

Melchizedek = Jesus? or Gentile king?

25 facts we know about Melchizedek

by Phil Myers

He is the central theme in 6 chapters.

Hebrews 7,8,9,10

Genesis 14

Psalm 110

1. Why do most Christian writers believe “*this Melchizedek*” is actually Jesus pre-incarnate?
2. Are these chapters to be taken literally or allegorically?

* Only 2 options:

A. Melchizedek is Jesus, a Christophany.

B. Mel is the Gentile king of [Jeru/Salem].

* We can look a Mel literally or as a figure of speech>

- a. A figure of speech indicates that Melchizedek doesn't really fulfilling the facts attributed to him.
- b. A figure of speech denies 6 of the nine * facts below which are explicitly said about him.

God only wants us to know **25** things about Mel.

5 facts from the Torah, *Gen 14.18-20*

1. king of Salem, *presumed to be Jerusalem* *Jer 3.17, actually an unknown city*
2. a [the?] priest of the most high God *Heb 10.12*
3. member of the Order of Melchizedek, *the founder* *Heb 7.13-17*
4. more honorable than Abraham *by implication, Heb 7.4*
5. received plunder from Abraham, *Temple tax,* *Lev 27.30 ff, 400 years later*

* Dead Sea Scrolls refer to Mel as *elohim* [11Q13 - 11Q Melch], FYI

6 facts from Psalm 110.1-7, speaking of “My Lord” [v.1], *the Messiah*.

1. He will sit at God's right hand, v.1 *Luke 22.69*
2. His enemies will be His footstool, v.1 *Heb 10.13*
3. He will rule, v.2 *Rev 11.15*
4. He will be a priest, v.4 *Heb 2.17*
5. He will be after the Order of Mel, v.4 *Heb 7.13-17* [a duplicate statement]
6. He will judge, v.6 *John 5.22,23*

3 deeds that Mel did,

1. Melchizedek fed Abraham *Gen 14.18,19*
2. Mel blessed Abraham *Gen 14.18*
3. Mel received tithe of the spoils *Heb 7.1*
cf Lev 27.30ff Mosaic tithes

11 more facts from the NT about Mel,

Hebrews 7 & 8

1. * without father, without mother *Heb 7.3*
2. * without descent, *genealogy* *Heb 7.3*
3. * having neither beginning of days, *Heb 7.3*
4. * nor end of life *Heb 7.3*
5. * made like unto the Son of God, *Heb 7.3* *Dan 3.16, furnace*
6. * Mel has an endless life, *Hebrews 7.16*
7. abideth a priest continually *Heb 7.3*
8. king of righteousness, “*perfection?*” *Heb 7.11*
9. king of Salem, which is, king of peace *Heb 7.2* [a duplicate statement]
10. Jesus sits at the Father's right hand *Heb 8.1*
11. Not a Levite *Heb 7.5,6*

* *Some arbitrarily insist these 6 (*) are to be viewed as allegorical [figures of speech]. They conclude Mel was not Jesus, but they also insist that all the other facts in the above list are to be taken literally.*

* *If the first 6 are not taken literally there is no reason to believe the last 5 are to be taken literally.*

* *We choose a literal interpretation since there is no obvious reason to assume that we should interpret them allegorically.*

Jewish views:

RABBINIC HISTORY, etc.

Melchizedek never bisects Jewish or secular history, except in Gen 14.

No biblical support

- * Rabbinic: Mel was born circumcised
- * Midrash: spiritually superior
- * Josephus: a Canaanite warlord
- * Dead Sea Scrolls refer to Melchizedek as Elohim, [11Q13_11QMelch]
- * Philo: a peaceful Gentile king
- * Mel assisted David in writing the Psalms
- * Like Jethro, he worshipped JHVH Ex 18.9-11???
- * Son of Shem, line of believers Gen 14.18-20
- * Melchizedek is a Gentile King, general rabbinic view

Additional statements to support idea that Melchizedek is a Gentile King, *mostly conjecture and not supported in Scripture.*

1. Jewish priests are chosen “from among men” Heb 5.1, therefore Mel must not be divine.
2. Abraham did not worship him.
3. He’s described as being greater than Abraham not as divine.
4. Jesus was not from the priestly line of Levi either.
5. Mel’s priesthood records no “beginning of days” Heb 7.3b.
6. Jesus is not compared to Mel. Mel is compared to Jesus.
7. Jesus is a fulfillment of an OT foreshadowing.
8. Mel is only a type.
9. Never says Mel is eternal.
10. Mel is just a picture.
11. No record of genealogy. Probably lost.
12. No record of Jewish family.
13. Does not say his descendants would become priests.
14. Not the son of God, but “made like the son of God.” Statement unsupported in Scripture but extrapolated by eisegesis.

