimeter of the land, Abram might have felt very uncomfortable about God giving him the land, because he knew that it was customary to walk the perimeter of any land that you had acquired back in that time.

Chapter 13 ends with Abram moving to Hebron, and once again building an altar there. Building an altar was always customary to declare one God or another's authority over that particular territory, and so this is why Abram builds this altar to the one true God of Abram Isaac and Jacob. Abram is declaring his God to be the one true God of heaven and earth, and that this land ultimately belongs to him.

And so, that's just a little bit of extra information that you may not have known concerning why our Father in Heaven wanted Abram to walk through the length and the breadth of the land that he was going to give to him.

At this point in time, after Abram had walked the length and the breadth of the land... the deal was sealed. It's kind of like us signing the paperwork at the end of the sale. If you were to go in and buy a house from someone, you wouldn't feel very comfortable without the paperwork being signed. And so, Abram's walking the length and the breadth of the land was like Abram signing the paperwork that said that Abram owned that land because it was given to him by God. It was like Abram putting his signature on the paperwork as the tenant if you will.

Now, we're just about ready to move into the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter of the book of Genesis, but before we do... I'd like to just remind us all that almost 50% of the New Testament... is nothing more than direct quotes from the Old Testament. Many modern-day professing Christians have no idea that almost 50% of their New Testament is nothing more than quotes from the Old Testament. And it is literally ironic, that many of our modern day professing Christian brethren believe that the Old Testament has all been done away with. If this is true, and the Old Testament has been done away with... then that means that over 50% of their New Testament has also been done away with. And if 50% of their New Testament has also been done away

with along with all of the Old Testament... then that only leaves them with 25% of the Bible. Can you imagine reading 25% of a book and actually thinking that you know the story that was written in that book? Who reads 25% of a book and thinks they know what's in that book? Imagine a book that was 100 pages long, and you only read 25 pages of that book. How much of that story do you think you might have missed? You've missed 75% of the story. Who does that? Modern-day Christians do that, that's who.

Modern-day Christians will often times wrongly proclaim that the Old Testament has all been nailed to the cross and done away with so they don't even need to read it. Not knowing or understanding that almost 50% of their New Testament is nothing more than quotes that come directly from that Old Testament... that they claim is null and void, and all done away with. Is that ironic? Is our adversary brilliant? You bet he is. But this is what a large portion of today's modern-day professing Christians believe. And why do they believe such nonsense? Because some man told them to believe it. Some man preprogrammed them to believe it. Some denominational charter of men, some early church father, some prestigious Bible commentator, some brick-and-mortar institution, taught them that very same utter nonsense, and they believe it. All they're really interested in is their own wisdom. And this is why there is an us, and there is a them. This is why the serpent has his own seed, and the woman has her own seed. And we won't get into all that again right here at the moment for time's sake, but I just wanted to bring this to your attention for the sake of anyone who may be new to these biblical truths.

As you'll notice throughout our study into our Father's Torah, we'll often times jump out of the Torah, and into the New Testament. Why? Because it is directly tied into what we are reading in the beginning of the book. The New Testament is nothing more than an extension of the Old Testament. You cannot understand the New Testament without understanding the Old Testament. And to be quite frank with you, you can't really understand all of the Old Testament all that well until you've read the New Testament. They complement each other, and both halves of the book are needed to understand each other. This is why the Old Testament is in the beginning of the book, and the New Testament is in the back of the book. Does that make sense? The beginning comes first, and then the end. The beginning is proclaimed from end, and the end is proclaimed from the beginning. You can not read just half of the book and truly understand what's going on. It is a masterpiece, it is the living, breathing plan of God. And so, this is why from time to time we will bounce back and forth from our Father's Torah in the beginning of the book to the coming of his Son in the back of the book. And when we read the New Testament in the back of the book, we'll often times jump back to the beginning of the book because what's in the beginning of the book is directly quoted from in the back of the book. And now that you're completely and utterly confused... what's important to understand is that we will always find that his only begotten Son is simply continuing to teach what his Father taught back in the beginning of the book.

