

Who was Melchizedek to whom Abraham paid tithes after the rescue of Lot in Genesis 14:18-20?

A. Before answering this intriguing question, let us establish a few points:

1. The only other places where the name of Melchizedek is mentioned are in Psalm 110:4 and in the book of Hebrews chapters 5:6, 10; 6:20 and 7: 1, 2, 10, 11, 15, 17, 21 and it is spelt: Melchisedec. In Hebrew (4442) it means: king and in Greek (3198) it means a patriarch.
2. At the time of Abraham, the priesthood, as part of the birthright, still belonged to the firstborn. Therefore, it would be correct to declare that Melchizedek, a priest, was a firstborn.
3. Since Abraham, at that time being still Abram as his name had not been changed yet as the father of the great nation of Israel, paid tithes to Melchizedek according to Genesis 14:20, it would be right to declare that Melchizedek, as the priest of the Most High, was older than Abraham, though Abraham was also a firstborn, thus the priest of his family. Genesis 11:27.
4. Another important point, the statute of tithing does not originate with Moses in Leviticus 27:30-34, since he was not even alive at the time of Abraham; yet Abraham paid tithes to Melchizedek, (Hebrews 7:2, 4, 8, 9) which proves that the statutes are part of the Moral Law and existed before the foundation of the world in the mind of the Creator.
5. Paul, in Hebrews 7:2 and 3 mentions that Melchizedek, first by interpretation, was the King of righteousness, and after that also the King of Salem, the King of Peace; without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginnings of days, nor end of life, but made unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually.
6. The Pen of Inspiration tells us that at one time Melchizedek represented the Lord Jesus Christ but he was not Christ. Yet, he was the representative of God in the world, the representative of the Father. (Letter 190, 1905 and RH Feb 18, 1890).
7. Melchizedek, being a representative of Christ but was not Christ, was a human being as Abraham, born of a mother and father which at the time of his meeting with Abraham were no longer alive, along with his previous generation. He was a king and a patriarch according to the explanation of his name in Hebrew and in Greek.

B. Importance of the Genealogies in the Bible:

The Bible contains many genealogies found both in the Old and the New Testament. Matthew, written for the Hebrews and Luke, written for the Gentiles, for example, retrace the genealogy of the Savior as listed in Matthew 1 and Luke 3. While Matthew lists the genealogy of Christ from Abraham to Christ, a total of 42 generations (Matthew 1:17), notice that Luke commences with Christ the son of Joseph and finishes with Seth, the son of Adam which was the son of God (Luke 3:23-38).

Therefore, Matthew retraces the genealogy of Christ from the Hebrew perspective, being from the seeds of Abraham and David, of the tribe of Judah while Luke retraces His genealogy from the Son of

God's perspective, the seed of the Holy Spirit incarnated in Mary's womb, (since Joseph was not his earthly father) to the seed of Adam the son of God.

The next important genealogies are found in the Old Testament in Genesis 5 before the flood and 10 and 11, after the flood. The only names mentioned in the genealogy of Genesis 5 which are also mentioned in the genealogy of Genesis 10 and 11 are: Noah, Shem, Ham and Japheth. While Genesis 10 describes the genealogy of Japheth, Ham and Shem, Genesis 11 gives a precise genealogy of Shem down to Abraham with their ages of having their firstborn and their ages of death. This genealogy of course would include Isaac and Jacob as Abraham immediate descendants as given in Genesis 20 and 25.

Noah, Shem, Ham and Japheth are the only 4 people and their wives who entered the ark and were saved from the flood that destroyed the whole earth as we read in Genesis 7:13. They are also the only 4 witnesses with their wives left on the earth from before the flood. Noah's family was not the only righteous living before the flood. The generation of Genesis 5 is the generation of Seth the righteous to Noah. All these righteous men will be saved in the kingdom. The Creator needed only one seed to preserve the Progenitor of Messiah who was to come, thus, He saved Noah's family and they are a type of the 144000 who will be alive during the plagues vindicating the Father as Progenitors of His character. Noah's grandchildren were born after the flood, which lasted for a total of 1 year according to the records mentioned in Genesis 7:4, 11; 8:13. They entered the ark on the 10th of the second month of the 600 year of Noah and on the 17th of the second month after 7 days of their entry the rain, came and lasted 40 days.

They came out of the ark on the 27th day of the second month of the 601 year of Noah according to Genesis 8:13, exactly 365 days of the Solar calendar and 354 days of the lunar system – the 11 days difference between the rain falling and their exiting the ark confirms that the 2 calendar systems were used by Moses to compute the flood and all the phases of the moon are mentioned according to the dates in the chronicle of the flood, which is the oldest record of the Biblical calendar in history.

Thus, it would be correct to declare that Noah and his sons had no more descendants alive, no father, no mother, and no relative since all the righteous patriarchs mentioned in Genesis 5 died before the flood teaching the judgment to come before they went to their rest. Methuselah, the longest man to ever live on the earth, died at 969 years and his name meant: when he dies judgment will come. The genealogy of Genesis 5 allows us to conclude that Adam lived till Lamech the father of Noah, was 156 years old (9 generations). Adam died 626 years before the flood. The flood occurred 1556 years after Adam was created. A complete explanation of how to calculate the generations will be shown in part C.

