

MELCHISEDEC

Sunday Morning: August 12, 2001

Text: Hebrews 5:5-6 "So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, **today have I begotten thee**. 6. As he saith also in another *place*, **Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.**"

I would like you to look at Hebrews chapter 5. I am going to read verses five and six.

Two statements in these verses that are equivalent. One is, 'Thou art my Son, today have I begotten thee.' and the other is "Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec." When Jesus Christ came into the world he was the only begotten Son of God. After Jesus Christ died, was buried and rose again, that was a new beginning for Jesus Christ. That is why in verse five it says "Today have I begotten thee." The day that he begot him again was the day that God raised into the heavenlies as our High Priest. That was a new beginning for Jesus Christ. A new ministry, really, not a new beginning but a new ministry. When Jesus Christ was here on the earth, he was a prophet. He was a teacher. Today he is a priest, our High Priest. When the millennium comes he will be King. He will rule and reign in righteousness for 1,000 years.

KING

Hebrews 7:1-3 "For this Melchisedec, **king of Salem**, priest of the most high God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and **blessed him**; 2. To whom also Abraham **gave a tenth** part of all; **first** being by interpretation **King of righteousness**, and **after** that also **King of Salem**, which is, **King of peace**; 3. **Without father**, without **mother**, without **descent**, having neither **beginning** of days, **nor end** of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually."

This is a reference, I believe, to the Lord Jesus Christ appearing to Abraham after a victory over his enemies. I think that is what happened on the cross and in particular in the garden of Gethsemane. Melchisedec blessed Abraham and Jesus Christ has blessed us.

EARTHLY HIGH PRIEST

Hebrews 5:1-3 "For every high priest **taken from among men** is ordained **for men** in things *pertaining* to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins: 2. Who can have **compassion** on the **ignorant**, and on them that are **out of the way**; for that he himself also is **compassed** with **infirmity**. 3. And by reason hereof he ought, as for the **people**, so also for **himself**, to **offer for sins**."

Here we have the earthly priesthood with an earthly ministry. The earthly priestly ministry was ordained and appointed by God to minister to the people. The priest is the one who goes between the saved and God. Jesus Christ is the same thing but from the heavens. The priest ministers to the people on behalf of God and to God on behalf of the people.

I am encouraged in verse 2 that an earthly priest could have compassion on the ignorant and those out of the way. He had experienced those things that we experience every day. Jesus Christ can be touched with the feelings of our infirmities. I do not put Jesus in the category of the ignorant, but he still could have compassion on us, who are ignorant of the wisdom of God. He can reach out to us and minister to our needs. When we leave the way, he can bring us back into the way. He can have compassion upon our infirmities. Not because he is encompassed about with infirmities, because he is strong. He can respond to our struggles because of the struggles he had in his daily ministry among a people who's heart was hard.

I did not put a verse in the notes about the change of the priesthood, but there was a change of

the priesthood from that of Aaron to that of Melchisedec. The nation of Israel was under the Aaronic priesthood. They offered sacrifices for the sins of the people at the Temple or Tabernacle. That changed and that change is referred to in Hebrews 7:11 "If therefore perfection were by the Levitical priesthood, (for under it the people received the law,) what further need was *there* that another priest should rise after the order of Melchisedec, and not be called after the order of Aaron?"

There are some interesting things about the priesthood in the Old Testament that will give us some insight into the change of the priesthood in the New Testament.

REND NOT YOUR CLOTHES

Leviticus 21:10 "And *he that is* the **high priest** among his brethren, upon whose head the anointing oil was poured, and that is consecrated to put on the garments, shall **not uncover his head, nor rend his clothes;**"

One of the requirements of the High Priest was that he could not uncover his head nor rend or tear his clothes.

STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS

Numbers 20:28 "And **Moses stripped Aaron of his garments, and put them upon Eleazar his son;**"

When the priesthood changed in the desert under Moses we see Aaron stripped of his garments and they are put on Eleazar his son. Aaron does not distribute the inheritance of the nation of Israel in the land flowing with milk and honey. There was a new high priest that did distribute the inheritance in the land and that was Eleazar. Obviously Moses did not tear the garments off of Aaron. They were expensive clothes so Moses wanted to recycle them on Eleazar. There was a change of the priesthood and it had to do with the clothes being removed from Aaron and placed upon Eleazar his son.

