

seemed good to the Creator to *break down* those uniting portions of land, by bringing into action the winds, the billows, and subterranean fires, which soon, by their repeated and united forces, removed each isthmus, throwing them along the coasts of the several continents, and forming them into islands; thus destroying, for wise purposes, those primeval highways of the nations.

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SUPPOSED IDENTITY AND REAL NAME OF MELCHISEDEC OF THE SCRIPTURES.

THIS is indeed an interesting problem, the solution of which has perplexed its thousands; most of whom suppose him to have been the Son of God, some angelic, or mysterious supernatural personage, rather than a mere man. This general opinion proceeds on the ground of the Scripture account of him, as commonly understood, being expressed as follows: "Without 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." Hebrews vii. 3.

But, without further circumlocution, we will at once disclose our opinion, by stating that we believe him to have been *SHEM*, the eldest son of Noah, the immediate progenitor of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and the Jews, and none other than *SHEM*, "the man of name, or renown."

We derive this conclusion from the research and critical commentary of the learned and pious Adam Clarke, who gives us this information from the tradition of the Jewish Rabbins, which, without hesitation, gives this honor to *Shem*.

The particular part of that Commentary to which we allude as being the origin of *our* belief, on this subject, is the preface of that author to the Book of Job, on page 716, as follows: "*SHEM* lived five hundred and two years after the deluge; being still alive, and in the three hundred and ninety-third year of his life, *when* Abraham was born; *therefore*, the Jewish tradition that *Shem* was the Melchisedec, or my righteous king of Salem," which word Melchisedec, was "an epithet, of title of *honor* and respect, *not* a pro-