

First, the thing I had to check on, this mysterious figure of Melchizedech mentioned in two of our readings. First brought to our attention in Genesis chapter 14:18 it says: “Then Melchizedech king of Salem brought out bread and wine, he was priest of God Most High, and he blessed Abram...” after this Abram gave him a tenth of everything, he seems to be a priest/king and it is suggested that his name means king of righteousness or salvation. He brings bread and wine to Abram after his battle which had a religious import because he was a priest.

He is seen by some as a precursor of the royal and priestly lines in the Davidic empire and by his name, his dual roles and his actions of blessing and feeding with bread and wine as linked to Jesus.

The next mention of this gentleman is in Psalm 110:4 “You are a priest for ever, in the way Melchizedech was a priest”. Now these are ancient works and apparently there is a chance it may not mean this person by name but rather

a phrase such as “a rightful king to my edict”. Because of this description of king and priest this has become a template for the roles of Jesus. There are even some who believe that Jesus was Melchizedech, and more than that that he had appeared in various roles over the millennia. This is not orthodox Church of England doctrine! After that Melchizedech is only mentioned twice in the Bible, both times in the letters to the Hebrews.

Now I have satisfied my curiosity about that gentleman, onto the rest of the readings. One thing that really struck me was the simple request by some Greeks, that went up the hierarchy of apostles “I want to see Jesus”. All we know other than that is that Jesus went on to talk about seeds dying, we don’t know if they ever got to see him or not. Such a simple request, “I want to see Jesus”. Some people in the New Testament went to great lengths, suffered hardship, just to do that.

Deep in your heart, do you want to see Jesus, do you want to know him?

In Jeremiah, there seems to be a suggestion that as humans have failed to keep their side of the covenant yet again, God is going to wipe the slate clean and start again, God will become part of us, written on our hearts. But Jeremiah doesn't know how God is going to fulfil this. This new covenant is the promise God makes to us in Jesus. The cost of God keeping his promise to us, despite our inability to keep our side of it, the promise that is written on the human heart, is in the life and death of Jesus.

God does what we cannot and will not do by coming to us as one of us and keeping both sides of the promise himself. We will see his struggle, his pain, his costly obedience.

"I want to see Jesus". The beautiful, blond young man or the wild revolutionary, the gentle, compassionate healer or the man wracked by anguish on the cross as God fulfils both sides of his promise for us. Which one do we want to see? What does it mean to us that God fulfilled both sides of the covenant himself, and how it ties in with our view of Jesus is something we

need to think through before we make the wish, "I want to see Jesus".

Jesus, by his death has offered reconciliation to all people, but we must accept the offer. We must make the request "I want to see Jesus". This isn't about some distant, formal relationship, this is one to one, meeting, talking, being with, getting to know, learning to love. This is the difference between the God of the Old Testament, who couldn't be seen by mortals and the God of the new covenant who lived amongst us.

Teenagers, and some adults, may say "I want to see ... whoever the latest star is" but that's like being in a big crowd. The Greeks who wanted to see Jesus wanted a meeting, face to face. We can have this, it's on offer, we just need to want it, to ask. He promises to accept us if we ask, he promises to love us more than we can ever understand, he promises to be with us for ever. He died on the cross for us, because he loves us. Because he wants us to see him, to know him. It starts with a simple request, a tiny step, "I want

to see Jesus. I want to know him. Jesus I accept you as my saviour.”

Let’s pray that now, and make the commitment that he is waiting for, hear him say to us, “Welcome my beloved”.