

Did Melchizedek Eternally Exist? Who Was He?

The Awesome Mystery of Melchizedek!

What does it mean in Hebrews 7:3 where we read that Melchizedek was “without father or mother . . . without beginning of days or end of life”? Did Melchizedek eternally exist? Who was he, anyway? Was he the patriarch Shem? Was he an angel? Was he the Logos, the one who later was born as Jesus Christ? Was he a human being, a created being, or did he eternally exist? What do we know about this mysterious figure?

William F. Dankenbring

Who was Melchizedek? Was Melchizedek without beginning of days? Was he human or divine or an angel?

The Mystery of Melchizedek

We read in Hebrews 6:19-20 that Jesus Christ, after His resurrection, is High Priest “after the order of Melchizedek.” The plainer English of the Moffatt translation words it: “. . . with the rank of” – that is, equal status with – one known as “Melchizedek.”

But who was “Melchizedek”?

First, notice from the Old Testament that the man of mystery, Melchizedek, was a priest of the Most High God. In Genesis 14, we read that during the war between a number of ancient city-states in Canaan and Mesopotamia, Abraham’s nephew Lot was captured. He and his family and goods were taken into slavery and held prisoner by invaders.

One of their number escaped and brought the news to Abraham, who armed 318 of his own servants and chased to the north. Abraham rescued Lot and his family and

the other captives, and all the goods, and returned them safely to the Canaanite cities. This battle was no doubt a great miracle, for Abraham was greatly outnumbered.

When Abraham returned, a man of great mystery appears upon the scene. A man named “Melchizedek.”

Here is the account: “And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was priest of God Most High. And he [Melchizedek] blessed him [Abraham] and said, ‘Blessed be Abram by God Most High, maker of heaven and earth; and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand.’ And Abram gave him [Melchizedek] a tenth of everything” -- that is, a tithe of all the goods, for a tithe literally means a tenth (Genesis 14:18-20, RSV).

Who was this great figure who blessed Abraham?

The book of Jasher, which is ancient Jewish literature apart from the Bible, dating to hundreds of years before Christ and most probably even earlier, says:

“And Adonizedek king of Jerusalem , *the same was Shem*, went out with his men to meet Abram and his people, with bread and wine, and they remained together in the valley of Melech. And Adonizedek blessed Abram, and Abram gave him a tenth from all that he had brought from the spoil of his enemies, for Adonizedek was a priest before God” (Jasher 16:11-12).

Shem, of course, was the first born son of Noah who held the office of high priest in the patriarchal system, long before the Levitical priesthood.

In the patriarchal age, the oldest son was the “priest” of the family, and the oldest son of the oldest son, descended from Seth, son of Adam, was the “chief priest” or “high priest” in the earth. The righteous men of God, descended from Adam, were in each generation both “king and priest” – Seth, Enosh, Cainan, Mahalalel, Jared, Enoch, Methuselah, Lamech, and Noah. The high priesthood then went to Shem, after the Flood and the death of Noah, his father. Thus Shem was a king of “righteousness” – “Melchizedek” – and a king of “peace” – “Salem,” representing the city of Jerusalem.

Says *Unger’s Bible Dictionary*, “In pre-Mosaic times the office of priest was occupied by the father of a family (comp. Job 1:5), or the head of a tribe for his own family or tribe. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob built altars, offered sacrifices, purified and consecrated themselves and their households (Gen.12:7; 13:18; 26:25; 33:20; 35:1,2).” (“Priest, Priesthood,” p.881).

Declares the *Adam Clarke Commentary*, of Melchizedek, “He had preserved in his family and among his subjects the worship of the true God, and the primitive patriarchal institutions; by these the father of every family was both king and priest, so

Melchizedek, being a worshiper of the true God, was priest among the people, as well as king over them” (vol.1, page 102).

The line of patriarchs given in Genesis 5 were righteous men and leaders, kings and priests and prophets, endowed with God’s gifts to accomplish their duty as His representatives on the earth. They ruled by divine decree, but forced nobody to obey them or follow God’s ways. They were “preachers of righteousness,” but did not compel obedience. Obedience was voluntary, but each person would ultimately be judged as to whether they followed the divine laws of God and worshiped Him, or not.

They were, like Noah, “a preacher of righteousness” (II Pet.2:5).

Shem was also a “preacher of righteousness.”

