The Story of MelchezedekA Story by ha-emeq

In this story you're going to get a chance to really learn something, take it into your heart *and express it*, and teach us. You become our teachers here at the end. We're going to hear something from you. So I'm going to teach you something very amazing and strange. It's something that comes from the history of our people and not very many people know about it.

The story is about Shem. Shem. You know that word, Shem don't you? Does anyone know enough Hebrew to know what shem means? It means name. For some reason that great man Noah, who built the ark, had three sons and called one of them Shem. Shem means name. Maybe he couldn't think of a name and decided to call him name or there was some reason he decided to call him name. Anyway he decided to call him "Name."

So he grew up with his three brothers. They made it through the flood and all. The three sons of Noah were born on the back side of the flood where people used to live really old. So Shem had the potential to live a long time. We on this side of the flood usually could live 100 years or maybe a little more or a little less. Shem had the potential to live a lot longer. And he did live long. Shem actually knew about things on the other side of the flood. He knew stories. He knew about Adam. He was really an amazing man. So after that bad thing happened after the flood and the sons got split up, Shem was the one who got the blessing. He was the one to whom his abba said, "You're the blessed one, Shem." So then Shem really came back excited one day and he told his abba,

"I found a really good place to settle! It's just down there. Down through the valley. Then there's these hills that are green. Then there's this one nice little hill, the best place I found! I'm going to go there and build up a place for me and my descendants to come after me." So his abba, Noah, said, "Bless you my son. Go and multiply and spread the righteous life that you have all over this earth. Because the other ones, Cham and Yapheth, they're going here and there. Yapheth is going way over there to the east. Cham is going way down there. So you spread out and fill that land up."

So not long after, he came back to his abba and said, "Abba, you know Canaan, the grandson, why he's filling up the land where I've decided to settle." Noah said, "Well that's not good. He should have gone down farther south. Well, just spread out and surely you'll push his descendants farther because Canaan is cursed. He's Cham's cursed boy. He needs to go down south more."

So, Shem was there and he built such a nice place. It was green, on a hill. He built a really nice city there. His sons were nice too, like you're nice, but, then his sons started being influenced by the world around them. Poor Shem didn't like it. He said, "Sons, don't be influenced by our neighboring people around here, these Canaanites and they're going to certainly cause trouble. They don't even remember Yahweh, the true God. They're cursed people. Have nothing to do with them!" But still his sons didn't really listen to him. Then slowly, slowly, it happened over years, remember he lived a long time, he had his son, his son's son is son... time passed and some of his sons took off and started wandering. He had a great, great grandson called Eber, which is the word for Hebrew. His descendants traveled and became caravans. They were called the Hebrews. They wandered quite a long ways away. They had herds. Pretty soon, many years passed, they wandered, the sons of Shem, so far over to Mesopotamia. They had just kept going a little bit farther. Years had passed until Shem didn't even know where his sons were. But he knew that they weren't doing well. He knew that they hadn't been faithful. And if he wouldn't have known the promise of the Qesheth, the rainbow, that there wasn't going to be another flood, sometimes Shem worried that there might be another flood like there was the last time. He saw his sons, that they didn't turn out right. They didn't have his heart.

So his city got quite large. It was in such a nice place that he called it Salem. That was the name of his town. It had a wall around it. It was quite a big city. The citizens there always respected Shem because he was the one who started it and he was actually their great grandfather. They were all related to him. They respected him so much because he was really a righteous man, that many times when people would come there, they even made Shem to be the king of their city because it was on a hill. In those days, a kingdom was built on a hill and it had a king on it. It wasn't that the king had to be the king of a giant land like Australia. They were just king of a certain hill. There were many such "kings" around. So they called Shem "King." People would come there and

they would say, "Salem is a nice city. Who's your king?" And they would say, "Shem is our king." And they would say, "Shem is your king?" And they would say, "Well, he's a very righteous man." They would say, "Really? Righteous? What is that?" "Always going good things. So righteous." And they spoke Hebrew and they said, "We will call him the righteous king, or the king of righteousness. That's what we're going to call our king because he's so righteous. Nobody else is righteous. We live among all these Canaanite people and they're just wicked people." They knew enough to know the difference between good and bad. "So let's call Him: Melchezedek," which is Righteous King. And so, although his name was Shem, which meant Name, who he was was Righteous King; the King of Righteousness. "So let's call him *Mel ke' zed' ik*." Nowadays they say Melchezedek. But it's *Melech*, King, *Zedek*, Righteous. Melchezedek. So that's what all His people called him.

