

# Christ

## The Importance of The Melchisedec Priesthood of The Lord - Part 3

### The Perfecting of Christ to be a High Priest

#### Clarification:

It is understandable that many find the two expressions in Hebrews, concerning our Lord, do not sound right. The expressions are, “For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings (Heb. 2:10) and, “And being made perfect” (Heb. 5:9). These statements beg the question, “Was the Lord not always perfect, impeccable and holy?” The answer is a resounding “Yes!” Then in what ways was He made “perfect?” and “Why did He need to be made perfect?”

- a) It is not that there was any imperfection in the Lord, he was morally, emotionally, physically and mentally perfect. However, living in heaven He never faced the obstacles, oppression and opposition saints face in going home to glory. Illustration: There is a difference between intellectual knowledge and experiential knowledge. I have known for years that 50 below zero was very cold, but there have been several times in my life when I have experienced it. What a difference between intellectual knowledge and experiential knowledge.
- b) In ancient Israel a young man of the tribe of Levi, unless he had some form of deformity, would automatically be groomed for priesthood. Apart from his schooling and no doubt specialized classes, five years were spent “learning the trade” (Num. 8:24; 4:30, 35, 39-40). It was an intellectual schooling of the intricacies of the law of God and be able to teach them the practical learning, the art of butchering the animals for sacrifice, the emotional learning of actually killing the sacrifice, etc. This “schooling” began when he was twenty-five and it was not until five years later he could be called a priest. He had five years apprenticeship.
- c) To be the High priest, (becoming suitable to the character of God and needs of humanity), the Lord had to gain experiences by the happenings of life. The experiences enabled Him to feel sympathetically with and for His people (Heb. 2:10) that is, fitting to be such by God for God. It certainly does not mean He was perfected regarding His character or spiritual maturity. It does mean He was perfected, made suitable to be a High priest by being a human and experiencing every onslaught of the devil.
- d) When our Lord dwelt in Heaven He knew the people of God groaned (Ex. 2:24); that they hungered (Ex. 16:3); they thirsted (Ex. 17:3); they shed tears (Gen. 43:30); and were mocked (2 Chron. 36:16); but He never knew what those experiences were like. In Heaven He never knew what it was to be hated, because of His communication of the truth of God He never knew what it was to be brought outside the city wall and be publicly crucified. When we read of His life on earth we read, “He groaned” (Jn. 11:33); He hungered (Matt. 21:18; He thirsted (Jn. 19:28); He shed tears (Jn. 11:35); and He knew what it was be mocked (Matt. 27:29). Having had those and multi other experiences, He was perfectly qualified to be a High Priest glorifying to God. Speaking reverently, His sojourn here was His “apprenticeship” before His actual official functioning as High Priest.
- e) The perfecting of Himself for High Priestly service by His experiences, considering that truth we know His works and words were given for particular reasons. Two matters are brought to the fore, the intensity and perpetually of heart sorrows and the beauty of His unsullied life. How easy for an individual to say or do something in a split second of time only to regret it for a lifetime. The Lord, no matter how severe the lashing of the whip, the excruciating pain of the crown on His head, or the nails in His hands and feet without any anesthetic, was raw agony, yet “He openeth not His mouth” (Isa. 53:7).

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**May God grant us good understanding as He, by His Holy Spirit, deigns to guide us into all truth.**

**John 16:13**

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