According to the book of Jasher, Abram was hidden in a cave for ten years after his birth, as king Nimrod sought to kill him. At age ten, “when Abram came out from the cave, he went to Noah and his son Shem, and he remained with them to learn the instruction of the Lord and his ways, and no man knew where Abram was, and Abram served Noah and Shem his son for a long time. And Abram was in Noah’s house thirty nine years, and Abram knew the Lord from three years old, and he went in the ways of the Lord until the day of his death, as Noah and his son Shem had taught him” (Jasher 9:5-6). The rest of mankind, “all the sons of the earth, in those days greatly transgressed against the Lord, and they rebelled against him, and they served other gods, and they forgot the Lord who had created them in the earth.”

Post-Flood Chronology According to Jasher

The book of Jasher recounts the story of mankind from Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, to the destruction of Noah's Flood (chapters 1-6). The story of the post-Flood world begins in chapter 7 where we are told that Terah was 38 years old when he begat Haran and Nahor, the older brothers of Abraham (v.22). What year was this? According to the chronology, from the Flood, we discover that Noah was 600 years old at the time of the Flood (Gen.7:6). The Flood occurred in the year 2348 B.C. Noah’s son Shem begat Arphaxad 2 years after the Flood (Gen.11:10), or in 2346 B.C. From that time on we can trace the descendants of Shem (see Genesis 11:10-26):

Descendant	Lived	Begat	Date
Arphaxad	35 years	Salah	2311 B.C.
Salah	30	Eber	2281
Eber	34	Peleg	2247
Peleg	30	Reu	2217
Reu	32	Serug	2185
Serug	30	Nahor	2155
Nahor	29	Terah	2126 B.C.
Terah	70	Abram	2056 B.C.

At this point, the Biblical genealogy tell us, “*And Terah lived seventy years, and begat Abram, Nahor, and Haran*” (Gen.11:26). Yet the book of Jasher clearly states that “Terah was thirty eight years old, and he begat Haran and Nahor” (Jasher 9:22). Therefore, the fact that the Bible says Terah was 70 when he begat Abram, Nahor and Haran, must refer to the date when ABRAM was begotten – 32 years after his two brothers. Abram was the youngest of the three, but is listed first because the birthright became his due to his righteousness and excellency.

This is a straight-forward chronology. However, it differs from that of Archbishop James Ussher. Ussher, in his mammoth chronological work, concluded erroneously that Abram was born seventy five years before Terah his father died. Terah died at the age of 205 (Gen.11:32). The next chapter of Genesis tells us that God told Abram to leave his country and Abram did so at the age of 75 (Gen.12:1-4). Ussher assumes that Terah’s death and Abram’s departure for Canaan was the same year – therefore, since Terah died in 1921 B.C., Abram's birth would have been, according to Ussher, 75 years sooner – in 1996 B.C.

Notice! This date is precisely *60 years later than the true date for Abram’s birth!* Unfortunately, Archbishop Ussher did not have access to the book of Jasher when he calculated the birth of Abram!

When this correction is made, however, it suddenly frees up our understanding of events that occurred after the Flood. But which are we to believe – the book of Jasher or the conclusion of Archbishop James Ussher?

As incredible as it may sound, we have solid confirmation of the dates given in the book of Jasher. The ancient Jewish historian Flavius Josephus of the first century corroborates the date given by Jasher for the birth of Abraham! Notice this remarkable fact. Josephus writes in *Antiquities of the Jews*:

“I will now treat of the Hebrews. The son of Phaleg, whose father was Heber, was Ragau; whose son was Serug, to whom was born Nahor; *his son was Terah, who was the father of Abraham, who accordingly was the tenth from Noah, and was born in the two hundred and ninety second year after the Deluge; for Terah begat him in his seventieth year*” (bk.1, chapt.6, sec.5).

The Flood was in 2348 B.C. According to Josephus, Abraham was born 292 years after the Flood. This would put his birth in 2056 B.C., just as the book of Jasher states! Archbishop Ussher, who puts Abraham's birth 60 years later, in 1996 B.C., is thus proved to be in error on this point. Josephus also confirms that Abraham was born in Terah’s 70th year – not in his 130th year. Of course, this also confirms the Scriptural account which states plainly that Abram was born in Terah’s 70th year (Gen.11:26). A straightforward reading of this passage could be interpreted as follows: “And Terah lived seventy years, and begat Abram [and he had also begotten] Nahor, and Haran . . .”

