

August 2020
Summer Sermon Series:
Missing Persons & One Line Sermons

Missing Persons:
Melchizedek
Priest of God Most High
August 30, 2020

First Reading ~ *Genesis 14:17-20*

When Abram returned from the defeat of Kedorlaomer and his allies, the Ruler of Sodom came to meet him the Valley of Shaveh, the Ruler's Valley.

The Ruler of Salem, Melchizedek, who was a Priest of God Most High, brought out bread and wine, and blessed Abram, saying, "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of Heaven and Earth! And blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your oppressors into your hands." Abram then gave Melchizedek one tenth of everything.

Footnote from the Inclusive Bible: Melchizedek is both a Priest and the Ruler of Salem, believed to be an early settlement that would become Jerusalem. This mysterious figure appears out of nowhere, interrupting the narrative flow, and is never mentioned again in the Hebrew scriptures.

Second Reading ~ *from Psalm 110:3-4*

Your people will offer themselves freely
on the day you lad your host
upon the holy mountains.
From the womb of the morning
your young people will come to you
plentiful as the dew.
YHWH has sworn and will not retract:
"You are a Priest forever
in the line of Melchizedek."

Third Reading ~ *Hebrews 7:7*

Recall that Melchizedek, Ruler of Salem, Priest of the Most High God, went to meet Abraham, who was on his way back from defeating the Rulers, and blessed him; and also that it was to Melchizedek that Abraham gave a tenth of all he had. Melchizedek, whose name means “Ruler of Righteousness”, was also Ruler of Salem, that is “Ruler of Peace”. Without mother, without father, with no genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, Melchizedek resembles God’s Only Begotten, and remains a priest forever.

Fourth Reading ~ *adapted from Albert Einstein*

The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious. It is the source of all true art and all science. Those to whom this emotion is a stranger, who can no longer pause to wonder and stand rapt in awe, are as good as dead. The eyes of their soul are closed.