

JESUS CHRIST – THE GREAT HIGH PRIEST

Deut. 18:1-14; Hebrews 2:17; 3:1; 4:14; 5:1-10;
6:20; 7:11, 21, 26; 8:1, 3; 9:7, 11, 25; 9:21

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INTRODUCTION:

- A. Israel's Leaders:
 - 1. Prophets spoke for God to men
 - 2. Priests ministered for men before God
 - 3. Kings ruled Israel for God

- B. Israel's Priesthood Revealed:
 - 1. A priest's portion (Deut. 18:1-2)
 - 2. A priest's due (18:3-4)
 - 3. A priest's ministry (18:5)
 - a. Chosen from among the tribes
 - b. To minister in the Name of the LORD
 - 4. A priest's calling (18:6-8)
 - a. Internally – “with all the desire of his mind”
 - b. Externally – “before the LORD”
 - 5. A priest's separation (18:9-14)
 - a. From spiritism's abominations (18:9-12)
 - b. Unto perfection (= “uprightness and sincerity”)
 - c. Different from surrounding nations

- C. Israel's Priesthood Distinguished:
 - 1. Individuals – Adam, Abel, Seth, Noah
 - 2. Father for his family – Job, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob
 - 3. City of Salem – Melchizedek (Genesis 14)
 - 4. Israel – Offered universal priesthood (Ex. 19:3-6)
 - Failed due to sin
 - Tribe of Levi; Aaron and descendants
 - 5. Two High Priests – MELCHIZEDEK; Typical of Jesus' PERSON
 - AARON; Typical of Jesus' WORK
 - I Sam. 2:35

I. THE PORTION OF JESUS OUR HIGH PRIEST:

- A. His Portion NOT In Earthly Goods: (Matt. 8:20; Luke 12:15b)
 - 1. He possessed neither wealth nor influence
 - 2. Relatives were inconspicuous
 - 3. No record Jesus owned anything

- B. His Portion Is In The Father:
 - 1. Not building an earthly kingdom (John 18:36)
 - 2. Rather, to do His will (Heb. 10:7; John 8:29)

II. THE MINISTRIES OF JESUS, OUR GREAT HIGH PRIEST:

- A. IN PAST – Making Atonement For Sin:
 - 1. In perspective
 - a. The OFFERER of sacrifice
 - b. The OFFERING for sin
 - c. Isa. 53:10; John 1:29; Lev. 17:11; Heb. 10:10-12; John 19:30
 - 2. In particulars
 - a. REDEMPTION (Rom. 3:24)
 - b. PROPITIATION (Rom. 3:25)
 - c. RECONCILIATION (Col. 1:21)

- B. IN PRESENT – “Seated.” But Ceaselessly Active:
 - 1. Ministry of INTERCEDING FOR TEMPTED SAINTS
 - a. To keep believers from sinning.
 - b. Luke 22:31-32

2. Ministry of ADVOCATING for sinning saints
 - a. To keep a saint after he has sinned
 - b. I John 2:1-2
3. Ministry of TEACHING God's Word (Lev. 10:11; Matt. 9:35)
4. Ministry of SUSTAINING saints (Gen. 14:18)
 - a. He fed 4,000 + 5,000
 - b. II Cor. 10:13; John 6:37-40; Heb. 2:18
5. Ministry of BLESSING believers (Gen. 14:19-20)

III. THE GREAT HIGH PRIEST IN HEBREWS:

- A. Jesus Is Merciful And Faithful: (Heb. 2:17-3:2)
- B. Jesus Bids Us To Come Boldly In Prayer: (Heb. 4:14-5:10)
- C. Jesus' Call To Us Is Confirmed: (Heb 6:13-20)
 1. Heirs of promise
 2. Confirmed by an oath
 3. Impossible for God to lie
 4. He is our ANCHOR (6:19) and FORERUNNER (6:20)
- D. Jesus Is Priest Of A Better Covenant:
 1. Melchizedek succeeds the Levitical priesthood (7:11-21)
 2. A better covenant – Unchangeable priesthood
 - Intransmissible priesthood
 - Heb. 7:22-8:6
 3. The New Covenant is based on a better sacrifice (9:11-28; 10:9-25)

IV. SEPARATION OF OUR GREAT HIGH PRIEST:

- A. Separation To Inaugurate Ministry At Baptism:
 1. Normal procedure to begin priesthood at age 30 (Num. 4:2-3)
 2. Baptism of purification (Num. 8:6-7)
 3. Administered by John the Baptist, a priest
 4. A unique case; never a priest from tribe of Judah
- B. Separation In Life:
 1. Not from the presence of evil
 2. But from complicity with evil
 3. Summary verse (Heb. 7:26)
- C. Separation In Death:
 1. Normal pattern for mortal men – 4 steps
 2. Jesus' experience was UNIQUE – 3 steps
 3. Corruption was bypassed (Ps. 16:10; Acts 2:31)

CONCLUSION:

- A. Recapitulation Of Message:
 1. The Priest's PORTION – Spiritual inheritance
 2. The Priest's MINISTRIES – He stands for people before God
 3. The Great High Priest In HEBREWS
 4. The Priest's SEPARATION – Set apart by God for the benefit of men
- B. Jesus Christ – Our High Priest Forever:
 1. Beyond death
 2. An intransmissible priesthood
 3. "Thou art a priest forever" (Ps. 110:4; Heb. 7:21)
 4. Therefore believers are SAFE FOREVER!