Years were passing by and Shem, who was called Melchezedek now was there in his city there on the hill. He was really sad because none of his children followed and he recognized that it was just his one little hill called Salem where anybody did anything good. All around were the Canaanites and even in his own city, the people didn't really follow. He had really righteous laws and knew better than to mess around with those laws. But he recognized that they weren't following God, the true God. So years were passing by. Shem was over 500 years old by now. A long time had passed. Can you imagine someone 500 years old? If you see someone 100 years old nowadays they look so old and ancient. But he was over 500 by this time. But remember he was born before the flood. He had that kind of a life in him that lasted longer. They could live up to 1,000 back then. So he was there and then he started hearing that the kings in the area were starting to fight. Now remember a king just had a hill and a city. So it wasn't like a giant kingdom. So from where he sat on His high hill, in Salem he could see other hills and they had kings. Kings of the Canaanites, Cham's descendants. They were over on hill and hill and hill. He could see hills all around. They were always fighting with each other. Very rarely did they get along. But not His kingdom. His kingdom was Salem. Salem is like Shelem. Shelem is actually what it was in Hebrew. It means peaceful and whole and everything we know about peace. So he never fought with anybody. That's nice, isn't it? It was like Austria in the midst of Switzerland, in the midst of Europe. It was a peaceful area. So they called it Peace. He was a peaceful king and he never did fight, never. He was the king of righteousness. So he'd hear this one over here and this one over there, down there, over the hill was Sodom. Sodom was just a town on the edge of a salty sea. Then, there was Gomorrah and all these other hills with kings in them, always fighting with each other, getting in wars. And so, he watched the wars but he didn't get involved.

So right at this time when these kings were starting to act up, something happened. News came into Salem. It got all the way up to Melchezedek. "Did you hear that there's a caravan of people from over in Mesopotamia! Well it's quite a big caravan. And they speak *H e b r e w* and they have *H e b r e w w a y* s and they're different and strange." Right away Melchezedek turned up his ear. Why, they speak Hebrew and they come from over the river there.

Why years and years and years ago, his sons had taken off over the river. He hadn't seen or heard anything of them. He knew that they were just gone into all kinds of pagan worship and everything.

"Well, tell me about those people," said Melchezedek, "tell me. What is it like?" "Well," said the messengers, "one thing we know for sure, the man whose kind of the head of them, is really a good man. You can depend on him for anything." "Why, that sounds strange. A good man? You don't get good men *these* days." He was almost figuring a flood would be coming any time now, if it wouldn't be for the rainbow he'd see every once in a while. Everybody's bad around here. Who is this?

From then on, Melchezedek was on the look out for any word he could hear about these wanderers. "How are they doing?" He'd say. "Well, they're growing actually. If you could look down and see from here, their camp is getting really big, I mean, quite big. In fact, they're kind of divided up a little bit because the man's son, or nephew or something, who came with him, their flocks got so big they were taking up that whole valley and he kind of split off and he's going down by Sodom." "Sodom? Why would he want to go down there?" "Well, it is the green valley, down by the Jordan. Yeah, his nephew is down there and he's kind of mixing in with the Sodomites down there." "Uh. Why would he do that? That's not wise."

So he sat back and waited to see what would happen. "What's that man's name anyway, that has the big group over there, the good man? Do you know his name?" (Asking the children.) "Abram," said the messenger, "his name is Abram." "Really?" "Yes. He came from over there, over." "Abram. Hmmmm. And what's his nephew's name, who went over there by Sodom?" "Lot." "Interesting," said Melchezedek. "We'll have to keep an eye on these people."

