

¹For this Melchisedec, king of Salem, priest of the most high God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him;²To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace;³Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually.⁴Now consider how great this man was, unto whom even the patriarch Abraham gave the tenth of the spoils.⁵And verily they that are of the sons of Levi, who receive the office of the priesthood, have a commandment to take tithes of the people according to the law, that is, of their brethren, though they come out of the loins of Abraham:⁶But he whose descent is not counted from them received tithes of Abraham, and blessed him that had the promises.⁷And without all contradiction the less is blessed of the better.⁸And here men that die receive tithes; but there he receiveth them, of whom it is witnessed that he liveth.⁹And as I may so say, Levi also, who receiveth tithes, payed tithes in Abraham.¹⁰For he was yet in the loins of his father, when Melchisedec met him.¹¹If therefore perfection were by the Levitical priesthood, (for under it the people received the law,) what further need was there that another priest should rise after the order of Melchisedec, and not be called after the order of Aaron?¹²For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law.¹³For he

of whom these things are spoken pertaineth to another tribe, of which no man gave attendance at the altar.¹⁴For it is evident that our Lord sprang out of Juda; of which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priesthood.¹⁵And it is yet far more evident: for that after the similitude of Melchisedec there ariseth another priest,¹⁶Who is made, not after the law of a carnal commandment, but after the power of an endless life.¹⁷For he testifieth, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.¹⁸For there is verily a disannulling of the commandment going before for the weakness and unprofitableness thereof.¹⁹For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God.²⁰And inasmuch as not without an oath he was made priest:²¹(For those priests were made without an oath; but this with an oath by him that said unto him, The Lord sware and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec:)²²By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament.²³And they truly were many priests, because they were not suffered to continue by reason of death:²⁴But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood.²⁵Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.²⁶For such a high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;²⁷Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then

for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself.²⁸ For the law maketh men high priests which have infirmity; but the word of the oath, which was since the law, maketh the Son, who is consecrated for evermore.