

The Order of Melchizedek

Sunday December 4th, 2005

1). Ga 1:15 *But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, 16 to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, 17 nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. 18 Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days.*

a). It is interesting to note that after Paul's conversion on the Damascus Road – remembering that this experience does not concern the salvation of his spirit, but his repentance, his change of mind as to who Jesus is and what He had come for – that Paul is then separated for a period of three years from any contact with the Apostles. And during this time is taught 'the Mysteries' of the Kingdom' by the resurrected Christ.

b). Exactly what he references in 1 Corinthians
1Co 11:23 ¶ *For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; 24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." 25 In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.*

2). Now what is interesting for us today as we come to celebrate the Lord's Supper, is to note that in His post Resurrection, personal teaching of Paul, prior to Paul's apostleship to the Gentiles, the Lord personally revealed to Him the events of what we now call the Lord's Supper.

a). Given the message of the Lord's earthly ministry, 'repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand', His post resurrection ministry to His disciples, where He continued to teach them things 'concerning the kingdom of God' and knowing what we do in respect of why the church was brought into being; we would realize that the practice of the Lord's Supper becomes a constant source of reinforcement of spiritual truth for the saved. Something we need to keep continually before us. It teaches deep spiritual

truth concerning the Word and the Blood of Christ on the Mercy Seat in respect of the believer. Looking ahead to the coming Kingdom Age.

b). The broken body and the shed blood speak of issues surrounding the salvation of the soul and all that accompanies this salvation rather than the salvation of the spirit.

3). With this in mind let us briefly review some things that we have dealt with in past weeks, especially that we dealt with the last time we shared the Lord's Supper. We will remember the incident on the road to Emmaus where Jesus walks and talks with two of His disciples, following His resurrection - Lu 24:27 *And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.*

a). Lu 24:30 *Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. 31 Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight. 32 And they said to one another, "Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?"*

b). In the breaking of bread they understood the picture that opened the scriptures to them.

c). Lu 24:35 *And they told about the things that had happened on the road, and how He was known to them in the breaking of bread.*

4). We will also recall that Joh 6:35 *And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.*

a). Joh 6:53 *Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. 54 "Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal (Age Lasting) life, and I will raise him up at the last day. 55 "For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. 56 "He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him.*

b). Teach the above in relation to transformation / washing / cleansing, in relation to entrance into the Kingdom.

c). With this in mind we can understand what follows in Paul's teaching in our 1 Corinthians scripture

d). 1Co 11:27 *Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. 28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. 29 For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats*

and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. 30 For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep. 31 For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged.

e). To participate in the symbolism of what the Lord's Supper teaches without the practice of it in our lives does, without doubt, show us to be unworthy and to have little care for what the Lord has made possible for us through His death and resurrection. And in relation to the salvation of the soul this would be a dangerous state of affairs.

5). Now this has all been by way of a brief review of things we have looked at in past weeks and I hope it has really to set our minds on the Lord's Supper being so much more than a perfunctory ritual.

a). Let us look now at the future time that the Lord's Supper also teaches.

b). *26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.*

c). Now we cannot proclaim the Lord's death to the saved without that which comes after, which His death has made possible.

d). *Col 1:16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.....20 and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.*

e). Again remember the Road to Emmaus - *Lu 24:26 "Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?"*

f). It should be impossible for us to bring to mind the Lord's death without the realization of His coming glory with the reconciliation of all things on earth and in heaven. The two are inseparable and is the clear teaching of scripture throughout the prophets and the psalms on into the N/T.

g). Proclaiming His death also proclaims a change in rulership.

6). To fully understand what the Lord's Supper teaches about the coming glory we need to go back to the book of beginnings, Genesis, and look at the first time bread and wine are used together in scripture.

a). And we find it in Genesis 14, after Abraham had defeated the kings who had taken Lot and his family captive

b). *Ge 14:18 Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High. 19 And he blessed him and said: "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; 20*

And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand." And he gave him a tithe of all.

7). Let's note the detail

a). After a battle with kings freeing Abraham's family, Melchizedek appears and brings out bread and wine and blesses Abraham in respect of promises concerning both the heavenly and earthly realms of the Kingdom.

b). Hearing and believing what God had said in respect of this promise, Abraham acts in faith by giving him a 'tithe of all'. Declaring whom it is in whom he places his trust – and there is another message.

8). Now Melchizedek is not so much a name as a description.

a). Melek (Hebrew) = King

b). Tsedeq (Hebrew) = righteousness

c). He is also king of Salem = King of Peace

i/ Peace = (Hebrew) 'Shalem' = perfected, complete, full – at peace

d). Ru 2:12 *"The LORD repay your work, and a full (shalem) reward be given you by the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge."* (Teach this).