So down in the valley, the people of Abram were down there. They heard a little bit about Melchezedek. They heard that he lived up on that hill over there and had Salem. They heard about him being a righteous man. So right away Abram, of course, turned his ear up to a Righteous man, a good man. Some people even called Melchezedek a *Priest of God.* 'Who is he? Who is he?'' Now Abram knew his father and he knew his grandfather's name. And he knew his great grandfather's name and he knew that long ago they had migrated from somewhere over in that area, the area that our Father had called him back to. He knew that. But it was a *big* space of time and he couldn't follow great, great, great, great, great, great, great, great, great after it. That's what Abraham was to Shem. But they didn't know. He didn't know. He just heard about Melchezedek up on the hill, a priest and a king. He actually was a priest, like he would offer up sacrifices to Yahweh; a priest and a king; in the middle of a Canaanite swarm. Wow! Who is this? What is this!

Well, Abraham was down there when, *like usual*, a war started. Melchezedek wasn't surprised when five kings over there, Sodom, Admah, Zebuim, Gommorah, Belah, five kingdoms over there started getting all stirred up. They got together because they heard these other four kings over here who had these other four names, Elam, Elesar, Goyim and Shinar, they were stirred up over there and they were coming down and they were fighting. These kings had their cities together and all their men. These four were coming and these five over here were getting upset and saying, "Pretty soon those 4 kings over there are going to come and attack us and we're not going to take it," said the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah and those other three cities, "We're not going to stand for this. No we're going to mobilize our forces. We are going to stop them."

So Melchezedek sat up there on his high hill and said, "We're not going to get involved in this war, my citizens. We'll just stay here, behind the walls and we're going to watch the war." So sure enough, it happened. The four kings, "Grrrrr," they were winning battle after battle, coming down this way. The five kings got out in front of their town.

Now Lot was in Sodom at this time. His king called for all the men to mobilize but somehow Lot didn't get in the front lines. Somehow, maybe he was too young or some reason, he didn't get out there. But they all lined up. Now this was right down by the Dead Sea, the Salt Sea. That's where Sodom and Gomorrah was. They got ready for these four kings to come down on them. Now there were five kings against four. Surely the five kings will win, don't vou think? It seems like it, but, when they came these four kings were really fighters! So when they came in, they caught the five kings off guard. The kings had to start retreating. Now in that area, where the sea is, it's got all these salten eruptions, the ground was very erupting, salty, and there were big pits in there. But when they were retreating, if you weren't watching where you were going, you'd fall into a big hole. You could fall into one of these big salt holes. Unless somebody pulled you out, you were stuck in there. So anyway, they were running, retreating from the five kings coming. The kings of Sodom and Gomorrah both fell in a hole. Their men got totally run over once they realized that their kings were gone, until the five kings just wiped out those soldiers. They just rumbled right into Sodom and Gomorrah and started taking everybody. They got the children, and who was in Sodom? Lot. They grabbed Lot and they got his children and they got his sheep and everything. They got everybody in the town and they took them captive. Now, one person from that town escaped. But it was pretty much a disaster for those five kings. They lost everything. They lost all their people and their possessions and everything. It was totally a disaster for them. Then these other men started taking off. Melchezedek was up there watching and was very grieved. He said, "This is what life is like. Look at it. People just fight and they're greedy and they steal from one another. This isn't a righteous life, is it?" He'd always talk that way and his people would just look at one another and they'd say, "That's Melchezedek. He's a righteous

kin," although they didn't have that heart. He was totally grieved by it. The destruction was just terrible! "Why doesn't another flood come!?" said Melchezedek? "These people are so wicked! How can Yahweh tolerate this?"

A messenger came from the battle. He went running. He didn't run to Salem. He ran because he knew Lot was from that group of Hebrews over there. So he ran over to see Abram, a messenger. And he came and he said to him, "Abram! The four kings from there have come and they've totally taken over all these cities and they've taken Lot away!" Now Lot was really special to Abram. Abram didn't have any children of his own. And then he got this boy. It was his brother. His brother had died. His brother had one son named Lot. And so Lot had always lived with Abram. It was like his own son. He totally loved him. And so Lot has been taken captive by those four kings. His wife, his children, they're all gone. Well, Abram is not a soldier. They don't fight. "But," he said, "this is injustice to the max. Okay!" and so he said, "Men from camp, come together here. We're going to have a little meeting here, a gathering. Okay? Zakar, El Ahav, Shedeur, I know we're not soldiers here, but this is what's happened..." He got his men together. You know how many men there were? I don't know how young it went down to or how old, but there were 318 men when he got all the men from his camp. He told them, "Now this is what happened, these five kings have gathered together and made war against these four kingdoms. When they came to Sodom and Gomorrah to took captive everybody, including Lot." "LOT! I can't believe it! We've got to help Lot! We've got to help him!" So they said, "Are you ready to go?" "I've got a plan," said Abram, "We're going to go at night. Can you see good in the dark? No flashlights. We're going together. And God, our God is going to help us, to save Lot and stop this injustice."

