

Mystery Man

I. Slide#1 Announce:

- A. Slide#2 Harvest Festival: Thank You to volunteers. How many of you? Tony/Michelle.
- B. Slide#3 Today is **Orphan Sunday**: Orphan Sunday is to rouse the church, community and friends to God's call to *care for the orphan*. *Defend the cause of the fatherless/orphans*^(nlt) Is.1:17
 - 1. Jn.14:18 *I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.*
 - 2. Slide#4 ICA (Charlotte Paulsen), Olive Crest (Lisa Aguilar), Child Share (Stephen Garcia), Safe Families (Jeff/Paula Thompson).
- C. The **Romans** used to take their infants they didn't want (usually girls) & "**Expose**" them.
 - 1. **Exposing** referred to leaving these infants to the elements outside the city gates. The **Christians**, though few, became known from the **1st century** to go out & brought these **orphans** in.
- D. Slide#5 Reminder we have an *Adoption Support Group* that Teri Schroeder leads [2nd Mn, 7pm, Ch off]
- E. Slide#6,7 Not everyone may be able to take a child into their home, but there are other ways to help. We have a family in our church, who needs our help. They have adopted 2 little boys w/Down Syndrome. They also have a biological son w/Down Syndrome, & 4 other children.
 - 1. **The husband** has been out of work for about a month, **the mom** home-schools all 7 of her children. **They are in need of a number of home repairs.**
 - 2. Dave Madden & Larry have gone over & made a list of the needs of different construction talent/materials to make their kitchen/bathroom usable.
- F. Slide#8 Prayer: Julie G (Burma); Doc Les +2 (Burma).

II. Slide#9 Intro:

- A. Just yesterday it came out that ISIS (**Islamic State of Iraq & Syria**) lined up and shot dead at least **50 tribesmen & women** in Iraq's *Anbar province*, the latest mass killing committed by the group.
- B. Presently, there is a **Coalition**^(alliance/fusion) fighting against **ISIS**. Now named: *Operation Inherent Resolve?* It's made up of: U.S., Great Britain, France, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Australia, Germany, the Netherlands and now Canada & Turkey have joined.
 - 1. Go back 2000 yrs, and that brings you back to the time of **Christ**.
 - 2. Go back 2000 more yrs, and we are at the time of **Abram**, where he helped repel an invasion of a **great coalition** of super powers of that day, from the same area.
 - 3. Slide#10a Now, turn to **Gen.14:8-24**. Slide#10b turn when ready
 - a) Careful of **Typologies** in Scripture: [Key: never come up w/doctrine from a type]
 - (1) **Innate**^(natural) - 1 specifically declared as to be such in NT.

- (2) **Inferred** - 1 recognizable as such, because it conforms to the pattern seen in the innate types.

C. **Slide#11** Ch.7 introduces *A superior Priesthood*. Heb.7-10

1. **Ch.7** argues that Christ's priesthood, *like Melchizedek's*, is **superior** in its order. **So...**
2. **Heb.7** His better **priesthood**. **Heb.8** His better **covenant**. **Heb.9** His better **sanctuary**. **Heb.10** His better **sacrifice**.

III. **Slide#12 MYSTERY MAN MELCHIZEDEK (1-3)**

A. The writer's **previous references** to Melchizedek (5:10,11) are **now explained**.

B. **Interesting:** Read **8:1** & work backwards.

1. Wiersbe said, **The Emphasis in Hebrews is not on what Christ did on the earth** (the **milk** of the word), **but what He is doing in heaven** (the **meat** of the word).
2. He is saying that, the **basics** of the Christian life revolves around Jesus **earthly ministry and work**. **While** His **priestly** ministry constitutes the **meat** of God's word.
 - a) Jesus' **ministry on earth** was only 3 years...**but** His **ministry in heaven** has so far been 2000 years, since His cross/res.

C. **Slide#13 Melchizedek** - King of Righteousness.

1. **Gen.14** He's brought up in a **Historical** context.
2. **Ps.110** He's brought up in a **Prophetical** context. [only twice in OT]
3. **Heb.7** He's brought up in a **Doctrinal** context.

D. **King of Salem** – JeruSALEM (most believe)

E. **Slide#14 Without father, mother, genealogy** – Frustrating trying to get a FBI, **background check** on this mystery man. He must have been part of God's *Witness Protection Plan*.

1. **Without** = the father/mother were **unknown**.
2. LKGNT - *In rabbinical writings such expressions could mean that the father & mother had died & the child was an orphan.*
3. **Scripture is silent as to his ancestry & progeny**, which seems to be the authors point.
 - a) (Wiersbe) **Melchizedek was not an angel or some superhuman creature; nor was he an OT appearance of Jesus Christ. He was a real man, a real king, and a real priest in a real city. But as far as the record is concerned, he was not born, nor did he die.**
 - (1) He obtained his position **not by genealogy**, **but** by **Divine appointment**, *i.e.* not by **earthly** credentials.
 - (2) Neither **Aaron** nor **any of his descendants** could claim to be **w/o genealogy**.