9). This event in Genesis 14 is referenced for us in Hebrews

Heb 7:1 ¶ *For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, 2 to whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all, first being translated "king of righteousness," and then also king of Salem, meaning "king of peace," 3 without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, remains a priest continually. 4 Now consider how great this man was, to whom even the patriarch Abraham gave a tenth of the spoils.*

10). Now the very name, Melchizedek, king of righteousness, king of peace pictures for us the Lord Jesus Christ - Ps 110:4 *The LORD has sworn And will not relent, "You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek"*.

a). The fundamental difference between the Aaronic priesthood and the Melchizedek priesthood is that Melchizedek is a King/Priest. Aaron was never in such a position.

b). And Jesus coming in the order of Melchizedek, as the great King/Priest points us to the millennial Age. For it is only then that His reign will begin.

11). It is at the end of the Tribulation, the time of Jacob's trouble that Christ will return and do battle with the kings of the earth in order that the descendants of Abraham, through Isaac and Jacob can be set free. Just as we saw with Abraham and Lot.

a). At the very conclusion of the redemption of the inheritance, as the bride is granted to wear fine linen, clean and bright, we find

b). *Re 19:11 ¶ Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. 12 His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. 13 He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. 15 Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. 16 And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. 17 Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, "Come and gather together for the supper of the great God, 18 "that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, both small and great." 19 And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. 20 Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. 21 And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.*

12). It is within the boundaries of the record in Revelation that the remnant of Israel, the physical descendants of Abraham, who like the Apostle Paul had been blinded for three days, have their eyes opened to recognize who He is. They will look upon the one they had pierced and repent of killing their Messiah.

a). Christ, the great King priest will then bless them with a new covenant in respect of the earthly portion of the kingdom promised to Abraham and David.

b). Jer 31:31 *"Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah- 32 "not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD. 33 "But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. 34 "No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."*

c). It is now, after their national repentance that Israel will be restored at the head of the nations and Christ as King/Priest will rule from the throne of David in Jerusalem. The city of Peace, as the King of Peace.

13). Let's remember this picture has two parts. The blessing Melchizedek gave Abraham relates to both parts of the kingdom. As Christ comes in the fulfillment of the Great King/Priest at the conclusion of the battle with the kings of the earth, not only are the physical descendants of Abraham blessed, but this event also brings the culmination of blessing for Abraham's spiritual descendants. Bringing to completion all that spoken by Melchizedek nearly 4000 years before.

Immediately preceding our scripture in Revelation 19, Christ's bride through the redemption of the inheritance had become His wife.

a). His co-heirs had been adopted as first born sons, now in a position to rule with Him from His throne in the New Jerusalem.

b). Re 5:9 *And they sing a new song, saying, Worthy art thou to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou was slain, and didst purchase unto God with thy blood men of every tribe, and tongue, and people, and nation, 10 and madest them to be unto our God a kingdom and priests; and they reign upon earth.*

c). Just as Christ is the Great King/Priest so will those found worthy at the Judgment Seat also be Kings and Priests - 1Jo 3:2 *Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.*

d). 1Co 6:2 *Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? 3 Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, things that pertain to this life?*

e). This dual role of King and Priest will be necessary during the Kingdom Age as the earth will have to be ruled 'with a rod of iron' in order to bring order out of chaos. And sin and its resultant death will still exist thereby necessitating a priest.

f). 1Co 15:24 *Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. 25 For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. 26 The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.*

g). Re 20:14 *Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.*

i). This is not dealing with living forever, rather

i/ Remember how death came into the world

ii/ For death to be destroyed sin will have been eradicated.

14). With sin having been totally dealt with through the action of the Great King/Priest and His coheirs in the heavens and Israel on the earth the stage is set for ushering in the endless ages of eternity.

15). Re 21:1 ¶ *Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. 2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. 4 "And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." 5 Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new."*

16). Re 22:1 ¶ *And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. 2 In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. 3 And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. 4 They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their*

foreheads. 5 There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever. 6 ¶ Then he said to me, "These words are faithful and true." And the Lord God of the holy prophets sent His angel to show His servants the things which must shortly take place. 7 "Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."

17). Heb 5:9 *And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal (Age Lasting) salvation (Salvation of the soul) to all who obey Him, 10 ¶ called 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.*

18). As we take the Lord's Supper together today let us remember the One to whom it points. Let us also see the fullness of what is contained in the declaration of His death. Let us look to Him who will come as the great King/Priest 'according to the order of Melchizedek' and all that the word of God promises concerning that time and beyond.