Abraham was seventy five when he departed from Haran to the land of Canaan, in obedience to God (Gen.12:1-4), in 1981 B.C. He was 100 years old when Isaac was born

(Gen.17:1, 21), which would have been in 1956 B.C. Thus the war Abraham fought with the kings of the east would have been perhaps midway between the two dates – or about 1969 B.C. At that time Shem, who was born in 2248 B.C. and who died at the age of 600 years, in 1848 B.C., would have been 479 years of age. He lived for another 121 years. Thus Shem and Abraham were definitely contemporary, and Shem was the ruling patriarch of those willing to obey God. He was God’s representative and king over the earth, for those willing to obey God’s laws. Very few, however, were willing, as the story of human rebellion, led by Nimrod, unfolds.

Shem was still alive when Abraham defeated the kings of the east in battle, rescuing his nephew Lot and his household. So it makes sense that Melchizedek, in the personage of Shem at that time, conferred a blessing on Abraham, and Abraham gave him, as God’s representative on earth, a tenth of all the spoils.

Nevertheless, we must remember – the name “Melchizedek” is really a TITLE – an OFFICE – not a personal name as such. He had a dual office – he was a peacemaker, and was “king of peace.” And he was a righteous servant of God, thus “king of righteousness.”

Shem then was serving in the office of high priest on the earth during his lifetime.

King of Salem and Righteousness

Notice that Melchizedek was king of Salem. “Salem” comes from the Hebrew word meaning “peace.” Salem was the city of “Jerusalem” – the city of “peace.” The Hebrew word “Melek” means “King” or “Ruler.” Therefore, that would make Melchizedek the Ruler or King of Peace (Heb. 7:2). The word “Zedek” in Hebrew means “righteousness.” The Hebrew name Melchizedek itself literally means “King of righteousness” (Heb. 7:2). Shem held this title of office during his lifetime, as had Noah and his predecessors before him.

Therefore, in truth, the TITLE “Melchizedek” goes back to Adam, the first human priest of God of the human family.

However, there is a strange prophecy in Psalm 110:4, where David stated: “The Eternal hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.” This verse is quoted again in Hebrews 5:6,10, and is a prophetic reference to the coming of Christ, Yeshua the Messiah.

The Dead Sea Scrolls

New light on the mystery of Melchizedek is provided by a text found among the Dead Sea Scrolls at Qumran, appropriately labeled “11Qmelchizedek.” In the Qumran text, “Melchizedek is presented as an angelic being who raises up God’s holy ones for deeds of judgment and who takes divine judgment on evil. Here Melchizedek has superhuman status, which clearly involved living eternally, just as he has in Hebrews”

(James Vanderkam, “The Dead Sea Scrolls and Early Christianity,” *Bible Review*, December 1991, p.46).

Another Qumran text which appears to mention Melchizedek has also been published – the “Songs of the Sabbath Sacrifice.” Says *Bible Review*, “Although the relevant fragments are poorly preserved, here Melchizedek seems to officiate as the *heavenly high priest*, just as Jesus does in Hebrews” (*ibid.*).

In other words, there was a HIGH PRIEST “MELCHIZEDEK” IN HEAVEN even before the patriarchs, serving the Father! It was none other than the Logos, the Word of God, the One who became Jesus Christ!

No one really knew who the original “Melchizedek” was until the apostle Paul identified him as the One who became Jesus Christ.

Looking for Melchizedek

Let’s turn to Hebrews for the ultimate identification of Melchizedek.

Coming to Hebrews 7, we find Melchizedek identified: “For this *Melchizedek*, king of Salem, priest of the most high God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him; to whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace” (Heb. 7:1-2).

Righteousness is obedience to God’s Law. Since God made all laws (James 4:12), He is Supreme Ruler or King. He determines what righteousness is. “All thy commandments are righteousness” (Psalm 119:172). When speaking of one of the points of that Law, Jesus placed Himself superior to it. He is Lord of the Sabbath (Mark 2:28). No man is Lord or King over God’s Law. Only God could be! All human beings have sinned and broken that Law of righteousness (Romans 3:23).

Although Shem held the office of “Melchizedek” during his lifetime, he was not the ORIGINAL “Melchizedek.” Rather, he was a human TYPE of the true “Melchizedek”!

Notice, also, that this person was the “King of peace.” “Salem” comes from the Hebrew word *shalom* which is “peace.” Jerusalem itself means “the habitation of peace” or “the city of peace.” The prophet Isaiah called the Messiah, “Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6).

No human being could be the real or ultimate King of Peace. Shem was a type of the “king of peace.” He was a forerunner. Men know not the way of peace (Romans 3:10 and 17). Paul writes, “There is none righteous, no, not one.” And, he added, “the way of peace have they not known.” No human being could be the ultimate “King of

Peace.” A holy man may be a “type” of the Lord, but only the Lord Himself could be the true King of Peace!

