

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14 (NIV)

Two more examples of Christophany:

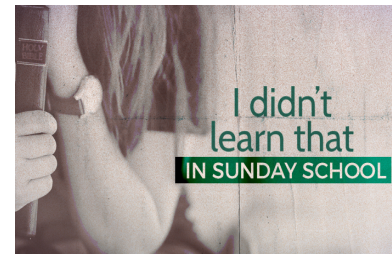
- *Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness . . ."* Genesis 1:26 (NIV)

THINK ABOUT IT: Who is the "us" and "our"?

- The story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the fiery furnace in the Old Testament book of Daniel: a 4th person appeared in the furnace with them who is said to look like a "Son of Man."

Why do we care about Melchizedek?

1. God used Melchizedek to help us understand _____
_____ Jesus is.
 - Like Melchizedek, Jesus was both a Priest and King who would reign forever.
 - Like Melchizedek, Jesus had no beginning and no end.
2. Melchizedek reminds us that a _____ with
God is more important than a _____ of rules.
 - Neither Melchizedek nor Jesus were from the tribe of Levi and yet are Forever Priests of God Most High.
 - It was their relationship with God that made them High Priests that would live forever.



Who is Melchizedek?

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Things I Learned in Sunday School

- Everything is a gift, and gifts are meant to be shared.
- Life is not always fair, but God is.
- When people hit you, work on not hitting them back.
- All we are and all we have is on loan to us from God, so put everything back where you found it, and clean up your own mess.
- We all sin, so practice saying, "I'm sorry."
- Cleanliness is next to godliness.
- The Lord commanded a day of rest, so we should remember that life is more than work. So, take a nap when you are tired.
- He's got the whole world in his hands.
- God designed us to need each other because everybody entered the ark two by two.
- Running from God usually means you wind up in the belly of a whale.
- God will always meet you in the fiery furnace or in the lion's den.
- God answers prayer.
- When our friends are sick we should take them to Jesus, even if we have to lower them through the roof.
- Jesus can do a whole lot with very little. It's hard to believe what he can do with just a sack lunch.
- God created us to sing—or at least make a joyful noise.
- So, "Praise Him, praise him, all you little children. God is love. God is love."
- "Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world. Red and yellow, black and white, all are precious in His sight."
- And most importantly, "Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so. Little ones to Him belong. They are weak, but He is strong. Yes, Jesus loves me."

Who is Melchizedek?

- He is probably the most mysterious person in the Bible. We find him mentioned for the first time in Genesis 14.

Putting the Scripture into context:

After the story of Noah and the Ark, God was searching for a faithful person through whom he and his descendants would form a great nation. God chooses Abraham and his wife, Sarah. God sends them on a journey to find a new land where:

- God would give them a son.
- That son and his descendants would form a family.
- That family would eventually become the nation of Israel.
- Out of Israel would come Jesus.

Abraham and Sarah enter the land of Canaan, which would eventually become known as The Promised Land. But there already are people in the land who were at war with each other and were worshipping idols. Due to the war raging around them, Abraham's nephew, Lot, was abducted and taken captive along with Lot's family and possessions. Abraham gathers people together to join the opposing forces to rescue his nephew and his family. Abraham and his allies are victorious in battle, and Lot and his family are freed.

Now, we pick up the story in Genesis 14:

After Abram returned from his victory over Kedorlaomer and all his allies, the king of Sodom went out to meet him in the valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley). Genesis 14:17 (NLT)

- The king of Sodom comes out to thank Abraham for his role in helping him defeat Kedorlaomer and his allies.

And Melchizedek, the king of Salem and a priest of God Most High, brought Abram some bread and wine. Melchizedek blessed Abram with this blessing: "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. And blessed be God Most High, who has defeated your enemies for you." Then Abram gave Melchizedek a tenth of all the goods he had recovered. Genesis 14:18–20 (NLT)

Who is Melchizedek?

- King of Salem
- Called a Priest of God Most High
- Brought bread and wine to Abraham

The Lord has made a promise that will never be broken: "You will be a priest forever, just like Melchizedek." Psalm 110:4 (CEV)

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 . . . First, the name Melchizedek means "king of righteousness"; then also, "king of Salem" means "king of peace." Without father or mother, without genealogy, without beginning of days or end of life, resembling the Son of God, he remains a priest forever.

Hebrews 7:1–3 (NIV)

Who is Melchizedek?

- "Salem" means _____.
- "Melchizedek" means _____.

Who is Melchizedek?

- At the very least:
Melchizedek is a _____ of the Messiah.
- At the very most:

A pre-incarnate _____ of Christ.

Theological Truth:

Jesus, God the Son, existed before Jesus the man.

Jesus, God the Son, existed before Jesus was born at Christmas.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

John 1:1–3 (NIV)