

December 13, 2020

Hebrews 7:23-28 (ESV)

²³The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office, ²⁴but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. ²⁵Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

²⁶For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from

sinners, and exalted above the heavens. ²⁷He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself. ²⁸For the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.

INTRODUCTION:

What is the good news of Christmas? Christmas is about how God became a man in order to fulfill the office of a prophet, a priest, and a king.

The Good News of Christ's Threefold Office		
Our Problem	Christ's Offices	Result
Ignorance →	Prophet →	Understanding
Guilt →	Priest →	Reconciliation
Slavery →	King →	Freedom

Part 2: Jesus: The Priest Who Reconciles

A. Three Questions

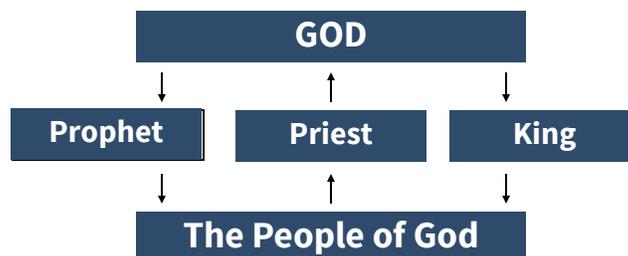
1. What is a priest?

- A priest acts as a mediator between God and people by offering sacrifices for their sin and praying on their behalf.

“For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins.” Hebrews 5:1

2. How does a priest differ from a prophet?

“And no one takes this honor [of being a priest] for himself, but only when called by God, just as Aaron was.” Hebrews 5:4



3. Why do we need a priest?

“There is no one righteous, no not one. . . . All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Romans 3:10, 23

“Man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgement.” Hebrews 9:27

“Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.” Matthew 25:41

B. Two Priestly Functions

1. Jesus the God-man is the final and ultimate high priest because He offered a perfect sacrifice on our behalf.

“Because of this he is obligated to offer sacrifice for his own sins just as he does for those of the people.”

Hebrews 5:3

Hebrews 7:27

“²⁶ He has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. ²⁷ And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, ²⁸ so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him..” Hebrews 9:26-28

*Guilty, vile, and helpless we;
Spotless Lamb of God was He;
“Full atonement!” can it be?
Hallelujah! What a Savior!*

2. Jesus the God-man is the final and ultimate high priest because He always lives to intercede on our behalf.

Hebrews 7:23-25

C. Examples of Christ's Present Intercession

“My children I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense – Jesus Christ the righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins.” 1 John 2:1

“Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died – more than that, who was raised to life – is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.” Romans 8:33

*Before the throne of God above
I have a strong and perfect plea
A great High Priest whose name is love
Who ever lives and pleads for me
My name is graven on His hands
My name is written on His heart
I know that while in heav'n He stands
No tongue can bid me thence depart.*