

JESUS – A BETTER HIGH PRIEST

Text: Hebrews 4:14 - 5:10 – Hebrews 6:20 – 8:5

- I. **Jesus is the Great High Priest** – Greek - megos, mega. It means large, illustrious, glorious, greater or greatest. This is Divine Scripture from God telling us where Christ rates as our High Priest.
 - A. He is greater because He offered a greater sacrifice.
 - B. He is greater because He never dies.
 - C. He is greater because of His compassion and long suffering.
 - D. He is greater because He is the author of grace and truth.
 - E. He is greater because He offered one sacrifice that was sufficient for all and all time.
 - F. He is greater because of the sanctuary in which He ministers.
 - G. He is greater because He hears every plea of every person.
 - H. He is greater because He never gets it wrong.
 - I. He is greater because His ministry is available and open to all who come to Him.
- II. **Christ is a Greater High Priest because He is in heaven interceding and advocating on behalf of those who believe.**
 - A. **Heb. 4:14** [14](#)Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* profession.
 - B. **Hebrews 8:1** Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens;
 - C. **I John 2:1-2** [1](#)My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: [2](#)And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for *the sins* of the whole world.
 - D. **Hebrews 7:25** “He is able to save forever those who draw near to God through him, because he always lives to make intercession for them”
 - E. **Intercession:** A Prayer Warrior. An intercessor is one who pleads on the behalf of another. John 17 is an example of Christ’s intercessory prayer for others. Jesus is a greater intercessor because of His exalted position at the right hand of God and because of His relationship, as Son, with the One he is pleading to. His intercession is also superior because of the argument of His sacrifice.
 - F. **Mediator:** A person who attempts to make people involved in a conflict come to an agreement; a go-between. Jesus is the unique person in human history for this task because He is both God and Man. As God, He has the ability to grasp the hand of deity. As man, He has the ability to grasp the hand of humanity. He literally is the only Person who has ever lived who can bridge the gap. Another unique advantage that He holds is that He fully understands both sides of the argument and discord. He understands God and man.

III. Christ is a Greater High Priest because He is the Son of God.

- A. It is God to whom we must answer.
- B. Jesus has the ear and heart of His Father.
- C. Because of the fall of Adam, there is enmity between God and people.
- D. Our sin separates us from God.
- E. We are incapable of bridging the divide and appeasing God on our own.
- F. Christ, because of His personage as God/Man, is able to bridge the divide.
- G. Through Christ's sacrifice of Himself, the veil of the temple was torn in two which was indication that everyone has access to God. All they have to do is come to Him through Christ.
- H. Ephesians 2:14 For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us;
- I. Romans 10:13 Whosoever shall call upon the name of the LORD shall be saved.

IV. Christ is a Greater High Priest because God can be trusted with that which we entrust to Him.

- A. Gk. Krateo homologia – “hold fast our profession” literally “to arrest or seize into custody our confession, commitment, and allegiance” to God.
- B. There is no room for doubt with God. If He speaks, it is truth and can be trusted. We have confessed Christ as our Savior and High Priest.
 - We never have to doubt that He is up to the task.
 - We never have to doubt that He will remain faithful even when we don't.
 - We never have to doubt that His patience will run out.
 - We never have to doubt that our sin is too great for His sacrifice.
 - We never have to doubt whether He will leave us and forsake us.
 - We never have to doubt.....

V. Christ is a Greater High Priest because He understands us in every detail our condition because He took upon Himself flesh and blood. He was “touched with the feeling of our infirmities”.

- A. He understands us because He has walked in our shoes.
- B. He understands us because “He bore our sins and carried our sorrows.” (Isaiah 53)
 - As our Sin-bearer, He took upon Himself, felt, and was punished on our behalf for everything we have ever done.
 - As our Grief-bearer, He took upon Himself, felt, and is intimately involved with every pain or sorrow you have ever felt or will ever feel. He literally bore YOUR griefs and carried YOUR sorrows. When you go to Him and say, “I know You don't fully understand what I'm feeling,” He says, “Yes I do know what you are feeling because I've felt it.”

VI. He is a Greater High Priest because He was sinless.

- A. The high priests of man had to first offer sacrifices on behalf of themselves because they were not sinless.
- B. The “brazen laver” of the temple was there for ceremonial cleansing of the priests who would offer the sacrifices. If a priest were to enter the holy of holies without first being purified, he would die in the presence of the holiness of God.

