

**Series:** Beginnings, Betrayal, Blessings  
**Title:** Greater Than: Why Jesus is the Greatest  
**Text:** Genesis 14:17-24; Hebrews 5-7

### **Palm Sunday – Hosanna!**

- Passion Week
- Tells disciples to go and prepare
- Enters through the Eastern Gate; known as the Golden Gate

### **Matthew 21:10-11**

*<sup>10</sup> And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, “Who is this?” <sup>11</sup> And the crowds said, “This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee.”*

### **Luke 19:36**

*“Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!”*

### **John 12:13**

*So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!”*

### **Mark 11:9**

*<sup>9</sup> And those who went before and those who followed were shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! <sup>10</sup> Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!”*

- Hosanna to the son of David
  - Adoration, praise, or joy
  - It actually means - save, we pray!
    - Save now! Please save!

**What were these people thinking when Jesus entered Jerusalem?**

**They were looking for their messiah!**

## **THE MESSIAH**

Jewish Tradition sometimes refers to two Redeemers -- messiahs (Mashiach)

- Both redeemers are involved in delivering the Jewish people from oppression and to usher in the messianic era.
  - Mashiach ben David

- Descendant of David
  - Mashiach ben Yosef
    - Descendant of Joseph
- Most Jews typically think of the Messiah they are thinking the son of David who shall RULE in the Messianic Age.

## Maschiach ben Yosef and Mashiach ben David

### Maschiach ben Yosef

- But the messiah son of Joseph is to come first. To prepare the world for the coming of the kingdom of God:
  - He will fight the Battle for God against all of God's enemies.
  - It is period of time preceding the messianic kingdom is called the "footsteps of the messiah."
  - Genesis 39 – Jacob (Israel) blesses his sons
    - *V24 - by the hands of the Mighty One of Jacob (from there is the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel),*
  - This redeemer will be killed in the battle against evil as described in Zech 12:10 – *They shall mourn as one mourns for an only child.*
  - His death would be followed by calamities and tribulation for Israel.
  - Sages call out for the repentance of the Jewish people before the coming of the messiah son of David.

### Mashiach ben David

- Will restore the temple.
- Gather all peoples together, Israelite and goyim (gentile), as united in peace.
- He will put an end to sin and evil.
- He will raise the dead (Pharisee, not Sadducees).
- Set up a blissful utopia in Jerusalem.

### They see two messiahs – but we see one

- Donkey?
  - Is it possible that the portrayal of a coming messiah may be "lowly and humble and riding on a donkey?" (Zech. 9:9)

### Zechariah 9:9

*Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!*

*Behold, your king is coming to you; **righteous and having salvation** is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.*

- Clouds?
  - Is it possible that the portrayal of a coming messiah may be as one “coming on the clouds?”

### **Dan. 7:13**

*...and behold, with the clouds of heave there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him.*

- One Doing Both?
  - is it possible that those two messiahs are one in the same and that that messiah will come twice to fulfil both roles?

### **Yeshua – Mashiach ben Yosef –**

- Did come first on a donkey, lowly and humbly to battle the enemies of God and sin.
- He is the one who dies to conquer evil.
- He is the suffering servant.
- After His death calamities did befall Israel. The second temple was destroyed, and the people were scattered.
- In fact, after he died, no temple has ever stood on mount Moriah – the place of the original attempted sacrifice of Abraham of Isaac.

### **Yeshua – Mashiach ben David**

- Will completely fulfill all prophecies and come in the clouds
- He will set up His kingdom on earth
- He will unite all nations in peace
- He will raise the dead
- He will set up His throne in Jerusalem

As Jesus entered the city on that Palm Sunday...

**They were crying out for the messiah Son of David**, but he had come to fulfil the messiah son of Joseph - the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel.

He is the Anointed Prophet, Priest and King foreshadowed by the individual we are speaking about today.

**Prophets** served as representatives of God during the old covenant period, for they delivered His words to His people.

- The “word of the Lord” came to prophets such as Hosea (Hos. 1:1), so these prophets were spokesmen for God Himself.

