

This article exposes today's *One-God* error. Many appear unaware that Mr Herbert W Armstrong correctly taught that Jesus was the Melchizedek who met Abraham (Correspondence course lesson 7): especially *One-God* supporters who deny that Jesus existed before His Bethlehem birth. All this is not helped by Mr Armstrong's teaching that Jesus was the Creator, the God of Abraham, the God of Exodus and Israel's Husband (Correspondence Course Lesson 19).

Who is the mysterious Melchizedek? Genesis 14:18 tells us that His name means "King of Righteousness" (Strong H4442) and was King of Salem (i.e. Peace H8004). He was priest to the most high God and partook with Abraham of bread and wine, which may have been the NT Passover symbols.

Paul reveals quite a lot about Melchizedek in the passage Hebrews 6:20 – 7:4. In verse 20 of chapter 6 Paul associates Jesus with the everlasting priestly order of Melchizedek. In verse 3 of chapter 7 he declares the following attributes to Melchizedek:-

1. He is without father and mother,
2. He is without descent (genealogy)
3. He has no beginning of days,
4. He has no end of life
5. He was made like unto the Son of God.

From these 5 attributes we must conclude the following about the Melchizedek. Because Melchizedek has no father and mother and has no genealogy, he can not be a man. Also because Melchizedek had no beginning of days (start of life) He could not have been a created being, such as an angel because angels do have a beginning of days. There remains only one explanation, namely that the Melchizedek who met Abraham was a similitude of a Self-existent God Person.

A question that remains is, *Which God Person was this Melchizedek?*

Hebrews 6:20 reveals that Melchizedek was made like unto the Son of God, which is a clear reference to His being made incarnate as Mary's child begotten by God the Father. This also fits Paul's association of Jesus with the

everlasting priesthood of the order of Melchizedek (Heb 6:20) and the Genesis 14:18 declaration that Melchizedek was priest to the most high God.

Who was the most high God? After Abraham obeyed God's request to offer his son Isaac, the LORD told Abraham that He had sworn by himself (Gen 22:16). In Hebrews 6:13 Paul explains that God had sworn by himself because He could swear by no greater. Since Jesus explained that His Father was greater than He (John 14:28), it follows that the most high God of Genesis 14:18 was the NT God the Father and therefore His priest, Melchizedek, can only be the NT Jesus.

That the OT LORD God is the NT God the Father can be shown from Psalm 110 by identifying between brackets God the Father, Jesus and David in Psalm 110:1 and 4.

¹ *The LORD (Father) said unto my (David's) Lord (Jesus), Sit thou (Jesus) at my (Father's) right hand, until I (Father) make thine (Jesus') enemies thy (Jesus') footstool.*

⁴ *The LORD (Father) hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou (Jesus) art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.*

My papers Q6, Q7, A2-A3 and the in depth study P2 show that God the Father was the Creator, the God of Abraham, of Isaac and of Jacob (read Acts 3:13), the LORD God who spoke to Moses from the Burning Bush (study Mark 12:26-27), is the Husband of Israel and was His own Word to the OT fathers and the OT prophets (Rom 1:1-3; Heb 1:1). These papers also show that Jesus became the Word of God *only* in NT times (Heb 1:2).

Until we understand who was the most high God who swore by Himself, we can not

correctly understand the Bible.

For example, why aren't more aware that Mr Armstrong taught in effect that God the Father is an unmarried (single) Father who begot His Son through His Son's Wife, Israel, by Mary but which surely can not be correct!

When Jesus said to the Jews in John 8:56, "*Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad.*", He was clearly referring to Abraham meeting Melchizedek.

When in John 8:57 the Jews questioned Jesus' claim of having met Abraham, "*...Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham?*", Jesus declared in verse 58 that He had existed before Abraham, "*Verily, verily I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am*".

Paper Q7 shows that in John 8:58 Jesus did not name Himself "I AM" but asserted that He had existed before Abraham. There is no link from John 8:58 to Exodus 3:14 for identifying the God in the Burning Bush with Jesus.

Indeed Jesus reveals in Mark 12:26-27 that God the Father was the God who had spoken to Moses from the (Burning) Bush. It was therefore God the Father who named himself in Exodus 3:14, the Self-existent One, the Eternal or more simply, I AM.

This is obvious when it is realized by agreeing to be made incarnate and die as man's atoning Passover Lamb, that Jesus had surrendered through this His former Self-existent Deity to become an obedient Son to His former fellow God and now His Father and also depend on His former fellow God to resurrect Him from the grave to spirit Life.

Few understand that from the original two Self-existing God Persons, only God the

Father remains as a Self-existing God. This misunderstanding is caused by mainstream's 2nd-century departure from Apostolic Godhead teaching and their consequent falsifying and mistranslating of John 1:3 and other NT verses to make it appear Jesus was the Creator.

Unfortunately Mr Armstrong embraced that 2nd-century error but note the hidden testimony of Acts 4:24^b with 27^a that the God, who has a holy child Jesus, is the Creator!

Because God the Father remains the only Self-existent God certain verses, such as Deut 6:4 and Isa 45:5, appear to have a Unitarian message but when read in fuller context they have no such thing. Also these verses remind Israel that she may relate only to her Husband, who is God the Father. Yes, God the Father is a properly married Husband and not a single Father as Mr Armstrong implicitly but mistakenly taught.

Unitarians also have a problem with the notion of a spirit God becoming incarnate as the man Jesus. This problem is similar to that experienced by Nicodemus how a man can be born again as a spirit being (John 3:4). An explanation of these problems is given in the short paper A4 which was published on page 8 of Issue 127 of The Journal (April 2008).

That Jesus existed from all past eternity as an independent Self-existent God is shown in the in-depth study paper P5.

The papers mentioned are available at my Internet homepage www.rightly-dividing.net or may be requested by writing to: Henk Jens, PO Box 121, Belmore, NSW, 2192, Australia.