So they took off. It was night battle. They took off, somehow, the 318 of them and they found where the enemy was camped and they watched. They saw what he was doing. Then they waited till they all went to sleep and all the shepherds must have gotten some kind of sticks or something. They weren't equipped with any big weapons. They had faith. They had Abram's faith. They sneaked up on the enemy. Now this enemy is quite famous by now. These four kings had amazingly destroyed kingdom after kingdom of those hilltop city kingdoms. They had thousands of men.

This little motley crew of Zakar and El Ahav and you boys (whatever children you're telling the story to) you can't do anything, can you Shedeur? Well you can, because you've got faith and it's dark and Yahweh is on your side. Are you ready?" They're all looking at Abram. "OKAY MEN, LET'S GO !!!!!" In they went to fight. It was totally amazing. In the dark you could hear, PH, PH, Pow! Rumbles; Dust; Tumult! At the end of it, 318 men walk out and they're the winners. Abraham's men won, against those FOUR great kings! They won the battle! THey WON! And the men that were left were just totally, WOW! The enemy put their hands down. And Lot was there. He'd been taken captive along with the others. Abram walked up to him and said, "Come on, you're free. Come on, let's go home. Get your sheep. Pick out your flock. Divide up your women, children. You go home, you go home, back to your house. Come on, let's go, get the other things." And so this great big **mass** of people came following after Abraham and his 318 men, down through the valley.

And who was watching? Melchezedek. He was up on the hill in his kingdom. All of a sudden he looked up, and a messenger came and said, "Yes, Melchezedek, it's Abram. Abram has defeated the four kings and set free all the captives, and all of the plunder," which means all of the things that they took, all of the furniture and clothes and everything. He got it all free and he was coming back. It was just a big, giant gang coming down the valley. Melchezedek could see them coming. Now as they were coming, remember those kings I was telling you about that fell in the hole? It was down by the Salt Sea, the Dead Sea, they'd fallen in a hole? Well, somebody had gotten them out by this time. And they were totally in despair because their city was totally empty and they didn't have anything left and it was just them. Everybody was gone. And so, when, they started coming back up, the kings realized, "Wow! They're coming back. Abram has done what we couldn't do with all of our men! He's done it himself!" They were totally shocked and amazed. They gathered around the few survivors and said, "Here they come!" This giant parade was coming down. So the king came out there and said, "Wow, Look at this!" And the king of Gomorrah is there. "Hhhhh! Here comes our STUFF back and all

of our ...Wow, look everything is coming back to us and not only *that* but those other four kings that were going to get us are all finished off! Wow!"

So as they were standing, gathering a little gathering down there, down the hillside comes this strange figure that hardly anyone ever saw. Why, it was an old man, over 500 years old. Who was that man? Huh? He's coming down from his city, Salem, walking down, clothed in a nice white garment, walking with people at his side. It's Melchezedek. He's coming down, to meet Abram. Coming down to meet this man he's heard about. He's coming down to meet this mighty, warrior, victor, Abram, shepherd, with his shepherds along with him, all dusty from the battle. He walks up and right away when his men around him, the 318 shepherds say, "Abram, look who's coming!" So he looked up and here he was walking toward them directly looking to Abram. He doesn't know that this is his great, gr King of Salem, meeting Abram. He walks up and they are face to face, Abram and Melchezekek. So right away Abram recognizes that this is a great, great man. He recognizes it and says, "Men, men, go in among the things we've got. Go through every 10 sheep, go 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9, 10 and get the 10th one and bring it to me. Everything we've got, count it by 10 and take the 10th one out. Okay men, Go!" Because they'd brought all this plunder, spoil of the things that had been taken, furniture, clothes and sheep and goats and nice everything, arms full of even gold and silver and things like that. So Abram said, "Get one out of 10." That means one tenth. So if you had 10 chickens you take the 10th one and you say, okay, I want them all right here. So the men just shhhhew, swarmed out through this vast group that they were leading with all this stuff and they went and pulled out and pulled out and piled and piled up. They made this giant pile of stuff.

