

**Lenten Devotional Reflection**  
**19 March 2020 (Lent Day 20)**

**Scripture: Hebrews 7:1-10 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)**

<sup>1</sup>This “King Melchizedek of Salem, priest of the Most High God, met Abraham as he was returning from defeating the kings and blessed him”; <sup>2</sup>and to him Abraham apportioned “one-tenth of everything.” His name, in the first place, means “king of righteousness”; next he is also king of Salem, that is, “king of peace.” <sup>3</sup>Without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but resembling the Son of God, he remains a priest forever.

<sup>4</sup>See how great he is! Even Abraham the patriarch gave him a tenth of the spoils. <sup>5</sup>And those descendants of Levi who receive the priestly office have a commandment in the law to collect tithes from the people, that is, from their kindred, though these also are descended from Abraham. <sup>6</sup>But this man, who does not belong to their ancestry, collected tithes from Abraham and blessed him who had received the promises. <sup>7</sup>It is beyond dispute that the inferior is blessed by the superior. <sup>8</sup>In the one case, tithes are received by those who are mortal; in the other, by one of whom it is testified that he lives. <sup>9</sup>One might even say that Levi himself, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, <sup>10</sup>for he was still in the loins of his ancestor when Melchizedek met him.

**Message**

The scripture reading today is about the priest order of Melchizedek, and is taken from Hebrews 7:1-10. Melchizedek is a mysterious character in the bible, his name means “king of righteousness” or “king of peace”. The historical deeds mentioned about Melchizedek, who was a priest as well as a king, only appear in Genesis 14:17-20, and later in Psalm 110 and Hebrews, his stories have not been quoted in any other places.

After Abram’s return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh. Valley of Shaveh is the king’s valley. And King Melchizedek of Salem brought out bread and wine; he is the priest of the Most High God. He blessed him and said “Blessed be Abram by God Most High, maker of heaven and earth; and blessed be the God Most High who has delivered your enemies into your hand!” And Abram gave him one tenth of everything. (Genesis 14:17-20)

It is quite mysterious for Melchizedek to appear and diminish in all of a sudden in Genesis. According to Hebrews 7:3, some even said Melchizedek is the revelation of God Himself, or the revelation of Christ before His incarnation in the Old Testament era: “without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor

end of life”, Jesus Christ is “a priest forever according to the order of Melchisedek”. If the description of Melchizedek is a simile, then it must have its purpose. He and Jesus may be the same person. Or at least, Melchizedek is a type of Christ, prefiguring God’s ministry.

The salvation of God did not start only when Jesus Christ sacrificed for us on the cross. At the time when our ancestors sinned and left God, His plan for salvation of human has started. He revealed Himself through different people in various time and ways. However, all the revelations were rejected by humans because of their arrogance and ignorance; not until our holy Lord Jesus Christ showed humans how God accepted them, by offering Himself to God as the High Priest did humans begin to understand God. God intervenes in and even leads every moment of human history. As long as we keep our faith in Him and learn to trust in Him thoroughly even in hardships, salvation will come to us.

### **Reflection**

1. Has God always been present in your life?
2. Is it easier to trust in God during peaceful time than in hard times?
3. How do Christians become a blessing of others in hardships?

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