RENT HIS CLOTHES

Mark 14:63 "Then the high priest **rent his clothes**, and saith, What need we any further witnesses?"

During the trial of the Lord Jesus Christ we see an interesting incident taking place. The High Priest rent his clothes in direct disobedience to the commandment of Moses in Leviticus 21:10. The high priest was disqualified right then from being the high priest. The High Priest at that time was Caiaphas but his name is not mentioned. I believe that is significant because it was not the individual so much as it was the office of the high priest. It seems to me that this was the time that the Priesthood began to change just as in the case of Aaron and Eleazar.

A LEPER'S CLOTHES

Leviticus 13:45 "And the leper in whom the *plague is*, his **clothes shall be rent, and his head bare**, and he . . . shall cry, **Unclean, unclean.**"

The garments of the high priest were significant. They were not to rend their garments nor were they allowed to remove their hats. The opposite was true of the Leper. They were to rend their garments and were not able to wear a hat. The reason that they had to dress this way was because they were unclean. When the high priest rent their garments or removed their hat they became unclean as a leper.

Where did the leper live after he became unclean? At the Temple? No. He lived outside the camp. We need to appreciate our High Priest is clean. We also need to remember that we are also a holy priesthood, under Melchisedec, able to offer up spiritual sacrifices unto God. 1 Peter

2:5 "Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ." and we need to be clean also.

PRIEST ARE CALLED

Hebrews 5:4 "And no man taketh this honour unto himself, but he that is **called of God**, as was Aaron."

God called Aaron to be the high priest. There came a time when there were some in the camp of Israel who thought they were just as holy as Aaron and could offer incense before the Lord as the priest under Aaron could do. This faction was under Korah. Korah was of the tribe of Levi, but he was not called of God as Aaron.

WHOM HE HATH CHOSEN

Numbers 16:5 ". . . the LORD will show who *are* his, and *who is* holy; and will cause *him* to come near unto him: even *him whom he hath chosen* will he cause to come near unto him."

Moses set up the test as to who was called of God to come near him as was the case of Aaron and his sons. Korah and his followers took the challenge and put incense in their censers and met Moses at the appointed place. When the mouth of the earth opened, God settled forever in the mind of those present who he had called to come near unto him. Korah and 250 of his followers and their belongings were swallowed by the earth. The office of High Priest is not an office that we call ourselves into.

In Kings and Chronicles we have the story of Uzziah the king of Judah. In 2 Chronicles 26:14 we see that when Uzziah was strong his heart was lifted up. He had been doing that which was right in the eyes of the Lord. He must have thought that he and God were on pretty good terms so that he could burn incense before the Lord. 2 Chronicles 26:18 "And they (81 priest) withstood **Uzziah** the king, and said unto him, *It appertaineth* not unto thee, **Uzziah**, to burn incense unto the LORD, but to the priests the sons of Aaron, that are consecrated to burn incense: go out of the sanctuary; for thou hast trespassed; neither *shall it be* for thine honour from the LORD God." and in verse 19 the Lord struck Uzziah with leprosy. Uzziah was trying to do what only the priesthood could do. Uzziah had to rend his clothes and bare his head and cry "Unclean, Unclean" when ever he went out his room.

BEGOTTEN THEE

Hebrews 5:5-6 "So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, **today have I begotten thee**. 6. As he saith also in another *place*, **Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec**."

This verse tells that Jesus Christ had a new beginning. Before he became our High Priest he was our teacher.

PROLONGED HIS DAYS

Isaiah 53:10 "Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put *him* to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see *his seed*, **he shall prolong his days**, and **the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand**."

I believe we find a reference to this new beginning of the Jesus Christ. His seed is the seed of Abraham. The purpose of prolonging his days was to accomplish the pleasure of the Lord in his seed. What is the pleasure of the Lord for Abraham and his seed? The pleasure of the Lord for you and for me is to rule and to reign in His coming kingdom. To make that possible, God extended his days of ministry to His seed. That did not mean that Jesus Christ was going to live a little longer. It just meant that his ministry would be extended for two days. That is for two thou-

sand years. Without extending his days we would not be able to reign his coming kingdom.

