

Changing When Necessary

Commentary for February 1, 2009 — Good Information Drives Out Bad

This month's "[February 2009 Newsletter](#)" and the article presentation titled: "Christ as High Priest" deal with information regarding the priest-king Melchizedek,¹ King David of Israel, and **"the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus; Who was faithful to him that appointed him [God]"** (Hebrews 3:1–2). My research in this matter was sparked from a "problem" verse that indicated that King David's sons were priests (2 Samuel 8:18). That led to other research regarding Christ as High Priest.

While biblical scholars have known about the problem verse and others like it, the explanations that have been given are inadequate, in my view, and require further explication.

Correcting & Updating

On March 14, 2005 I wrote a Commentary titled "[About Melchizedek](#)" where I indicated that Melchizedek was not Jesus Christ. The information I gave was in error and actually some of the ideas of the questioner were correct. Based on the research done for this month's article I must change my views on the matter and agree with Dr. Martin's latest understanding. I must say that Dr. Martin changed his view on Melchizedek several times in his decades of study. At one time he thought Melchizedek was Christ, later he changed that view, then back again when he correctly understood the nature of the Sons of God in relation to Christ's identification with Melchizedek. It all comes together in the Book of Hebrews.

As I trust you will understand from the article, the issues are complex. King David seemingly "out of nowhere" suddenly mentions Melchizedek in Psalm 110:4 without context after the single mention of him in Genesis chapter 14. Then the Book of Hebrews discusses Melchizedek with a long discourse, particularly in Hebrews chapter 7, referencing both Genesis chapter 14 and Psalm 110. Psalm 110 is the theme of the entire Book of Hebrews from chapter 1 through chapter 12. So, the understanding of Melchizedek as used in Psalm 110 is crucial. Christ Jesus is Melchizedek otherwise the Book of Hebrews makes no sense.

After you read the article, reread this Commentary.

Rather than delete that 2005 Commentary (which would certainly be proper to do) I shall add appropriate notes and perhaps an addendum to the Commentary, referring future readers to the "Christ as High Priest." I hope I do not need to "apologize" for growing in grace and in knowledge, as we all should be doing.

This is not a trivial matter. It was important for the author of Hebrews, the apostle Paul, to spend the first two chapters of Hebrews correcting mistaken concepts that his audience had about angels. They were basic mistakes and important ones.² So too Paul corrected and informed the audience of Hebrews about the connection of Christ Jesus and Melchizedek.

I can say this. Most textual difficulties in understanding the Book of Hebrews end, if you consider Melchizedek = Christ, allowing for and correcting simple King James Version mistranslations.

1. In the King James Version the name is spelled Melchizedek with a "k" and it is spelled in the New Testament with a "c." One can only wonder why the spelling differed.
2. In fact, the mistakes about angels were the same ones the audience of the Book of Colossians made at the *ekklesia* at Colosse (and likely the *ekklesias* at Philippi and Ephesus too).

Mea culpa, Mea culpa

So, what I shall do in light of this additional information about Hebrews and "Christ as High Priest," is go through the ASK articles that mention Melchizedek (or Melchizedec spelled with a "c," regularizing usage to "Melchizedek" with a "k"), then I shall note or append corrections to the original Article, Newsletter or Commentary, where necessary, to correspond with this latest information.

My current understanding dovetails with Dr. Martin's latest presentation on the matter of Melchizedek as he expressed it in *Essentials*, Chapter 31 "[God's Divine Headquarter](#)." Dr. Martin also had views of Melchizedek within *Essentials* in chapters 21 and 23 which differed from his later conclusions in chapter 31. Should he have caught the discrepancy? Yes. Should we have caught it? Yes, in fact it was caught just before we put the entire book online, but I left the text as it was at the time. No one else had caught it that I am aware of except one sharp reader (Thank you Margaret!), who reminded us.

What I shall do is make an annotation to the internet copy. That is simple. The printed copy is somewhat more problematic, and we need to work out the best way to make that change.

I want to give a bit of advice to all readers of ASK: take note of when an article was written. The latest material has Dr. Martin's best research on any given subject. One of my functions as editor of ASK is to use older material when it still has value, edit out or make note of older information he no longer held to be true, and include the best information for today.³

With the New Testament, the latest epistles and books are the latest revelation. Dr. Martin's writings have their value only to the extent that they accurately show the truths of the Bible. The research by Dr. Martin and my own research have the latest and best information that we can give. Having done this for 7 years since Dr. Martin died, and still wondering at the wealth of valuable material to work with, I note that he strove hard, as do I, not just to write for the current fashion or for the latest month. He wrote for the future years, when people within the end time need good, solid, reliable information untainted by religious bias, without expectation that it be right in every detail. I research and write to do the same.

Given the information in this month's article "Christ as High Priest," with the proper understanding of Christ as Melchizedek, your comprehension of the Book of Hebrews will "open up" as never before so you can read the text in a plainer sense and come to your own mature conclusions about matters. As always, and as I know so many of you do, check out what is presented in the articles. Keep challenging us.

Thank you for your understanding with our humanity and indulging us in our growth. God indulges us as His children in our growth. I am sure you indulge yourself in your growth. God bless us all as we all grow in grace and knowledge, as we all **"come unto a [full] knowledge of the truth"** (1 Timothy 2:4). Enjoy this month's article.

"You therefore, beloved, seeing you know these things before, beware lest you also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness. But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen."

• 2 Peter 3:17-18

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3. That means that older material from the Foundation for Biblical Research, while of use to an archivist, is not Dr. Martin's latest understandings or research on any subject, nor is it mine. I will use my discretion (and the authority of copyright) to put out only what I see fit to publish. Anyone else who publishes older material should not be doing so, no matter what their motives, without permission. Common courtesy demands it.