## THE PRIESTHOOD

Yet, in the relationship between God and His people under the old covenant, God appointed **PRIESTS**

- The Creator was not the only one who had a **representative**
- **The people did as well.**
- Under the old covenant, these representatives were the **priests**, particularly the high priest from the line of Aaron.
  - We see the high priest's work of representation most clearly in the Day of Atonement (**Lev. 16**).
  - The annual occasion when he would take the blood of the sacrificial bull and the sacrificial goat into the Holy of Holies to atone for the sins of the priesthood and the sins of Israel.
  - Representing the people before God, the high priest confessed the sins of the nation over these animals (and the scapegoat, which was sent into the wilderness), pleading for the Lord's pardon and offering atoning sacrifices on behalf of the people.

**God Himself established the office of priest and the various sacrifices for atonement and forgiveness,**

**Weaknesses** in this office and these offerings:

- Stuck in sin
  - The nation of Israel, aside from a few periods of national renewal, **remained stuck in grievous sin.**
- More and more needed
  - The sacrifices were offered continually.
  - The work of atonement was never finished.
- Priests were not permanent
  - No high priest held the office permanently **but was replaced upon his death** with the next priest.
  - This meant that in one sense, the whole process of atonement had to be restarted again with every new high priest because there was **a brand-new mediator representing the people.**

## BY DESIGN

These weaknesses in the old covenant priesthood and sacrificial rites were **by design.**

- God Himself built it into the priestly system, as we learn in the book of Hebrews.
- The author of Hebrews develops a sustained argument that the repeated nature of the old covenant sacrifices demonstrates that the **blood of bulls and goats could not truly take away sin.**

- They could only point forward to our Great High Priest, Jesus Christ, who offered Himself as the true and final sacrifice of atonement
- Old covenant believers did not receive any benefits from the animal sacrifices in themselves but only from the sacrifice of Christ, which these animal offerings foreshadowed.
  - Christ is the perfect Priest who can provide complete salvation because of His perfect offering

### **Established**

This priesthood was established when Moses came down from the Mount with the commandments and the establishment of priest from

- the sons of Aaron,
- They were of the tribe of Levi – called Levites
- We have an entire book dedicated to them in Leviticus.
- These priests would be a go between from the people to god and from god to the people.
- Once a year, on Yom Kippur, the High priest would offer a sacrifice for the sins of all the people. Is the day of Atonement (At One ment)

Just as the sacrifice was a foreshadow of Christ the priesthood was also a foreshadow of Christ

**This message is to bring clarity to the nature of Christ as the ONE Messiah and ONE High Priest and what that means for us.**

**It starts in the story from Genesis 14 and the man Melchizedek**

### **Genesis 14:18-20**

*<sup>18</sup> And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. (He was priest of God Most High.) <sup>19</sup> And he blessed him and said, “Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; <sup>20</sup> and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand!”*

- After the Battle of the nine kings and Lot was taken captive, Abraham went up and rescued his nephew and brought back the possessions and people who had been taken.
- When he returned two kings went out to meet him
  - King of Sodom
    - Offered money, and it was declined
  - King of Salem - Melchizedek
    - Offered bread and wine

Let us consider the Location - Salem

## WHERE IS SALEM?

**Salem** – Shalem = PEACE

**Yiru** - Next week will be looking at offering that Abraham was going to offer God in sacrificing his son. He went up to Mt. Moriah and God STOPPED it and gave provided the sacrifice.

After this Abraham called the place God will provide, or God sees.

- Yiru – Abraham – “God will see”

So is it Salem or Yiru?

- Shalem – Melchizedek – complete or perfect peace
- Yiru – Abraham - God will see or God will provide (have seen the Eyes of God upon me)

### Jerusalem

**The Midrash 4 shares a beautiful glimpse into the process:**

Said the Holy One, blessed be He, "If I call the place Yireh like Abraham did, the righteous Melchizedek will complain. However, if I refer to it as Shalem, the righteous Abraham will complain. Rather, I will call it Yerushalayim, and that name will contain the way it was called by both of them: Yireh Shalem."

