

COALDALE MB CHURCH

followers of Jesus **seeking to glorify God**

2114-18 Street, Coaldale, Alberta T1M 1G2 phone: (403) 345-3636 fax (403) 345-3638
email: office@coaldalembchurch.com web: www.coaldalembchurch.com

At the beginning of our zoom meeting we will have a children's time and story with Jettaya. So, parents if you are able to have your children available at the beginning of the meeting that would be great, thanks.

We have talked about the death, resurrection, ascension of Christ. Christ has ascended and one of the images we have of Him as the high priest. There are a couple things which I would like us to focus on and hopefully encourage us in our following of Jesus.

One of the unique duties of a high priest was on the day of Atonement.
Leviticus 16:39-34

29 "This is to be a lasting ordinance for you: On the tenth day of the seventh month you must deny yourselves and not do any work—whether native-born or a foreigner residing among you— **30** because on this day atonement will be made for you, to cleanse you. Then, before the Lord, you will be clean from all your sins. **31** It is a day of sabbath rest, and you must deny yourselves; it is a lasting ordinance. **32** The priest who is anointed and ordained to succeed his father as high priest is to make atonement. He is to put on the sacred linen garments **33** and make atonement for the Most Holy Place, for the tent of meeting and the altar, and for the priests and all the members of the community.

34 "This is to be a lasting ordinance for you: Atonement is to be made once a year for all the sins of the Israelites."

And it was done, as the Lord commanded Moses.

One person, once a year was to go into the high place and offer the sacrifice to be cleansed from their sins. This is the image of the outfit of the high priest and what he would wear. On the bottom, there were golden bells hanging that would ring when the priest would move.

Hebrews 4:14-16

14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. **15** For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. **16** Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

I do not image Jesus needing any bells in His role as the high priest. The passage in Hebrews mentions that does identify with us in our struggle but unlike us He did not sin. Verse 16 encourages us to approach God's throne of grace with confidence - so that we may receive mercy and grace to help us in our time of need. **In what ways have you experience closeness to Jesus?**



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Jesus' atonement for our sins, not only did it pay for them past, present and future. But it has brought us in to a right relationship with the Father. Romans 8 says that we can call Him, Abba! Daddy! Because we are adopted in to the family.

Let's jump over to 2 Peter.

1 Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. **2** Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, **3** now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

4 As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—**5** you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. **6** For in Scripture it says:

“See, I lay a stone in Zion,
a chosen and precious cornerstone,

and the one who trusts in him

will never be put to shame.”

7 Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe,
“The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone,”

8 and,
“A stone that causes people to stumble
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for.

9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. **10** Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

I sometimes imagine how I would have responded if I was one of the 12 disciples. When I put myself in that group when Jesus ascended. I too would have stayed there till some angels appeared to encourage us to move on. As I follow Jesus daily, through the ups and downs, I remind myself that I am part of the royal priesthood, not because I am a pastor but because of what Christ has accomplished on my behalf.

It is amazing, when we place our trust in Jesus and lean on His death and resurrection. We are not only brought in to the family of God, we get to be his representatives. If you have experience Gods forgiveness, you represent God. Let us continue to work together and encourage one as we love those around us.