

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS PRIEST AND KING

(No. 1204 – 6/7/21 – DR Zoom Meeting)

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Review Pastor Tom's message from last week, "The Holy Spirit Is God"
- B. There are important foundational truths concerning the Holy Spirit that are being robbed from most churches (**Ps. 11:3** – NKJV):

*If the **foundations are destroyed**, what can the righteous do?*

- 1. Foundation #1: Melchizedek is the Holy Spirit
 - 2. Foundation #2: The Baptism in the Holy Spirit is an experience altogether separate and distinct from conversion or water baptism
- C. Let us examine each of these essential foundations in more detail...

II. MELCHIZEDEK IS THE HOLY SPIRIT

A. Who is Melchizedek?

- 1. Melchizedek is mentioned only twice in the Old Testament, and eight times in the New Testament—all in the Book of Hebrews.
- 2. Most Christians have never heard any teaching on Melchizedek!

B. Melchizedek in the Old Testament

- 1. In Genesis, we read about a highly unusual meeting that Abraham had with Melchizedek, who is identified as "King of Salem" and "Priest of God Most High" (**Gen. 14:18-20**):

*¹⁸Then Melchizedek **king of Salem** brought out bread and wine. He was **priest of God Most High**,¹⁹ and He blessed Abram, saying, "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. ²⁰And blessed be God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand." Then Abram gave Him a tenth of everything.*

- a) Melchizedek was king of Salem ["later called Jerusalem" – AMP]; interestingly, at the time there was no earthly city by either name! The only other mention

of Salem in Scripture suggests that Melchizedek had come from God's heavenly tabernacle (**Ps. 76:2 NAS**):

His [God's] tabernacle is in Salem; His dwelling place also is in Zion.

- b) Melchizedek is the first priest mentioned in Scripture, and there is no other priest in the entire Old Testament who was also a king! Kings could not be priests, and vice versa.
 - c) Melchizedek brought bread and wine [communion elements! see Mat. 26:26-29]
 - d) Melchizedek blessed Abram on behalf of God Most High and He praised God Most High for giving victory to Abram
 - e) Abraham gave tithes to Melchizedek!
 - f) Fascinating! Who, then, is this mysterious Melchizedek?
2. Melchizedek is only mentioned one other time in the Old Testament in Psalm 110, which is clearly a Messianic psalm (**Ps. 110:1-4**):

*¹The LORD [Jehovah, Yahweh, Father God] says to My Lord [Adonai the Messiah]: "Sit at My right hand until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet." ²The LORD will extend Your mighty scepter from Zion; You will rule in the midst of Your enemies... ⁴The LORD has sworn and will not change His mind: "**You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.**"*

C. Melchizedek in the New Testament

1. The writer of Hebrews leaves no room for doubt about the meaning of the prophetic passage in Psalm 110: it was fulfilled in Jesus Christ; Jesus became a priest in the order of Melchizedek (**Heb. 5:5-10; 6:19-20**):

*⁵So Christ also did not take upon Himself the glory of becoming a high priest. But God said to Him, "You are My Son; today I have become Your Father." ⁶And He says in another place, "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek." ⁷During the days of **Jesus'** life on earth...*

*⁸Although He **was a son**, He learned obedience from what He suffered ⁹and, once made perfect, He became the*

source of eternal salvation for all who obey Him ¹⁰and was designated by God to be high priest in the order of Melchizedek.

¹⁹*We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain,*

²⁰*where Jesus, who went before us, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.*

2. MOST PASTORS believe that Jesus is Melchizedek—that they are one and the same—BECAUSE that is what they were taught in seminary and that is what all of the commentaries say. But are they correct?
3. In the seventh chapter of Hebrews, we seem to get a clear revelation of Melchizedek's identity (**Heb. 7:1-17**):

