

How is Melchizedek Like Yeshua?

Heb 7:1 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;

Heb 7:2 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;

Heb 7:3 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.

Some people use Hebrews 7:3 to teach that Yeshua (Jesus) is somehow Yahweh (God). From the start that is very confusing, seeing how Hebrews 7 does talk about Yeshua, and right here in verse 3 the author calls Yeshua "the Son of God." It should be obvious then that Yeshua is not God here, but God's Son.

What is equally puzzling is the belief of some that Melchizedek is somehow Yeshua. The author (1) calls Melchizedek a "priest of the most high God," (2) mentions that Abraham paid tithes to him (Genesis 14), and (3) then says he is *like* the Son of God. To be *like* the Son of God, means you are not that Son of God, but that you are *like* him.

People have asked me over the years who I believe Melchizedek was. "Using only the Holy Bible," I answer, "he was a priest of the most high God that lived back in Abraham's day." It seems that people are not satisfied with that answer, but it is certainly the Biblical answer.¹

The verse that some people use to teach that Yeshua is Yahweh is verse 3. They reason that being "without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life" must mean that Yeshua has to be God Almighty, because that's the only way he would have no father or mother.

The problem with this view is that Yeshua *does* have a Father. The verse point blank says he is the "Son of God." God was his Father because God caused his conception (Luke 1:34-35); a creative, miraculous act. John 2:1-3 speaks of the "mother of Yeshua." That's Miriam or Mary. Yeshua had a mother. Yeshua thus had what Hebrews 7:3 calls "descent," or what other translations call a genealogy. Yeshua's genealogy is listed in Matthew 1 and Luke 3. He is a human being, with ancestors that lived before him in a genealogy.

So what in the world is the author of Hebrews talking about? How is Melchizedek without father or mother, and thus like the Son of God in this respect?

The answer is not difficult, if we allow the context to dictate what the author means. As a friend of mine said once in a sermon, "If I tell you 'I open and closed it,' you have to allow the rest of the context to determine what I mean. 'I open and closed it' could refer to a door, a jar, a letter, or a sermon." So it is with Hebrews 7:3.

The context of Hebrews 7 is about the superiority of the priesthood of Melchizedek when compared to the Levitical (or Aaronic) priesthood. The author speaks of how Abraham paid tithes to Melchizedek (7:4), but goes on to mention that "he whose genealogy is not counted from them [Levi/Aaron] hath taken tithes of Abraham, and hath blessed him that hath the promises." (7:6)

The author is pointing out that Melchizedek came long before Levi or Aaron, so his genealogy is not reckoned from that lineage. In other words, Melchizedek was a priest of the most high God, but not after the order of Aaron.

He goes on to make a neat argument in verses 9 and 10 by saying that in a manner of speaking, even Levi paid tithes to Melchizedek because Levi was then in the loins of Abraham. The point is that Abraham was the father (ancestor) of Isaac, Jacob, and the 12 sons of Jacob, one of which was Levi. So Levi existed in the loins (or we might say DNA) of Abraham. This shows that Levi is an inferior priesthood to Melchizedek. Verse 11 goes on to say:

Heb 7:11 Now if there was perfection through the Levitical priesthood (for under it hath the people received the law), what further need *was there* that another priest should arise after the order of Melchizedek, and not be reckoned after the order of Aaron?

Yeshua is the other priest that arises after the order of Melchizedek, based upon the oath sworn by Yahweh (Psalm 110:4; Hebrews 7:17). Yeshua was not reckoned after the order of Aaron, for it is evident that our Lord sprang out of Judah (Hebrews 7:14).

This is how both Melchizedek and Yeshua do not have father, mother, or genealogy. (7:3) *They have no Levitical ancestry.* You can't look at their genealogies and trace them back to Levi. Melchizedek is like the Son of God in this respect, and Yeshua is said to be after the likeness of Melchizedek. (7:15) That's the author's point. The chapter has *nothing* to do with Yeshua being Yahweh or Melchizedek being Yeshua. Those concepts are foreign to the context of Hebrews 7. Yeshua is the Son of Yahweh (7:3), we draw near to Yahweh through Yeshua (7:25), and the word of the oath appoints a Son (7:28). Yahweh the Father is not our high priest. Yahweh the Father is the One who appointed Yeshua as our high priest, with the word of an oath, after the order of Melchizedek.

¹ It is interesting that the book of Jasher, mentioned twice in Hebrew Scripture (Joshua 10:13; 2 Samuel 1:18), says that Shem (a son of Noah) was Melchizedek. Jasher 16:11-12 says, "And Adonizedek king of Jerusalem, the same was Shem, went out with his men to meet Abram and his people, with bread and wine, and they remained together in the valley of Melech. And Adonizedek blessed Abram, and Abram gave him a tenth from all that he had brought from the spoil of his enemies, for Adonizedek was a priest before God." Jasher calls Shem "Adonizedek" which basically carries the same meaning as Melchizedek. *Melech* in Hebrew means "king," where as *adoni* in Hebrew means "lord or ruler." According to Jasher 9:4-6, at an early age, Abram began to visit Noah and Shem to learn the instructions of the Lord.