MELCHIZEDEK; OR, THE EXALTATION OF THE SON OF MAN

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Melchizedek; or, The exaltation of the Son of Man by G. W. Reaser

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"The Lord sware, and will not repent, Thou art a Priest forever after the order of Melchizedek." "Who is made, not after the law of a carnal commandment, but after the power of an endless life." "By so much was Jesus made the surety of a better testament,"

Hebrews 7:21, 16, 22.



BOSTON SHERMAN, FRENCH & COMPANY 1913

FOREWORD

Every Bible student meets with questions the solution of which will, for a time at least, elude his grasp.

The discovery of Bible mysteries, correctly viewed, is but a natural result of the study of the recorded thoughts of the Infinite by the finite mind. Such discoveries, instead of undermining the fact of inspiration in Divine revelation, are rather proof thereof; for it is written, "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my thoughts (higher) than your thoughts." The unfolding of these problems is God's answer to the true search for living truth. When, with the solution of one of these Bible mysteries, a golden thread of Jehovah's marvelous system of truth is traced, and appears to our astonished vision, unbroken, harmonious, surpassingly beautiful, how profoundly are we impressed anew with the inspiration of the Word of God.

In the following pages we undertake the solution of a mystery which for ages has successfully baffled the pursuit of profound Bible students. The author believes that there is a "fullness of time" in the plan of redemption for the unfolding of certain specific truths, "which hath been hid from ages and from generations." That a certain mystery has not been unfolded in the past does not militate against its importance. Even the prophecies pertaining to Christ's first advent were not comprehended by God's people until after their fulfillment. Then, too, the prophet Daniel was told to seal up the prophecies of his book until the time of the end." (Dan. xii, 4. See also 1 Pet. i, 10-12.)

Therefore the fact that the meaning of the prophecies pertaining to Christ as "a Priest forever after the order of Melchizedek" have not been grasped by God's children does not militate against their truthfulness, nor does it minimize their importance. Surely the oath of Jehovah by which Christ was made a Priest in that exalted order attaches sufficient importance to our theme to invite a candid study of the Melchizedek order of priesthood.

The writer is confident, as expressed by a devoted servant of God, that "there are mines of truth yet to be discovered by the earnest seeker," and that, "whenever the people of God are growing in grace, they will be constantly obtaining a clearer understanding of His Word. They will discern new light and beauty in its sacred truths. This has been true in the history of the church in all ages, and thus it will continue to the end."

In presenting this brief work to the public and to Bible students of all creeds, the author desires to emphasize the thought that he makes no claims to superior knowledge of the Scriptures, nor to infallible interpretation of Bible mysteries. He would humbly submit the Scripture argument contained in the book, not dogmatically, but rather, suggestively, and as being the most harmonious, logical and satisfying of any theory known to him which attempts to account for the appearance in our world of "Melchizedek, King of Salem, Priest of the Most High God!" His personal interest in the theme is intensified from the fact that the Christian's hope,-which is "as an anchor to the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which entereth into that within the veil, whither the Fore-runner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an High Priest forever after the order of Melchizedek,"-cannot be a wholly intelligent hope, unless we can in some degree get a mental grasp of the office of Christ by virtue of the fact that as our Melchizedek He now occupies a place at God's right hand.

If this treatise shall serve to exalt Christ

in the minds of the readers, elucidate the Bible mystery and thereby establish faith more firmly in God's living Word, and fasten hope more securely "within the veil," the writer will be abundantly repaid for his labor. With minds receptive to the influence of that Spirit which guides into all truth, let us begin our study.

With grateful appreciation for encouraging and helpful suggestions from the many friends in the gospel ministry to whom an outline of the contents of the book was submitted before pub-

lication,

I remain your coworker in the gospel, G. W. REASER.

GLENDALE, CALIFORNIA.

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