



Lesson 37

Lesson 37: CHRIST THE PERFECT PRIEST

Theme: Let's Go on to Perfection (Part 1)

Scripture: Hebrews 8:1-5

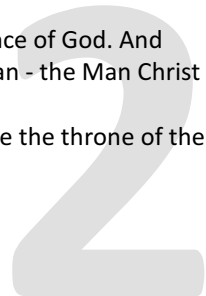
The Main Point (v. 1)

- κεφάλαιον *kephalaion* {kef-al'-ah-yon} – the chief point; the main point.
- The writer of Hebrews is giving us the CENTRAL THEME of his letter - the Great High Priesthood of Jesus the Christ (Hebrews 2:17; 3:1; 9:11; 10:21).
- "WE have such a High Priest . . ." The "WE" are Christians. More specific - "we" here is an answer to Jews who would say, "What will we do without a High Priest to offer sacrifices and gifts on our behalf?" (Hebrews 7:26-28)
- "We have such a High Priest who is **seated** . . ."
 - In the Tabernacle and the Temple there were NO CHAIRS. The priests work was NEVER done. There was NO REST for the priests.
 - Christ took His seat because His work of redemption is **FINISHED!** (John 19:30; 17:4; Hebrews 12:2)
- "We have such a High Priest who is **seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty** . . ." (Colossians 3:1; Hebrews 1:3; Psalm 110; Hebrews 1:13; 10:12; 12:2)
 - The RIGHT HAND of Majesty was a place of HONOUR, AUTHORITY and POWER (Psalm 110:1; Hebrews 1:3;13; Mark 14:62).
 - To STAND at the right hand of Majesty was a great honour, but to SIT at the right hand was the HIGHEST of honours. MEDITATE!
 - Jews would be reminded of when the priests of the Sanhedrin sat in judgment. On either side of the Judge sat scribes. The one on the left would record all **condemnations** and the one on the right would record all **acquittals**.

- Jesus Christ sits in the place of honour, authority, power and mercy!
- "We have such a High Priest who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty **in the heavens**." (1 Chronicles 29:11; Psalm 104; Hebrews 4:14; 6:20; 7:26; 9:24; Ephesians 4:10; 1 Peter 3:22).
 - What is He doing for us continually? **INTERCESSION!** (Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:25)
 - Why is this important? **TO SAVE HIS PEOPLE TO THE UTMOST!** (Hebrews 7:25) **MEDITATE:** Christ's life, death and intercession are **IMPORTANT** for our salvation.
 - Christ makes intercession before God for His own. Christ intercedes for those whom God has given Him. (John 17:9, 20)
 - ❶ His intercession before God is based on His perfect life and death on the Cross in our place.
 - ❷ His priesthood never changes - as He never changes.
 - ❸ His intercession is effective because it is also based on God's covenant. (Hebrews 8:6-12)
 - God saves all whom Christ intercedes. (John 17:20-24; 6:37-40)
 - Christ, the righteous One, is **ADVOCATING** before the Father for the ones He died for (1 John 2:1).
 - Jesus Christ does not minister in a tabernacle or temple that was only a shadow but in the **TRUE** - heaven itself.
- **PROMISE:** The "we" in this are **PROMISED** that **we** will **share** this throne with Christ! (Revelation 3:21).

Do You Have a High Priest?

- Without a **High Priest** you have no acceptable sacrifice to appease God's anger at you. Christ came to be the propitiation for His people!!! (1 John 4:10-11)
- Without a **Forerunner** to enter into the Presence (God's Presence) for you, you will never be allowed in! (Hebrews 6:19-20)
- Without an **Intercessor** your will never be saved! (Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:25)
- Without a **Mediator** you cannot stand in the presence of God. And **there is only one Mediator** between God and man - the Man Christ Jesus! (1 Timothy 2:5)
- Without an **Advocate** you will be found guilty before the throne of the Most High God. (1 John 2:1)



- This **ONE High Priest**, a High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek (Priest, King, Righteousness, Peace) is all these and much more for HIS people! Christ is our righteousness and our peace. (1 Corinthians 1:30; Ephesians 2:14; Romans 5:1; 8:1; Colossians 1:20; Acts 10:36)

A Minister . . . (v. 2)

- MEDITATE on this!
 - After ALL that He did in coming to the earth to live and die for sinners and completing that work He **still** ministers (serves) His people in heaven.
 - He is our INTERCESSOR (Hebrews 7:25; Romans 8:34), our ADVOCATE (1 John 2:1), and our MEDIATOR (1 Timothy 2:5).
 - He **appears** in Heaven **for us!** (Hebrews 9:24)
- MEDITATE on this! He still SERVES! (Matthew 20:28)

TRUE Tabernacle (v. 2, 5)

- **TRUE** here means **REAL**. The Tabernacle and Temple were only shadows, types, or pictures of the **REAL THING** or **PERSON**.
- "which the LORD erected"
- Just as Jesus Christ is the **TRUE BREAD from HEAVEN** (as opposed to the manna in the wilderness) He is also the **TRUE TABERNACLE**.
- "tabernacle" is used for "body" in 2 Corinthians 5:1; 2 Peter 1:13.
- The Holy Spirit used this term of Christ in John 1:14 - "He **tabernacled** among us"
- "tabernacle" is distinguished from "holy place" in Hebrews 9:11-12.
- See Handout: How to Get to God
- **THE TRUE TABERNACLE:**
 - ① God sanctified Israel's tabernacle as a place to dwell in (Exodus 29:44, 45); so in Christ "dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily" (Colossians 2:9).
 - ② God's glory was most conspicuously manifested in the tabernacle - "The glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle" (Exodus 40:34); so of Christ the apostle declared "we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father" (John 1:14).
 - ③ In the tabernacle, sacrifices and incense were offered to God, and all holy services were performed; so Christ in His body offered up His own sacrifice, prayers, and all holy services (Hebrews 5:7, 10:5).
 - ④ To the tabernacle the people brought all their offerings (Leviticus 1:3), so must we bring all ours to Christ (Hebrews 13:15).

- "which the Lord erected, and not man"
 - The LORD prepared Christ's body - Hebrews 10:5
- (v. 5; Exodus 25:40) Moses was instructed over and over to build and erect the Tabernacle AS he was shown on the mountain.
 - The Tabernacle, priesthood, sacrifices, gifts, and ceremonies were only SHADOWS or PICTURES of the REAL! **Christ is REALITY - the REAL THING! AND He is the ONLY WAY - there is NO OTHER WAY TO GOD EXCEPT THROUGH CHRIST.**

BOTH Gifts and Sacrifices (vv. 3-4)

- Priests were to offer sacrifices (blood offerings for the atonement (covering) of sins) and gifts (meal offerings for thanksgiving, dedication and commitment).
- Christ, our High Priest, offered ONE blood offering **ONCE FOR ALL TIME** (never to be repeated or needing repeating). His work of REDEMPTION and PROPITIATION is FINISHED!
- **BUT** the NEED for His people (those whom He died for) to come to dedication, commitment, and thanksgiving is not yet over.
- Just as an Israelite could not offer his/her gift or sacrifice to God **except through a priest**, so Christians today cannot offer gifts (service), confess sins, and seeking forgiveness **except through our Priest Jesus Christ**. (See Colossians 3:17; Ephesians 5:20)
- We can do NOTHING apart from Jesus Christ our High Priest who sits at the right hand of God. (John 15:5)
- Apart from Christ, our High Priest, we have NO ACCESS to God.