

# Who Was Melchizedek?



The great king Melchizedek appears in the bible just a few times. We do not know very much about him, and scholars have disagreed on some things about this mysterious king. But Jesus is compared to Melchizedek, so we know he is important!

In this bible study we will look at the places Melchizedek shows up in the bible and try to understand a little more about him. Get your bible and pencil ready... here we go!

1. Find **Hebrews 6:19-7:3** in your bible. Read the passage.

*List some things you learn about Melchizedek in these verses:*

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2. Now let's back up. Turn to Genesis 14.

*Here is a little background:* Abram (who would later be called Abraham) and his family had left Ur and were living in Bethel. There were so many people and animals with him that the land could not support everyone. So they split up - Abram moved to Hebron, and his nephew Lot moved to Sodom. All the people and animals that were with each of these men went with them. The story you are about to read happened after the big split.

Read **Genesis 14:1-12**

*Who is on each side in the war?*

*Chederlaomer, King of Elam's side:*

King \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

King \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

King \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

*Bera, King of Sodom's side:*

King \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

King \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

King \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

King \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

***Which side won?***

\_\_\_\_\_

***What happened to Lot?***

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Uh oh. Lot was in trouble. King Chederlaomer sure was powerful to have conquered so many nations. He had ruled over them for thirteen years, and they still couldn't battle their way out from under him. Was Lot stuck forever?

Read **Genesis 14:13-16**

***Who told Abram what had happened to Lot?***

\_\_\_\_\_

***How many men did Abram take with him?***

\_\_\_\_\_

***What happened when Abram and his men caught up to Chederlaomer's armies?***

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Wait, what? Five countries couldn't beat King Chederlaomer, but Abram and his 318 men could? That is amazing! And now the mysterious King Melchizedek appears.

**Read Genesis 14:17-20**

Melchizedek is the King of \_\_\_\_\_

What did Melchizedek bring? \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Write out Melchizedek's blessing:

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Who helped Abram win, according to Melchizedek? \_\_\_\_\_

What did Abram give Melchizedek? \_\_\_\_\_

*Abram's gift to Melchizedek is considered the very first tithe (money or items given to a priest or church as an offering to God). You can read more about tithes in Leviticus 27:30 and Numbers 18:21. Remember as you are reading that the Levites were the priests of the Israelites.*

5. Now we come to what is probably the most important fact about Melchizedek.

**Read Psalm 110:4, Hebrews 5:5-6, and Hebrews 7:17.**

What do they all say? \_\_\_\_\_

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Who are these verses about? \_\_\_\_\_

6. So why did it matter that Jesus was a priest of the order of Melchizedek? There are many reasons. Take a look at the list you made in question 1. Remind you of anyone?

- a. Sacrifice was necessary to cleanse people of their sins. Before Jesus came, the people had to bring a sacrificial offering to priests in order to be forgiven of their sins. **Read 1 John 2:2 and Hebrews 7:27.** Do we still have to make sacrificial offerings? Why or why not?

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- b. Mosaic Law (the commands in Old Testament) very clearly stated that priests must be Levites. God wanted a forever priest on the throne. **Read Hebrews 7:14- 19 and Hebrews 7:28.** What do these verses tell you about the similarities between Jesus and Melchizedek?

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“For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens.” (Hebrews 7:26 ESV)



*Meeting of Abraham and Melchizedek*  
by Dieric Bouts, the Elder, 1464-67.