Observe further: Melchizedek was “without mother, without father, without descent,” or as the Phillips translation renders it: “He had no father or mother and no family tree.” Some interpret this to mean that Melchizedek’s genealogy is not known, or doesn’t matter. With the Levitical priesthood, genealogy is very important.

Asserts the *Unger’s Bible Dictionary*, “The relation between Melchizedek and Christ as type and antitype are made in the Epistle to the Hebrews to consist in the following particulars: (1) not of the Levitical tribe; (2) superior to Abraham; (3) whose beginning and end are unknown; (4) who is not only a priest, but also a king of righteousness and peace. ‘Without father,’ etc. (Heb.7:3) refers to priestly genealogies. Melchizedek is not found on the register of the only line of legitimate priests; no record of his name is there . . . no evidence points out his line of descent from Aaron” (“Melchizedek,” p.711).

The mystery thickens, however, when Paul says plainly, “*having neither beginning of days nor end of life*”, in reference to Melchizedek, who, “*made like the Son of God, REMAINS A PRIEST CONTINUALLY*” Heb.7:3).

Shem DIED! He does not “remain a priest continually.” He remained a priest till he died. Paul writes, of Shem and the righteous patriarchs, “These ALL DIED IN FAITH, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth” (Heb.11:13).

The original “Melchizedek” was not born as human beings are. He was without father and mother. He lives forever. He abides a priest continually – EVEN TODAY!

This does not mean that Melchizedek’s records of birth were simply lost. Without such records human priests could not serve (Ezra 2:62). But the original Melchizedek had no genealogy. *He must not have been an ordinary mortal.* He had no descent or pedigree from another human being – therefore He must have been more than just a human being!

Shem had a father – Noah. Shem entered the ark at the age of 98. He died at the age of 600 (Gen.11:10-11). The Flood occurred in 2348 B.C., so Shem lived until the year 1848 B.C. But then he died.

Notice Paul’s own inspired interpretation of this fact: “Having neither beginning of days, nor end of life” (Heb. 7:3). Therefore He came into being BEFORE “DAYS” WERE CREATED! And He will live FOREVER!

Yet Melchizedek cannot be God the Father. He was the “priest *of* that Most High God.” Scripture says no man has ever seen the Father (John 1:18, 5:37). He cannot be

God the Father, but rather, as Paul wrote, He was “made *like unto the Son of God*; abideth a priest continually” (Heb. 7:3).

There is the answer! In the days of Abraham, Shem was a “type” of the Son of God – he was made *like* unto the Son of God in his manifestation to Abraham as a high priest and king. He was a “TYPE.”

Notice again: the true Melchizedek, this scripture reveals, *abides* that is, *remains* permanently, continually, a priest. God the Father is not the Priest of God, but the Logos, who became Christ the Son, is the true High Priest! Yet, in the days when the Apostle Paul lived and wrote, shortly after Jesus ascended to heaven as High Priest, the scripture states that even then Melchizedek “abideth” – which means does now abide – “a priest continually.” The Moffatt translation states it: “continues to be priest permanently” – *even while Jesus Christ is High Priest!*

Let’s understand this! There cannot be TWO HIGH PRIESTS, at the same time, both serving as THE HIGH PRIEST!

The conclusion is inescapable. Contrary to many cherished man-thought-out ideas, the original Melchizedek and Christ are one and the same! Some people have stumbled on the statement that Melchizedek has no “end of life.” They contend that since Christ died, He had an end of life! If that be true then Christ is still dead! But Christ is not dead. He is alive. It was not possible for Christ to be held by death (Acts 2:24). Melchizedek would never have fulfilled His office of High Priest if He had not died for the sins of the people and risen again. It is the function of the High Priest to lead the way to salvation.

Indeed, Jesus Christ is the author and finisher of our salvation (Heb. 5:9; 12:2). He is “called of God an high priest after the order of Melchizedec” (Heb. 5:10). And no wonder, because the One who was the original “Melchizedek” and Jesus Christ are one and the same Person!

How incredible!

The Tabernacle in Heaven

Christ is a priest “FOREVER, according to the order of Melchizedek” (Heb.7:17, 21). Unlike Shem, or the patriarchs, “But He because He continues FOREVER, has an unchangeable priesthood” (v.24). So Paul goes on, “Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such an High Priest, who is *seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a Minister of the sanctuary and of the TRUE tabernacle which the Lord erected and not man . . .*” (Heb.8:1-2).