¹*This Melchizedek was king of Salem and priest of God Most High. He met Abraham returning from the defeat of the kings and blessed him, ²and Abraham gave Him a tenth of everything. First, His name means “king of righteousness”; then also, “king of Salem” means “king of peace.” ³Without father or mother, without genealogy, without beginning of days or end of life, like the Son of God He remains a priest forever. ⁴Just think how great He was: Even the patriarch Abraham gave Him a tenth of the plunder! ⁵Now the law requires the descendants of Levi who become priests to collect a tenth from the people—that is, their brothers—even though their brothers are descended from Abraham. ⁶This man, however, did not trace His descent from Levi, yet He collected a tenth from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises. ⁷And without doubt the lesser person is blessed by the greater. ⁸In the one case, the tenth is collected by men who die; but in the other case, by him who is declared to be living. ⁹One might even say that Levi, who collects the tenth, paid the tenth through Abraham, ¹⁰because when Melchizedek met Abraham, Levi was still in the body of his ancestor. ¹¹If perfection could have been attained through the Levitical priesthood (for on the basis of it the law was given to the people), why was there still need for another priest to come—one in the order of Melchizedek, not in the order of Aaron? ¹²For when there is a change of the priesthood, there must also be a change of the law. ¹³He of whom these*

*things are said belonged to a different tribe, and no one from that tribe has ever served at the altar. ¹⁴For it is clear that our Lord descended from Judah, and in regard to that tribe Moses said nothing about priests. ¹⁵And what we have said is even more clear if **another priest like Melchizedek** appears, ¹⁶one who has **become a priest not on the basis of a regulation as to his ancestry but on the basis of the power of an indestructible life.** ¹⁷For it is declared: “You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.”*

D. Summary of facts concerning Melchizedek:

1. Even the writer of Hebrews admitted that he had much more to say about Melchizedek, but the revelation is difficult to explain to immature believers who are dull of hearing (**Heb. 5:10-11**):
*¹⁰Called by God as High Priest “according to the order of **Melchizedek**,” ¹¹**of whom** we have much to say, and **hard to explain**, since you have become dull of hearing.*
2. Melchizedek is king of righteousness and king of peace
3. He had no parents, no family tree, no beginning or end of life; that narrows it down considerably: he is neither a human nor an angel— He is Divine! Melchizedek is God!
4. He is priest of God Most High (Heb. 7:1), so He cannot be the Most High God, i.e., God the Father.
5. Many assume, therefore, that Melchizedek is Christ—but not so fast! In Heb. 7:3, we are told that Melchizedek is “**like the Son of God**” (just because I look like John Smith does not make me John Smith!). And Jesus is a priest “in the *order* [Gk. *taxis* = “fixed succession, rank or order; orderly arrangement”] of Melchizedek, not in the *order* of Aaron” (Heb. 7:11). The concept of an *order* or *orderly arrangement* makes no sense if there is only one—you cannot arrange one chair, one pencil, or *one* priest in order! And Christ was “**another** [Gk. *heteros* = “other, different”] **priest** like Melchizedek” (Heb. 7:15). Finally, Jesus clearly had an earthly mother, so He CANNOT be Melchizedek!
6. Hebrews clearly mentions two priests: Melchizedek, and another priest like Him, Jesus! So, Melchizedek cannot be Jesus.

7. If Melchizedek is God, but He is neither the Father nor the Son, then who is He? By process of elimination, He must be the Holy Spirit. And this conclusion is supported by numerous Scriptures. Consider the following:
 - a) Jesus did absolutely no ministry until He was anointed by the Holy Spirit [see Luke 4:18]; likewise, He commanded His disciples to wait until they were empowered for ministry by the Holy Spirit [see Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8].
 - b) Just as Abraham was blessed by Melchizedek, so the blessing given to Abraham (“the promise of the Spirit”) is for every child of God (**Gal. 3:13-14**):
*¹³Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.” ¹⁴He redeemed us in order that the **blessing given to Abraham** might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might **receive the promise of the Spirit**.*
 - c) Jesus offered Himself through the eternal Spirit, the Priest of God Most High (Heb. 9:14).
 - d) Paul performed his “priestly duty” by the Holy Spirit (Rom. 15:15-19).
 - e) How great Melchizedek is—Abraham gave tithes to Melchizedek! This is the first instance of tithing in Scripture, long before it was commanded under the Law of Moses.
8. Why is this so important? There is NO OTHER VALID MINISTRY now... only priesthood in the order of Melchizedek!

