

Melchizedek's Priesthood Like Christ's

Can anyone define a Type? *It's defined as the original model or prototype.*

An Antitype? *is a copy that resulted in the New Testament*

Examples are: Noah's flood and baptism, Adam and Christ (first Adam & second Adam)

A correspondence between the heavenly pattern and its earthly counterpart, it can be events or places like Jerusalem and Zion. Sometimes instead of types and Anti types we will say types and shadows or fuzzy pictures.

Sort of like prophecies usually having both a near and a far term fulfillment.

A fuzzy picture for an example:

Adam and Eve sin, a lamb is killed to cover their sin.

Cain and Abel come to the sacrifice Abel's lambs are accepted Cain's vegetables rejected.

Abram ask to kill his only son, he's stopped and God provides the ram. Why a ram rather than a lamb?

Passover the blood of the lamb perfect male lamb is a covering preventing the judgment of death.

See the fuzzy picture and the progressive revelation?

How about a Theophany? *A visible or audible manifestation of God*

Christophany: *Is A prieincarnate Christ in the Old Testament.*

Do we know what a testament is? *It's the writing down of a covenant it's a binding contract to death. The Mosaic covenant was centered around the tabernacle were God dwelt.*

We have two testaments containing 5 major covenants: The Abrahamic, the Mosaic Covenant, the Davidic, Christ, or the New Covenant.

And what's all this got to do with Hebrews and today's text? Hang with me.

7 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 part 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.

Verse one and two are a direct reference to Genesis 14:17-19

¹⁷ *Then 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).* ¹⁸ *And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; now he was a priest of God Most High.* ¹⁹ *He blessed him and said, "Blessed be Abram of God Most High,¹ Possessor of heaven and earth;*

and Melchizedek is only mentioned one other time, other than in Hebrews and that's in (Psalm 110:3-5). *Your people will volunteer freely in the day of Your power; In holy array, 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 will shatter kings in the day of His wrath.*

*Genesis 14:18 And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; now **he was a priest of God Most High.***

[Psalm 110:4](#) *The Lord has sworn and will not change His mind, “**You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek.**”*

*Hebrews 5:6 just as He says also in another passage, “**You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek.**”*

*Hebrews 5:10 being designated by God as **a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.***

*Hebrews 6:20 where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us, having **become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.***

*Hebrews 7:1 Melchizedek’s **Priesthood Like Christ’s** 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,*

Hebrews 7:10 for he was still in the loins of his father when Melchizedek met him.

*Hebrews 7:11 Now if perfection was through the Levitical priesthood (for on the basis of it the people received the Law), what further need was there for another priest to arise according to **the order of Melchizedek**, and not be designated according to the order of Aaron?*

*Hebrews 7:15 And this is clearer still, if another **priest arises according to the likeness of Melchizedek,***

*Hebrews 7:17 For it is attested of Him, “**You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek.**”*

So from all of scripture we learn this of Melchizedek. That he was a king and a priest and the overall emphasis, about him is that he was a Priest with a non ending priest hood.

The problems associated with the identity of Melchizedek, are that it all depends who you ask. If you stay with scripture as your only authority than at best all you get is that he was a priest and a king. If we go outside of scripture, there is no positive identity as to who he is. Some, based solely on the Genesis passage are even unclear if it was Abraham giving a tenth, or if it was Melchizedek giving a tenth to Abraham.

The first issue we have is if we look at Psalms passage, David is using Melchizedek as a foreshadowing of Christ. Then we come to Hebrews and the author does the same thing. Remember who he is writing to the Hebrews.

Here are some issues: His name translated from Hebrew is **my king- righteous**. The sages say that the name is a nickname for Shem, the son of Noah. Salem was considered the city of peace and is also considered to be the ancient name of Jerusalem.

Lebanese Protestant scholar [Kamal Salibi](#) states that malki zedek means Mouthful of offering. Some Hebrew scholars within Judaism explain that Melchizedek’s appearance in the text out of nowhere is because Abraham would not accept anything from the king of Sodom. [Targum Pseudo-Jonathan](#), the

[Book of Jubilees](#), [Josephus](#), [Philo of Alexandria](#), and [Rashi](#) all read Abram as the giver of the tithe as a tribute offering of the spoil to Melchizedek and not as a yearly standard tithe.

Rabbi Yitzchak says that it was God who gave a tithe to Abram in the form of removing the Hebrew letter [He](#) from his own throne of glory and presenting it to the soul of Abram for his benefit.

Now there is an interesting thought coming from a Jew that [He](#) from his own throne of glory and presenting it to the soul of Abram for his benefit that almost sounds like a foreshadowing of Christ and the cross.