The heavenly tabernacle of God has existed from the beginning. The earthly tabernacle was but a “pattern” or “copy” of the heavenly tabernacle.

“But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come with the *greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation*” (Heb.9:11).

There is a heavenly tabernacle.

So Paul wrote, “Therefore it was necessary that the COPIES of the things in the heavens should be purified with these [blood of sacrifices], but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are COPIES [“representations,” margin] of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us” (Heb.9:24).

As astonishing as it may seem, the true, original Melchizedek priesthood goes back to the Logos, the One who became Christ, in heaven, before the Throne of God the Father! He no doubt performed sacrifices and offerings for the angels, and all God’s creatures, even before there was a man on the earth!

Can Angels Sin?

We read in the book of Job of the need for such a high priest. “If God puts no trust in His saints, *and the heavens are not pure in His sight*, how much less man, who is abominable and filthy, who drinks iniquity like water!” (Job 15:15-16).

Job writes, “If He puts no trust in His servants, if He charges HIS ANGELS with ERROR, how much more those who dwell in houses of clay, whose foundation is in the dust, who are crushed before a moth?” (Job 4:18-19).

Job continues, “If even the moon does not shine, and the STARS are not pure in His sight, how much less man, who is a maggot, and a son of man, who is a worm?” (Job 25:5-6). Stars, remember, are a “type” of ANGELS! “The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches”(Rev.1:20). God asked Job, “Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?” (Job 38:4, 7).

Even the angels have made mistakes, and “sinned,” and had to be forgiven, at times, upon their repentance. We ALL need a Saviour – a Mediator – a High Priest!

Even though God’s angels are “righteous” angels, and are so called, we must remember that even “righteous” men, from time to time, commit “sin.” Even the “saints” – and church leaders, prophets, apostles, and patriarchs – have sinned, although they are spoken of as “righteous.” Bottom line, all of us depend on the shed blood of the Messiah to cover our sins – from Abraham’s deceit to Moses’ anger, from David’s adultery to Peter’s refusal to eat with Gentiles. All make mistakes.

Concerning the angels in heaven, who remained faithful to God, even they must trust in the grace and pardon and loving-kindness of God, and His mercy. They are righteous, but that does not mean they are “perfect” or never made an error or mistake.

There is an old saying, “He who never made a mistake never made anything else!” Only GOD is truly perfect. But even He has done things that He later regretted! For example, when He saw the wickedness in the earth in Noah’s generation, He exclaimed, “Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually [all the day]. And the LORD was SORRY that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart” (Gen.6:5-6).

In another instance, God repented Himself that He made Saul to be king over Israel. He told Samuel the prophet, “I greatly regret that I have set up Saul as king, for he has turned back from following Me, and has not performed My commandments” (I Sam.15:11).

God Himself says of the angels, in the book of Job, “Behold, he puts no trust in his saints; yea, the heavens are not clean in his sight” (Job 15:15). This implies that even saints and inhabitants of heaven are not perfect or faultless.

Job says further, “Behold, he puts no trust in his servants; and his angels he charged with folly” (Job 4:18). There was a time when no doubt some of the angels were caught between the pull of Lucifer, and the service of God; they had to make a choice. Some may have wavered for a while, as they “sat on the fence,” as it were; some may have sinned, and had to repent. Their character was not yet fully formed or developed. They, too, had to grow in character. They are beings with freedom of choice, free will, and had to CHOOSE to remain faithful, and overcome temptations (Lucifer’s seductions). Thus God also says, in Job, “yea, the *stars* are not pure in His sight” [present tense] (Job 25:5).

Wherever there is free will, and choice, there is the potential for sin – rebellion – falling short of the mark – lawlessness – error. Even with the best of intentions, a person can flunk an algebra test! A person can “weed” a garden, and pull up the good plants by mistake!

Whenever there is sin, there must be a sin offering to rectify the sin – to bring forgiveness and pardon! As Paul wrote, “For He hath made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us [a sin offering], that we might become the righteousness of God in Him” (II Cor.5:21).

Thus we read in the New Testament, “And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. For it pleased the Father that in him should all fullness dwell; and, having made peace through the blood of his cross, BY HIM TO RECONCILE ALL THINGS TO HIMSELF; by him, I say, whether they be *things in earth, OR THINGS IN HEAVEN*” (Col.1:18-20).

Things – that is, beings – in heaven also had to be “reconciled” to the Father – through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, Yeshua the Messiah!