**Yireh Shalem = Jerusalem “divine provision of peace”**

**SHALEM (SALEM)** (Melchizedek): **complete or perfect peace**

**YIRU (JERU)** (Abraham): **God will see, or provide**

**YIRU(JERU) SALEM: God sees and provides perfect peace**

One rabbi calls the place - Complete Peace and Awe

- It is that **special place within each and every one of us where we are one with G-d and deeply in tune with His presence.**
  - Yireh Shalem (or Jerusalem) therefore means "complete awe," a state where one is so in touch with G-d as to be in constant rapture. Rabbi Schneur Zalman of Liadi, Likutei Torah, parshat Pekudei 4a.

**The Place where all we can become one with God and be in tune with His presence. - divine provision of peace**

### Psalm 76:1-2

*<sup>1</sup> In Judah God is known; his name is great in Israel. <sup>2</sup>His abode has been established in Salem, his dwelling place in Zion.*

## Jerusalem –

- This is where Jesus is entering to fulfil the role of the messiah son of Joseph
- The Suffering Servant.
- This is where he was riding into town on that Palm Sunday.

## Who Is Melchizedek?

Malki- my king

Tzedek – just, righteous

Melchizedek -King of Righteousness

**Melchizedek is only mentioned twice in the Hebrew Bible:** Gen 14 and in Psalm 110 **and is referred to extensively in the New Testament, in Hebrews.**

### King and priest

- We're told that this king is also a priest who serves the same God as Abraham.
- He is in the land of Canaan – cursed by Noah, ungodly land that was to be taken by Abraham and his descendants.
- Yet here in this land is one who serves the Most High God
  - We have no family lineage or why he serves the same God as Abraham

### Melchizedek is the first explicit royal priest in the book of Genesis.

- Melchizedek is clearly called a royal priest.
- We do not know his name.
- We do not know his parents' names.
- We do not what line he is from.
  - And surprisingly, we're not told that he's from the line of Seth, Noah, or Shem.
  - We have seen at every turn God revealing the genealogies of every single person. It was important.
  - Yet here we do not see it.
- We know his title.
- We know the name of his city.
- We know that he is a king.
- And we know that he is priest of the Most High God.

### Genesis 14:18

*And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. (He was priest of God Most High.)*

- Hebrew, El ‘elyon), he serves the one whom Abraham acknowledges as “the LORD, God Most High, maker of Heaven and Earth” (14:22).
- He is understood to be a genuine priest of the God of Israel, but before Israel ever existed
- His relationship with God seems to be on the majesty and power of the Creator – El Elyon – God over all gods
- He did not even know God’s name - Yahweh

### **Exodus 3:14-15**

*God said to Moses, “I am who I am.” And that This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations.*

### **Exodus 6:2-3**

*<sup>2</sup> God spoke to Moses and said to him, “I am the Lord. <sup>3</sup> I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but by my name the Lord I did not make myself known to them.*

**God had not made HIS name known until the time of Moses, yet He was served as God Most High.**

**So Melchizedek was a priest before priests were established  
And he worships the Most High God, though he did know God by name**

## **THE ENCOUNTER**

- When Abraham passes by the city of Salem, Melchizedek comes out to meet him, greeting Abraham with a feast and a blessing.

*“And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine... and blessed him”*

Blessing of Bread and Wine

Blessing of Deliverance

*<sup>19</sup> And he blessed him and said, “Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; <sup>20</sup> and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand!”*

- Melchizedek pronounces a blessing on Abraham
  - in the name of El ‘elyon, God over all gods
    - Possessor of heaven and earth;

- It is a blessing of deliverance from enemies.
- His blessing is a recognition of Abraham's special relationship with God, recalling God's promise to Abraham in Genesis 12:1-3

### **Genesis 12:3**

*I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."*

In return, Abraham blesses Melchizedek by paying him a tithe, one-tenth of what he has.

We get the impression that Melchizedek and the city he rules will experience God's blessing sometime in the future.

