

# The Melchizedek Priesthood

(December 12, 2006)

## **GAMA! Get a Mormon Answer**

Last weeks Gama

“Do you believe the LDS prophets and apostles actually meet with Jesus face to face.”

Responses included:

Franklin said:

“They meet him through His spirit. Spirit speaks to spirit and they have His testimony first hand through a spiritual connection.”

Ernie P wrote:

“Every LDS prophet and apostle is a special witness of the Savior. They see and speak with Him as a man speaketh with his friend.”

Then we get the very LDS dodge from one Michael M who writes:

“My response to your question about the Apostles is too sacred to discuss! I only wish you had the good sense to leave some things alone.”

I love this stuff! Too sacred to discuss. Paul saw the Lord – was that too sacred to discuss.

Steven saw the Lord – was that too sacred to discuss?

Even Joseph Smith said he saw the Lord – was that too sacred to discuss?

When the LDS say that something is “too sacred to discuss” it’s the religious equivalent of any and every Gnostic game ever played!

“I can’t tell you what happened because,

	<p>because it was just so special, so sacred that I'd have to kill you if I did.”</p> <p>Baloney.</p> <p>Special witnesses are supposed to share their witness – that's why the Lord gives them the witness!</p> <p>They don't live in some Gnostic vacuum!</p> <p>See through the rhetoric, my friends.</p> <p>But let me make this clear – I don't care if you call your leaders prophets and apostles. That is your religious choice.</p> <p>I just want the reality on the table. That's all.</p> <p>All right, next weeks GAMA: “Explain spiritual rebirth as you understand it.”</p>
<p><b>We are receiving some very kind requests from people who want to get involved in this ministry but don't know how.</b></p> <p>Thank you for your interest.</p> <p>There are some things we'll hope you'll consider in this regard:</p>	<p>First, we are in need of your prayers more than anything else.</p> <p>Pray for the states dominant religion to see the light of Jesus in all they do.</p> <p>Pray for the lost to turn on their sets.</p> <p>We also ask that you sharing this show and our website with other people too.</p> <p>Go to our website at <a href="http://www.bornagainmormon.com">www.bornagainmormon.com</a></p>

	<p>and click on "Getting Involved" for more information</p>
<p><b>ABUNDANCE OF EMAILS LOADED WITH QUESTIONS</b></p>	<p>LDS writers get very annoyed with me because I often do not respond to their queries.</p> <p>Why?</p> <p>I am here to share Jesus.</p> <p>I make comparisons to LDS doctrine and the Bible.</p> <p>I can usually tell when someone is writing to learn and when they are writing to argue.</p> <p>I am not hear to argue. Just here to present the facts.</p> <p>When I am silent to respond, the LDS questioner boldly proclaims a victory, throwing arrogant perjoratives at me and telling me I am a fraud because I do not reply to THEM!</p> <p>How dare I not reply to them!</p> <p>Over the past three weeks, I've received no less that 28 emails that have accelerated in tone against me.</p> <p>Why?</p> <p>I have not taken the time to cite a comment I made on a show from Boyd K Packer.</p>
<p><b><u>COMMENT ON HEBREWS 7</u></b></p> <p><b>Most things we use in life begin at a "sufficient and acceptable level" then progress to an "advanced and better" state</b></p>	

later on.

**Judaism was a divinely inspired religion that sufficiently expressed an acceptable outward devotion to God.**

Just as the Model T was not an extremely comfortable ride, Judaism was not an easy religion to live.

But it was “sufficient and acceptable” for the time and all for things considered.

When Jesus came, fulfilling the Law and the Prophets, and shattering all barriers between man and God, ripping the veil, as it were, by his death, he parked the Model T of religion and introduced the Rolls Royce of Relationship to the world.

This was not an easy thing for the Christian-Jews to readily embrace and we see in scripture that many of them returned to their Model T’s, finding the luxurious grace of a relationship with Jesus actually too liberating for their religious hearts and minds.

The once black and white television is now a flat screen high definition surround sound.

Concerned parenting skills often go from being typically-but-properly-legalistic to abundantly patient and loving as life moves forward.

Rigid business models often transform into dynamic open-ended applications ready for the masses.

**The Book of Hebrews** – found in the New Testament – was written to these Christian-Jews to help them transition into the idea that . . .