MELCHIZEDEK

Genesis 14:18-19 "And **Melchizedek king of Salem** brought forth **bread** and **wine**: and he **was the priest of the most high God**. 19. And he **blessed** him, and said, **Blessed be** Abram of the most high God, **possessor of (all things in) heaven and earth.**"

The first priest of the order of Melchizedek instituted bread and wine. Jesus Christ because a priest after the order of Melchizedek and he too brought forth bread and wine. The bread and wine is the Lord's memorial table instituted during the celebration of the passover before his crucifixion. Abraham did not understand the significance of the bread and wine as we do today. We can see what happened in Abraham's day and see the type to be applied in our day. Associated with the office of Melchizedek is the communion table. The bread and wine was brought forth after the victory that Abraham had over his enemies.

BLESSED WITH ABRAHAM

Galatians 3:8-9 "And the scripture, foreseeing that God would **justify** the heathen (Gentiles) **through faith**, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, *saying*, In thee shall all nations (Gentiles) be blessed. 9. So then they which **be of faith** are **blessed** with faithful Abraham."

Notice that is those that are of faith that are blessed with faithful Abraham. Who blessed faithful Abraham? It was the priest Melchizedek. Because Abraham was a man of faith that Melchizedek blessed him. As Abraham was blessed by Melchizedek we too will be blessed by Melchizedek because we Gentiles live by faith. **This blessing of Abraham's seed is not the salvation of Gentiles. Gentiles have always been able to be saved.** Gentiles were not able to enter into the blessing of Abraham until faith was revealed. The blessing of Abraham is found in Chapter 15 when he was told of his exceeding great reward in having an heavenly inheritance.

Associated with the blessing is justification. The scripture foretold that God would justify the Gentiles through faith. Justification is what is required to stand approved in his presence.

JUSTIFIETH

Romans 8:33-34 "Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? *It is* God that **justifieth**. 34. *Who is* he that condemneth? *It is* **Christ** that **died**, yea rather, that is **risen again**, who is even at the right hand of God, who also **maketh intercession** for us."

Justification is based not on his death but his resurrection. What is Jesus Christ doing today as our high priest? He is in the process of allowing us to justified. What does it mean to be justified? Not chargeable. What happens if we are chargeable? First of all we have not confessed our sins. If we are chargeable we will be denied entrance into the coming kingdom. We won't lose our salvation. That can never be lost. Once in the family, always in the family. We can lose our inheritance. The Lord as our high priest is helping us not to lose our inheritance, but receive a full reward.

RAISED FOR JUSTIFICATION

Romans 4:25 "Who was delivered for our offences, and was **raised again** for our **justification.**"

This verse tells us the cross took care of passed sins and the resurrection of the Lord will take care of our confessed sins. I believe that when we receive the Lord Jesus we have a clean slate as far as passed sins. After salvation, then it is a daily confession of sins to maintain fellowship with him. By daily walking with him in the word and confession so sin our slate continues to stay clean through His shed blood.

THE PROMISE MADE POSSIBLE

Acts 13:32-33 "And we declare unto you glad tidings, how that **the promise** which was made unto the fathers, 33. God hath **fulfilled** the same unto us their children, **in that he hath raised up Jesus again**; as it is also written in the second psalm, **Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee.**"

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is to be associated with the promise. Singular in number which is a specific promise made unto the fathers. What is the promise? It is life for the millennial age. Millennial age is the kingdom where Christ will reign for 1000 years. The promise is fulfilled through the resurrection of Jesus Christ to the fathers and to you and to me today. This was made possible in Gethsemane I believe.

GETHSEMANE

Hebrews 5:7-8 "Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up **prayers** and **supplications** with strong **crying** and **tears** unto him that was able to save him from **death** [thanatos], and **was heard** in that he **feared**; 8. Though he were a Son, yet learned he **obedience** by the things which he **suffered**;"

What does this verse sound like to you when it says that "He offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears?" He was praying to the one that was able to save him from thanatos. When did this take place? This sounds like the time in the garden of Gethsemane before the crucifixion on the cross.

