

**Hebrews 7.4-8**

**John 8.50-59**

## **Rejoicing with Abraham**

The man Melchizedek is shrouded in mystery, he is an enigma, a question, a hint... but he is also an answer. There is enough shown for us to see the man for who he actually is; I am convinced that he is a pre-incarnate appearance of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is important for us to understand all that we can about this issue for it effects the reasons for His coming. It reveals the intention of God to save a people, and it shows us that His will has never changed! The purpose of Jesus' coming among us is always the same. He comes to reveal the heart of the Father to us. He comes to redeem His own, to purchase us from our captivity to sin, and to conform us to the likeness of the Father whom He loves!

### **I. HINTS AND ASSERTIONS**

#### **A. Verbal Hints**

1. His Titles
  - a. King of Peace
  - b. King of Righteousness
2. His lack
  - a. No father
  - b. No mother
  - c. No genealogy
3. His nature
  - a. Having no beginning of days
  - b. Having no ending of life
  - c. Like unto the Son of God
4. His Role
  - a. A priest continually

## B. Behavioral Hints

1. Provided for the men of Abraham
2. Received worship and tithe as his due
3. Demonstrated superiority over Abraham

## C. Assertion

1. Not mortal
2. He lives...

## II. SUPERIORITY OVER ABRAHAM

- A. The lesser is blessed by the better
- B. Abraham submitted
- C. Abraham paid tribute - a tithe of all
- D. Abraham in doing this recognized Him in some fashion

## III. THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS

**John 8.50-59**

- A. I have the power of life
- B. God honors me
- C. Abraham saw my day
- D. Divinity declared

## IV. ABRAHAM SPEAKS WITH GOD

- A. How has Abraham seen Christ, seen His day and rejoiced?
- B. God appeared to Abraham
- C. Three times the scripture gives the specific language of God appearing to Abraham

D. But in chapter 18 it is followed up by a description of Abraham seeing men, the other times God speaks and Abraham answers, but no mention of seeing men or a man shape is given.  
E. He spoke to Abraham as a voice, came to him in visions and there was a sense of appearing that is not defined... but it was not Abraham seeing God as He is, for no one ever has. John tells us this -

*John 1:18 (NKJV)*

*18 No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.*

And not John Alone

*Exodus 33:20 (NKJV)*

*<sup>20</sup> But He said, "You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live."*

*Matthew 11:27 (NKJV)*

*<sup>27</sup> All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does*

*anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.*

*1 Timothy 6:16 (NKJV)*

*<sup>16</sup> who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen.*

F. What Abraham beheld was God in a pre-incarnate form.

## **V. TIMING OF HIS COMING**

- A. Both of the times that Abraham saw God in human form, ie: saw Jesus before the incarnation it was associated with Sodom.
- B. As Melchizedek, He appears after the rescue of Lot and the kings of Sodom...
- C. In Genesis 18, He is appearing before the destruction of Sodom.
  - 1. The timing is not accidental

2. He is also giving the announcement of the son of promise and starting the clock for the fulfillment of the promise.
3. Here the line of Jesus as the promised Son can be said to begin in real time.

## VI. THE PURPOSE OF HIS COMING

### A. Jesus came to save

*Mark 1:38 (NKJV)*

*<sup>38</sup> But He said to them, "Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also, because for this purpose I have come forth."*

### B. Both times Abraham saw Jesus it is in connection with sin and salvation.

1. when the King Melchizedek blessed him and received the tithe and worship from him. It was immediately after God had rescued Lot from the captivity wrought on him with Sodom.

- a. Hanging out with evil men can get you caught up in their judgments
- b. Lot intentionally moved toward Sodom. Even though he knew what it was...

*Genesis 13:11–13 (NKJV)*

*<sup>11</sup> Then Lot chose for himself all the plain of Jordan, and Lot journeyed east. And they separated from each other. <sup>12</sup> Abram dwelt in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelt in the cities of the plain and pitched his tent even as far as Sodom. <sup>13</sup> But the men of Sodom were exceedingly wicked and sinful against the Lord.*

c. He continually moved closer and closer

- 1) Genesis 13.12 Lot pitched his tent toward Sodom
  - 2) Genesis 14.12 he dwells in Sodom
  - 3) Genesis 19.1 he is in the city gate.
- d. Lot cursed his life and limited his effectiveness by his poor choices.

## *2 Peter 2:7–8 (NKJV)*

*7 and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked 8 (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds)—*

2. When God was about to destroy Sodom, Abraham met God, again in human form and after the announcement of the coming of Isaac, God revealed His purpose in coming. Sodom was about to fall; and God would reveal this to His servant Abraham.
- C. 2 times God appeared in human form, 2 times in the life of Abraham God deigned to come, Jesus Christ in his pre-incarnate form, to announce or engage with him and deliver the promises. Both times they are associated with Sodom, Both times they are connected to redemption and God's merciful intervention to save Lot, by extension, to save sinful men who would become righteous...

D. God's working in us is never limited by our failures, our sins or our rebellions. ~ I am confused by the assertion that Lot was righteous, but I am eternally grateful for it as well! It shores up hope in me, when I consider my own many extravagant failures! ~

E. Christ came and comes

1. to save

*Luke 19:10 (NKJV)*

*<sup>10</sup> for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."*

2. He came and comes to make known the truth

*John 18:37 (NKJV)*

*<sup>37</sup> Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."*

3. He came and comes to lavish mercy upon His chosen people

*John 10:10 (NKJV)*

*<sup>10</sup> The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.*

4. There will be a day of judgment, a day of reckoning, but this is the day of His mercy.
5. The purpose of His coming now is to draw His people unto Himself.
  - a. He is the purpose of all things.
  - b. He is the meaning of all things
  - c. He is the focus of all things
  - d. He is the glory of all things.