<p>Chapter one teaches, among other things, that Jesus is greater than angels.</p> <p>Chapter three teaches that Jesus is greater than Moses.</p> <p>Chapter four teaches that Jesus is greater than the Old Testament priesthood (which we discussed last week).</p> <p><b>REMEMBER:</b> The content and context of the Book of Hebrews was to show the struggling Christian-Jews, who were equivocating in their faith in the Lord by yearning for their “older model of religion,” that a relationship with Jesus is the superior way.</p> <p>Then in chapter 7 we come upon a reference and comparative to a very mysterious man named Melchizedek.</p>	<p>Jesus is the “better way.” Relationship is a “better way.” Christ is supreme and completely sufficient for salvation.</p> <p>Hebrews teaches that Jesus is superior to angels . . . Jesus is superior to Moses. He was superior to their priests. He was superior to their sacrifices.</p> <p>The Book of Hebrews teaches that Christianity (or a personal relationship with Jesus by faith) surpasses Judaism because it is a “better covenant,” which offers a “better sanctuary,” and a “more sufficient” sacrifice for sin.</p> <p>It seems that whenever there was a mystery</p>
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<p>Last week, we covered the misapplication of the Aaronic Priesthood in the LDS Church.</p> <p>Well, according to a very suspect timeline, somewhere between May of 1829 and June, Joseph said Peter, James, and John visited him and restored what he called the Melchizedek priesthood to the earth.</p> <p>Doctrine and Covenants 84:19-22 reads:</p> <p>“And this greater priesthood administereth the gospel and holdeth the key of the mysteries of the kingdom, even the key of the knowledge of God. Therefore, in the ordinances thereof, the power of God is manifest. And without the ordinances thereof, and the</p>	<p>event or person in the Bible, Joseph Smith offered a rather far-fetched extrabiblical interpretation of its meaning.</p> <p>Consider what he said about John the Beloved and the Three Nephites never dying but living on the earth even in our day.</p> <p>How about Enoch? We know from the Bible he was translated. But little else. Joseph taught that not only was he translated, but a whole city that carried his namesake!</p> <p>If there is a mystery or uncertainty in the text of the Bible, Joseph addressed it, expanded it, and called it truth.</p> <p>Perhaps nothing was expanded more than the role and meaning behind the person called Melchizedek.</p>
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authority of the priesthood, the power of Godliness is not manifest unto men in the flesh; for without this no man can see the face of God, even the Father, and live.”

McKonkie said (Mormon Doctrine pg. 481)

“the presence of absence of this priesthood establishes the divinity or falsity of a professing church!”

He adds

“If there is no Melchizedek priesthood on earth, the true church is not here and the gospel of Christ is not available to men. Where the Melchizedek priesthood is, there is the kingdom, the Church, and the fullness of the Gospel.”

Mormonism teaches that

- That the name Melchizedek was given to this priesthood to avoid to frequent repetition of Deity (D&C 107:2-4)
- Melchizedek was the greatest high priest ever (Alma 13:19)
- That this highest priesthood he offered was “eternal,” meaning God has always operated by it.
- That it was given to Adam and passed down generationally until the Children of Israel, according to McKonkie, “rebelled, rejected the higher law and took Moses and the fullness of the priesthood from them.”
- The Aaronic priesthood then became the authority on earth until Jesus came.
- The Melchizedek priesthood was lost from the earth with the death of the last apostle and was then restored to the earth through Joseph Smith.

<p>Now, I must admit, that without a scriptural backing, this all seems to make some sense.</p> <p>It's orderly. It's processional. There <u>was</u> a biblical person named Melchizedek who was a high priest.</p> <p>Why not go along with it?</p> <p>It gives people meaning, right?</p> <p>It causes men who are otherwise just beasts to be accountable to something, right? "Honorable priesthood bearer" and all that? No harm, no foul?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That the LDS Church is the only church/religion that has this power of God here on earth.</li> <li>• Men from 18 years of age and up are in a position to receive this "Holy Melchizedek Priesthood."</li> </ul>
<p>When we read the Old Testament, it is vital to understand the use of "types."</p> <p>A type is a figure or representation of something to come.</p>	<p>Well, let's look at a sound Biblical understanding of Melchizedek.</p> <p>EXAMPLES:</p> <p>Egyptian bondage was a type for the bondage of sin.</p> <p>Moses was a type for the Messiah.</p>

The Exodus was a type for leaving the world behind.