4. Since Gen.14 says nothing about Melchizedek's lineage, birth, and death, so his priesthood has neither qualifications nor limitations like those of the Levitical priesthood.
 - a) In the OT the high priest was the man appointed to represent the people before God.
 - (1) He was the man who dealt with sins and weaknesses by offering the necessary sacrifices for sins (Heb. 5:3). But as a link between God and man, the OT priest was never enough. He was a shadow representing the coming perfect intermediary.
 - b) Melchizedek met Abraham, fed him, and blessed him. What a wonderful Savior (type).

- F. Slide#15 He was both King & Priest – This was forbidden by the Levitical priesthood. The throne & the altar were always separated. [King Uzziah tried this in 2 Chron.26:16-23 in trying to act as priest(burn incense). He broke out in anger against priest/then broke out in leprosy, threw him out]
 1. Those persons who attempted to invade the priests' office were judged by God.
 - a) But here is a man who had both offices. Aaron never had that privilege.
 - b) And it is important to note that Melchizedek was not a counterfeit priest: he was the priest of the Most High God (Gen.14:18, 22). His ministry was legit.
 - c) He was of God's original priesthood since he preceded Levi by several hundred yrs
 2. Jesus wasn't from the tribe of Levi (7:14, Judah instead). He could fulfill what the prophet Zechariah said, He(Messiah) shall be a priest on His throne, and the counsel of peace shall be between them both(both offices). 6:13.
 - a) Jesus thus fulfills both titles of Melchizedek. He is the King of Rt. & the King of Peace.
 - b) Ps.85:10 Righteousness and peace have kissed. (yep, on the cross)
 - (1) "The trouble for many is they want the Peace without the Prince." (you?)

- G. Application: Jesus as King can control circumstances around you; Jesus as Priest can change attitudes within you.
 1. Of course God could change the circumstances around you (i.e. yank you out of them, or deal with your foe/opposer)...but often God's more concerned with changing your attitudes while in you're in the circumstance.

- H. Slide#16 He blessed Abram, refreshing & strengthening him w/bread & wine. Communion next Sun.
- I. He was made like the Son of God – Here's the other side of the argument...that this Mystery Man is more than a prototype. Some see this as a pre-incarnate appearance of Christ.
 1. Esp with names like: king of rt; prince of peace & comes carrying the elements of bread/wine.
 2. Also, w/o genealogy is a reverse of the habitual practice throughout Genesis...it's all about genealogy. Aaron/Levitical priesthood was all about certified pedigree. Character & ability had nothing to do with it. (Barclay)

IV. Slide#17 **MELCHIZEDEK MAN (4-10)** [*sounds like a Neanderthal man*]

- A. (4) **Greater than Abraham – How? (4-ways)**
1. Slide#18 Though Levitical priests had also received tithes, their descent from Abraham marked their priesthood as **less important** than that of the one to whom Abraham tithed. (5,6)
 2. Abraham was **blessed** by Melchizedek at the time of their encounter...& normally the lesser is blessed by the greater. (7)
 3. Levitical priests all eventually **die** but as Ps.110:4 says, *the One who ministers in the order of Melchizedek lives forever*. (8)
 4. An ancestor **contains** all his descendants w/in himself. Thus, Levi, great grandson of Abraham, actually also paid tithes to Melchizedek **since** he was at the time a part of Abraham's *loin's* which will produce Isaac, Jacob & ultimately Levi. I guess you can say it was in **Levi's genes** :)
 - a) This seems strange to our **Western individualistic mindset**, but reflects the more accurate realization of the links between generations. (*read* 9,10)
 - b) Hebrews believed in "*Racial Solidarity*" (1 man can act on a group of men), like David, against Goliath, on behalf of all the soldiers of Israel.
- B. Abraham was the supreme **blesser** of his day, & all the rest of mankind were **blessees**... **Yet here he becomes the blessee**.
- C. (4) **A tenth of the spoils** – "*the top of the heap*".
1. Archeologists have discovered that **other nations** also **tithed** in that day; so the practice is an ancient one.¹
- D. Slide#19,20 (joke/pew tithes) Abraham honored Melchizedek by paying him tithes of all.
1. This is the first instance of tithing (**10-percentage**) in the Bible, **and** it occurs years **before** its command in **the Mosaic Law**.
 2. Vs.4-10 indicates that these tithes were paid (in type) to Christ, **suggesting** that **believers today** are following **Abraham's example** as they bring tithes to the Lord.
 - a) Abraham refused *the riches of the world* but **shared his wealth** with the Lord, **and** God richly blessed him.

¹ Warren Wiersbe, The Bible Exposition Commentary, Heb.7