C. Christ went into the holy place and sprinkled the mercy seat with His own blood. By this act, He became the “propitiation” for our sins, and not only ours, but the sins of the whole world. Propitiation means “place or state of mercy.” Because of the sinless sacrifice of Christ, God “smells the sweet aroma” and withholds His wrath and judgment upon all who profess/confess Christ as their High Priest.

VII. Christ is a Greater High Priest because He is the Author of Grace.

A. Grace is God’s unmerited favor. This simply means that God gives to you what you don’t deserve, and He does it freely.

B. Someone rightly used the acrostic for GRACE as “God’s Remedy At Christ’s Expense.”

C. We are “saved” by Grace through faith.

D. We are “kept” by Grace.

E. We are “sustained” daily by Grace.

F. We will one day be “glorified” by Grace.

VIII. Christ is the Greater High Priest because He is the Author of Mercy.

A. Whereas grace is God giving to us that which we don’t deserve, Mercy is God withholding from us that which we do deserve.

B. Because of sin, we deserve death and judgment. Because of Christ’s sacrifice for sin, God withholds from us death and judgment.

C. Christ’s death is referred to as “vicarious”. Vicarious means simply “One who stands in the stead of another.” Christ stood in our place at the cross. It was us who deserved to die and be judged with eternal hell for our sins. Christ took our place and our judgment.

D. God accepted the sacrifice of Christ on behalf of sinful man and will now “save to the uttermost those who come to Him through Christ.”

E. Not only did Christ make mercy available by dying in our place, but then He went one step further and bestowed upon believers His Righteousness.

F. Not only are we deemed by God to be sinless, we are also seen as Righteous.

G. What a salvation. What a Savior.

IX. Christ is the Greater High Priest because He cares about our needs.

A. Because He is “touched with the feelings of our infirmities”, Christ has empathy for His followers.

B. As you look at His life on earth, one thing is abundantly clear, Jesus cared for the natural needs of those who were around Him.

C. Jesus cares deeply for all of our needs, physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual. He is lacking in no part. There are many proofs to this statement.

D. “Casting all your care upon Him for He careth for you.”

X. Christ is the Greater High Priest because He is the “forerunner” into the sanctuary. (Hebrews 6:20)

- A. Old Testament Priests (Catholic Priests fits this description) go into the sanctuary on behalf of their people, but Christ is the forerunner and as so leads us into the sanctuary.
- B. Because of Christ, we can “come with boldness” into the very presence of God.
- C. God can be approached because of the finished work of Christ on our behalf. We are thoroughly forgiven of every sin. We are thoroughly righteous.
- D. This reality is not a result of our worthiness and consequently will not be disallowed because of our unworthiness. It is a result of the sacrificial and vicarious work of Christ at Calvary.

XI. Christ is a Greater High Priest because He is “after the order of Melchizedek”, and through this statement is deemed superior to the Levitical Priesthood because Melchizedek was superior to Abraham and the tribe of Levi. (Hebrews 7)

XII. Christ is a Greater High Priest because he leads the perfected and doesn’t go on the behalf of the unperfected. (Hebrews 7:11)

- A. Perfection could not be attained by the Levitical Priests.
- B. The Levitical Priests were in a continual state of offering insufficient sacrifices, which could never take away sins, for the people. The blood of bulls and goats were simply coverings for sin.
- C. Christ entered the holy place and sprinkled the mercy seat with His own blood and “sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high” because the work was sufficient and complete.
- D. Through the “once, for all, forever” sacrifice of Christ, those who are recipients by faith of His finished work on our behalf are “perfected forever”.

XIII. Christ is a Greater High Priest because He has made us “heirs of the promise”, not just recipients of the promise.

- A. We don’t just get the crumbs that falls from the Master’s table, as heirs and sons we sit at the table.
- B. We can come boldly to God because we are his sons and daughters through Christ. In that relationship, we are not approaching God, we are approaching our heavenly Father.
- C. Because we have the “life of Christ” in us, we have the “life of God” in us. We are sons and daughters because the very life of deity is in us which makes us rightful children of the Living God.