EXCEEDING SORROW

Mark 14:34 "And saith unto them, My **soul is exceeding sorrowful** unto **death** [thanatos]: tarry ye here, and watch."

In Gethsemane was where he said "My soul is exceeding sorrowful unto thanatos.

OBEDIENCE

Luke 22:42-44 "Saying, **Father, if thou be willing**, remove this cup from me: nevertheless **not my will, but thine, be done**. 43. And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, **strengthening** him. 44. And being in an **agony** he **prayed** more **earnestly**: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground."

I am not sure about what I am about to say, but in Hebrews 5:7 it says that he, the Father, was able to save him from thanatos and Christ was heard in that he feared. The Father heard his prayer in that Christ feared. 1 John 5:15 "And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him." I also have to keep in mind 1 John 5:14 ". . . if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:" I am not sure of the answer, but I do know that there were those who refused deliverance Hebrews 11:35 "Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they **might obtain a better resurrection**:" I am not sure just what that portion of Hebrews 5:7 means, but I do know that he suffered in the garden and was obedient to the Father. When Christ accepted the consequences of thanatos he had you and me in mind. He wants us to rule and reign with him in his coming kingdom.

COMPLETE THROUGH SUFFERING

Hebrews 2:10 "For it became him, for whom *are* all things, and by whom *are* all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the **captain** [author, Heb 12.2] of their **salvation perfect through sufferings**."

The word "captain" is translated "author" in Hebrews 12:2. He is the author of the sons salvation. The word "perfect" is not referring to Jesus becoming perfect in the sense of being sinless, but

he was complete in that he did what was required to bring many sons unto glory. This was accomplished through suffering, and that suffering seemed to be in the garden of Gethsemane. Jesus Christ finished the work for those who will one day become sons of God.

The salvation in this verse is not the common salvation, or being born from above, but the so great salvation of Hebrews 2:3 which is associated with the message of the Kingdom of the heavens. The message of the kingdom is that of ruling and reigning with Christ.

SO GREAT SALVATION

Hebrews 5:9 "And being made **perfect** (complete), he became the **author of eternal** [agelasting] **salvation** unto all them that **obey** him;"

The so great salvation is found here in Hebrews 5:9. The word "perfect" again should be translated "complete." Jesus was made complete through his obedience to make the salvation for the age possible to those who obey him. Some would try to apply the "eternal salvation" to the common salvation. The word "eternal" should be translated "agelasting" which is an adjective describing the salvation of the millennium. That salvation is entering into ruling and reigning with Christ in his coming kingdom. If the salvation of verse 9 is the common salvation, then it will be given to those who obey him. The word "obey" is a present active participle which implies continual obedience which means as long as you obey you will be saved. This is totally contrary to the thought of being born into the family of God when you believe to be saved.

It was because of disobedience that the children of Israel could not enter into the land flowing with milk and honey. It is through obedience that we qualify to enter into the kingdom of the heavens which is in type the land flowing with milk and honey.

OBEY

Philippians 2:12 "Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always **obeyed**, not as in my presence only, but now **much more** in my absence, **work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.**"

We are encourage to work out our own salvation with fear and trembling by obedience. This salvation is the "so great salvation" of entering into the kingdom of the heavens and not into the family of God.

KINGDOM MESSAGE

Hebrews 2:3 "How shall we escape, if we neglect **so great salvation**; which at the **first** began to be **spoken** by the Lord (Kingdom of the Heavens), . . ."

The message of Hebrews is how shall we escape the consequences of not entering into the kingdom of the heavens if we neglect with disobedience the so great salvation offered to those who will be diligent to enter into the rest offered to us. It is by faith that we give attention to the "so great salvation". If we neglect the offer of entering into the rest, we will not enter into the rest of the kingdom age.

