



New Covenant

Presbyterian Church

“MELCHIZE-WHO?”

GENESIS 14:18-24

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“God works in the lives of His people in the hidden and unseen ways. When it doesn’t look like God’s at work, be assured that He is at work.” – Nick Batzig

A. MEDIATOR OF GRACE

1. HOW SIGNIFICANT IS MELCHIZEDEK? HE GETS HIS OWN PSALM (PS. 110) AND 3 CHAPTERS IN THE BOOK OF HEBREWS. ALTHOUGH GENESIS IS A BOOK OF GENEALOGIES, MELCHIZEDEK IS THE ONLY FIGURE IN THE BOOK OF GENESIS WHO DOESN’T HAVE A GENEALOGY. HE IS THE PRIEST OF GOD MOST HIGH. THE FACT THAT MELCHIZEDEK SHOWS UP IN THE NARRATIVE OF ABRAHAM SHOWS THAT EVEN SOMEONE AS GREAT AS ABRAHAM NEEDED A MEDIATOR BETWEEN HIM AND GOD. HE NEEDED A PRIEST JUST AS WE NEED A PRIEST. JESUS IS OUR PRIEST.
2. AT THE TIME OF ABRAHAM AND MELCHIZEDEK NO ONE WAS WALKING CLOSELY WITH GOD, YET GOD HAD HIS PEOPLE.
3. GOD WORKS IN THE LIVES OF HIS PEOPLE IN THE HIDDEN AND UNSEEN WAYS. WHEN IT DOESN’T LOOK LIKE GOD’S AT WORK, BE ASSURED THAT HE IS AT WORK. WHATEVER VICTORIES WE HAVE OVER THE FLESH OR TRIUMPHS WE HAVE OVER SIN IT IS ONLY BY THE GRACE OF GOD.
4. “FOR CONSIDER YOUR CALLING, BROTHERS: NOT MANY OF YOU WERE WISE ACCORDING TO WORLDLY STANDARDS, NOT MANY WERE POWERFUL, NOT MANY WERE OF NOBLE BIRTH. BUT GOD CHOSE WHAT IS FOOLISH IN THE WORLD TO SHAME THE WISE; GOD CHOSE WHAT IS WEAK IN THE WORLD TO SHAME THE STRONG; GOD CHOSE WHAT IS LOW AND DESPISED IN THE WORLD, EVEN THINGS THAT ARE NOT, TO BRING TO NOTHING THINGS THAT ARE, SO THAT NO HUMAN BEING MIGHT BOAST IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD. AND BECAUSE OF HIM YOU ARE IN CHRIST JESUS, WHO BECAME TO US WISDOM FROM GOD, RIGHTEOUSNESS AND SANCTIFICATION AND REDEMPTION, SO THAT, AS IT IS WRITTEN, ‘LET THE ONE WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD.’” (I CORINTHIANS 1:26-31)

“So we see how God sometimes hid His church underground so that she could not be seen as far as human opinion is concerned. Some people thought that the church had completely disappeared, but we observe how God protected a tiny seed.” – John Calvin

5. “THE LORD SAYS TO MY LORD” (PSALM 110:1) IS THE REPEATED REFRAIN OF CHRISTOLOGY IN THE OLD TESTAMENT. THE FATHER SAYS TO THE SON “YOU ARE A PRIEST ACCORDING TO THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK.” WE NEED A PRIEST LIKE MELCHIZEDEK. ALL OF THE LEVITICAL PRIESTS AND SACRIFICES POINTED TO JESUS. UNLIKE MOST PRIESTS, MELCHIZEDEK DOESN’T COME WITH A SACRIFICE. INSTEAD, HE COMES WITH BREAD AND WINE. WHAT ABRAHAM OUGHT TO THINK IS THAT THIS ONE WHO CAME TO BLESS HIM PREFIGURES THE PRIEST, SACRIFICE AND REDEEMER TO COME.
6. MELCHIZEDEK’S TITLES TYPIFY SOMEONE GREAT. HE WAS PRIEST OF GOD MOST HIGH AND KING OF SALEM (I.E. KING OF PEACE AND KING OF RIGHTEOUSNESS). WE ARE ENEMIES OF GOD BECAUSE WE ARE FULL OF SIN AND HAVE OFFENDED A HOLY GOD. WE NEED A PRIEST AND KING LIKE MELCHIZEDEK WHO CAN MEDIATE ON OUR BEHALF, MAKE PEACE WITH GOD AND RULE AND REIGN RIGHTEOUSLY. IN PSALM 85:10 THE PSALMIST WRITES “STEADFAST LOVE AND FAITHFULNESS MEET; RIGHTEOUSNESS AND PEACE KISS EACH OTHER.” THIS GREAT MEETING TOOK PLACE AT THE CROSS. CHRIST BORE THE WRATH WE DESERVE FOR SIN, OFFERED UP OF HIMSELF A SACRIFICE TO SATISFY DIVINE JUSTICE, RECONCILED US TO GOD, AND CONTINUALLY MAKES INTERCESSION FOR US. JESUS IS NOT ONLY OUR PRIEST AND KING BUT HE ALSO HOLDS THE OFFICE OF PROPHET. JUST AS MELCHIZEDEK WAS THE ONLY MAN ABLE TO HOLD TWO GREAT OFFICES, JESUS IS THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD HOLD ALL THREE OFFICES.
7. MELCHIZEDEK’S LIFE ALSO REFLECTS SOMETHING OF THE ETERNITY OF CHRIST. HE HAS NO FATHER OR MOTHER AND SEEMINGLY SHOWS UP OUT OF NOWHERE. WE NEED AN ETERNAL PRIEST. WE THINK WE NEED A LOT OF THINGS WHEN WHAT WE REALLY NEED IS AN ETERNAL HIGH PRIEST WHO KNOWS OUR FRAME AND OUR END FROM ITS BEGINNING. WE NEED SUCH A ONE TO CONTINUALLY INTERCEDE ON OUR BEHALF.

B. BLESSING OF GRACE

1. ABRAHAM NEVER TOOK FOR HIMSELF. HE TRUSTED THE LORD, SO HE IS BLESSED. WE HAVE THE SAME BLESSING THROUGH JESUS IF WE ARE TRUSTING THE LORD.
2. BEHIND OUR FAITH IS THE GOD OF GLORY AND GRACE. ANY NOTEWORTHY THING WE DO IS BY THE GRACE OF GOD. ANY VICTORY IS ONLY AND EVER BY THE GRACE OF GOD.

C. RESPONSE OF THE RECIPIENT OF GRACE

1. HOW DO WE KNOW THAT WE’VE RECEIVED GOD’S GRACE? THOSE WHO’VE RECEIVED GOD’S GRACE RESPOND BY GIVING BACK TO THE LORD OUT OF GRATITUDE FOR ALL HE’S GIVEN TO US. ABRAHAM NEVER BENEFITTED FINANCIALLY FROM THE KINGS, YET HE WANTS TO GIVE BACK TO THE LORD.
2. APPLICATION: AM I LIVING IN COMMUNION WITH GOD THROUGH THE MEDIATOR WHO IS MY GREAT HIGH PRIEST?