


Everlasting Gospel Bible Studies

Lesson 17

CHRIST OUR HEAVENLY HIGH PRIEST



The ministry of Christ our High Priest in the heavenly sanctuary should be clearly understood. The knowledge of His ministry provides us the understanding necessary to prepare our own lives for the judgment. Every one has a soul to save or lose. Each one of us has a case pending at the judgment bar of God. How important then, to contemplate often the solemn scene when the judgment shall sit and the books shall be opened, when every one must stand in his lot at the end of days.

Earthly high priests must meet exacting standards to qualify for that sacred role. Christ met even higher standards as our heavenly High Priest, enabling Him to be our perfect Mediator and Advocate.

A. QUALIFICATIONS OF THE LEVITICAL PRIESTHOOD OF ISRAEL

1. **From among whom was the earthly high priest chosen? Why do men need a high priest? Hebrews 5:1**

NOTE: God gave us the sanctuary and its services as a picture of His beautiful plan of salvation. The setting is awe-inspiring, and its focus is Christ our High Priest ministering His sacrifice and offering on our behalf for our sin.

2. **Why was the high priest able to have compassion on others? Hebrews 5:2**

NOTE: The earthly high priest could deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, beset as he was with his own weakness. He must offer sacrifice first for his own sins, then for the sins of the people.



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3. How only could a high priest attain to his position? Hebrews 5:4

B. THE QUALIFICATION OF CHRIST TO BE HIGH PRIEST

- NOTE:** Our High Priest must be taken from among men, from our very flesh, that He not be accused of taking advantage of superior strength or wisdom in our behalf.

- NOTE:** Christ had no sins of His own for which to offer sacrifice, but He took upon Himself our sins, for which He made the perfect sacrifice.

- NOTE:** God tolerated man's former ignorance (Acts 17:30) but now, in the light of Christ's perfect life, He commands everyone to put away all sin and to worship only Him. God established a time to justly judge the world by the Man He has appointed--Jesus Christ..

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

PERSONAL COMMITMENT

Today I have accepted Christ as my High Priest, asking Him to reveal to me the imperfections in my character, that I may receive His forgiveness and His power for victory in my life.

Signed: _____

7. What did Christ bear when offering His life as a precious sacrificial gift on Calvary? Hebrews 9:28; John 1:29

NOTE: As Sacrifice on Calvary, Christ made the perfect sin offering for the entire world. Now risen from death, He is become our salvation. Isaiah 12:2

8. To what order of priesthood was Christ called? Hebrews 5:10

NOTE: Christ perfectly fulfilled every criterion for the office of high priest under the Levitical system, except that of ancestry. Hebrews 7:14. Christ was of the tribe of Judah, not Levi, and was thus ineligible for the Levitical priesthood. But the Word of God speaks of another, superior priesthood. While the priestly order of Melchizedek required all the non-hereditary qualifications pertaining to the Levitical, there were additional and more stringent requirements for this rare form of priesthood. The several additional requirements were:

- a. The priesthood must be inaugurated by a divine oath. Hebrews 7:21
- b. The holder of this priesthood must be pre-existent, eternal, and divine. Hebrews 7:3
- c. He must have a changeless, uninterrupted ministry. Hebrews 7:3
- d. He must be a kingly priest. Hebrews 7:2
- e. The priesthood must impart perfection. Hebrews 7:11, 19

We first learn of the Melchizedek priesthood in connection with Abraham (Genesis 14:18-20) long before there was a Levitical priest. The Levitical priesthood was to teach the mediation of Christ for mankind but it failed, because Israel failed to grasp the spiritual lessons it was intended to teach. Therefore it was necessary for a divine Kingly priest to emerge with the rank of Melchizedek, higher

than the rank of Aaron, who was the first Levitical high priest. Hebrews 7:11. It required a high priest who would have the power of salvation.

C. HOW CHRIST'S PRIESTHOOD IS DIFFERENT

9. **How often need Christ enter the sanctuary? Hebrews 7:27; Hebrews 9:26-28**

NOTE: The old sanctuary service must be performed repeatedly. The sacrifices were only symbolic, pointing to the promised salvation which would be validated by Christ's sacrifice of Himself. But the sacrifice of His body once at Calvary was efficient to save the whole world in all ages, and need not be repeated.

The Levitical priest must wait for the sinner to provide the sacrifice which began the ministry of redemption. But Christ our High Priest applies His own sacrifice, already made and abundantly sufficient to cover the sins of the entire world, on our behalf. He began this ministry in the first apartment of the heavenly sanctuary just after He anointed that sanctuary upon His ascension, forty days after He rose from the grave.

10. **When would Christ enter the heavenly Most Holy place? Hebrews 9:26-28**

NOTE: At the appointed time-1844, after the 2300 days of Daniel 8:13— He entered the heavenly Most Holy Place. There He is judging the world, while continuing His ministry of mercy, until all is fulfilled and He comes again in glory to claim His own.

D. CHRIST'S IMPORTANCE FOR TODAY

11. **What is the purpose of Christ's High Priestly ministry? Hebrews 7:25**

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12. **Through the covenant of Jesus where is the law written? Hebrews 8:10; Jeremiah 31:31-33**

NOTE: The old covenant, existing in all ages and throughout the universe was--obey and live, disobey and die. Jesus' new covenant for us is obey and live, disobey and die, and He provides the strength to obey. Because of the pardoning and transforming power of our High Priest, we are both entitled to, and fitted for glory.

13. **What responsibility do God's children have, after receiving the knowledge of the truth? Isaiah 2:5; Hebrews 10:26; 1 John 1:7**

SUMMARY

The study of Christ's priesthood reveals irrefutable evidence that He took upon Himself our human nature, the sinful nature of Abraham and David, and lived without sin. He is powerful to impart His perfect character to us, thus finishing God's plan to save lost man. Then, when He has shown that thousands of people can live without sin by His power, there will no longer be a need for probation, intercession, and continued tolerance of sin. God is pleading with His human race to read and understand, believe and follow His Word so that we can be fully like Him. He can then end this great controversy and bring His people home.