- While there are many gaps in the narrative, Melchizedek is introduced here to **show that Abraham encountered Yahweh in and through a royal priest in Jerusalem long before the time of the Levitical priesthood and long before the time of David.**
- **And this encounter establishes the category of a royal priesthood in Jerusalem that will be further developed throughout the story of the Bible.**
- The category "in the order of..."

**HIS Encounter with this priest on Mount Moriah in Zion, the city of Jerusalem, gave...**

### **A Foreshadowing of the Blessing**

- The blessing of bread
- The blessing of wine
- The blessing of deliverance

### **The second time we see his name is in a prophetic Psalm**

#### **Psalm 110:1- 4**

*<sup>1</sup> The Lord says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool." <sup>2</sup> The Lord sends forth from Zion your mighty scepter. Rule in the midst of your enemies! <sup>3</sup> Your people will offer themselves freely on the day of your power, in holy garments from the womb of the morning, the dew of your youth will be yours. <sup>4</sup> The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind, "You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek."*

- The Lord says to my Lord ... God speaking to God
  - This is speaking of one who is to come.
  - David the king is saying that His Lord Yahweh will say to David's Lord - Adonai
- David is looking back at this encounter to point forward to one who was to come

## THE FORESHADOWINGS

### The Sacrifice

### The Place

### The Priesthood

As we see in Psalm 110

- The Lord says to my Lord:
- "Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool."
- The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind,
- "You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek."

### Psalm 110 is attributed to David

- David speaks of someone else who
  - **receives the covenant oath of Yahweh—**
  - someone whom David calls "lord," a common term when addressing a king. Adonai
- We can conclude that David is speaking of his future seed who will receive the messianic inheritance, based on 2 Samuel 7
  - 2 Samuel 7
    - David Plans to Build a Temple but God says no.
    - Yet God makes a Covenant with David.

In that story, God promises David that this **seed**:

- would come from his line of royal descendants,
- that David's royal descendant would build a house for the Lord,
- and that **God would establish this descendant** over his kingdom (2 Samuel 7:12-13 and 1 Chronicles 17:14)

### God would be a father to this seed

#### 1 Chronicles 17:14

*"...but I will confirm **him in my house and in my kingdom forever,** and his throne shall be established forever."*

- We can conclude that God’s son would rule over a kingdom that would last forever (7:16).

But in a surprising twist, the psalmist announces that **this king will also be a priest—**

- NOT from the expected line of Aaron but a priest in “the order of Melchizedek.”
- And the psalmist claims that his royal priesthood will last forever.

Psalm 110 paints a clear portrait of this promised seed, the Messiah who would be a **royal priest with both an eternal kingdom and an eternal priesthood.**

## All of this foreshadowing points to Christ

### JESUS: KING AND HIGH PRIEST

#### Hebrews 5:1-10

*<sup>1</sup> For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. <sup>2</sup> He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. <sup>3</sup> Because of this he is obligated to offer sacrifice for his own sins just as he does for those of the people. <sup>4</sup> And no one takes this honor for himself, but only when called by God, just as Aaron was. <sup>5</sup> So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you;” <sup>6</sup> as he says also in another place, “You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek.”*

*<sup>7</sup> In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. <sup>8</sup> Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. <sup>9</sup> And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, <sup>10</sup> being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.*

When we get to the New Testament, the author of Hebrews declares that **Jesus is the ultimate king and high priest.** He is the promised one from Adam and Eve, through Abraham and through the line of David

### Jesus Rules as King

- enthroned above and eternally ruling as king

#### Hebrews 1:3

<sup>3</sup> He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ...

### **Hebrews 1:13**

*And to which of the angels has he ever said, "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet?"*

- The answer is NONE. Only to the Son was this said.

### **2 Samuel 7:16**

*And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.*

- It is enduring and it is forever

## **Jesus Serves as High Priest**

- is positioned above and eternally serving as priest

Hebrews chapters 5-7

- **Jesus is compared to Israel's priests from the line of Aaron.**
- These priests represented Israel before God and offered sacrifices to atone for the sins of the people.
- However, **those same priests were themselves morally flawed and needed to offer sacrifices for their own sins as well as for others.**
- It was an imperfect priesthood and something better was needed.

