

III. MEETING WITH MELCHIZEDEK (Genesis 14:17-20)

- A. Abram Returns to the Valley of Shaveh (Genesis 14:17)
 - 1. In the king's dale (2 Samuel 18:18)
 - 2. Believed to be north of Jerusalem in the Kidron Valley.
 - a. Some historians believe that the tomb of Absalom is the location of Absalom's place.
 - b. That the pillar raised is the Tomb of Absalom.

- B. Melchizedek Comes to Meet Abram (Genesis 14:18)
 - 1. King of Salem (Hebrews 7:1-2)
 - a. Which is King of peace
 - b. Also known as King of righteousness (Jeremiah 23:5)
 - 2. Priest of the most high God (Hebrews 7:3)
 - a. Without parents
 - (1) Without father
 - (2) Without mother
 - b. Without descent
 - (1) Without sons
 - (2) Without daughters
 - c. Made like unto the Son of God
 - d. Abideth a priest continually
 - e. No beginning of days (Micah 5:2)
 - f. No end of life (Revelation 1:18)
 - g. A unique priesthood (Psalm 110:4; Hebrews 6:20; Hebrews 7:15)
 - (1) Not taken from among men (Hebrews 5:1)
 - (2) Taken apart from the law (Hebrews 7:11, 15-16, 28)
 - h. A continual priesthood (Hebrews 7:3)
 - i. A priesthood that would receive tithes of the future earthly Levitical priesthood (Hebrews 7:4-10).
 - 3. Bringing bread and wine
 - a. These are the elements of the Lord's Supper (1 Corinthians 11:23-27).
 - b. These elements represent the body and blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

- C. Melchizedek—A Preincarnate Christ? (Genesis 14:18-20)
 - 1. His greatness
 - a. Greater than Abram (Abraham) (Hebrews 7:4-7)
 - b. Greater than Levi (Hebrews 7:8-11)
 - 2. He received tithes of all that Abram had (Genesis 14:20)
 - 3. Without father, without mother (Hebrews 7:3)
 - a. What about Mary?
 - (1) First, this is a pre-incarnate Christ. It would be true He had no mother.

- (2) Second, it is safe to say that Mary was indeed the mother of Jesus, but she technically is not the mother of God or of Christ.
- b. Like unto the Son of God (Hebrews 7:3)
 - (1) Some will argue that Melchizedek cannot be the Son of God since the Bible says he was “made like unto the Son of God.”
 - (2) However, most Bible believers have no trouble declaring that the fourth man in the fiery furnace is the Son of God, even though the passage says, “the form of the fourth is like the Son of God” (Daniel 3:25).
 - (3) Bible believers will also state how they believe that Jesus Christ was in the midst of the seven candlesticks in Revelation, even though the passage says, “And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man” (Revelation 1:13).
 - (4) Therefore, it is the conclusion of this teacher that Melchizedek is a preincarnate Christ visiting Abram as the King and Priest Melchizedek.
- D. Melchizedek Blesses Abram (Genesis 14:19-20)
 1. A blessing for Abram (Genesis 14:19)
 2. A blessing for Abram’s God (Genesis 14:19-20)
 - a. Possessor of heaven and earth (Genesis 14:19)
 - b. Deliverer from his enemies (Genesis 14:20)
 3. Abram gives tithes of all (Genesis 14:20)
 - a. First mention of tithing in the Bible
 - b. Next mention is when Jacob promises to tithe (Genesis 28:22)
 - c. Abram gave tithes to Melchizedek (Genesis 14:20; Hebrews 7:2)
 - d. The tithes came from the spoils (Genesis 14:18-24; Hebrews 7:4)
 - e. Tithing/Tithes/Offerings throughout the Bible (Genesis 14:20)
 - (1) Tithes/Offerings – Old Testament and New Testament compared
 - (a) In the Old Testament, under the law, the place of tithing was the storehouse (Malachi 3:10).
 - (b) In the New Testament, under grace, the place was “laid by in store” (1 Corinthians 16:2).
 - (c) In the Old Testament, animals and vegetables were tithed (Leviticus 27:30, 32; Matthew 23:23).
 - (d) In the New Testament, it appears to be money (Acts 11:29; Romans 15:26; 1 Corinthians 16:1-3).
 - (e) In the Old Testament, the tithe supported the Levites and priests (Nehemiah 10:37-38; Numbers 18:24).
 - (f) In the New Testament, it supports ministers, the work of the ministry and poor saints (Romans 15:25; 1 Corinthians 9:9-14).
 - (g) In the Old Testament, it is brought once every three years (Deuteronomy 26:12).

- (h) In the New Testament, it is brought on the first day of the week
(1 Corinthians 16:1, 2).
- (i) In the Old Testament, it is the tithe plus and offering
(Malachi 3:10).
- (j) In the New Testament, it is “according as a man purposes in his heart, both cheerfully and bountifully”
(2 Corinthians 9:6-9).
- (2) The three different tithes in the Old Testament, under the law.
 - (a) Leviticus 27:29-31; as in 2 Chronicles 31:5 and Numbers 18:21-24.
 - (b) Deuteronomy 14:22, given three times a year.
 - (c) Deuteronomy 14:28, as Leviticus 25:20 and Nehemiah 10:37.

IV. MEETING WITH THE KING OF SODOM (Genesis 14:21-23)

- A. The King of Sodom’s Offer (Genesis 14:21)
 - 1. The king of Sodom asks for the persons
 - 2. The king of Sodom offers Abram the goods
- B. Abram’s Refusal to Take from the King of Sodom (Genesis 14:22-23)
 - 1. The vow made to God (Genesis 14:22; Ecclesiastes 5:4-5)
 - a. A vow made (Ecclesiastes 5:4-5; Deuteronomy 23:21, 23)
 - b. A vow not made (Deuteronomy 23:22)
 - 2. The denial of Sodom’s goods (Genesis 14:23)
 - a. To not take because a vow had been made to God.
 - b. To not take of that which came from Sodom.
 - c. In practice and principle (3 John 1:7)
 - (1) The Church should not take from the world to fund God’s work
 - (2) If the work is to be done, it should come from the people of God
- C. Abram Takes Care of His Confederates (Genesis 14:24)
 - 1. To allow for what had been eaten.
 - 2. To allow his confederates to take if they so desired.
 - 3. He himself would take nothing.