I want us to understand that the Old Testament documents written in the Hebrew language currently in use in our modern-day Bibles, were copies from the late 900 A.D. (after the death, burial and resurrection of our Messiah), just before the time of the Crusaders. So finding the

Dead Sea Scrolls, took us back almost 1000 years from that time in one giant leap. And this is why the Dead Sea Scrolls are so important to us. We now have writings that come from a much earlier age, that proclaim, and justify what's in our bibles today. Another reason that the Dead Sea Scrolls are so important to us is that we can clearly see that there's virtually no real meaningful changes that have occurred in the text for over 1000 years. The Hebrew documents that were used to translate our modern-day Bibles are almost exactly the same as what has been found in the Dead Sea Scrolls. And many of the Dead Sea Scrolls were much older than the documents that our Bibles were copied from. And so, this just attests to the dedication and hard work of hundreds and thousands of Jews who painstakingly hand copied the Hebrew Bible so that we could have the word of God in our hands today.

Now granted, there have been a few problems in translating from Hebrew to other languages. There are some very real challenges in translating the thoughts of one culture and its associated language into another culture and its associated language. For instance, Hebrew and Greek thought are miles apart, even to this day, and there are many words and thoughts in Hebrew that have no parallel in the Greek. And so once again, we must understand that our English Bibles were translated from two very different languages and cultures and mindsets. And this is why we always want to refer back to not only the original language... but also the original culture and the things that they believed when they wrote the Scriptures down for us.

And so, from time to time you will find that we will take you back to the Dead Sea Scrolls just to verify, and sometimes expound upon what we already have in our English translated Bibles so that we can better understand what was happening back in that time. It's important to understand that the mere translation of a document, is by its very nature a redaction, or an editing. Simply translating the Hebrew into Greek and then the Greek into English adds all kinds of variations and problems. And so once again I just wanted to explain this before we move forward into chapter 14 because it's profoundly important for us to understand all that we can about the original language that the Bible was originally written in, as well as the culture that the authors of this life-sustaining message lived in, so that we can better understand what they were trying to convey to us.

I believe that this may very well be why Peter warns us in 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 3:16 and 17, that the writings of the Apostle Paul are hard to understand, and that the ignorant and the unstable, would twist the writings of the Apostle Paul to their own destruction. We have to remember that the Apostle Paul was a Hebrew Pharisee. His mindset was much different than the Greek mindset, and so when he spoke, he was speaking with the ancient Hebrew mindset that he grew up in. And this may have attributed to why Paul seemed to confuse so many people when he spoke.

And so, that's why we always cross reference the Hebrew and Greek wording, we always cross reference the Old Testament with the New Testament, and today's culture with yesterday's culture, and from time to time we'll cross reference our Scriptures with what has been found in the Dead Sea Scrolls which are often times older than the manuscripts that our Bibles were

translated from. And these older transcripts will from time to time give us more insight than what we already have, which can help greatly in understanding some of the events that had taken place within our scripture. But the most important thing that can be done in trying to understand our God breathed Scriptures is prayer. We must ask him for the discernment to understand what is in our English translated Bibles. We must ask him for the discernment to understand what it is that he was trying to tell us.

Our Messiah tells us very clearly that it would indeed be the Ruach Hakodesh... the very spirit of the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob, that would teach us all things and that would remind us of what our Messiah said to his apostles. And so, I just want us to remember that because often times we'll start digging and sifting through different documents and looking at different Hebrew and Greek words and we'll forget to pray and ask him for the understanding. The proper understanding can only come from him and him alone. I know many Bible scholars and so-called early church fathers, and Bible commentators that are so lost that they couldn't find their way out of a paper bag. They have studied for most of their lives... and are still as blind as a bat. It's just like the prophet Isaiah said, and I quote... *"You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive."* Our Messiah tells us very clearly and I quote from Matthew 13:15, *"for this people's heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn and I would heal them. But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears for they hear."* And what is important to remember is that when he said these things... he was talking about the Pastors of his time. The "blind guides", the "white washed tombs" who were beautiful on the outside but full of dead mens bones on the inside. The "brood of vipers" were indeed... the Pastors, Priests, Bishops, and Popish leaders of his time that could not see, and could not hear.

There is a difference between those of us who are seeking the truth that comes from God, and those who are trying to build for themselves an Empire of dirt. There's a difference between those of us who are seeking the truth that comes from the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob and his only begotten son, and those who were trying to prove that their agenda is correct, or that their denominational charter is the one true apostolic church, or that their brick-and-mortar institution has more wisdom than the other.