The Passover Lamb was a type for the shed blood of Jesus.

The Pillar of Fire - Jesus

Manna from Heaven - Jesus

Water from the Rock - Jesus

The Flesh Pots – type for sin

The Sacrificial Offerings - Jesus

The Festivals and Feasts -Jesus

The Brazen Serpent - Jesus

Look at the Tabernacle.

- There were three entrances to the
  1. A gate – Jesus
  2. A door - Jesus
  3. And a veil – Jesus flesh

Seven Articles of Furniture:

- Brazen Altar type of the cross
- Laver: Washed clean by Christ
- Golden Lamp: Christ is the Light
- Table of bread: Jesus bread of life.
- Altar of Incense: Jesus our intercessor!
- The Mercy Seat

One of my favorite types in the OT represents Jesus as all Man and all God.

What is the type

The Ark of the Covenant.

Exodus 25:10-11 And they shall make an ark of acacia-wood . . . And you shall overlay it with pure gold. You shall overlay it inside and out, and shall make on it a crown of gold all around.

<p>So who was Melchizedek?</p> <p>He was a TYPE of Jesus Christ, not of a priesthood to be handed down like the Levitical priesthood.</p> <p>He was a TYPE of Jesus to come, who would become our high priest forever and ever.</p> <p>Recall that last week, when we explained that prior to Sinai, the patriarchs were the established priests of the land.</p> <p>Then at Sinai, God established a priesthood based on heritage.</p> <p>Melchizedek was a great high priest prior to the establishment of the priesthood based on heritage.</p> <p>So when we combine the idea that</p> <p>1) Melchizedek was a high priest prior to the establishment of the Levitical priesthood</p> <p>AND</p>	<p>Now acacia-wood is gnarled and thorny, representing man.</p> <p>And gold was pure and costly, representing God.</p> <p>The Ark was wood. The Ark was Gold</p> <p>Jesus was All Man. Jesus was All God.</p> <p>Contents of the Ark? Manna, The Law, Aaron's Blossoming Rod</p> <p>Covering of the Ark? The Veil!</p>
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That what he was a figure for our final high priest Jesus Christ . . .

. . . we can then begin to understand what Melchizedek was biblically.

In this context, let's read the few verses written about him.

*Genesis 14:18 And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God.*

**Secondly**, let's look at his name  
(Verse 18.) "***And Melchizedek . . .***"

Melchizedek's name in Hebrew is "Malki - tsedek," signifies "my righteous king", or "king of righteousness."

This name he probably had from the pure and righteous administration of his government; and this is one of the characteristics of the Lord, a character which can be applied to him only, as he alone is essentially righteous, and the only Potentate;

**First** of all, Melchizedek appears to have been a real person who knew the true and living God. Some Christian's think he was a "Christophany" but I think he was living human patriarch.

The Rabbins believed he was quite possibly the man Shem, son of Noah.

What we do know, real or not, is he was a type of Jesus Christ.

but a holy man, such as Melchizedek, might bear this name as his type or representative.

**Third**, let's look at “. . . *king of Salem* . . .” (verse 18)

Where was Salem? Massachusetts? No.

Have you ever heard of Jerusalem?

Psalms 76:1,2: "In Judah is God known; his name is great in Israel. In SALEM also is his tabernacle, and his dwelling place in Zion."

“Shalam” signifies to make whole, complete, or perfect, to bring peace. Christ is called the Prince of peace, because, by his incarnation, sacrifice, and mediation, he procures and establishes peace between God and man.

Remember . . .

“Peace on earth good will toward men!”

The Lords residence is peace and quietness and assurance for ever, in every believing upright heart.

He governs as the Prince and Priest of the most high God, ruling in righteousness, mighty to save; and he ever lives to make intercession for, and save to the uttermost all who come unto the Father by him.

There is but one KING of SALEM – Jesus.

## **Forth.**

And what did Melchizedek bring to Abraham?

“Bread and wine!”

Brothers and sisters, do I need to say more?

This type of Jesus, whose name means king of righteousness,

whose kingdom is a place called peace, brings bread and wine, the elements of communion, as refreshment to Abraham after a battle made victorious by the True and Living God!

