

## Speculations on Melchizedek--

As there is not very much factual identification to be found in the bible regarding Melchizedek and because he is so prominently announced as a key individual in the eyes of God, it is understandable that many would like to know more about him and therefore speculations arise. This short article is no different. It is inferred here that the subjects addressed following are familiar to the reader.

The seemingly important features of this individual are that no historical genealogy is found for him; instead it is plainly stated that he was "without father and without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, remains a priest continually" (Heb.7:3). Logically, because he remains a priest continually yet had no beginning of days, then he also was a priest prior to his first stated biblical encounter to Abram in Genesis 14:18-19. A second notable factor is that Jesus is identified as "a priest forever in the order of Melchizedek" in Hebrews 6:20 (Psalms 110:4) and yet not a Levitical priest but "according to the power of an endless life." (Heb.7:16).

Now as to speculation and when considering the events in the Garden of Eden: When God found Adam and Eve hiding and clothed in fig leaves God's perfect creation would no longer be the same "very good" creation. It was necessary that Adam and Eve know that their sin could not be covered over by means of a plant of the ground. Only the shedding of blood would suffice as a covering, a lesson now long handed down through the Jewish sacrifices and to the death of God on the cross. What a somber, fearful, bitter and shameful experience it must have been to watch while an innocent living creature was killed, probably a lamb from the garden. And then to be clothed with its skin. Perhaps the first priestly ceremony took place here; perhaps Melchizedek's order of the priesthood was here instituted. Perhaps when the blood of the sacrificial animal struck the ground this substance of living blood was so totally foreign to the intended and created relationship of earth and plant that the ground and plant life revulsed in such great horror that it could never be the same object of perfection again; not for many thousands of years. The ground was cursed and gave forth thorns. The whole of creation groaned in agony. Decay and death started their long, sorrowful vigil. God repented that He had made man.

All was lost for mankind except for the mercy and provision from God that an innocent Lamb and Priest was provided for Adam and all mankind to atone for sin, one after the order of Melchizedek, even God Himself. It would not be inconsistent then to speculate that the events in Eden were at least as formal and full of meaning as the later Mosaic priestly rituals of the Old Testament period, but even then, was only temporary pending the coming of the Lamb of God to die on the cross.