There are all kinds of reasons as to why men build their own theologies, and their own doctrines, and their own philosophies. They all want to seem smarter than the other. They all want to build their Empire of dirt bigger than the other one. They all want to seem more intelligent than the other. And in the end, our Messiah clearly tells them that they travel over land and sea to make one follower... and when they do make that person a follower, he's a twofold child of hell more so than they are. What a waste of time and effort. What a waste of a life. And so, I want us to keep all of these things in mind as we read through the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter of the book of Genesis. And I want us all to remember as we study our Father's Torah to please, please, please take these things to your prayer closet and bow your head and bend your knees and face the holy promised land of Jerusalem and ask in the name of Yeshua Hamashiach, if

these things be true or not. Ask for that understanding from the one who has the proper understanding. We should not be asking for the understanding of a man whom we don't even really know anything about. The understanding of God's word does not come from man. It does not come from any pastor, priest, Bishop or Pope. The proper understanding can only come from God himself which is where it originated from originally. He is the truth, he is the light, and only he gives it to whom he wills.

And so, it is monumentally important for each and every Christian to take these things into their prayer closet and personally ask in the name of his only begotten son, that he bestows upon us the discernment that we need to understand. And if you will do this my friends, I promise you that the door will be opened to you, and I promise you that you will be amazed at the things that you see and hear, and you will immediately know... that these things are true.

And so, I just want to remind us who it is that gives us proper understanding. When he said to study to show yourself approved, he wasn't joking, it was not something that he just said in passing, nor was it to be taken lightly. Studying to show ourselves approved shows him how much we love him. The more we study to show ourselves approved, the more he sees our desire to come closer to him. The more he sees the love that we have in our hearts for him because we want to know him better, we want to know him intimately, our hearts are not interested in the things of this world, as much as they are interested in the love of our Father in Heaven and his only begotten son. And so, before I wander off into a sermon... Let's read Genesis chapter 14 together so that we can know not only what it says... but what it does not say so that we can get an initial understanding of what this chapter is all about. Genesis chapter 14:

*Gen 14:1 In the days of Amraphel king of Shinar, Arioch king of Ellasar, Chedorlaomer king of Elam, and Tidal king of Goiim,*

*Gen 14:2 these kings made war with Bera king of Sodom, Birsha king of Gomorrah, Shinab king of Admah, Shemeber king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar).*

*Gen 14:3 And all these joined forces in the Valley of Siddim (that is, the Salt Sea).*

*Gen 14:4 Twelve years they had served Chedorlaomer, but in the thirteenth year they rebelled.*

*Gen 14:5 In the fourteenth year Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him came and defeated the Rephaim in Ashteroth-karnaim, the Zuzim in Ham, the Emim in Shaveh-kiriathaim,*

*Gen 14:6 and the Horites in their hill country of Seir as far as El-paran on the border of the wilderness.*

*Gen 14:7 Then they turned back and came to En-mishpat (that is, Kadesh) and defeated all the country of the Amalekites, and also the Amorites who were dwelling in Hazazon-tamar.*

*Gen 14:8 Then the king of Sodom, the king of Gomorrah, the king of Admah, the king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar) went out, and they joined battle in the Valley of Siddim*

*Gen 14:9 with Chedorlaomer king of Elam, Tidal king of Goiim, Amraphel king of Shinar, and Arioch king of Ellasar, four kings against five.*

*Gen 14:10 Now the Valley of Siddim was full of bitumen pits, and as the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled, some fell into them, and the rest fled to the hill country.*

*Gen 14:11 So the enemy took all the possessions of Sodom and Gomorrah, and all their provisions, and went their way.*

*Gen 14:12 They also took Lot, the son of Abram's brother, who was dwelling in Sodom, and his possessions, and went their way.*

*Gen 14:13 Then one who had escaped came and told Abram the Hebrew, who was living by the oaks of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol and of Aner. These were allies of Abram.*

*Gen 14:14 When Abram heard that his kinsman had been taken captive, he led forth his trained men, born in his house, 318 of them, and went in pursuit as far as Dan.*

*Gen 14:15 And he divided his forces against them by night, he and his servants, and defeated them and pursued them to Hobah, north of Damascus.*

