Notes and ideas on Melchisedec: (shared by a friend)

This week’s Bible Lesson on “Man” includes references in Hebrews to Melchisedec, high priest and King of Salem, King of righteousness and King of peace, from Abraham’s day. Hebrews was written to help encourage and strengthen second generation Hellenistic Jewish Christians by giving them a greater understanding and appreciation of the Christ, through seeing Melchisedec as a precursor to and prototype of the eternal Christ. Points which would be helpful to those early Christians were:

1. Melchisedec was greater/higher than the revered patriarch Abraham, – since Abraham gave the spoils from his victories over 5 kings to Melchisedec and Melchisedec blessed him. (see Gen 14)
2. Melchisedec was a high, eternal, spiritual priest, without father or mother or genealogy.
3. Levitical priesthood (mortal priests after the order of the Levites) was inadequate to redeem and provide for perfection, but a spiritual/immortal priest after the order of Melchisedec could.
4. A new priesthood necessarily required a new law, so followers of the new priesthood of Christ would be under the spiritual law of God and not the rules and rituals of the Levites.
5. This new priest comes with an oath from God in the fulfillment of prophecy (Ps 110:4) and therefore with the power and authority to fulfill the law of God.

Ps. 110:4

 4 The Lord hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou *art* a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.

1. Followers of Christ Jesus, the high priest after the order of Melchizedek, can certainly expect eternal salvation through obedience to his divine precepts.
2. This understanding and appreciation of Christ Jesus, as the redeemer and fulfiller of the law and prophecy, gave hope and strength to those struggling with their faith and facing adversity.

How grateful we are for Mary Baker Eddy’s discovery of Christian Science, showing us that this eternal Christ is available as a practical Science, enabling us all to see man as God’s perfect, spiritual idea and witness the fulfillment of eternal salvation:

S&H 557:18 Divine

Science rolls back the clouds of error with the light of

Truth, and lifts the curtain on man as never born and as

never dying, but as coexistent with his creator.

S&H 63:5

    In Science man is the offspring of Spirit. The beauti-

ful, good, and pure constitute his ancestry. His origin is

not, like that of mortals, in brute instinct, nor Spiritual

does he pass through material conditions prior origin

to reaching intelligence. Spirit is his primitive and ulti-

mate source of being; God is his Father, and Life is the

law of his being.

S&H 336:9

    XXII. Immortal man was and is God’s image or idea,

even the infinite expression of infinite Mind, and immor-

tal man is coexistent and coeternal with that The real

Mind. He has been forever in the eternal manhood

Mind, God; but infinite Mind can never be in man, but

is reflected by man. The spiritual man’s consciousness

and individuality are reflections of God. They are the

emanations of Him who is Life, Truth, and Love. Im-

mortal man is not and never was material, but always

spiritual and eternal.

S&H 249:1-10

    Let us accept Science, relinquish all theories based on

sense-testimony, give up imperfect models and illusive

ideals; and so let us have one God, one Mind, and that

one perfect, producing His own models of excellence.

    Let the “male and female” of God’s creating appear.

Let us feel the divine energy of Spirit, bringing us into

newness of life and recognizing no mortal nor Renewed

material power as able to destroy. Let us re- selfhood

joice that we are subject to the divine “powers that be.”

Such is the true Science of being.

If you’d care to pursue Melchisedec further, attached is the text from Hebrews from the Bible Lesson plus Hebrews Chapter 7. Also attached is something I found online. It’s hard to find information about Hebrews that isn’t steeped in presenting Jesus as our personal Saviour. What is attached is better than most of what I read, but please use “Christ Jesus” when you see “Jesus” in that text, for Christ Jesus is the Saviour, not the corporeal Jesus.