Now as Melchezedek came there, he had something in his hand. And Abram didn't know what it was. But do you know what Melchezedek had in his hand? His servant brought something with Melchezedek and they all were carrying it. And Melchezedek also was carrying it. They brought bread and wine. Bread, just like on the table in there and wine. He was carrying it. It was like a breaking of bread. He was going to have breaking of bread with Abram. And they sat down together and looked eye to eye. These men were amazing men. It was a priest of the Most High God, Melchezedek. He set the bread and the wine on the table in front of Abram and his men. His men had the giant pile of everything right behind them. They set down together at the table. Melchezedek looked at Abram and he said, "Blessed be you, Abram, by the Most High God, Yahweh, Creator of the Heaven and the Earth. And blessed be God Most High because He has put your enemies under your feet!" You see he recognized that this man had dominion. He wasn't going to be treaded down by anybody. This man Abram could put enemies under foot. EARTH IS WAITING FOR MEN WHO WILL PUT ENEMIES UNDER FOOT!! Shem recognized one of his sons who had the power to put enemies under foot, not by his own craftiness, but because God was with him! "Blessed be you Abram." Melchezedek blessed Abram. He had the anointing of the Most High God among himself and he blessed Abram. "Blessed be you, by the God, Creator of the heavens and earth." Abram's heart just pounded. He recognized the presence of a most amazing man. Most amazing. So right away Abram said to him, "Melchezedek, take this! It's one tenth of all that I gained." And his 318 men are pushing it out to his servants. "This is all yours. I'm giving it to you because you're a priest and I'm giving my tithe to you." Ahh, people understood that. To the priest, he deserved the tithe. That meant, what he deserved. They didn't just win a giant battle like that without giving something to God. So who are they going to give it to? Where do you give something to God, if you want to give it to Him? Abraham found a place to give it. Give it to Melchezedek, priest of the Most High God. And the men just shoved it all out to him. And Melchezedek's heart was satisfied, because he saw his great, great, great, great, great, great, great, great, great, grandson, YES, YES, He saw it. A righteous seed had come back. He recognized those eyes. He recognized it and there he was. Then, Melchezedek turned and walked away.

Abraham and his 318 men just looked SSHHH, WOW... They knew. They had seen the representative of God on the earth! HHhhhh! The other kings were there too, like Sodom and Gomorrah's kings. They were just men without any dignity who were just hooping and yipping saying, "Yah! We got all our stuff back. All right, ha haaaa!" And they were saying, "Okay, give this to Abraham and give that to Abraham. Give him that and that,"

because they saw what he had done. So they started saying, "Here, take this Abram, you did a really great job. You surprised us! We did everything we could against those guys and here you come with your 318 motley Ozziel and El Ahav and you guys, Shedeur and YOU DID IT! So here take this and that because you need it and, come on, we'll take the rest," and then Abram stopped, he was totally silent and he stopped and said, "I swear by the God of heaven and earth, the Creator God," this is what he'd just heard, "the Creator of heaven and earth, not one thread, not one sandal string, not one thing will I take from you," he said, "for you will say then, 'I have blessed Abraham, I have made Abraham rich. You see how he's prospering now? You remember when I gave him all the things I gave him,' So then you'll say, 'It's because of me that Abraham is increasing like that. 'But I won't take one little string of sandal. I'm not going to take one shoe lace from you." He said, to the king of Sodom. "Just I'll take what the men have eaten along the way because we did eat some of the supplies. That's all that we're taking. And then if anyone helped, you can take their share, but nothing we'll take from you." So the king of Sodom said, "W e l l, heh heh, more for me." Because he was greedy he didn't recognize that he met Yahweh's representative, Abram. He didn't realize it. And so they went back up to the city and said, "Come on Lot, let's go back up to Sodom and Gomorrah." Now this man more than anybody, should have remembered God and changed his ways. And if he doesn't change his ways now that he's been blessed like this, his whole city was restored, by Abram, uh? He wouldn't have even had one thing. He wouldn't have even had a city. That man should be really thankful to God. That man should live a good life after that. He should have respect. He should change his ways. If he doesn't, he's worthy of a big judgment, isn't he? Well a big judgment is coming for Sodom and Gomorrah if you remember the story. Big judgment came to them. That's what happened to anyone who has a chance to know what's right to do and then turns to some wicked thing; their judgment is much worse. Not long after that, fire, brimstone came upon this place and destroyed it because they were wicked places and they ended up getting the name Sodomite and we all know what that means, because they were sodomites there and they should have changed their ways. So they were totally destroyed to such a great extent that the salty water sea, right by them, where all those holes that they fell into, spread out all over the brimstone and fire that came to them because they weren't grateful. And... Melchezedek may have seen that. But he didn't live a whole lot longer after this. Not a lot longer.

