

THE MELCHEZIDEK PRIESTHOOD

After receiving the Mormon ordination of the Aaronic priesthood, it is not much later that the males are encouraged to receive the Melchizedek priesthood, the latter considered to be the higher calling of the two. Can this be a legitimate ordination? Let's look at the facts.

Mention of Melchizedek first appeared in the Bible in Genesis 14:18. In this account, he visited Abraham and blessed him. In return, Abraham paid tithes to Melchizedek. This occurred about 2000 years before Jesus was born.

Remember! Moses and Aaron had not even been born yet! Check Exodus 2. Pharaoh was already in power when Moses was born. It looks like we already have a problem. Doesn't a Mormon have to have the Aaronic priesthood before the Melchizedek priesthood is conferred? Isn't Aaron Moses's brother?

We have another problem too. Don't Mormons claim to have come from either the tribe of Ephraim or Manasseh? The Bible says that Aaronic priests had to be from the tribe of Levi.

So who was this Melchizedek? In Genesis 14:18, he was called the King of Salem. It is interesting to note that Salem is part of the work Jerusalem. He is the first priest mentioned in the Bible.

In Hebrew, the name Melchizedek (Melchi-Tzedek) means King of Righteousness. Abraham acknowledged this. He must have considered him to have a higher spiritual ranking, because he accepted a blessing from him. Abraham also gave him a tenth of everything he had. Please don't take my word for this. Check it out in the Bible in Hebrews chapter 7.

There is a Psalm that speaks of Melchizedek as well, Psalm 110:4. It speaks of the Messiah coming and being a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

There are some different things that we need to notice about Melchizedek. In Hebrews 7:3, the Bible seems to suggest that he was a pre-incarnate Jesus Christ, that he appeared to Abraham before he was born in the flesh. Just look at what the scripture says about him. He had no lineage like the others. He had no father, no mother, no descent, no beginning,

or end of life, but he is ALWAYS a priest. He lives forever! His priesthood is unchangeable. And who else can claim to be made like unto the Son of God.

Can a human being claim that? We have a beginning and ending of life. We have mothers. We have fathers. We also have a beginning and an end.

In John 8:58, Jesus says a strange thing that the Jews questioned Him about. He said, "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad." Think about this one. Jesus was not born in the flesh until way after Abraham had lived. How would he have known about Jesus? The Jews understood that Jesus was claiming to have met Abraham in ancient times. In verse 57 of the same scripture, they questioned Him. They said, "Thou art not yet fifty years old and hast seen Abraham? That's when Jesus responded to them by saying, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, before Abraham was, I AM, thus claiming His Godhood.

Can you see how this indicates that Melchizedek must have been Jesus Himself? None of us have the qualifications.