

February 24<sup>th</sup>

## **PRIEST AND KING?**

*“And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. (He was priest of God Most High.) And he blessed him and said, “Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand!” And Abram gave him a tenth of everything.”*

### **GENESIS 14:18-20**

**“P**ower corrupts. Absolute power corrupts absolutely. It’s a statement that has been confirmed throughout human history. Here in Genesis 14, we have people of power coming together to meet. But it doesn’t end like we might think. One man we know well in Genesis because we’ve been following his story...Abram. Another man comes quickly and vanishes, but not without leaving his mark on history. His name is Melchizedek, and he is talked about in Psalm 110 and in Hebrews 5-7. What does God teach us through this man? There has been much speculation about Melchizedek’s identity. Was he an angel? Was he Jesus? We don’t really have satisfying answers to these questions. But what we do have is what the Bible teaches us about the significance of Melchizedek.

Wise governments focus on instituting and preserving a system of checks and balances so one side doesn’t have all the power. The Bible is no different. Priests could not be kings. Kings could not be priests. King Uzziah attempted to offer incense in 2 Chronicles 29 and was rebuked and given leprosy as a result. But what do you notice about this obscure man Melchizedek? What is his position and role? Priest and King. Psalm 110 and Hebrews 5-7 tell us that Melchizedek points forward to another Priest and King...Jesus Christ.

Melchizedek means “king of righteousness.” We also see that he is the king of Salem. Salem means “peace.” Melchizedek points forward to Jesus’ character according to Hebrews 7. Jesus is the King of Righteousness and the King of Peace. He is the only true King who can truly bring peace with God. But Melchizedek doesn’t just show Christ’s character, he also shows that Christ is qualified to be both King and Priest. Hebrews 7:2-3 says, “...He is first, by translation of his name, king of righteousness, and then he is also king of Salem, that is, king of peace. 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.” Unlike the priestly line of Aaron, death will not interrupt the work of Christ. He constantly intercedes for believers in heaven.

Men, you have a Priest and King that is worthy of your worship and devotion. He has no beginning and no end. He doesn’t have to enter the holy of holies once per year to offer sacrifice for sin. He offered Himself for sin once for all! How will you respond to your perfect Priest and King today?

***Spend some time praising Jesus for who He is. Ask Him to make you appreciate Him more today.***

**For Further Reading: Psalm 110**