Similarly, Paul wrote to the Ephesians, “That in the dispensation of the fullness of times he might *gather together in one ALL THINGS in Christ, BOTH WHICH ARE IN HEAVEN*, and which are on earth” (Eph.1:10).

The blood of Christ then also covers the sins of angels who transgressed, made mistakes, committed ‘folly,’ but who then REPENTED of their sins! The problem with the devil and his angels, is simply that they persisted in rebellion – they refused to repent – and therefore they committed the UNPARDONABLE SIN, which in essence is the SIN OF UNREPENTANCE – the sin of refusing to repent, and persisting in iniquity – the sin of constant, unrelenting, incorrigible rebellion!

So Paul writes of the high priesthood of Christ, the true Melchizedek, “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, that in the dispensation of the fullness of times He might gather together in ONE ALL THINGS IN CHRIST, BOTH WHICH ARE IN HEAVEN and which are on earth—in Him” (Ephesians 1:7-10).

The Original Priesthood in Heaven

Because of sin, and the need for purification and cleansing, from time to time, when creatures make mistakes, there is a Tabernacle and Altar in heaven. Isaiah describes it thus: “Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth with it, and said: ‘Behold, this has touched your lips; your iniquity is taken away, and your sin purged’” (Isaiah 6:6-7).

In the book of Revelation we read: “Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple. And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail” (Rev.11:19).

The true “Melchizedek” priesthood BEGAN with the Logos in heaven, the Father’s representative at the heavenly temple, His supreme commander and high priest in heaven, over all the angels. On the earth, during the world before Moses’ time, the patrilinear high priests were a “type” of this heavenly priesthood, till the time of Shem and the patriarchs, but ceased on earth when the Levitical priesthood, a “copy,” replaced it. However, Yeshua – Jesus the Christ – re-inaugurated the TRUE Melchizedek priesthood by BECOMING OUR HIGH PRIEST, OFFERING HIMSELF as our eternal sacrifice, and now reigns as High Priest in heaven, of both angels and men and all creatures, great and small, and He will do so FOREVER.

A careful study of Hebrews 7, 8 and 9 shows that Paul understood that Christ is the TRUE MELCHIZEDEK High Priest forever. Shem was only a “type” – and so were his predecessors. He was earthly, was born of a man and woman, his priesthood had a

beginning and an ending (though it lasted for his life time), and it was superior to the Levitical priesthood, but it was not adequate to fulfill the statements of the apostle Paul, but itself was a “type” of the ORIGINAL AND TRUE “Melchizedek” – “KING OF RIGHTEOUSNESS” and “KING OF PEACE.”

The Concept of “Days”

The original Melchizedek became a human being, humbled Himself, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and died on the stake, shedding His blood as a sacrifice for our sins, and all sins of every creature – angels and men!

He was the Logos who later appeared in human form – the incarnate Christ. As Paul says, He was “without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually.” There cannot be two high priests of the Melchizedek line. Christ as the Logos was the first and original Melchizedek. Shem was His representative on earth, and also bore this title, while he served as priest and king of Jerusalem during the time of Abraham.

Why, then, do we read that Melchizedek had “NO BEGINNING OF DAYS”? Does this prove that the Logos or One who became Christ ALWAYS existed?

Actually, it does not. It simply proves that He existed *PRIOR to the creation of “days”!*

Jesus Himself says that He had a beginning. He said, “These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, THE BEGINNING OF the creation of God” (Rev..3:14).

The apostle Paul said the same thing. He wrote, speaking of Christ, “Who is the IMAGE of the invisible God, the FIRST-BORN of *all creation*” (Col.1:15). Once the Father created Him, and brought Him into existence, then He – as the Logos or “Word” of God – jointly created everything else, the whole Universe – “For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible” (Col.1:16).

Jesus Christ was the Logos of the Old Testament, the Angel of the Lord, the One in the Presence of the Father, who communicated with the patriarchs and fathers, and the prophets of old. “Melchizedek” was one of His many names or titles!

The Logos, or original “Melchizedek” indeed had a beginning, but He was created *long before “days”* were created. In fact, He and the Father together CREATED “DAYS”! For more information on this amazing subject, write for our free articles “Was Christ Created?”, “Who or What was Jesus Christ Before His Human Birth?”, “The One True God,” “The Genesis Factor – Is God Reproducing Himself?”, “The Pre-Existence of Christ,” and “The Mystery of God.” Write also for our free article, “The Book of Jasher Uncloaked.”