E. Priesthood in the order of Melchizedek

1. As seen in Hebrews 7, another priest had to come—one in the order of Melchizedek, not in the order of Aaron—Jesus Christ the Great High Priest. This meant there was a “change of the priesthood.”
2. The Levitical order of ministry, established under the Law, was replaced with a better ministry under the New Covenant, called the “**ministry of the Spirit**” [2 Cor. 3].

3. Jesus and His disciples are ministers in the order of Melchizedek—they minister by the anointing of the Spirit:
 - a) **Mat. 12:22-28:** ²²*Then they brought Him a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute, and Jesus healed him, so that he could both talk and see.* ²³*All the people were astonished and said, “Could this be the Son of David?”* ²⁴*But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, “**It is only by Beelzebub, the prince of demons, that this fellow drives out demons.**”* ²⁵*Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them, “Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand.* ²⁶*If Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then can his kingdom stand?* ²⁷*And if I drive out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your people drive them out? So then, they will be your judges.* ²⁸***But if I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you...*** ³¹*And so I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven.* ³²*Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but **anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.***
 - b) **Acts 10:38:** *How **God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit** and power, and how He went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with Him.*
 - c) **2 Cor. 3:3-8:** ³*You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.* ⁴*Such confidence as this is ours through Christ before God.* ⁵*Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but **our competence comes from God.*** ⁶***He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant**—not of the letter but **of the Spirit**; for the letter kills, but **the Spirit gives life.*** ⁷*Now if the ministry that brought death, which was engraved in letters on stone, came with glory, so that the Israelites could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of its glory,*

fading though it was, ⁸will not the ministry of the Spirit be even more glorious?

4. NOTE: Priests in the order of Aaron who had met all the other qualifications required by the Law, were only “qualified” for priesthood by the anointing (Ex. 40:12-15 – NAS):

¹²Then you shall bring Aaron and his sons to the doorway of the tent of meeting and wash them with water. ¹³You shall put the holy garments on Aaron and anoint him and consecrate him, that he may minister as a priest to Me.

*¹⁴You shall bring his sons and put tunics on them; ¹⁵and you shall **anoint them even as you have anointed their father, that they may minister as priests to Me; and their anointing will qualify them for a perpetual priesthood throughout their generations.***

5. The anointing of Melchizedek makes us kings and priests

a) Through the baptism in the Holy Spirit, King and Priest Melchizedek comes to live inside us!

b) We become His temple (1 Cor. 6:19; Eph. 2:21-22):

*¹⁹Do you not know that **your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit**, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own.*

*²¹In Him **the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple** in the Lord. ²²And in Him you too are being built together to **become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit.***

c) We are made kings and priests after His order—only in the order of Melchizedek can a person become both! (Rev. 1:4-6 – NKJV):

*⁴John, **to the seven churches** which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, ⁵and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, ⁶and has **made us kings and priests** to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.*

6. The Holy Spirit (King Melchizedek) manifests the Kingdom of God
 - a) **Mat. 12:28:** *But if I [Jesus] drive out demons **by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.***
 - b) **Rom. 14:17:** *For the **kingdom of God** is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of **righteousness, peace** and joy **in the Holy Spirit.** [Melchizedek is the King of Righteousness and the King of Peace!]*
 - c) **1 Cor. 2:4-5:** *⁴My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a **demonstration of the Spirit's power,** ⁵so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power.*
 - d) **1 Cor. 4:20:** *For the **kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power.** [NOTE: Melchizedek priesthood is based not on rules or laws, but on “the **power** of an indestructible life” (Heb. 7:16).*
 - e) **Acts 1:8:** *But you will receive **power** when the **Holy Spirit** comes on you...*
 - f) **1 Cor. 12:7-11:** *⁷Now to each one the **manifestation of the Spirit** is given for the common good. ⁸To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, ¹⁰to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and He gives them to each one, just as He determines.*

III. CONCLUSION

- A. How great is the Holy Spirit—Melchizedek is living in us now!
- B. Ministry after the order of Melchizedek is the only valid ministry today
- C. Next week we will consider the second foundational truth, The Baptism in the Holy Spirit - A Separate and Distinct Experience...