

- Church Web Site

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A just weight
and balance

are the
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

- **"We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as our forerunner."**
(Hebrews 6:19-20)

- Then the apostle compares Jesus to Melchizedek

- **Thou *art* a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedek.**
(Hebrews 7:17)

- Again and again in this letter he has used this phrase,
 - **"a high priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek."**
 - The sheer repetition of it indicates there is something **very vital hidden here.**
 - Now we shall see **what that is.**

- The incident upon which it is based comes again from

Abraham's life,

- Recorded in

Genesis 14,

the story of

Abraham & Melchizedek⁶.

- As Abraham was returning from battle with the five kings,
- A stranger met him and blessed him,
- And Abraham gave tithes to this man.
- Melchizedek steps suddenly out of the shadows of history, to appear on the stage of Scripture.

- For this Melchizedek,
king of Salem,
priest of the Most High God,

- He is first, by translation,
king of righteousness,

- and king of Salem,
that is,

- king of peace.

- (**Hebrews 7:1-3**)

- He is without:
- father or mother
- or genealogy,
- and has neither beginning of days
- nor end of life,
- but resembling the Son of God
he continues a priest forever.
(**Hebrews 7:1-3 RSV**)

- Here is an ordinary man named Melchizedek,
 - a priest of the true God,
 - who lived in the village of Salem
- (later known as Jerusalem)
 - who met Abraham returning from battle.

- He is fulfilling a role
which beautifully
mirrors
the ministry of
Jesus Christ
to us today.

- We must bear in mind that Melchisedek was a man like any other.

- There, is no ground, in my judgment, for the thought of anything mysterious in the facts as to his person.

- The manner in which scripture introduces him is such as to furnish
a very striking
type of Christ.

- The Spirit of God was pleased to conceal the line of Melchisedec's parentage, or descendants if any, of their birth or death.
- He is suddenly ushered upon the scene.

- As mysteriously as he came...
 - He disappeared.
- There is no record of Abraham having ever met him before or again.
- In fact nothing else is said of Melchizedek in Scripture until David mentions him in Psalm 110.

- There is a **word of authority here:**
- "He is first, by translation of his name, **king of righteousness,**
 - and then he is also **king of Salem,** that is, **king of peace."**

- **What** is it that Jesus Christ can give you today?
 - He can give you only **what he is,** that is all.
 - It takes **Christ** to be a **Christian!**

- We need what he is in order to be what he was,
- And what he is is revealed in his names.

- He is first of all, **"king of righteousness,"**
- He is the one who has the **secret of right conduct** which results in **proper behavior.**

- He is also the king of peace.
- May I use the equivalent modern term for that phrase?
- Mental health!

- He holds in his hand the secret of rest,
of inner calm,
which gives purpose
to human life.
- This is so desperately
needed today.

- Melchizedek
King of Righteousness
and
King of Peace.
(**Hebrews 7:2**)

- The order is at once
significant
and
unavoidable.

- **Righteousness**

must always come
before **peace**.

- Without righteousness
there can be
no peace.

- **How** do we know?

- **"Therefore since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God."
(Romans 5:1)**
- **"The kingdom of God is... righteousness, peace and joy."
(Romans 14:17)**
 - The order is always the same.
 - First righteousness and then peace.

- It may well be said that all life is a search for peace,
- And also that men persist in looking for it in the wrong place.

- Men look for peace in escape
 - But the trouble about escape is that it is always necessary to return to reality.

- It is always possible to find some kind of peace by the route of escape, but it is never a lasting peace.

- Escape is not wrong;
sometimes it is
necessary
if health and sanity
are to be preserved;
but it is
never a cure.

- There is the peace of evasion.

- Many a man seeks peace by refusing to face his problems.

- No one ever solved a problem by refusing to look at it.
- However much we evade it, it is still there.

- And problems are like diseases.
- The longer we refuse to face them the worse they get.

- There is the way of compromise.
- But compromise leads to tension.
- Therefore compromise is the enemy of peace.

- There is no real peace for any man until he has said:
"Thy will be done."
- But once that is said,
peace floods his soul.
 - It happened even to **Jesus.**
 - It is the way to **lasting peace.**

- Jesus entered the Garden
under such
tension
that he sweated blood.

- In the Garden
he accepted God's will
and came out
at peace.

- To take the way of righteousness,
- To accept God's will
- Is to find the way to lasting peace.

- Now, back to Melchizedek.
 - "He is without father or mother or genealogy,
 - and has neither beginning of days or end of life,
 - But resembling the Son of God he continues a priest forever."

- This verse means is that **there is no mention made of Melchizedek's ancestry,**
 - Or any record of his **birth** or **death**.
 - He was a perfectly **normal man,**
 - All these things were **true of him.**

- The silence
of the record
is taken as an
illustration of the
eternal,
changeless,
unending priesthood
of Jesus Christ.

- This means he is available twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, fifty-two weeks a year, throughout every year of a whole lifetime.

- **We are never out of His reach.**
- Never separated from his **wisdom**,
- Never separated from His **peace**,
- Never separated from his **truth**.
 - That is what the **Melchizedek priesthood** means,
 - And what **the world** is hungering after today.

- The apostle
does not dwell on
the detailed application of
His Melchisedec priesthood,
- There was no incense,
 - No sacrifice.
- He alludes to several facts,
but leaves them.

- The battle which Abraham fought, the first recorded one in scripture, is the type of the battle of the ages.
- It is the conflict between good and evil.

• Does
Peace

&

Righteousness

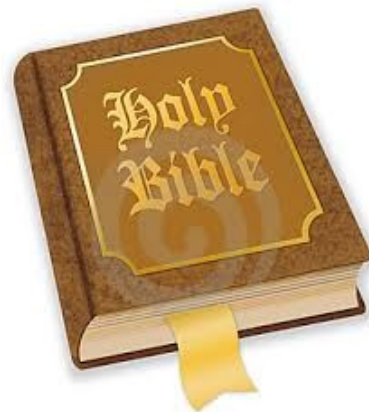
reign
in your life?

- **Think on these things**
- **Philippians 4:8**

**The doors of the church
are open.**

**The Spirit and the Bride
Say
“Come”.**

Revelation 22:17



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