

Jesus Christ, Our High Priest (Part 1)

Where and What Is Jesus Doing Today?

INTRODUCTION

After the ascension of Jesus Christ that occurred forty days after His resurrection, during which time He spoke “of the things concerning the kingdom of God” to His apostles (Acts 1:1-4), He began His most important ministry on the behalf of His people. His present ministry is based upon His once-for-all sin offering on the cross at Calvary.

On the one hand, without His once-for-all sacrifice for sins, Jesus Christ’s current ministry is meaningless; for His present ministry is based on His sacrifice. On the other hand, without Jesus Christ’s present ministry, His past sin-offering on Calvary is inadequate, for we still could not approach the holy God as His people without Christ performing His present duty. In other words, both Jesus’ once-for-all sacrifice for our sins and His present ministry are absolutely essential and inseparable; for one is not effective without the other.

Where is Jesus Christ today? What essential role is He performing for us today before God? As a believer in Jesus Christ, how important is it for me to understand what Jesus is doing on my behalf and the repercussion if I do not? And, what should be my personal response to His present ministry? These and other important issues will be answered in the coming weeks as we discuss and examine the Scriptures together.

Let me say with all earnestness, that I do not know of any subject matter of greater or more immediate importance to the people of God than what we are going to be discussing as it relates to our personal walk with the LORD.

OUTLINE AND SCRIPTURES

- I. Jesus Christ ascended and sat down at the right hand of God.
 - A. After presenting Himself as being resurrected for forty days during which time He continued to teach His apostles concerning the Kingdom of God, Jesus Christ ascended into the “sky” and out of sight. Note: His ascension occurred seven days before the Day of Pentecost.

Acts 1:1-11

¹The first account I composed, Theophilus, about all that Jesus began to do and teach, ²until the day when He was taken up, after He had by the Holy Spirit given orders to the apostle whom He had chosen ⁹And after He [Jesus] had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.

¹⁰And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them.

¹¹They also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into the sky [usually translated as “heaven”], will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into the sky [usually translated as “heaven”].

- B. Jesus Christ passed through and above “the heavens”.

Hebrews 4:14

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

Hebrews 7:26

For it was fitting for us to have such a high priest, holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners and exalted above the heavens.

C. Jesus Christ was appointed by God as High Priest for His people.

Hebrews 5:1-10

¹For every high priest taken from among men is appointed on behalf of men in things pertaining to God, in order to offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins; ²he can deal gently with the ignorant and misguided, since he himself also is beset with weakness; ³and because of it he is obligated to offer *sacrifices* for sins, as for the people, so also for himself. ⁴And no one takes the honor to himself, but receives it when he is called by God, even as Aaron was.

⁵So also Christ did not glorify Himself so as to become a high priest, but He who said to Him,

“You are My Son, Today I have begotten You”;

⁶just as He says also in another *passage*,

“You are a priest into the ages according to the order of Melchizedek.”

⁷In the days of His flesh, He offered up both prayers and supplications with loud crying and tears to the One able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His piety. ⁸Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered. ⁹And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of everlasting salvation, ¹⁰[by] being designated by God as a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

Hebrews 3:1-2

¹“Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of our confession; ²He [Jesus] was faithful to Him [God] who appointed Him, as Moses also was in all His [God’s] house.”

NOTE: The high priest's ministry is only for God's people.

Hebrews 2:17-18

¹⁷“Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. ¹⁸For since He Himself was tested in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tested.”

II. After Jesus was appointed High Priest by God, He sat down at the “right hand” of God in the heavenly sanctuary in the Holy of Holies, indicating that His once-for-all sin-offering is sufficient to make propitiation for His people for all time.

A. Unlike animal sacrifices offered by previous high priests, Jesus' once-for-all sacrifice permitted Him to sit down.

Hebrews 10:1-3

¹For the Law, since it has a shadow of the good things to come and not the very form of things, can never, by the same sacrifices which they offer continually year by year, make perfect those who draw near. Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, because the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have had consciousness of sins? ³But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins year by year. ⁴For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

Hebrews 10:11-12

¹¹Every priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins; ¹²but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, sat down at the right hand of God.

- B. Jesus sat down in the heavenly tabernacle at the right hand of God in the sanctuary, that is, the Holy of Holies.

Hebrews 9:11-12

¹¹But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things to come, He entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation; ¹²and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the Holy Place once for all, having obtained everlasting redemption.

Hebrews 9:24-25

²⁴For Christ did not enter a holy place made with hands, a mere copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; ²⁵nor was it that He would offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the holy place year by year with blood that is not his own.

- C. Jesus Christ's ministry as our High Priest is to offer propitiation for our sins.

Hebrews 2:17-18

¹⁷“Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. ¹⁸For since He Himself was tested in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tested.”

1 John 1:5—2:2

⁵This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the

truth; ⁷but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us. ^{2.1}My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; ²and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for *those* of the whole world.