THEREFORE: the above 14 items seem to be randomly selected to be viewed as allegorical.

- * We cannot be sure which facts are actual and which are allegorical.
- * The “Gentile king” theory admits that some of the 25 observations from page #25 are to be understood. *Method of selection very unclear.*
- * That would lead us to conclude that perhaps NONE of the statements from page 25 can be taken at face value.
- * Every seemingly clear statement about Mel is actually unclear since there is no way to identify the difference between literal & allegorical.
- * The “Gentile king” position insists that eight [8] biblical facts must be understood literally: Mel is a king and priest, he ruled Salem, he’s a believer in JHVH, he received gift from Abraham, he’s greater than Abraham, he started an order of priests by himself not by God, and he’s a king of peace.

CONCLUSION, pjmyers

- * The Gentile king view is very weak.
 - * All biblical facts should be considered to be either allegorical or else literal. The “Gentile king” position will not accept that.
 - * We must read all of the information as literal, since reading only parts of the account as allegorical is unsatisfactory since we can’t tell which parts?
 - * Melchizedek = Jesus, a Christophany, see below.
- Jesus as our High Priest: a major theme in 4 chapters of Hebrews—91 verses [out of 303 verses in the whole book of Hebrews]
Especially note:
2.17 3.1 4.14,15 5.1,5,10 **6.20 7.26,27,28 8.1,3 9.7,11,25 10.21** 13.11
* And these High Priestly verses are snuggled together between the two most well known warnings, chapters 6 & 10.
 - Jesus’ priesthood focuses more on the person and quality of Jesus’ life than it does on His role as High Priest: perfect, enduring, qualified to intercede, compassionate, human feelings, and so on.

ADDENDA

1. Tithing, not connected to Mosaic Law or the NT Church

Hebrews 7:2 (Genesis 24.35)

“to Whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all”, how these two met is not explained by God.

- Many connect Abraham’s gift of 10%, not to the Temple tithe, but to the NT Church although there is not one reference to Church Age tithing. NT giving is probably to be far more generous than the Mosaic “4-part tithing” program which actually amounted to about 30% of one’s income. pjm
- Abraham’s gift to Mel was not an annual federal “income tax.” It was booty, plunder. Abr was extremely rich: “flocks, and herds, and silver and gold, and servants, and maids, and camels, and donkeys.” *Gen 24.35. A good chunk would have paid Levitical priests’ salaries. Another portion would have supplied Temple sacrifices.*
If it had been income tithing, Abe would have had to pay royalties on a business venture large enough to have at least 318 full time employees [*Gen 14.14*]. He actually gave Mel 1/10 of swords, animals, tents, and plunders of war which Abraham had only possessed for a couple of days[?].
- Tithing had already been practiced occasionally by pagan societies, **ANCIENT HISTORY**
 - Mesopotamia, Tablet of Shamash [*800 BC*] taxes
 - Assyria idolatry [*800 BC*],
 - Persia, Lady of Uruk [*300 BC*]
 - Egypt, god Ra, idolatry [*1200 BC*]
- Mosaic tithe: Levitical tithe, feast tithe, poor tithe, plus freewill offerings, & poll tax.
for starters: Lev 27, Num 18, Deut 14, Mal 3

2. Theophany = an appearance of God on earth.

Sol—I Kgs—in a dream	—	Moses—burning bush, Exod 3
Elijah—visions, 1 Kings 17		Peter—Acts 12, release from jail
Rushing mighty wind, Acts 2		Dove at baptism, Matt 3
Mighty voice on Sinai, Exod 20		Samson, Manoah, Jacob’s ladder, donkey. . . .

* *would include all of the appearances below listed as “Christophanies.”*

If Melchizedek is an appearance of God on earth. This is called a theophany.

3. Christophany = When it is clearly a pre-incarnate appearance of Jesus it is called a “Christophany.”

Seems to occur most often as the Angel of the Lord.

Melchizedek, Gen 24	3 men in the fiery furnace, Daniel 3
Captain of Lord’s army, Joshua 3	Gideon—Judges 7, captain
Jacob—Gen 28, wrestle angel	Abr—Gen 18, 3 angels
Hagar, Gen 16	Adam & Eve, Gen 3