*Gen 14:16 Then he brought back all the possessions, and also brought back his kinsman Lot with his possessions, and the women and the people.*

*Gen 14:17 After his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley).*

*Gen 14:18 And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. (He was priest of God Most High.)*

*Gen 14:19 And he blessed him and said, "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth;*

*Gen 14:20 and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand!" And Abram gave him a tenth of everything.*

*Gen 14:21 And the king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give me the persons, but take the goods for yourself."*

*Gen 14:22 But Abram said to the king of Sodom, "I have lifted my hand to the LORD, God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth,*

*Gen 14:23 that I would not take a thread or a sandal strap or anything that is yours, lest you should say, 'I have made Abram rich.'*

*Gen 14:24 I will take nothing but what the young men have eaten, and the share of the men who went with me. Let Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre take their share."*

Okay, now we're really getting into the thick of it. We're now beginning to get into even more things that are going to help us understand what we're going to be reading about in our Father's Torah in the very near future. Sodom and Gomorrah was in the Jordan Valley and extended all the way to the Dead Sea, and was in essence, part of the district controlled by a king by the name of "Chedorlaomer". This king "Chedorlaomer" seemed to have had some type of mutual protection treaty with this small group of nations and Kings mentioned in verse one.

Now we don't know exactly where each and every one of these kings came from on our modern-day maps but, we do know the place called "Ellasar" is almost for sure "Ashur" which is one of several ancient cities built by Nimrod that eventually became known as Assyria. The King "Amraphel, lived up north in an area called Shinar, which is the same place that Nimrod had called home, and it was also where "Ur"... Abram's hometown was located.

The place called "Elam, which was "Chedorlaomers" kingdom is also known by another

biblical name, “Shushan” which we find in the book of Esther. Today it’s called by another name, “Khuzistan.” We have to remember that because of changing languages and because the land had changed hands by different kings and empires, the names of many of the cities and places have changed over time. Elam, Shushan, and Khuzistan are all the same place, and today in our time this place is located in southwestern Iran just a few miles from Ur... So Shinar and Elam likely shared border.

King Tidal was the King of the Hittites, and his territory that is called “Goyim”, covered the areas of western Turkey and Syria. The word “Goyim” means “nations” but it was also a slang word for “Gentiles”. Originally the word “Goyim” meant nations, but once God separated Abram and designated him as the first Hebrew and set him apart as special and unique for God’s purpose... the word goyim took on a slightly different meaning. The word “Goyim” then began to mean all the other nations and peoples of the world except for Abram and his people. So about 1900 BC the word “goyim” came to mean “Gentile nations” or “Gentile people”.

These allied kings who were going to come down to the Middle East and make war, all came from the territory of what we call Mesopotamia, and the territories that they ruled over were fairly large. Most of the southern kings ruled over relatively small armies and very limited areas as compared to those of the Mesopotamian kings that were coming down to make war with them. And so, these kings that came from the North up around Mesopotamia were pretty powerful King’s. And so essentially what we have going on here is a group of “Hamite” kings fighting with a group of “Shemite” kings.

The northern kings that we read about in Genesis chapter 14 verses one and two were from the lineage of Shem. And of course, the southern kings that we see listed in verses 15 and 16 were descendants of Ham, which of course included Sodom and Gomorrah, and so once again we can see some cultural differences going on here.

And I want us to notice that the four Shemite kings were in control of the five Hamite Kings. After 12 years the Hamite Kings of the south decide that they didn’t want to be subservient to the Shemite kings up north anymore. And so, this Shemite King by the name of “Chedorlaomer” gathers the Shemite Kings of the North together to come down an attack the five southern Hamite Kings.

I want us to notice the names of some of these southern Hamite Kings. Notice what the people of the South were called in verse five. They were called the “Raphaim” and the “Zuzim”, and the “Emim”. “Raphaim” actually means “*the dead ones*”. And if you’re thinking that the Raphaim were like the walking dead... you’re getting very close, because they came from the Nephilm that came back after the flood. And we’ll talk more about them a little bit later on as we get deeper into our Father’s Torah but you can do your study on the Raphaim and who they were and gain a lot of insight concerning these things.

