

# Weaving the Word

*Jesus the Great High Priest*

January 28, 2018

*Welcome to where we're finding the peace that passes understanding.*

**If Jesus was the *Prince of Peace* (Is 9:6), *who's the King?***

Isn't Jesus the *King of Kings* and *Lord of Lords*? (Rev 17:14)



Jesus reassured His listeners that John the Baptist was the foretold Elijah-like Messenger sent by God as the last true High Priest under the Law, to serve as the forerunner of God himself.



The forerunner of *John* was Zechariah, his father, who was secretly acting as High Priest on the Day of Atonement for a faithful remnant, when Gabriel appeared as an answer to prayer.



Like Elijah, John attacked the corrupt priests (who were powerless to atone for the nation's sin), and John called all the people to repent.



The OT *ends* with a High Priest named John, and **the hope of a new, eternal priesthood**. And, **the NT begins with that transition**. That's why John says, **"He must increase, but I must decrease."** (Jn 3:30)



Every new High Priest at their inauguration was washed in water and anointed. (Ex 40:12-13) So, when Jesus is washed, God anoints Him with His Spirit; and, He says, "This is My Son." (Mk 1:10-11)



**The last act of John, as High Priest under the Law, was to lay his hands on the Scapegoat, and transfer all the sins of God's children onto His head, and send Him into the wilderness.** (Lev 16:21-22)

**The sin that was cleansed in the Jordan was absorbed by Jesus.**

That's why John says, **"Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"** (Jn 1:29)

**Jesus' baptism began in the Jordan but ended at Golgotha.**

That's why Jesus says, **"How distressed I am until (My baptism) is completed."** (Lk 12:50)

**Our sins are only cleansed because He carried 'em to the cross.**



There's a battle that rages inside every human heart. All mutated manner of lust wages war against our soul. And, **when sin is finished devouring us, it leaves us with death.** (James 1:15)  
And, there is *none* righteous, not even one. (Rom 3:10)

So, we needed a righteous Prince of Peace as our High Priest.

The book of Hebrews is all about the High Priesthood of Jesus.

Seeing then that we have **a great High Priest** ... Jesus the **Son of God**, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses ... Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. ... And no man takes this honor [of High Priest] to himself, [like Annas and Caiaphas] but he who is called by God, [like Elijah and John-the-Baptist] just as Aaron was. So also **Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest**, but [at His inauguration] it was He [God] who said to Him: "**You are My Son**, [When did He say that? At Jesus' baptism when God's Spirit descended as a dove (Mt 3:16-17; Mk 1:10-11) to anoint the Prince of Peace for battle] **today I have begotten You [as High Priest].**" As He [the Father] also says in another place: "**You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek**"; [Melek (King) Tsedeq (Righteousness)] ... And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him, **called by God as High Priest "according to the order of Melchizedek," [Melek (King) Tsedeq (Righteousness)] of whom [this Melchizedek] we have much to say, and hard to explain, [Why?] since you have become dull of hearing.** – Hebrews 4:14-5:11 NKJ



Know what *that means*? **They were Scripture-dumb.**

And not only do they not speak Jesus' language they're not even interested in learning it.

**How dull of hearing do you choose to be?**

Here's a quick "Who am I?" riddle to sharpen our ears:

- **Without father or mother or genealogy** (Jesus had *two* of those)
- **Having neither beginning of days nor end of life**
- **Made like the Son of God**

Who am I?

It's Melchizedek! But, it sure sounds like *the Father ... right?*

Hebrews has so much to say about Melchizedek; and yet, he only appears in a tiny story in Genesis (14:17-19), summed up here in Hebrews.

When **God made his promise to Abraham**, [to bless him by, one day, bringing redemption by faith through Christ (Gal 6-24)] **since there was no one greater for him to swear by**, [God had to act as two; and] **he swore by himself** ... We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. [Thanks to Jesus] It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where **Jesus, who went before us**, [as the forerunner of a kingdom of priests to serve His God and Father (Rev 1:6, 5:10)] has entered on our behalf. He has become **a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek**. [Here's the story] This **Melchizedek** was king of Salem and priest of God Most High. He met Abraham returning from the defeat of the kings and **blessed him**, [because he put all his trust in God and rejected the spoils from the King of Sodom (Gen 14:21-23)] and Abraham gave him a tenth of everything. First, his name means "**king of righteousness**"; [Heb. *Melek Tsedeq*] then also, "**king of Salem**" [Heb. *Melek Shalem*] means "**king of peace**." Without father or mother, without genealogy, without beginning of days or end of life, like the Son of God he remains a priest forever. – Hebrews 6:13-7:3 NIV



