

Hebrews 7:1-10

For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, 2 and to him Abraham apportioned a tenth part of everything. He is first, by translation of his name, king of righteousness, and then he is also king of Salem, that is, king of peace. 3 He is without father or mother or genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but resembling the Son of God he continues a priest forever.

4 See how great this man was to whom Abraham the patriarch gave a tenth of the spoils! 5 And those descendants of Levi who receive the priestly office have a commandment in the law to take tithes from the people, that is, from their brothers, though these also are descended from Abraham. 6 But this man who does not have his descent from them received tithes from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises. 7 It is beyond dispute that the inferior is blessed by the superior. 8 In the one case tithes are received by mortal men, but in the other case, by one of whom it is testified that he lives. 9 One might even say that Levi himself, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, 10 for he was still in the loins of his ancestor when Melchizedek met him.

More about Abraham and Melchizedek can be read in Genesis 14. It is an interesting account and helps to provide context for our lesson. The main point I would like us to take from the passage before us now, however, because these devotions are necessarily brief, is that Christ is our King of Righteousness, our priest forever interceding before the Father for us, His sacrifice the once-for-all perfect and final sacrifice for sin. Christ is the new Melchizedek, the fulfillment of what was spoken concerning him. He is also a priest and a king, the one and only Mediator between God and Men as our Priest and the governor of all things as our King of Kings, seated at the right hand of God. As Melchizedek was from Salem, and thus a king of peace (Salem means peace), so Christ is the Prince of Peace, come to bring us lasting and perfect peace and wholeness with and in our God. As Melchizedek had no recorded beginning or end, Christ is begotten of the Father from eternity, the eternal Son of God. Few men were more important than Abraham in the Old Testament, but when one greater than he appeared, Abraham recognized it and did not hesitate to confess it. Like Abraham, we are wise to receive Christ's blessing, to confess Him as greater and our Lord, and to acknowledge His person, place, and work with our tithes and lives of living sacrifice through the new life that is now ours in our risen Prophet, Priest, and King. Amen.