

Melchizedek is introduced simply as the priest of God Most High. Abram gave him a tenth of everything. So Abram recognized this Melchizedek. Now we don't know anything about M except what is told here. We do have some ancient records that refer to Jerusalem and speak of a king called Adonizech. So the name is somewhat similar of him who was king of Jerusalem. So it fits the fact of his being a king whose name was Melchizedek. This king was also a priest. He blessed Abram. He was able, Abram believed, to bring a blessing from God to him. He represented him before God.

This function of the Lord Jesus of representing us before God is not brought out so much in the Bible though it is definitely there. The principal place in the NT where we find it is in the book of Hebrews. But long before that time God had ordered the establishment of a system of priests who came from Levi. God established this hereditary system of priests in order that the matter of appearing before God and seeking his good pleasure should be something that was regularized. God would raise up a prophet here and raise up a prophet there and these prophets were given power usually to do miraculous things either in predicting the future or in performing some miracle as an evidence that they really spoke from God.

~~Q~~ But the priesthood was something that was needed constantly to represent the people before God, and so it needed to be regularized. God gave orders that the descendants of Levi should have tasks in relation to the temple, and that Aaron and his descendants should be priests with one being high priest. When Jesus came and did the work of a priest in representing us before God, there were naturally people who said, How can he do that? He's not even of the tribe of Levi. He has no right to do it. You remember when Uzziah went into the temple and began to offer incense. He was king he said, I can do whatever I want. Why can't I take over some of the priests functions if I want to. God struck him with leprosy because this was supposed to be something carried on on a regular basis.

But Jesus wasn't of the tribe of Levi. So when this objection was raised the author of Hebrews said, He is a priest after the order of M. In other words it's not part of this regularized system. He is one whom God appoints as priest. He is the greatest of all priests because as Hebrews shows he made the greatest sacrifice of all. All other sacrifices merely point to the one he made and once for all he made the great sacrifice through which we receive our salvation.

That is an important aspect of the life and work of Christ ==his being the priest who made the great sacrifice. But that is little mentioned in the NT. clearly brought out in Hebrews. But what is much more important is the fact that the offering he made was the spotless Lamb of God himself. So most of those who write on the three offices of Christ, say his work as priest had two parts, or they might say, three parts;(but at least two) one of which is to offer the sacrifice, and the other is to be the priceless offering. How did the priest offer the sacrifice that was offered? At least no one except Jesus Christ (ever offered it?)