

מֶלְכִי־צֶדֶק

Melchizedek

The person called Melchizedek shows up suddenly in the biblical story of Genesis. Nothing is said about his family, his parents, where he came from, how old he was—nothing. He just appears as the King of Salem. Salem was the older name for the city that eventually became Jerusalem. In fact, all that we know about Melchizedek, we learn from the story in Genesis 14. After Abram and his men had defeated the kings who had kidnapped Lot, Abram's nephew, and they had returned from their victory, Melchizedek came out to meet them. The king of Sodom, who had lost everything to the kings who had captured Lot and his family, also came out to greet Abraham and his troops, hoping that he could have all of his people back. He told Abram that he could keep all of the wealth, he only wanted his people returned safely.



Then an interesting thing happened. Abram, who had already been promised great blessing by HaShem, told the king of Sodom that he would return everything to him. Only the wages of his soldiers would he retain from the booty of the war. Abram did not want the king of Sodom to take credit for the blessing he would receive from HaShem! But Abram did one other thing that was very important. He took a tenth (a tithe) of all the possessions and gave them to Melchizedek. Now the story tells us that Melchizedek was a priest to God Most High. Since his name means “king of righteousness,” this means that Melchizedek was both a king and a priest in Jerusalem! And Abram gave him a tithe. Now tithes were only to be given to the priests that served HaShem. So when Abram gave a tithe to Melchizedek, he was letting everyone know that Melchizedek was a rightful priest to God.

Why was this so important, that Abram gave a tithe to Melchizedek? Well, Abram would become the great-grandfather of Levi, the tribe chosen by God to be priests to minister to Him in the Tabernacle, and eventually, the Temple. This means that if Abram gave a tithe to Melchizedek, then surely Levi would also give a tithe to him, had he been there. And the person giving the tithe is also less of an authority than the one to whom he gives the tithe. That means that Melchizedek is greater than Levi.

But how was Melchizedek a priest in the first place? God would later decree that only those of the tribe of Levi could be priests! The answer is that Melchizedek received his office as a priest directly from God, not through being related to Levi. In the same way, the Royal Messiah, son of David, would also be a priest like Melchizedek (Psalm 110:1). That means that Yeshua, directly appointed by God, can function as our Great High Priest, because He is a priest like Melchizedek: a priest Who is also a King!

Melchizedek

Genesis 14

M V M Q H W O X S X U P T O T T A U P X A M Q Y I
 R G V Q J Z V X S H T V T I G I L R V M E D W A S
 I B U X O G P J A D H E O I K O X J W L M Q X O M
 G J U L M A D F N B A A N A T R T D A Z R C D O L
 H X S K V P L H D W R E H I H H W S P U L O K D A
 T D S J I X Z U L M M F S C W A U M Y X M W E H B
 E V F G T N B O E K A G P B E R P I Y W L S D S H
 O M U F O A M W V S N M T T E R T D H E B H E T P
 U J G Y E S H U A I I S R J J O F D U R E Q Z X O
 S J I D F H U S K S E C F E B M S I Q B R H I N S
 N U T X R W T T E I Q N D I T O S S Z E A T H O S
 E D I L E M V P R V S P S W U G E S U H R N C Z E
 S W V K M Y N P R V F C R Z O T L H Z C L E L N S
 S Z E B J M P T M C P O Z K Y U Q D Y X L T E P S
 I E R J E R A T Z K W G B D C S H A L O M Y M I O
 H E H S K H X B H J J D B N T N B R A S M M X J R
 P G U Y I L L J N E Z K Q Z M C U N G H T F F F P

