

What is the Christ: A High Priest
1-12-14

To be the Christ refers to three offices:

The Christ is to be the Greatest King, Foreshadowed by David

The Christ is to be the Greatest High Priest, Foreshadowed by Melchizedek

The Christ is to be the Greatest Prophet, Foreshadowed by Moses

In Job 9:32-33, Job spoke about the need of a mediator: *"For He is not a man, as I am, that I may answer Him, and that we should go to court together. Nor is there any mediator between us, who may lay his hand on us both."*

The "Anointed One" was a High Priest (Exodus 30:30-31); therefore, a Christ is High Priest. Let us understand that a High Priest was a mediator (Isaiah 43:27). There is a problem though with this situation: Joshua Ben Joseph (Jesus) was not born for Levitical high priesthood (Hebrews 7:14.) However, He was exclusively qualified for the greatest priesthood in history: The order of Melchizedek.

The Mystery of Melchizedek begins in Genesis 14:18-20: *"Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High. And he blessed him and said: 'Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand.'" And he gave him a tithe of all."*

Melchizedek was the Bible's first priest, and yet so little is mentioned. How was he a priest? Where did he come from? Why did Abram give him a tithe? We know that many Jewish scholars in the time of Christ debated on these questions. Some believed that he was in fact God (The Dead Sea Scrolls), or the Logos of God (Philo).

King David prophesied one who would be of the order of Melchizedek in Psalms 110:4: *"The LORD has sworn ... 'You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.'" Therefore, the Christ Would Be Melchizedek, whom we are told in the New Testament was the Greatest High Priest (Hebrews 7:6).*

Jesus was only person possible for this office by two qualifications, according to Hebrews 7:15-21: An endless life and an oath from God. Jesus possessed both of these qualifications exclusively. Jesus the Christ is High Priest mediator (Hebrews 7:24-25). He mediates now between God and Man (1 Timothy 2:5)

Needing a Savior? Job went on to say in Job 33:23-24 *"If there is a messenger for him, A mediator, one among a thousand, To show man His uprightness, Then He is gracious to him, and says, 'Deliver him from going down to the Pit; I have found a ransom.....'" Jesus is that ransom mediator: For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time (1 Timothy 2:5-6)*