Rabbi [Meir Simcha of Dvinsk](#) (1843–1926) interprets the phrase "And he gave him tithe from all" as a verbal continuation of Melchizedek's speech, i.e., Melchizedek exclaimed that God had chosen to gift Abram a tenth of God's possession of the entire human race (consisting of seventy nations as described in [Genesis](#)) in the form of the seven nations of the [land of Canaan](#), including the cities of Sodom that Abram succeeded in saving.

A Lebanese Protestant scholar [Kamal Salibi](#) suggest that a tenth may only mean a portion and that it was referring to food. One person suggest that Adam was considered a Priest, and the priest hood was given to Shem in Noah's blessing and that God intended the Priest hood to follow the line of Melchizedek into Aaron, and that Shem functioned as a high priest.

The second book of Enoch from the first century says Melchizedek was born of a virgin the wife of the brother of Noah and that she died in childbirth and that Gabriel snatched him up taking him to the Garden of Eden and he somehow avoid the flood.

So why did I tell you all of this? Again, look who the book of Hebrews is written to, they probably would have heard some variant of these theories. For us, who Melchizedek was is irrelevant, as the writer of Hebrews is making a point, BETTER at best we will think of him as nothing more than a type of Christ a foreshadowing of the priestly king to come, as this is what David did in Psalms 110.

So Melchizedek is The King of righteousness over Salem, meaning peace. Prior to it becoming Jerusalem, and the writer of Hebrews is telling us that Abraham gave a tenth of the spoils to Melchizedek, thus recognizing him as the priest of the most high God.

The fact that it says without father and mother and without genealogy, we should read nothing into that other than God has not provide a genealogy for us.

At Robertson says: “The argument is that from silence, made much of by Philo, but not to be pressed. The record in Genesis tells nothing of any genealogy. Melchizedek stands alone. He is not to be understood as a miraculous being without birth or death. Melchizedek has been made more mysterious than he is by reading into this interpretation, what is not there.”

I personally do not believe that Melchizedek is a preincarnate Christ living among us, as one of us, as that is simply not seen anywhere else in scripture. When we do see those instances they are brief appearances. Melchizedek was known, as the priest and King. Also notice the key phrase we are given “**but made like**” the author makes it clear he is making an analogy and is providing an illustration.

The point being made to the audience is Christ never ending priesthood, by using an example they well understood, by using the lesser, Melchizedek, to exalt the higher, Christ.

Psalms 110:4 A priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

Hebrews 5:6 “You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek.”

Hebrews 5:10 being designated by God as a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

Hebrews 6:20 having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek..

So why do you think we were given text that is not to be taken literally, even in Genesis? *My guess would be so that God in His wisdom did this to glorify himself.*

⁴Now observe how great this man was to whom Abraham, the patriarch, gave a tenth of the choicest spoils. ⁵ And those indeed of the sons of Levi who receive the priest’s office have commandment ^[a]in the Law to collect ^[b]a tenth from the people, that is, from their brethren, although these ^[c]are descended from Abraham.

In verse four and five we have another comparative, look how great this man was to our father Abraham. Abraham the patriarch, is not only acknowledging the priesthood of Melchizedek, but is in submission to it, by making an offering recognizing only Melchizedek as his Spiritual superior.

The sons of Levi were latter appointed the lineage of the priesthood and are commanded to collect a tenth from the people, but they are descendants of Abraham.

⁶ But the one whose genealogy is not traced from them collected ^[d]a tenth from Abraham and ^[e]blessed the one who had the promises. ⁷ But without any dispute the lesser is blessed by the greater. ⁸ In this case mortal men receive tithes, but in that case one *receives them*, of whom it is witnessed that he lives on.

Who is the lesser being referred to? *Abraham*

Why? *The one who had the promises.*

What are the promises? *Land, seed, The Promise*

Why do you think that's mentioned here? ☺

So lived on doesn't mean he is immortal just that there is no record of his death.

⁹ And, so to speak, through Abraham even Levi, who received tithes, paid tithes, ¹⁰ for he was still in the loins of his father when Melchizedek met him.

Still in the loins of his father (Levi) when Melchizedek met him, is a reference to Abraham that would appeal to the Jews it would be like me saying to Lucy, the last time I saw you, you were still in your momma's belly. It's an expression designating lineage from Abraham.

¹¹ Now if perfection was through the Levitical priesthood (for on the basis of it the people received the Law), what further need *was there* for another priest to arise according to the order of Melchizedek, and not be designated according to the order of

Aaron? ¹² For when the priesthood is changed, of necessity there takes place a change of law also.

