

sacerdotal function, his genealogical table was carefully inspected; and if any of the above blemishes was found in him, he was rejected."

But here the matter comes to a point, as it respects our inquiry respecting Melchisedec's having no father or mother. "*He who could not support his pretensions by just genealogical evidences, was said to be without father.*" Thus in *Bereshith Rabba*, Sect. xviii. fol. 18, are these words; *For this cause shall a man leave father and mother.* It is said, if a proselyte to the Jewish religion have married his own sister, whether by the same father, or by the same mother, they cast her out, according to Rabbi Meir. But the wise men say, if she be of the *same mother*, they cast her out; but if of the same father, they retain her, *shein ab la gai*, for a Gentile has no father, that is, his father is not reckoned in the Jewish genealogies.

In this way, both Christ and Melchisedec were without father, and without mother, had neither beginning of days, descent of lineage, nor end of life, in *their* books of genealogies, which gave a man a right to the Priesthood, as derived from Aaron; that is, were not descended from the original Jewish sacerdotal stock. Yet Melchisedec, who was a Canaanite, was a Priest of the Most High God. This sense SUIDAS\* confirms, under the word Melchisedec, where after stating that he reigned a prince in Salem, i. e. Jerusalem, 113 years, he died a righteous man. To this he adds, "*He is, therefore, said to be without descent or genealogy, because he was not of the seed of Abraham, (for Abraham was his seed,) but of Canaanitish origin.*"

We think this sufficient to show the reason why he is said to have had no father or mother, beginning of days, nor end of life, as stated in Hebrews. But this is not said of him in the Book of Genesis, where we first become acquainted with this truly wonderful character.

It should be recollected that the Jewish genealogies went no farther back, for the qualifications of their priestly credentials, or eligibility to the pontifical office, than to the time and family of Aaron; which was more than four hundred years after that of Abraham and Melchisedec. No wonder, then, that Christ's genealogy was not

\* Suidas, a Greek scholar of eminence, who flourished A. D. 975, and was an ecclesiastical writer of that age.