

# The Incarnation, Part 2

## The Priest

Pastor Jake Spencer    December 6th, 2015

### Today

Over the next 3 weeks we will be looking at Jesus as 1) The Prophet, 2) The Priest, 3) The King.

### Jesus: The Priest

- **Luke 2:21-24**

And when eight days were completed for the circumcision of the Child, His name was called JESUS, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb. Now when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "EVERY MALE WHO OPENS THE WOMB SHALL BE CALLED HOLY TO THE LORD"), and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, "A PAIR OF TURTLEDOVES OR TWO YOUNG PIGEONS."

These few verses give us a picture of some very significant moments in the life of Jesus Our Priest:

- 1) His Circumcision
- 2) Mary's Purification
- 3) Jesus' presentation to the Lord

#### Priest Defined:

(from *Old Testament & New Testament*): Mediator between God & men,  
Intercessor, one who offers sacrifices

**Prophet** – one speaks to people on behalf of God  
**Priest** – one who speaks to God on behalf of people

### Priest in the Old Testament

#### 1. High Priest

One of the High Priest's primary roles was the ritual He performed on the Day of Atonement *described in Leviticus*:

- **Leviticus 16:32-34:**

*And the priest, who is anointed and consecrated to minister as priest in his father's place, shall make atonement, and put on the linen clothes, the holy garments; then he shall make atonement for the Holy Sanctuary, and he shall make atonement for the tabernacle of meeting and for the altar, and he shall make atonement for the priests and for all the people of the assembly. This shall be an everlasting statute for you, to make atonement for the children of Israel, for all their sins, once a year." And he did as the LORD commanded Moses.*

The High Priest, once a year, made atonement for all, entering the Holy of Holies and always with blood.

#### 2. Melchizedek

- **Genesis 14:18-20**

Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High. And he blessed him and said: "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand." And he gave him a tithe of all.

**Melchizedek, King of Salem, means "King of righteousness and peace" - the first time the word Priest is used in scripture is used to describe him. He brings bread and wine.**

**Scholarly Speculation:** If Salem is Jerusalem and The Valley of Shaveh is the Kidron Valley, then... Melchizedek comes from Jerusalem through the Kidron Valley to Abraham bringing bread and wine. Jesus gives disciples bread and wine in Jerusalem and walks through the Kidron Valley to a garden called Gethsemane.

- **Psalm 110:4**

The LORD has sworn And will not relent, "You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek."

**Melchizedek's priesthood became the model for Christ's eternal priesthood (throughout the book of Hebrews)!**

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## **Jesus - The Ultimate Priest - New Testament**

### **I. Jesus the High Priest**

- **Hebrews 4:14-16**

*Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

#### **Jesus is Our High Priest**

- **Hebrews 9:24-26**

*For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another -- He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.*

**Jesus is Our High Priest, who entered The Temple (heavenly)**

- **Hebrews 10:11-14**

*And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.*

**Jesus is Our High Priest, who entered The Temple (heavenly), and became The Sacrifice (once for all).**

### **2. Jesus the Eternal High Priest (in the order of Melchizedek)**

- **Hebrews 5: 5-10**

*So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him: "YOU ARE MY SON, TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU." As He also says in another place: "YOU ARE A PRIEST FOREVER ACCORDING TO THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK"; who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and*

was heard because of His godly fear, though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him, called by God as High Priest "ACCORDING TO THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK"

### **Jesus became our Eternal Priest through his suffering!**

- **Hebrews 7:24-28**

*But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood. Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself. For the law appoints as high priests men who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the law, appoints the Son who has been perfected forever.*

**The significance of Melchizedek is the pre-eminent and eternal quality of his priesthood, because it is based upon the Promise of God and fulfilled by the finished work of Jesus Christ!**

- **Hebrews 6:19-20**

*This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.*

**Legend:** Rope was tied to the high priest when he passed thru the veil, in case he died they could pull him out.

**Fact: Jesus has gone through the veil and is our anchor within to pull us who were dead into the presence of God!**

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**Temple Presentation: Jesus goes to the priest and we see the picture of what he does for us as our Priest!**

- **Luke 2:21-24**

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1. **Jesus was circumcised - 8 days after birth. [Genesis 17:9-13]**

- **Colossians 2:11-14**

*In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.*

**He was circumcised in the flesh in order that we could be circumcised in our hearts!**

2. **Mary was purified - 40 days after the birth of a Son. [Leviticus 12:1-8]**

Mary brought two doves because they couldn't afford a lamb, but she actually carried in her arms a lamb that was slain before the foundation of the world. One, which not the richest among us could ever afford, yet He was freely given!

• **Hebrews 10:19-23**

Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, and having a High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

**Jesus was the only Lamb Mary brought that day and He is the ultimate source of our purification!**

**3. Jesus was redeemed - All 1st born male sons [Exodus 13:1-2, 13-15]**

• **Galatians 4:3-7**

Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world. But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

**Mary carries her son Jesus into the temple for Redemption, so that He would one day carry us all in as the redeemed adopted children of God**

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**Conclusion**

Our Response should be like that of the 2 old saints we see at the end of this passage (Luke 2:25-38).

Simeon - whose name means: Harkening or Hearing)

Anna - whose name means: Grace)

Phanuel (Anna's Father) - whose name means: Face to face with God or Turning to God

**My prayer is that you would Harken to the Grace of God & Turn to Him & respond as they did: Taking Jesus in their arms, Worshipping Him, Giving Thanks, & spreading the word of Redemption to all who would hear it!**

**The full sermon is available to view under the Media tab on [gracechapel.net](http://gracechapel.net).**

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**Discussion Questions**

1. What does it mean to you to be an adopted child of God?
2. How does it make you feel to know that Jesus is your High Priest, always interceding on your behalf?
3. What similarities do you see between Melchizedek a high priest and Jesus as the High Priest?
4. How does Jesus sympathize with our weaknesses?