MELCHIZEDEK

RIGHTEOUSNESS

BERA

SIDDIM

LOT

HEBREW

POSSESSOR

TENTH

TAR

GOMORRAH

PRIEST

WINE

FUGITIVE

MAMRE

YESHUA

KINGS

JERUSALEM

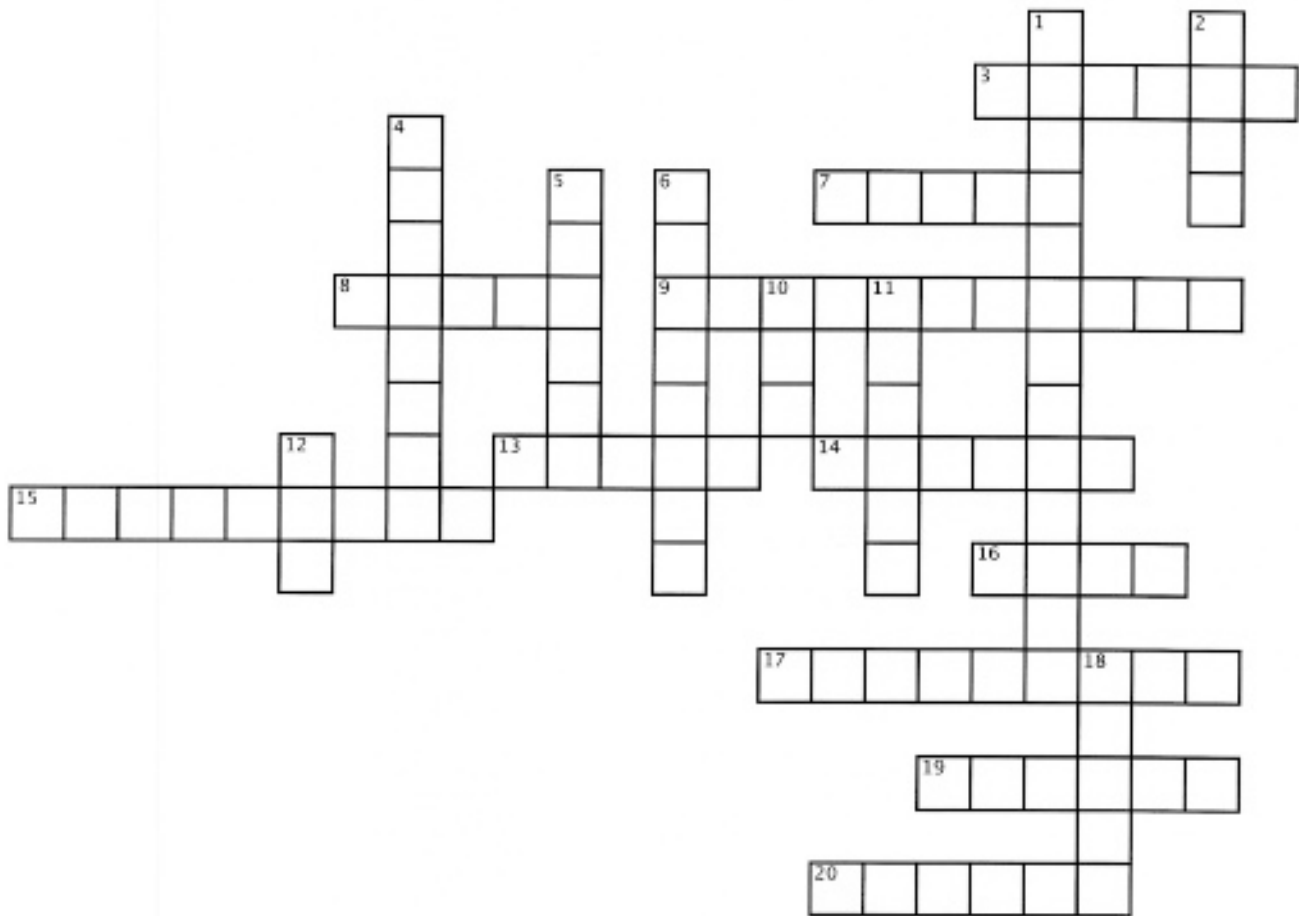
SODOM

SANDLE

SHALOM

Melchizedek

Genesis 14



Across

3. Five Kings fought four Kings in the valley of _____
7. Abram gave Melchizedek a _____ of all the wealth
8. Melchizedek and the King of Sodom met Abram in the valley of the _____
9. The King of Salem
13. Abram was living near the oaks of _____
14. Melchizedek was a _____ of God Most High
15. Salem was the early name for the city of _____
16. The King of Sodom
17. God Most High is "_____ of heaven of earth"
19. Abram refused to take even the strap of a _____ from the king of Sodom
20. Salem means _____

Down

1. Melchizedek means "King of _____"
2. Melchizedek brought out _____ and bread for Abram
4. A _____ informed Abram that Lot had been taken
5. He is also a priest like Melchizedek
6. The city associated with Sodom was _____
10. Abram's nephew
11. Abram is called a _____
12. In the valley of Siddum, there are _____ pits
18. Lot was living in the city of _____



Challenge

Abraham loved God very much. He trusted Him and tried to do what God asked. Hidden in the picture are Abraham's wife Sarah, his nephew Lot, one of his servants, a tent, a bird, three of Abraham's animals, three stars, and an altar. Can you find them?