LAZY LEARNERS

Hebrews 5:10-12 "**Called of God** an **high priest** after the order of **Melchisedec**. 11. Of whom we have many things to say, and **hard** [difficult to explain] to be uttered, seeing ye are **dull** [lazy] of **hearing**. 12. For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which *be* the **first principles** of the oracles of God; and are become such as have **need** of milk, and **not of strong meat.**"

What makes it difficult to explain the high priestly order Melchisedec to the family of God? It is because most of them are lazy Bible students. The word "dull" means "lazy." You are lazy in hearing. You are lazy in studying. You won't take the time needed to get off of the milk of the

word on to strong meat. How long have you been saved? Have you been saved long enough to teach a Bible class? Some of you have been. What would you teach if you had a Bible class, milk? There are some that do. Some of you are still on milk because you are lazy dig in the word for strong meat. The question, then, is what is the milk of the word? We find that in 1 Corinthians 3:1-3 and it is very plain.

CARNAL

1 Corinthians 3:1-3 "And I, brethren, could **not** speak unto you as unto **spiritual**, but as unto **carnal**, *even* as unto babes in Christ. 2. I have fed you with **milk**, and **not with meat**: for hitherto ye were **not able to bear it**, neither yet now are ye able. 3. For ye are yet **carnal**: for whereas *there is* among you **envying**, and **strife**, and **divisions**, are ye not **carnal**, and **walk as men**?"

This verse tells us that the milk of the word is not very spiritual. The milk of the word is for babes. It is for the carnal. What does "chili con carny" mean? It means "chili with meat." So the carnal are those who are living in the flesh. They live by sight. They live by feeling. If I feel like it, I will; and if I don't feel like it, I won't. If I can see it, I believe it; and if I can't see it, forget it. You are not living by faith. Melchisedec has to do with blessings for those who are living by faith and not under the influence of the flesh. Living by faith puts substance to the kingdom rest and the evidence of that substance is obedience.

WORD OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Hebrews 5:13 "For every one that useth **milk** *is* unskilful in the **word of righteousness**: for he is a **babe**."

The word of righteousness deals with what is required of us to enter into the kingdom rest offered to us, in type, in the account of the nation Israel and the land flowing with milk and honey in Hebrews 3 and 4. The word of righteousness is found in the exhortation of the Lord to his disciples in Matthew 5:20 "For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed *the righteousness* of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven." What is required for our righteousness to exceed that of the scribes and the Pharisees? First of all you must have the righteousness of the scribes and the Pharisees, which is to be just. What should come after being just. "The just shall" what? Live by faith. That is how your righteousness will exceed the righteousness of the scribes and the Pharisees.

HOPE FOR BABES

Matthew 11:25 "At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast **revealed them unto babes**."

There is hope for the babes. We may be babes, the Lord is interested in revealing some special thing to us and they have to do with the high priestly order of Melchisedec.

PERSUADED OF BETTER THINGS

Hebrews 6:9 "But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak."

The writer of the book of Hebrews was persuaded better things of them. The things that accompany the so great salvation of Hebrews is strong meat. The writer of Hebrews believed that God was going to reveal these great truths about the high priestly order of Melchisedec.

STRONG MEAT

Hebrews 5:14 "But **strong meat** belongeth to them that are of **full age**, *even* those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."

To whom does strong meat belong to? It belongs to those who have grown in the Lord. Those who have matured in the word of righteousness. This maturity is based upon the continual use or practice of studying the Word of God. The practice of going over and over again the Word of God will have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. If we are lazy in the word of righteousness our senses will not be trained to distinguish between good and evil. About 50 years ago, anyone who could not determine between good and evil, they put them in straight jackets. They don't do that anymore.

THE EXHORTATION

Hebrews 9:28 "So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and **unto them** that **look [present middle] for him** shall he appear the second time **without sin** unto [leading to] salvation (the so great salvation of Heb 1.14; 2.3)."

So, what is the exhortation? We need to be looking for him. This is probably a reference to Christ second coming, but it can be applied to looking unto him as our high priest. If we appropriate His office as our high priest we will be without sin and ready for the so great salvation offered to the obedient, in his coming kingdom.

Are we looking for his return? If we are looking for his return we will be appropriating his office as high priest and we will be clean, without sin, and prepared to enter into that salvation of ruling and reigning in His coming kingdom.

May the Lord help us to endure to the end and not faint. If we don't faint we will reap a everlasting life in His kingdom and glory.