The law and the priesthood are like two sides of a coin, the law acts as a mirror to leave man condemned by God and guilty and aware of his sin, the priesthood provided for that sin a covering and provided indirect access to God. So had that system of gaining access to God been sufficient or perfect, what need would there be of yet another, but it did not provide for direct access to God. Being tied together as one religious system if one is failed or changes, so does the other.

What is meant by a covering for sin?

¹³ For the one concerning whom these things are spoken belongs to another tribe, from which no one has officiated at the altar.

¹⁴ For it is evident that our Lord ^[f] was descended from Judah, a tribe with reference to which Moses spoke nothing concerning priests. ¹⁵ And this is clearer still, if another priest arises according to the likeness of Melchizedek,

Now were presented with the differences between the Levites and Jesus. Jesus is from the tribe of Judah the Levites from Levi, Jesus lives eternally, His priesthood is founded by divine oath.

¹⁶ who has become *such* not on the basis of a law of ^[g] physical requirement, but according to the power of an indestructible life.

This is a reference to the resurrection; do you see what's coming? Were about to touch on something huge for the Hebrew convert.

¹⁷ For it is attested *of Him*, "YOU ARE A PRIEST FOREVER ACCORDING TO THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK."

¹⁸ For, on the one hand, there is a setting aside of a former commandment because of its weakness and uselessness ¹⁹ (for the Law made nothing perfect), and on the other hand there is a bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God. ²⁰ And inasmuch as *it was* not without an oath ²¹ (for they indeed became priests without an oath, but He with an oath through the One who said to Him, “THE LORD HAS SWORN AND WILL NOT CHANGE HIS MIND, ‘YOU ARE A PRIEST FOREVER’”); ²² so much the more also Jesus has become the guarantee of a better covenant.

And here we have it, but we don’t need to trust the writer of Hebrews alone we/they can go back to their own scriptures and prophets. Jeremiah 31:31

³¹ *“Behold, days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, ³² not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them,” declares the LORD. ³³ “But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days,” declares the LORD, “I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. ³⁴ They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them,” declares the LORD, “for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”*

²³ The *former* priests, on the one hand, existed in greater numbers because they were prevented by death from continuing, ²⁴ but Jesus, on the other hand, because He continues forever, holds His priesthood permanently. ²⁵ Therefore He is able also to

save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

Again the author loves these analogies, and here is yet another a better priest, a better priesthood and we are introducing eternal security and shows his current mediatorial role as an eternal priest.

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 does not need daily, like those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the *sins* of the people, because this He did once for all 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, made perfect forever.

Check this out

Exodus 29:38-39 ³⁸ “*This is what you are to offer on the altar regularly each day: two lambs a year old.* ³⁹ *Offer one in the morning and the other at twilight.*

So besides the daily offerings daily there were weekly Sabbath offerings.

Numbers 28:9-10 ⁹ “*On the Sabbath day, make an offering of two lambs a year old without defect, together with its drink offering and a grain offering of two-tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with oil.* ¹⁰ *This is the burnt offering for every Sabbath, in addition to the regular burnt offering and its drink offering.*

Then there was one at the beginning of every month

*Numbers 28:11*¹¹ “On the first of every month, present to the Lord a burnt offering of two young bulls, one ram and seven male lambs a year old, all without defect.

*Numbers 28:15*¹⁵ Besides the regular burnt offering with its drink offering, one male goat is to be presented to the Lord as a sin offering.

One pastor stated: that not all offerings were specifically “sin offerings,” which atoned for man’s sin, yet all offerings were necessary *because* of man’s sin. Such continual spilling of blood was unavoidably required for man to approach God in worship.

Basically the priest were professional butchers, think how many lambs were killed and how much blood was spilled because of sin. Although the lamb is never mentioned in our text this morning it’s all over the study of the New Covenant, but we’re focusing on the priestly side of things. Christ is a sinless priest, notice the shift, in the old covenant a non ending string of priest and sacrificial lambs for hundreds of years, priest that never provide full access to God or forgiveness of sins only a covering, but what Christ did was once and for all, when he offered up Himself, the lamb. The law appoints fallen men, but the Word of oath from God appoints an heir who is perfect forever.

So the author of Hebrews provides his readers a better, living priest, appointed by God, he introduces eternal security of the believer, and Christ New Covenant that is ushered in with the resurrection, and affirming the passing of the former religious system comprised of the law and the continual sacrifice for sin. How pastoral and comforting this affirmation must have been.