

After his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley). And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. (He was priest of God Most High.)

- GENESIS 14:17,18

FELLOWSHIP

(Start the conversation and get to know more about the people in the group. You can choose to answer one question.)

1. *Given an opportunity to meet a famous personality, who would you want to meet and what is one thing you would tell him/her?*
2. *What is one fond memory of the place you grew up in?*

MEDITATE AND PROCLAIM

(Scripture to be gleaned from and how we can apply the Word in our lives and encourage others to do the same)

After Abram's victory and rescue of his nephew Lot, he meets Melchizedek, the mysterious person who is mentioned in several other passages in the Bible. Who is this king that is also mentioned as a priest of God Most High? What can we learn from this meeting with Abram and why is it important for us?

The king of Salem (which means peace) is Melchizedek, and his name means "King of Righteousness." His name and title reflect the biblical connection between righteousness and peace. Psalm 85:10 says "*Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other.*" Righteousness and peace describe the character and power of the Son of God. This is also mentioned as a "priest of God Most High" and this is the first time "priest" is used in Scripture. This gracious priest-king Melchizedek, recognised Abram's faith in God. He came out from Salem with bread and wine for the men who just came from war.

Some theologians would say that Melchizedek is a theophany - an Old Testament appearance of Jesus Christ, the second person of the Trinity. Others would say Melchizedek is a different person but one who is a priest king that acknowledges the Most High God and has also recognised Abram's

faith in the same sovereign God. Regardless, there are similarities between Melchizedek and Jesus which are important to note for our faith.

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. - HEBREWS 7:3

JESUS, OUR KING OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Melchizedek means "King of Righteousness." The perfect righteousness of Jesus is credited to us as believers.

as it is written:

"None is righteous, no, not one;

no one understands;

no one seeks for God. - ROMANS 3:10,11

That is why his faith was "counted to him as righteousness." But the words "it was counted to him" were not written for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord,

- ROMANS 4:22-24

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. - 2 CORINTHIANS 5:21

DISCUSS: HAVE YOU RECEIVED THE RIGHTEOUSNESS THAT JESUS OFFERS YOU SO THAT HIS CHARACTER WILL GROW IN YOU?

JESUS, OUR KING OF PEACE

Salem means "peace" and Jesus is the Prince of Peace.

For to us a child is born,

to us a son is given;

and the government shall be upon his shoulder,

and his name shall be called

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. - ISAIAH 9:6

He is first, by translation of his name, king of righteousness, and then he is also king of Salem, that is, king of peace. - HEBREWS 7:2B

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. - PHILIPPIANS 4:7

DISCUSS: DO YOU OBEY JESUS AS LORD AND GUARD YOUR HEART AND MIND WITH THOUGHTS OF HIM?

JESUS, OUR GREAT HIGH PRIEST

The great emphasis in the book of Hebrews (5:2-6, 6:20, 7:1-10) is that Melchizedek, in the biblical record of his relationship to Abram, prefigures the work of Jesus as the Great High Priest for believers.

Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them. - HEBREWS 7:25

Melchizedek gave bread and wine to Abram. The bread and the wine reminds us of the perfect sacrifice of Jesus, when He gave up of His life and blood for the forgiveness of our sins, so we could be restored back to a loving relationship with the Father.

Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom." - MATTHEW 26:26-29

DISCUSS: DO YOU TRUST IN JESUS AS YOUR ONLY MEDIATOR, AS THE ONLY ONE WHO BRINGS YOU TO GOD, AND IS YOUR EVERLASTING PRIEST IN HEAVEN?

PRAY

(Remember to do this. Pray for one another; for everyone to live out the Word and for any other specific prayer needs)

Let us thank Jesus who gives us confidence to *“draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”* (see Hebrews 4:16)
Every time we eat or drink, let us remember Christ who gives us spiritual bread (His flesh) and spiritual wine (His blood) which strengthen us for life and worshipful service to Him.



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