We know and understand that there are some tribes that are extremely bizarre that are found

within the pages of our Bibles and this is exactly why God tells Joshua to wipe out every man woman and child of these certain tribes. And once again, this has to do with our adversary infiltrating the bloodline of mankind, and there are whole studies on that particular topic that we can get into that would take up the rest of 2018. And so, we won't wander off into that particular teaching here today because if we do we'll never get out of Genesis chapter 14, but the fact that fallen Angels did indeed come down and mate with human women and created their own offspring of giants is well documented all throughout the Scripture, and we'll come to even more Scripture concerning these kinds of things as we walk through our Fathers Torah in the very near future. But what's important to understand is that you cannot understand our Father's Torah and the historical events that took place without understanding this scriptural truth.

There was... and always has been... a gene pool problem within the bloodline of mankind, and it's written all throughout the Bible and our God breathed Scripture, and so we need to know and be aware of that, but we're not going to get into it much more here today. If you want to know more about these things, you can go back and study our Genesis chapter 6 studies that we've already done, and you can find those on YouTube or at our holy impact ministries.com website. We've already covered a significant amount of this information in our previous studies, and we'll uncover even more of it as we move forward to our Father's Torah because it doesn't go away any time soon.

There are a couple of things that we need to notice that really stand out when we read through Genesis chapter 14. We have these four Shemite kings the come out of the North and they overcome these five Hamite Kings who had somehow wrapped themselves up with the descendants of the Nephilim... and the four northern Shemite Kings come away victorious. The only problem is, that they made a very large mistake. They kidnapped Lot, the nephew of Abram. And you do not mess with Abram. Why? Let's go back and revisit Genesis chapter 12 verses two and three:

*Gen 12:2 And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.*

*Gen 12:3 I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."*

*"I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse."* says the one true God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob. And what do we see happening in Genesis chapter 14. Abram gathers together men of his own household... 318 of them. And he chases down these four powerful kings that just overthrew five other Kings... and he defeats them all... and takes back his nephew and his family and all their possessions. With only 318 men Abram wipes out these 4 Shemite kings that just overthrew 5 other kings. Think about that for a moment. *"I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse."* I daresay that if these northern kings had known who Abram was, they would of never taken lot and his family. But this is what happens when you become a little too greedy.

And I want us to watch what happens in Genesis chapter 14 verse 18:

*Gen 14:18 And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. (He was priest of God Most High.)*

Melchizedek is not a name by the way. “Melch” means “King” and “Zedek” means “righteousness”, and so “Melchizedek” simply means “king of righteousness”. And I want us to notice here that he is called “the king of Salem.” Salem is Jerusalem. Salem later becomes the city of Jerusalem where God himself puts his name, and so this is very profound. Another thing that we see that is very profound is that he brings out “bread and wine”. Now we have to remember that this King is not Jewish because that does not happen until later on in the future. The Jews are still in the loins of Abram. And we’re told here in parentheses that this “Melchizedek” was priest of God most high. And this King from Salem (also known as Melchizedek) blesses Abram, and something else very profound that we see is that Abram gives this King of Salem 10% of everything that he has. Abram gives this King of Salem tithes.

What’s important to understand is that the Levitical priesthood had not even been born yet. The Levitical priesthood was still in the loins of Abram. So, this high priest preceded the Levitical priesthood that we see coming into play much later on in the Torah. So, what is important to understand is that this priesthood of Melchizedek, preceded the Levitical priesthood. And we see allusions of this Melchizedek priesthood all throughout our Scriptures in places like Hebrews chapter 6 verse 20, Psalms 110, and again in Hebrews chapter 5:6 and 7. And so we begin to see what is known as the line of Melchizedek. We begin to see the line of this preceding priesthood for the very first time here in the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter of the book of Genesis.

And I want us to understand that this idea of bread and wine comes up again later on with Joseph when he’s in prison and he has this dream with the Baker and a wine steward, and of course one is killed and one’s not. And of course, in another biblical sense that we are probably more familiar with, we can also see our Messiah who presents the bread and wine as being his body and his blood. And so, we see this pattern of bread and wine throughout the biblical narrative, as just another pattern, another reality of duality that our Father uses over and over again to make his point.

