

**That Mysterious Man**  
**Gen.14:17-20; Ps.110:1-7; Heb.5:1-10; 7:1-3**

0.0 Introduction

- 0.1 From historian Bruce Shelley on “unsung heroes”
- 0.2 Among unsung heroes of OT, let’s add Melchizedek

1.0 Who Was Melchizedek?

- 1.1 Priest-king of Salem (pre-Jerusalem; Ps.76:2) - c.2000BC – two offices (Gen.14:18)
- 1.2 Encounters Abraham after latter’s battle with multi-warlord confederacy (14:17)
- 1.3 He blesses Abraham and honors “God Most High” (*El-Elyon*); Abraham tithes to M.
- 1.4 Unusual factors about Melchizedek: no family lineage identified, no historical or cultural context given, and no explanation on how these two connected (Heb.7:3)!

2.0 Why Was He Important?

- 2.1 His priesthood *predates* Aaron’s priesthood by about six centuries
- 2.2 Divine activity and appointment > human lineage & order
- 2.3 He interacted with Abraham (another man who comes ‘out of the blue’)
- 2.4 Jesus was “of the order of Melchizedek” (Ps.110:4): divine in origin, and (metaphorically of M) eternal and without reliance on human parentage
- 2.5 Certain Jewish groups (e.g. Qumran community) saw him as Messianic prototype

3.0 What Difference Does This Make for Us Today

- 3.1 Melchizedek was one of *many* ways God prepared people for advent of Jesus
- 3.2 Most of us are ‘nobodies’ (I Cor.1:26), yet God does “not forget” lives/deeds (Heb.6:10)
- 3.3 Ongoing evidence of God’s powerful, mysterious, ingenious and wonderful hand

***Upcoming: July 10 – Civil (and Uncivil) Disobedience – Ac.4:1-22; Rom.13:1-7***