

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

Psalms 110

1. Why do most Christian writers believe “this Melchizedek” is actually Jesus pre-incarnate?
2. Are these 6 chapters to be taken literally or allegorically?

* Only 2 options:

- A. Melchizedek is Jesus, a Christophany. - literal view
- B. Mel is the Gentile king of [Jeru]Salem. - allegorical view

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

- a. A figure of speech indicates that Melchizedek doesn't really fulfill the facts attributed to him.
- b. A figure of speech denies 6 of the nine * facts (#15-20) 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*
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, *Lev 27.30 ff, Temple tax, 400 years later*

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

6. He will sit at God's right hand, v.1 *Luke 22.69*
7. His enemies will be His footstool, v.1 *Heb 10.13*
8. He will rule, v.2 *Rev 11.15*
9. He will be a priest, v.4 *Heb 2.17*
10. He will be after the Order of Mel, v.4 *Heb 7.13-17*
11. He will judge, v.6 *John 5.22,23*

3 deeds that Mel did

12. Melchizedek fed Abraham *Gen 14.18,19*
13. Mel blessed Abraham *Heb 7.1*
14. Mel received tithe of the spoils *cf Lev 27.30ff Mosaic tithes, income taxes not yet instituted for 400 years*

11 more facts from the NT about Mel, *Hebrews 7 & 8*

15. * without father, without mother *Heb 7.3*
16. * without descent, *genealogy* *Heb 7.3*
17. * having neither beginning of days, *Heb 7.3*
18. * nor end of life *Heb 7.3*
19. * made like unto the Son of God, *Heb 7.3 Dan 3.16, furnace*
20. * Mel has an endless life, *Heb 7.16*
21. abideth a priest continually *Heb 7.3*
22. king of righteousness, “*perfection?*” *Heb 7.11*
23. king of Salem, which is, king of peace *Heb 7.2 [a duplicate statement]*
24. Jesus sits at the Father's right hand *Heb 8.1*
25. 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, an oxymoron.**

* **If the #15,16,17,18,19, & 20 are not taken literally there is no reason to believe #21-25 should 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**

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, Mel worshipped JHVH Ex 18.9-11???
- * Son in Shem's line of believers Gen 14.18-20
- * Melchizedek is a Gentile King, general rabbinic view
- * Dead Sea Scrolls refer to Mel as elohim [11Q13 - 11Q Melch], FYI

Additional statements are used to support idea that Melchizedek is a Gentile King, *mostly conjecture and not found 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, *fat chance*.
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: since the 14 items above seem to be randomly selected and must be viewed as allegorical;

- * We cannot be sure which facts are actual and which are allegorical.
- * The "Gentile king" theory admits that only some of the 25 observations from page #25 are to be understood allegorically. *Method of selection very unclear.*
- * That would lead us to conclude that perhaps NONE of the 25 facts from page #1 can be taken at face value.
- * Every seemingly clear statement about Mel is actually unclear since there is no hermeneutically accurate way to identify the difference between literal & allegorical.
- * The "Gentile king" position seems to insist that eight [8] biblical facts must be understood literally:

Mel is a king	Mel was a priest,	he ruled Salem
he's a believer in JHVH	he received gift from Abraham	he's greater than Abraham
he's a king of peace	he started an order of priests by himself	not by God

* No explanation as to why or how God established another priesthood besides the Mosaic priesthood.

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 [91 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

* 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. Church giving is not connected to Mosaic Law. Tithing in the NT Church is unknown. Generosity is.
Hebrews 7:2 (Genesis 24:35)

see www.PhilMyersBlog.com

Tithing Replaced by Generosity in the New Testament

“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 “3 or 4-part tithing” program which actually amounted to about 30% of one’s income. This amounts to about 30% of income. Abraham didn’t pay.
Levitical (sacred, ritual), Num 18:21-26
Feast, Deut 14:22-27
Poor, Deut 14:28,29
- 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 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, to 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

Elijah—visions

Rushing mighty wind, Acts 2

Mighty voice on Sinai, Exod 20

Moses—burning bush, Exod 3

Peter—Acts 12, release from jail

Dove at baptism, Matt 3

Samson, Manoah, Jacob’s ladder, donkey. . . .

* *would include all Christophanies. See below.*

If Melchizedek is an appearance of God on earth in some physical form. This is called a theophany. This is what I believe.

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

Captain of Lord’s army, Joshua 3

Jacob—Gen 28, wrestle angel

Hagar, Gen 16

3 men in the fiery furnace, Daniel 3

Gideon—Judges 7, captain

Abr—Gen 19, 3 “men” prior to Sodom

Adam & Eve, Gen 3