

# The Priest King

*Read Psalm 110*

As a royal Psalm, Psalm 110 was originally written about an earthly Hebrew king. But since Jesus Christ is the ultimate King, the eternal heir to David's throne, He is the ultimate fulfillment of these psalms. The Apostle Paul and the writer of the book of Hebrews both applied this Psalm to Jesus, as did Jesus Himself. (See 1 Corinthians 15:25; Hebrews 1:13; 5:6; Matthew 22:41-46).

Here God has made a number of powerful promises to His Messiah, Jesus:

1. God will subjugate every one of Jesus' enemies (vv.1, 5-6).
2. He will give Him absolute power and authority, even in the midst of those who oppose Him (v.2).
3. Messiah's people will provide a vast and willing army, magnificent in their array, covering the ground like dew, all giving their very best to their King (v.3).

But perhaps the most intriguing promise is in v.4, "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek." To get the full background on Melchizedek, read Genesis 14. During a war among local kings, Abraham's nephew, Lot, was taken captive, along with all his possessions. Abraham raised an army of 318 trained men of war just from those born in his household. (Now that's a vast estate!) Abraham's household army joined with other allies and pursued the four offending kings, defeated them and brought back Lot along with all the other plunder.

Hebrews 7 summarizes Melchizedek's part in the story:

*Melchizedek was king of Salem and priest of God Most High. He met Abraham returning from the defeat of the kings and blessed him, and Abraham gave him a tenth of everything. (7:1-2a, NIV; see also Genesis 14:17-20)*

Since the Genesis account says nothing about Melchizedek's human lineage, which was normally a requirement for the priesthood, Hebrews goes on to say this:

*Without father or mother, without genealogy, without beginning of days or end of life, like the Son of God he remains a priest forever. Just think how great he was: Even the patriarch Abraham gave him a tenth of the plunder! (Hebrews 7:3, NIV)*

And in response to Abraham being blessed by Melchizedek, Hebrews adds:

*And without doubt the lesser person is blessed by the greater. (7:7, NIV)*

Melchizedek was both a king and a priest, even though by human lineage he didn't qualify as a priest. The Bible gives no word of his origins or his dying but surrounds him with a mysterious, other-worldly air. Even the great Abraham respected his authority.

Then what does Psalm 110 mean when it says that Messiah is “a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek”? Since Messiah came from the tribe of Judah rather than Levi, He did not qualify as a priest by human standards, just as Melchizedek did not. But God made Christ high priest by direct, everlasting appointment. He is “*a priest not on the basis of a regulation as to his ancestry but on the basis of the power of an indestructible life*” (Hebrews 7:16, NIV). Besides being the Ultimate King, Messiah is the Great High Priest, representing God to His people, and His people to God. He is our mediator. 1 Timothy 2:5 says:

*There is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus. (NIV)*

We are weak and needy, unholy and unworthy. God is the boundless source of life, love and all that is good. As our High Priest, Jesus Christ brings us to our Father and our Father to us, forever uniting God and humanity, earth and heaven.

*Father, our future is all in Jesus Christ.  
He is our completeness,  
our holiness, and  
our boundless life.  
Today we fix our hearts on Him.*

**Hymn: [Our Destiny Is Jesus Christ](#)**

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