

Jesus Christ, Our High Priest (Part 3)

He Is Our ONLY Propitiation (Part B)

As we continue our study of *Jesus Christ, Our High Priest*, it is important to remember that the purpose for His presence in the holy sanctuary (or the Holy of Holies) in the heavenly tabernacle is to make propitiation for the sins of His people.

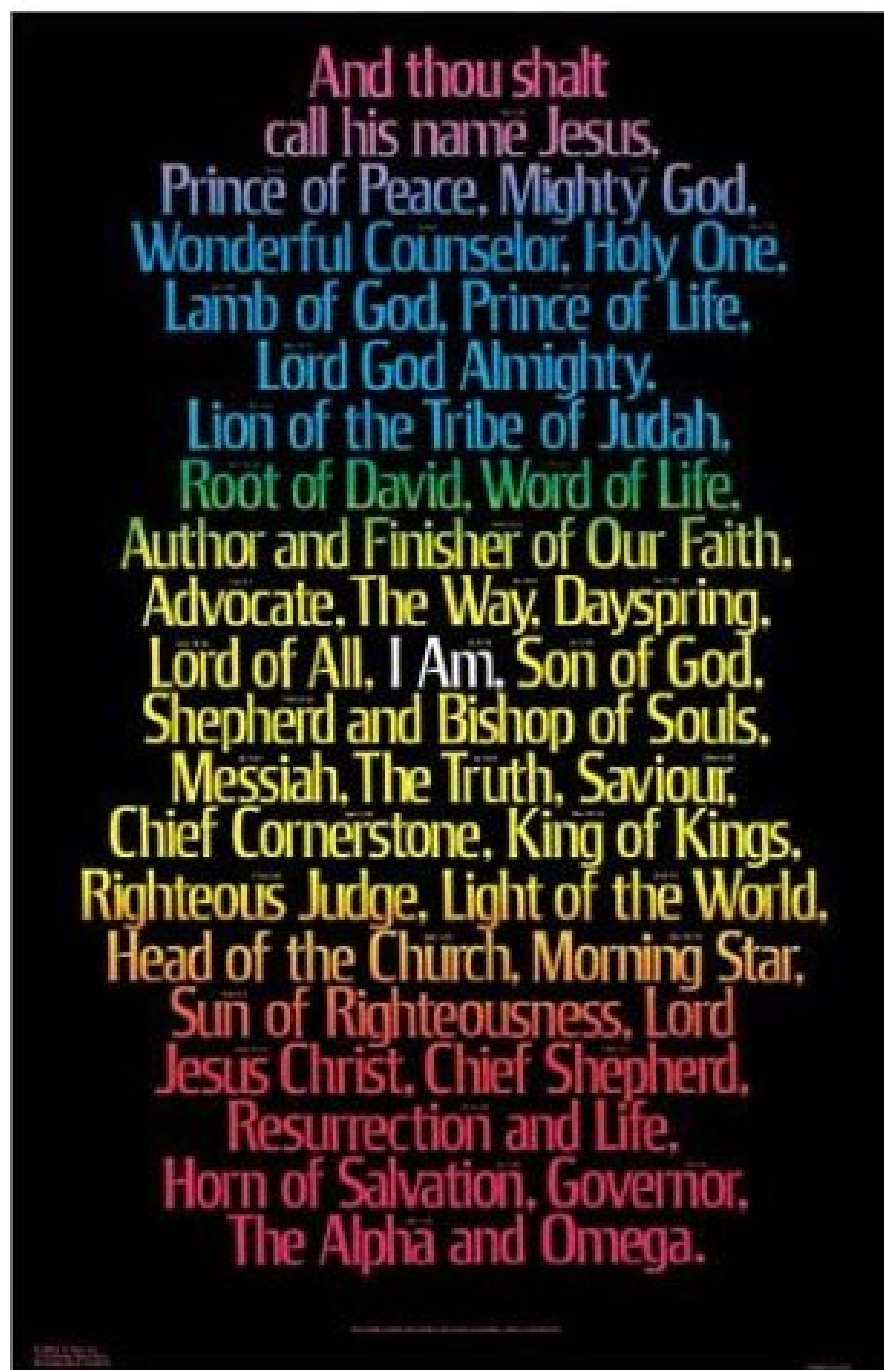
Hebrews 2:17

“Therefore, He (Jesus) 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.”

According to Leviticus 16, on the Day of Atonement (*Yom Kipper*) or Propitiation was the only Day each year during which the high priest was permitted by God to enter into the Holy of Holies and to mediate between Himself and His people. The basis for this mediation was the sin-offering sacrifice, and the purpose for his mediation was for the forgiveness of their sins. God states in Leviticus 16:29-30 that those who humble themselves by confessing their known sins to Him were not only cleansed from the sins confessed, but also from all sin.

Today, Jesus, our high priest, is in the holy sanctuary. Therefore, today is the Day of Propitiation during which time God's people have both the duty and privilege to humble themselves and confess their sins. Jesus' ministry as our high priest of the New Covenant began on the Day of Pentecost and has continued every day until “today”. However, most of His people have not been taught the importance of His present ministry in conjunction with His once-for-all sin offering at Calvary.

As an illustration of the neglect of His present ministry, the following chart omits Jesus' present office as high priest that He has been faithfully discharging before God on the behalf of His people for nearly the past two thousand years.



It is of the paramount importance that while Jesus is still in the Holy of Holies that “today” when we sin, we understand that we still have the duty and privilege to confess them to God. If we do not confess them, we will NOT be forgiven—regardless who tells you otherwise.

1 John 1:9—2:2

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.

Jesus Christ is the only designated priest, and specifically the only designated high priest of all God’s people in the entire world. He is the only mediator between God and man.

1 Timothy 2:5

“For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.”

Jesus Christ mediates His once-for-all sin offering wherein God will forgive our sins AND cleanse us from all unrighteousness if we will humble ourselves and confess them to Him. As long as Jesus remains in the Holy of Holies, we may draw near with confidence to the throne of grace and ask for forgiveness of our sins, which of course is based on His perfect once-for-all sacrifice at Calvary.

When Jesus spoke to the woman at the well in John 4:7-26, He foretold that a time was coming when the animal sacrifices,

priesthood, and temple in Jerusalem would no longer be the site and/or the means to worship God any longer.

John 4:19-21

¹⁹The woman said to Him, ‘Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. ²⁰Our fathers worshiped in this mountain, and you say that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship’. ²¹Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, believe Me, an hour is coming when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father’.”

We now know that Jesus was referring to when the First Covenant would be superseded by the New Covenant. This was only possible after Jesus had ascended to the Father and was designated as the high priest of the New Covenant. Jesus could not have performed the office of high priest while on earth because He was from the Tribe of Judah. The Law that was given to Moses by God only permitted those from the Tribe of Levi to be earthly priests.

Hebrews 7:14

“For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, a tribe with reference to which Moses spoke nothing concerning priests.”

Hebrews 8:4

“Now if He [Jesus as our high priest] were on earth, He would not be a priest at all, since there are those who offer the gifts according to the Law.”