We make the Bible so *unenjoyable*. **It's a story not a study.**

**It's a treasure hunt, a game of hide-and-see-and-find.**

God teaches children and *confounds* the *wise* with His here-a-little there-a-little style. **It wasn't designed for theologians.**

**It's filled with riddles teasing us to come find the treasure.**

Who has gone up to heaven and come down? ... Who has established all the ends of the earth? **What is his name**, and **the name of his son**? Tell me if you know! – Proverbs 30:3-4 NIV

**If Jesus was the *Prince of Peace*, who's the *King of Peace*?**

**His Father, right?** After Malachi describes the coming messenger (John), he says:

A **book of remembrance** was written before Him [**Jehovah**] **for those** who fear the Lord and **who meditate on His name**. – Malachi 3:16 NKJ

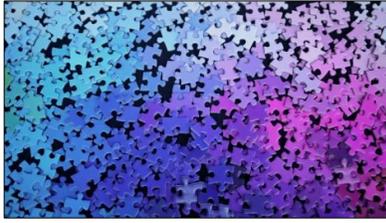
***Jehovah's book of remembrance?***

There's a book in the OT called **Zechariah**, which means: ***Jehovah's remembrance***. And in it, the High Priest Jesus (Joshua in Hebrew) is told that he's a symbol of the Messiah. (3:8) And, Zechariah says that the high priest Jesus is the son of **Jehozadak**, (6:11) which means ***Jehovah of Righteousness***.

Now, before Malachi says to dwell on God's name in Zechariah, he writes:

"I am a great **king** [**melek**]," says **the Lord** [**Jehovah**] ... – Malachi 1:14 NIV

**So, if *Jehovah* is the great *Melek*, then *Jeho Tsedeq* is *Melek Tsedeq* (Melchizedek)!**



The Bible is like a puzzle dumped onto a table. It doesn't matter where you begin, just turn over the pieces and look at 'em. It makes little sense if you dwell on just a few. But, ever see shapes in clouds, or faces in woodgrain? That's your mind, created in His image, bringing order out of chaos. **Embrace the story, avoid the study, and explore the pieces.**

**A prince is the highest rank under the father** (the position each Levitical High Priest held); **but, a Prince will one day be King.** And, just so you know, **Jesus is no longer the Prince of Peace.**

The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. **[Scripture]** After he had provided purification for sins, he **sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.** So he became as much superior to the angels as **the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.** **[And now you know the name]** For to which of the angels did God ever say, **"You are my Son; today I have become your Father"**? **[That's Psalm 2:7 which says though meleks come against Jehovah's Anointed, God establishes His Anointed Melek, saying, "You are my Son" (2:2)]** Or again, **"I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"**? **[That's 2 Samuel 7:14 where God promises an eternal heir to Melek David, saying, "I establish the throne of his kingdom forever."]** And again ... he says, **"Let all God's angels worship him."** **[That's Psalm 97:7 which says righteous (tsedeq) is the foundation of His throne; and, tells the righteous (tsaddiyq) to give thanks at the remembrance of His holy name (97:2, 12)]** ... about the Son he says, **"Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever ... You have loved righteousness [tsedeq] ... therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you [with His Spirit] ..."** **[That's Psalm 45:6 which says Melek is the Lord; and says, "I will make your name to be remembered." (45:11, 17)]** To which of the angels did God ever say, **"Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet"**? **[That's Psalm 110:1 which also says, "The Lord said to my Lord ... you will rule in the midst of your enemies ... You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek." (2-4)]** – Hebrews 1:3-13 NIV

As the prophet Isaiah wrote 750 years before:

For to us **a child is born,** **[in Bethlehem]** to us **a son is given,** **[at the Jordan when the Father anointed the Son to rule in the midst of His enemies]** and **the government will be on his shoulders.** **[When John the Baptist, the last High Priest of Aaron transfers it to Jesus, and He is anointed by His Father as the first (and last) High Priest of the King of Righteousness and Peace]** And he will be called ... **Prince of Peace.** Of the increase of his **government [rule; dominion]** and **peace [shalom]** there will be no end. ... establishing and upholding it with justice and **righteousness [tsēdaqah]** from that time on and forever. – Isaiah 9:6-7 NIV

The Prince of Peace became the great High Priest, and after providing purification for sin, sat on His Father's throne and inherited the name above all names, **Melek Tsedeq Shalem,** at which every knee will bow. And, **together as One they reign as King of Kings of Righteousness and Peace.**

**And, if you open His Word and open your heart, He'll open your ears and bring you a peace that passes understanding. It's the only peace that calms the battle that rages within.**