Are you seeing the type?

What other evidences point to Melchizedek being purely a type for Jesus and nothing else?

Let's turn to a second set of passages to help us understand him:

Hebrews 7:1-4

*1 For this Melchizedek, king of Salem and priest of the Most High God, met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him.*

*2 To him Abraham also gave a tenth of all. He was first by*

**Fifth**, let's look at Melchizedek's office - *"a priest of the most high God."*

The word "Nhk" or "cohen," signifies an office of both "prince" and "priest" because the patriarchs sustained such a double office at this time.

It has both its root in the Arabic word, "kahana" which signifies "to approach, draw near, have intimate access to; and from hence to officiate as priest before God, and thus have intimate access to the Divine presence.

Melchizedek, being a priest of the most high God, represented Christ in his sacerdotal character.

Even Abraham paid tithes to Melchizedek!

*interpretation king of righteousness, and after that also king of Salem, which is king of peace.*

What is the purpose of this? Abraham was certainly at the top of the heap in authority, wasn't he?

Yes. Remember how the Jews regarded Abraham at the time of Jesus?

When John the Baptist preached repentance to the Jews, they would say to him

"We have Abraham for our father."

And remember what Jesus said to them about Abraham

"Verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am."

Abraham paid tithes to Melchizedek as an indication that Jesus' position of authority and power were far above even Father Abraham.

You get it?

Then, verse three in Hebrews 7 says, speaking of Melchizedek, that he was

*3 without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, he remains a priest continually.*

Now, you've gotta think here . . . because the payoff is worth it.

If Melchizedek was a real person, did he really not have a father or mother? Did he really not have descendents? Was he really lacking a beginning and an end!?

NO!

But what the writer of Hebrews is saying is

<p>Finally, David gives us some insight into Melchizedek when he writes:</p> <p>Psalm 110:4 <i>The LORD hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.</i></p> <p><i>Heb 5:9 And being made perfect, he (JESUS) became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him; Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec.</i></p> <p>This was not another priesthood. This was a single position that could only be filled by one being – Jesus.</p>	<p>the Word leaves all this out about him!</p> <p>Now ask yourselves why?</p> <p>Because as a type for Jesus, those things make sense.</p> <p>For Jesus is without father or mother or decent!</p> <p>And Jesus really does have no beginning or end of days!</p> <p>Who is this speaking of?</p> <p>LDS men 18 years of age or older OR Jesus Christ, who Melchizedek was a perfect type of from the get go?</p> <p><i>Heb 6:20 Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchizedec.</i></p> <p>What forefunner entered the holy of holy for us with his own shed blood? Jesus!</p> <p>And what was Jesus made by God?</p>
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Our high priest!

After the order of whom?  
Melchizedek!

And what do we know about Melchizedek?

- He was king of righteousness.
- He was the king of peace.
- He brought bread and wine to Abraham to refresh Him after a victory won by God.
- He had intimate access to God as the great high priest of old.
- Abraham acquiesced to him by giving him tithes..

And like Jesus in so many other ways, He was . . .

*without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, he remains a priest continually.*

Let me conclude with a few final passages from Hebrews 7:22-27

Hebrews 7:22 By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament.

23 And there truly were many priests, because they were not suffered to continue by reason of death:

24 But this man (Jesus), because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood.

25 Wherefore he is able also to

<p>save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.</p> <p>26 For such an high priest came to us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;</p> <p>27 Who needeth not daily, as those first high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself.</p>	
	<p>My friends, my LDS brothers and sisters, it ALL points to Jesus now.</p> <p>Drop this mythical Melchizedek priesthood stuff and come to the Only High Priest who you will ever need – Jesus Christ.</p> <p>Go to the passages quoted and start searching.</p> <p>Jesus is real, ready, and waiting to make permanent intercession for you as your ONLY high priest.</p>
<p><b>CONCLUSION</b></p> <p>Out of necessity I am going to close with a few remarks about a subject I don't particularly enjoy.</p> <p>We get a number of questions about giving financially to our ministry and it seems I need to make our approach and position clear on the matter.</p>	<p>First, , check out 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 9:7  <i>Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.</i></p> <p>Please feel no compulsion. Let God be your guide and nothing or no one else.</p>