I want us to remember as far as the Bible is concerned... that Kings came out of the tribe of Judah... and the priests came out of the tribe of Levi. And it’s very important to understand what it is that we’re seeing here in this character called Melchizedek who is the king of Salem also known as Jerusalem. There is a priestly line that pre-seeded the Levitical priesthood and I want us to make note of this because it’s very clear that our Messiah would be and I quote *“another priest to arise after the order of Melchizedek, rather than one named after the order of Aaron.”* And just to give us some insight on this I want us to turn to Hebrews chapter 7 versus 11 through 17:

Heb 7:11 Now if perfection had been attainable through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need would there have been for another priest to arise after the order of Melchizedek, rather than one named after the order of Aaron?

Heb 7:12 For when there is a change in the priesthood, there is necessarily a change in the law as well.

Heb 7:13 For the one of whom these things are spoken belonged to another tribe, from which no one has ever served at the altar.

Heb 7:14 For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, and in connection with that tribe Moses said nothing about priests.

Heb 7:15 This becomes even more evident when another priest arises in the likeness of Melchizedek,

Heb 7:16 who has become a priest, not on the basis of a legal requirement concerning bodily descent, but by the power of an indestructible life.

Heb 7:17 For it is witnessed of him, “You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek.”

I want us to make note of a few things here within this Scripture. First of all, notice in verse 11 it clearly says and I quote “another priest... (in other words “not the same priest”) To arise... After... The order of... Melchizedek.” Too many biblical scholars jump to the conclusion that this Melchizedekian King of Salem that Abram gave tithes to was their Jesus. But when we read the rest of the text, in different places throughout the biblical narrative... we find out that this King of Salem that Abram gave tithes to could not have possibly been Jesus.

We have to remember that our Father in heaven always does things in patterns. We’ve spoken many times about the reality of duality. We’ve spoken many times about the pattern of the earthly temple in the wilderness being made after the heavenly Temple that is in heaven. There are literally hundreds of parallels between Joseph and our Messiah, but this does not mean that Joseph was our Messiah. And so, it should be of no surprise to us that the Levitical priesthood was nothing more than a copy of the heavenly priesthood that stands in heaven. In Hebrews chapter 7 verse 11 we are told that our Messiah would be and I quote “another priest”, not “the same priest”. We are told that our Messiah would be and I quote... “In the order of” this everlasting priesthood. In Hebrews chapter 7 verse 15 were told that our Messiah is and I quote “in the likeness of Melchizedek.” And in verse 16 were told that our Messiah has and I quote “become a priest”... And not on the basis of legal requirement concerning bodily descent, but by the power of an indestructible life that his Father gave him. And once again we see in Hebrews chapter 7 verse 17 that he will be a priest forever and I quote... “After... The order of... Melchizedek.”

And so, I just want us to see these very evident clues about this everlasting priesthood and the fact that it does extend back to a long line of priests. And for those of you who may be interested in this particular topic we have a whole study on the Melchizedekian priesthood at our website at HolyImpactMinistries.com if you would like to dive deeper into that particular subject matter.

But before we go I don't want to just leave you hanging out there on a limb. I want to take you to the book of Exodus chapter 19 versus five and six:

*Exo 19:5 Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine;*

*Exo 19:6 and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.'*

According to the Torah, we're going to be a kingdom of priests. I want us to also go see what is written in the New Testament in first Peter chapter 2 verse nine:

*1Pe 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.*

And you can also find Scriptures that tell us that we are indeed a Royal priesthood all throughout the 66 books of the Bible. You can find it in Isaiah chapter 61 verse six. You can find it again in Revelation chapter 1 verse six. You can find it again in Revelation chapter 5 verse 10. You can find it again in first Peter chapter 2 verse five. You can find it again in Revelation chapter 20 verse six, and in Romans chapter 15 verse 16, and all throughout our God breathed Scriptures.

So my question to you my friends is this... if we are to be priests... in what line of priesthood will we be in? None of us are Levites. So, none of us will be priests and the line of Aaron. And if we are not going to be priests through the Levitical priesthood... then we too must be priests in the line of Melchizedek. How could that possibly be? Because we do not come from the seed of the tribe of Levi or Aaron... but rather from the seed of Yeshua Hamashiach and his body who comes from the seed of Abraham. And so what line of priesthood will we come from? The same line of priesthood that our Messiah has come from. The Melchizedek priesthood. A priesthood of souls that are grafted into the priesthood, because of their love for the one true God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Food for thought until next week... Wednesday evening at 7 PM Eastern standard time.