

Melchizedek - Who Was He?

Melchizedek's identity can only be understood by taking Hebrews 7 exactly as it is written. The chapter does not present a man whose genealogy is missing; it presents a being whose nature is eternal. The text states that Melchizedek is "without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days nor end of life."

These words are not gaps in historical record. They are direct statements of eternality. No human being can possess such attributes, which removes the possibility that Melchizedek was an ordinary priest whose background was simply unrecorded.

The chapter also excludes the idea that Melchizedek was Jesus. Jesus has a mother, Mary, and Hebrews 7:14 affirms that "our Lord sprang out of Judah," giving Him a real and traceable human lineage. If Melchizedek were Jesus, Hebrews would contradict the incarnation, the role of Mary, and the meaning of "only begotten Son."

The text does not allow this. It distinguishes the two figures with precision. Jesus is a priest after the likeness of Melchizedek, not as Melchizedek. Jesus' priesthood is established by oath, while Melchizedek's is eternal by nature. Jesus' priesthood is unchangeable because He lives forever through resurrection, while Melchizedek's priesthood is unchangeable because he is described as eternally existing without beginning or end. The chapter contrasts the two priesthoods and never merges them into a single person.

When Hebrews 7 is allowed to speak without symbolic reinterpretation or allegorical adjustments, the identity of Melchizedek becomes clear. The text does not merely omit his genealogy; it defines his nature. Melchizedek is presented as eternal, and eternality cannot be assigned to a mortal man. At the same time, Melchizedek cannot be Jesus, because Jesus possesses a

human lineage that Melchizedek explicitly does not have.

The only conclusion that fits every detail without contradiction is that Melchizedek was God Himself appearing in human form, a theophany. This temporary divine manifestation foreshadows Christ's eternal priesthood while preserving Mary's motherhood, Jesus' descent from Judah, the uniqueness of the Son, and the integrity of the incarnation.