



Follow the Lamb
“A King and a Priest”
Genesis 14:14-24

In John 5:39, Jesus told the Jewish religious leaders that the ***“Scriptures are they which testify of Me!”***

- The **“scarlet thread”** woven throughout the Old Testament is the prophetic trail of the blood of Jesus Christ – the Lamb of God, whose death paid the wages of the sin of the world.
- The **“signs of the Savior”** are in every book of the Bible – the Old Testament pointing to the promise of His coming – the New Testament pointing to the fact of His coming.
- The Bible says Jesus – the Lamb of God – was slain from the foundation of the world – His death was God’s **sovereign plan** from the beginning!
- Therefore, Jesus Christ is the **ONLY WAY** to have our sins forgiven, our relationship with God restored, and our assurance of everlasting life.

Appearing as both King and Priest, **Melchizedek** – serves as another “type” of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

The Battle of the Kings: (Genesis 14)

- The five Kings of the Plain determined to no longer pay taxes (tribute) to King Chedorlaomer.
- The four Kings of the East declared war on all the nations to their west – destroying cities, killing or taking the people captive as well as their valuables.

- In God's sovereignty, they also attacked the Kings of the Plain – including the King of Sodom where Lot, Abram's nephew lived.
- The Kings of the East decimated Sodom, and they took Lot and his family with them as captives.
- A man from Sodom escaped captivity and told Abram that Lot and his family had been taken and were about to be sold as slaves.
- Even though Abram was reluctant at first, he then decided to take his men and try to rescue Lot and his family and to recover some of their property.
- After the rescue was completed, the Kings of the Plain desire to express their appreciation to Abram and his men – namely, the King of Sodom and King
 - Abram rejected the expression of thanks from the King of Sodom!
 - Abram accepted the expression of thanks to King Melchizedek, and in so doing, he worshipped Him with his tithes.
 - That act of worship gives us another glimpse of our Savior, Jesus Christ!

1. **The King of Sodom – Vs 17 – “*And the King of Sodom went out to meet him.*”**

The “**King of Sodom**” represents the world, and all its temptations and possessions.

- To show his appreciation for Abram's bravery in the rescue of his people, the King of Sodom told Abram:
- You “***Give me the persons***” – their souls – so they could return to the sin pits of Sodom
- You “***keep the goods to thyself***” – the spoil – which could be easily replaced in Sodom.
- Abram said he had “***lifted his hand unto the Lord, the Most High God; possessor of heaven and earth***”, (made a vow or a pledge) and he would not take, even a shoelace from the King, lest the King would say that he had made him rich.

2. **The King of Salem – VS 18 – “*And Melchizedek brought forth bread and wine – he was the priest of the Most High God – and he blessed him!*”**

- “**Melchizedek**” means – “*King of Righteousness!*”
- “**Salem**” means “*Jerusalem*” – the city of peace!
- Melchizedek was the King and Priest of the Most High God, and He served Abram “bread and wine” – symbolic of the Passover and the broken Body and shed Blood of Jesus Christ – the Lamb of God.
- As a PRIEST, Melchizedek did two important things:
 - **He blessed Abram with communion and prayer.**
 - **He blessed God in prayer for giving Abram victory over his enemies.**

- Abram's response to the Kings action was:

- **To worship Him by giving Him tithes!**

The writer of Hebrews used this event in Abram's life to **equate Jesus with Melchizedek** – identifying Him as a visible manifestation of the Son of God! (Hebrews 7)

- Melchizedek was:
 - The King of righteousness –
 - The King of Salem –
 - Without father or mother –
- Abram recognized Melchizedek as being the Priest of the Most High God – sent by God to minister to him, and to be worshipped by him.
 - **By paying “tithes” unto Melchizedek**, Abram was placing his trust in God as his Provider, Protector, Deliverer and Defender.
 - **By paying our “tithes” unto the Lord**, we are placing our trust in God to do the same for us.

Jesus made six major changes in the Priesthood!

- Only Jesus can make us perfect and acceptable unto God.
- Only Jesus is qualified to serve as our High Priest.
- Only Jesus can give us the promise of even drawing nearer to God.
- Only Jesus can guarantee that God will keep His covenant with lost man.
- Only Jesus could reduce the number of priests and still have enough for men of every age.
- Only Jesus – as our Perfect High Priest – can bring about our complete and eternal salvation!
 - **He has perfect power** – *Matthew 28:18*
 - **He had a perfect life** – *Hebrews 4:15*
 - **He has made the perfect sacrifice** – *1 Peter 1:18*