

I. The Promised Blessing (Genesis 12)

- A. The Abrahamic Covenant is repeated and expanded in Genesis 13, 15, 17 and 22.
- B. The Promised Blessing was the assurance of a coming Redeemer.
 - Galatians 3:6 *Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. 7 Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham. 8 And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.*
- C. The Blessing of Christ as Redeemer is not limited to the biological seed of Abraham. (1 John 2:2)

II. Melchizedek: the Mysterious Picture of Christ

- A. We are introduced to Melchizedek in Genesis 14.
- B. Genesis 14:18 *And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God.*
 1. **King** of Salem
 2. **Priest** of the Most High God (El Elyon)
- C. Melchizedek blessed Abram.
 1. Hebrews 7:7 *And without all contradiction the less is blessed of the better.*
 2. Melchizedek was greater than Abram!
- D. Abram offered tithes to Melchizedek.
 - Just as the lesser is blessed by the greater, the lesser gives tithes to the greater.

- E. There have been many theories about identity of Melchizedek.
 1. **Shem** (who was contemporary of Abram for 100 years)
 - This cannot be true because of Hebrews 7:3 saying *without father* — we know who Shem's father was.
 2. Some believe Melchizedek to be a **Christophany** (a pre-incarnate appearance of Christ.)
 - This is also not true because Hebrews 7:3 tells us he was ...*made like unto the Son of God*;
 3. Some believe Melchizedek to be **angelic**.
 - This cannot be because (Hebrews 7:4) says, *Now consider how great this man was...*
- F. Melchizedek — the Picture of Christ
 1. Silence regarding his parentage.
 - a) The focus was not upon the man but upon his office.
 - b) He was a king and a priest, but not by birthright.
 2. His name
 - *Melchizedek* (מֶלְכִי־צֶדֶק) — King of righteousness
 - a) Psalm 85:10 *Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.*
 - b) One of the names of Jehovah given in Jeremiah 33:16 is The Lord Our Righteousness — Yhwh-Tsidkenu
 3. His Royal Priesthood — Hebrews 7:22-28
 - Hebrews 4:15 *For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*