

January 7th – Prophet, Priest, and King

“Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High. And he blessed him and said: ‘Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand.’ And he gave him a tithe of all.” (Gen. 14:18-20)

After God made His covenant with Abram, it wasn't too long until he began to take residence in the Promised Land. Abram's nephew, Lot, made his residence to the east, and Abram pitched his tents in the west. In the process of time, Lot was taken captive by a conglomeration of armies that came against the inhabitants of his new home. Being the great man he was, Abram gathered his servants and retrieved his nephew, along with much spoil from the hands of his enemies.

As Abram was returning home from battle, the Bible says that at least two kings came out to greet him, and among them was Melchizedek. Melchizedek is not like any other king in the Scripture. He had three distinct roles – prophet, priest, and king. How do we know? The Bible says he was “king of Salem.” Further, “he was the priest of God Most High.” In other words, he performed priestly duties in the worship of Jehovah. He didn't serve the Canaanite gods that were worshiped all around him.

Our passage says that Melchizedek blessed Abram and prophesied over his life. Abram acknowledged Melchizedek's unique position as prophet, priest, and king by giving him “a tithe of all” – one tenth of all he had. What is the significance of Melchizedek? I believe the Lord permitted Abram to encounter Melchizedek in order to point Him to Jesus. Jesus Christ is the TRUE Prophet, Priest, and King who will reign forevermore. Each of us should surrender all that we have to Him today!