Then Abram was gone. After a while, all his descendants, remember, he had a son, and then he had twelve sons after that and they ended up down in Egypt. Years and years passed. Melchezedek died. And nobody even knew when he died. Nobody even knew much about him, because everyone around him was just unrighteous people. Nobody even cared anymore. It was like he never was born and never died, Melchezedek. He was just a figure that was in life. But, do you realize that that time when they got those ten of everything, remember that big pile there that the men got together, Abraham **gave** it to Melchezedek. It was his high priest. Melchezedek was his high priest and he gave him a tenth of everything. Well this is very important. He never did see him again. Abraham was gone. Melchezedek died. And, "what happened to those Hebrews that were there?" "I don't know. They're gone. They went to Egypt." And they did, huh? Remember? They had to go down there.

Nobody saw anymore of them, until.... HHhhhuh 400 years L A T E R... they appear again. Not like the last time they were here, that friendly little band of 318 shepherds. No, it's different. "What's that on the horizon? That giant cloud of dust? That's millions of people." Isn't it something like 1 or 2 million. They grew so much in Egypt that when they came back with Moshe and Joshua, what a total shock it was. And do you know what had happened to Salem when they were gone? Melchezedek's place on the hill? It even passed on down to somebody who wasn't righteous. But you know what he called himself? Lord of Righteousness. Adoni Zedek. "Yep, that's what we'll call our king, Adoni Zedek. Yeah, he's not like Shem but we like the name anyway, Righteous, yeah, he's righteous in some way." And they just became like everyone else around them except they had a king they kept calling Adoni Zedek. So when over the horizon if Adoni Zedek is like the former king Melchezedek, he's going to recognize Joshua and his men. "It's Abraham's children! Come back!" But... Salem had changed. They weren't righteous anymore. And so when Adoni Zedek saw that big gang of people coming, Abraham's descendants coming over the horizon, you know what they did? "LET'S FIGHT!" They became the enemies of Israel. They called together their swords and everything and they said, "STOP THESE PEOPLE

FROM COMING!!" Now, if Melchezedek was alive, he never would have done that. He would have said, "MY SON!! TAKE THE LAND! KILL THE CANAANITES!! TAKE OVER THIS LAND!!" But he didn't do that. Adoni Zedek, he didn't live by his name. You know what Adoni is, My Lord, Sir. Zedek is righteous. But he wasn't. So when Joshua came and his men, you know where Adoni Zedek ended up? I wish I could show you. If you could put your head right here and I could put my foot right here. You know the story about the bad kings that Joshua put their heads right under their foot? He got these kings, they were just obstinate kings when they came into the land. Adoni Zedek was one of those kings. He wasn't like Melchezedek. He still had the NAME, the religious sounding *name*, but he had his head under the foot. Yes, the sons of Abraham were still putting their enemies under their feet. Joshua and Caleb put the enemies under their foot. Now this time, it was the king of Jerusalem. They called it Jerusalem now. But it had changed. The enemies were under the foot of Abraham's children.

So later you men are going to hear about Melchezedek. You'll always hear about him because they always bring him up. After that happened, everyone always, from time to time in history, they say, "Yeah, but what about Melchezedek? How'd he get to be a priest? Who was he anyway?" Have you ever heard of him before? Melchezedek, they say, everybody will ask you about him. But you know about him now, don't you. You'll be able to tell. "Of course he was a priest! He was as much a priest as Noah was, as Adam was. He was from the holy righteous line." And this is who people say that our Master Yahshua was like, just like Melchezedek. He actually is in his line, his holy line. That's where our Master is from. He's a priest like Melchezedek. It's a story you're hearing of Shem and Melchezedek.