## **An Appointment by the Father**

Not a priest in the line of Aaron but of God

- Jesus **"did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest"**
  - but was **appointed** by God as "a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek"

Remember that Melchizedek is introduced without genealogy and without reference to his birth or death.

- In the ancient world, the legitimacy of a man's priesthood depended on his genealogy.
- We have been reading genealogies from the beginning of Genesis.

### **Hebrews 7:3**

*He is without father or mother or genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but resembling the Son of God he continues a priest forever.*

## **An Appointment that is forever**

### **Hebrews 8:1-2**

*<sup>1</sup> Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, <sup>2</sup> a minister in the holy places, in the true tent that the Lord set up, not man.*

- Perpetually
- And Jesus holds his priesthood permanently because “he continues forever”.
- He is able to deliver forever those who draw near to God through him.
- Note the complete and far-reaching nature of the word forever!
- Jesus is able to fully save all those who relate to God through him.

An eternal priest

## **An Appointment to Intercede**

### **Hebrews 7:25**

*Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.*

- “he always lives to make intercession” for those who draw near to God through him.

### **Hebrews 7:18- 19**

*<sup>18</sup> For on the one hand, a former commandment is set aside because of its weakness and uselessness <sup>19</sup> (for the law made nothing perfect); but on the other hand, a better hope is introduced, through which we draw near to God.*

- And his eternal priesthood introduces “a better hope through which we approach God,”
- This is the better hope through which we approach God
- Followers of Jesus are free to boldly approach the throne of grace because of Jesus’ eternal priesthood.
- We can look to Jesus for help in every aspect and moment of our lives.

In every season, at every age, in every glorious high and agonizing low, we can look to Jesus for mercy and find grace to help in times of need.

- Because Jesus forever reigns as the royal priest-king who always lives to intercede for us

## **THAT MOMENT AND THIS – Moriah**

- **Where this encounter takes place**
- **Where Abraham’s sacrifice was to take place - [Gen.22:2](#)**
- **Where God provides the Sacrifice**
- **Where the Holy Of Holies in the temple was built - [2Chr.3:1](#)**
- The area is called Zion
- The City is called Jerusalem
- Within the city there are mounts
  - Moriah
  - Olives
  - The skull
  - Seven in total

### **On the Cross**

#### **The Suffering Messiah**

- Jesus became our messiah of Joseph – the suffering Servant

#### **The Bread and the Wine**

- Broken and poured out

#### **The Deliverer**

- From death and sin

### **The High Priest**

- When he died, he looked over to Mount Moriah, and in that moment
  - Where Melchizedek offered the blessing,
  - Where Abraham offered the sacrifice,
  - Where the holy of holies was located,
  - Where only the high priest could bring the sacrifice,
  - The veil was torn from the top to the bottom!
    - declared that HE was and IS the eternal High priest was established.
- That Jesus is risen and interceded for you is all your matters!

The people cried out as Jesus entered Jerusalem crying out Save Us Son of David!

- Save Us King

- Save us Priest

This idea of Jesus being the Savior did not start on Palm Sunday. Nor did it begin at the cross or the tomb.

### **It was Promised**

- This was promised in Genesis 3 to Adam and Eve.
- This was promised to in Genesis 6 to Noah.
- This was promised to Abraham in Genesis 12.
- This was promised to every descendant of Abraham.
- This was promised to David.

### **It was foreshadowed**

- It was foreshadowed by the skins that covered the nakedness of Adam and Eve.
- It was foreshadowed by salvation of Noah and his family.
- It was foreshadowed by the covenant between Abraham and God.
- It was foreshadowed by the priest king Melchizedek offering bread and wine and deliverance.
- It was foreshadowed by every high priest and every sacrifice ever made.

### **It was fulfilled**

- Christ is the sacrifice.
- Christ is the savior.
- Christ is the Messiah.
- Christ is the High Priest.

### **1 John 2:1-2**

*If anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. 2 He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.*

### **HOSANNA**

- He will return as the Davidic Messiah. but we do not need to wait to call out

**Hosanna Save Us!**

### **Prayer**