Having reached this understanding, it is possible now to focus on who was Melchizedek. Obviously, he was a descendant of Noah, from the generation of the righteous. Just like Cain before the flood generated descendants which rebelled against the Most High, Ham, the second son of Noah who broke the statute of Leviticus 18:6, 7 according to Genesis 9:22 because he saw the nakedness of his father and told his brothers Shem and Japheth who went backward to cover Noah's nakedness, was

the father of Canaan, the rebellious generation who build the tower of Babel in Genesis 11 and the descendants who were chase by Joshua from the Promised Land.

C. Quick Lesson on Genealogy and Obituary in the Bible

Before we can figure out who was Melchizedek, we must understand the way to calculate the generations in the genealogy of the Bible. Since we are interested in Melchizedek background, we will use Genesis 11 to explain the way to understand the Biblical genealogy which is the genealogy of Shem to Abraham and which complement the genealogy of Matthew 1.

- Chapters 5 and 11 of Genesis are rightly called the chapters of the 'begat' because Moses recorded faithfully under inspiration, the ages of the patriarchs at the time of their firstborn's birth and the age when the patriarchs died.
- For example, in chapter 11 verse 1 of Genesis, we are told that Shem was 100 years old 2 years after the flood when he begat or had his firstborn Arphaxad. He lived another 500 years after that and had more sons and daughters. Thus, Shem lived 600 years and he died.
- His son was 35 years old when he begat Salah and lived another 403 years after that. Thus, Arphaxad lived 438 years. If you continue with Genesis 11 and line up all the names of the descendants of Shem to Terah the father of Abraham, you simply add the ages when each patriarch had their firstborn and you will realize that Noah lived until Abraham was 57 years old because Noah lived another 347 years after the flood according to Genesis 9:28, 29 and he died. These details are given in the book of Genesis for those who love to dig in the Word. They are not given for the babes who are satisfied with milk but for those who are full of ages and love to dig in these important truths.
- These are the numbers to add from Shem when he begat his firstborn:
 $100 + 35 + 30 + 34 + 30 + 32 + 30 + 29 + 70 + 100 = 490$ years

Conclusion to the Matter

Thus adding all the generations from Shem to Abraham, we come to the facts that:

- Shem was 490 years old when Abraham was 100 years old.
- Shem lived till he was 600 years old.
- Abraham was 100 years old when he begat Isaac. Genesis 21:5.
- Abraham died at 175 years old according to Genesis 25:7.
- Shem was 565 years old when Abraham died.
- Isaac was 75 years old when his father died and knew Shem for 75 years from his birth.
- Shem was 530 years old when the twin Jacob and Esau were born since Isaac was 40 years old according to Genesis 25:20.
- Shem died when Isaac was 110 years old. Isaac died at 180 years old according to Genesis 35:28.

- Jacob was 70 years old when Shem died. Jacob died at 140 years old according to Genesis 47:28.
- The sons of Jacob knew of Shem as well since Jacob was about 40 years old when he left his father's house (Genesis 26:34) and went to his uncle Laban and married Leah and Rachel and begat Reuben his firstborn with Leah and Joseph with Rachel.

Therefore, Shem the son of Noah and the generations to Abraham lived till Jacob was 70 years old. Shem instructed the generations of Abraham and knowledge was passed on from fathers to sons till Moses, a direct descendant of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Levi wrote in a book called Genesis, all these wonderful genealogies which allow us to draw the conclusion that Shem was Melchizedek the Priest of the Most High, being the firstborn of Noah who received the inheritance of the birthright of the Double Portion, to be the Progenitor of the Messiah and the Priest of the family. Though a type of Christ, Melchizedek was Shem.

Melchizedek a type of the 144000

The seed of Noah through Shem is a type of the 144000. As Noah's was preserved in the ark to be the physical Progenitor of Messiah, so the 144000 will be preserved at the time of the end through the Ark of the Covenant in the Most Holy Place in the sanctuary above to be Progenitor of the character of Messiah before the whole Universe to vindicate the Father during the plagues and at last to conclude the Judgment in heaven.

Only one seed was necessary to be the Progenitor of Messiah when the Creator destroyed the earth with a flood because of the degradation of men and beasts while many righteous died or were put to sleep in mercy as stated in the genealogy of Genesis 5.

Only one seed is necessary to vindicate the Father at the end. They are not the only saved as some believe. The great multitude of Revelation 7 is real. But the 144000 are the only ones who live without a Mediator after the Great High Priest leaves the Most Holy Place and follows the steps of Leviticus 16 on the Day of Atonement. He tarries for a while before He returns to the earth. And while He tarries, the 'fit man' of Leviticus 16:21 brings the scapegoat in the wilderness. That 'fit man' is the 144000.

The pen of Inspiration reveals that the 144000 in time will know who they are just like the Jews should know who Messiah is through the genealogy of Noah, Shem and Abraham in Genesis 11 and Matthew 1.

"It is not His will that they shall get into controversy over the question which will not help them spiritually such as who is to compose the 144,000. This those who are the elect of God will in a short time know without question." 7 BC 978 - MS 26, 1901.

This study is also to counteract the false teaching of the Mormons and those who believe in rebuilding the temple in Jerusalem and re-enacting the priesthood of the Levites, the family of Aaron and the reinstating of the sacrifices thus, denying the true priesthood of Christ the firstborn and the restoration of our birthright as the firstborn and our priesthood.

The genealogy of Shem as Melchisedec reveals to the 144000 who they are: their firstborn rights, their birthright, their priesthood, being the progenitor of Christ and their right to the double portion.