

Christ in All The Scriptures

Hebrews - Further Considerations - No.2

Introduction

It is almost forty years ago since I first began to ponder on the necessity to have Christ as my High Priest and the perfections of Himself to be such. I discovered that the theme is only taken up in Hebrews, but what a manifestation of the priesthood of the Lord is given therein.

John 17 records the Lord praying for his own, but in Hebrews is where the glories of it are expanded. There we are informed of:

- a) The qualifications needed to be our High Priest.
- b) Where He functions as High Priest.
- c) The order of His priesthood.
- d) His ministry in the past while on earth.
- e) His present ministry on high.
- f) Examples of His priestly function.

The Qualifications Needed To Be Our High Priest

For the Lord to be a High Priest He had to be after the order of Aaron, that is:

- a) "He was taken from among men" (ch. 5:1) and "made like unto His brethren" (ch. 2:17), indicating not only His incarnation but experiences of life.
- b) He was called of God just as Aaron was (ch. 5:4), and was so honored.
- c) He was made a priest by the oath of God, in contrast to Aaron or the priests of His priesthood (ch. 7:21).
- d) He was tempted in all points like us (ch. 2:18; 4:15). The temptations were not only those in the wilderness (Matt. 4:1-3, 8-9), which were multiple, there was one on the temple pinnacle (Matt. 4:5-6), and the many others (Lk. 22:28).
- e) He offered up prayers in the days of His flesh (ch. 5:7). There are many references to the Lord praying, nine found in Luke alone (Lk. 3:21; 5:16; 6:12; 9:18, 29; 22:32, 41, 44).
- f) He experienced obedience through sufferings (ch. 5:8), that is, He learned the severity and cost of being obedient to God (Rom. 5:19).
- g) He was perfected through sufferings (ch. 5:9; 7:28). The Lord was always perfect, but being "perfected" means He was fully qualified to be our High Priest.
- h) His Work. He offered Himself a sacrifice (ch. 8:3; 9:12, 14).
- i) Aaron entered within the veil, |Christ passed into Heaven (ch. 4:14) entering within the veil (ch. 6:19, 20; 9:7, 12). He like Aaron was a minister of the sanctuary (ch. 8:1, 2; cf. Lev. 16:16), being appointed to offer gifts and sacrifices (ch. 8:3).
- j) Offered a sacrifice for sin (ch. 9:26; 10:8, 26).

The Order Of His Priesthood

While the Lord was after the order of Aaron (ch. 7:11), yet his Priesthood was sharply different, for His was a priesthood after the order of Melchisedec. This must be for:

- a) It was different in that:
 - i) The Lord was of the tribe of Judah not Levi, a different tribe (ch. 7:12-14).
 - ii) He had a different tenure of office (ch. 7:15-19).
 - iii) He received His appointment in a different manner (ch. 7:20-21).
- b) It was superior to that of Aaron because:
 - i) Aaron being in the loins of Abraham was blessed by Melchisedec (ch. 7:6 -10).
 - ii) Aaron being in the loins of Abraham paid tithes to Melchisedec (ch. 7:6 -10).
 - iii) Being of the order of Melchisedec (ch. 7:1-3), the Lord:
 1. Was a King / Priest (ch. 7:1).

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Hebrews - Further Considerations - No.2

2. With Melchisedec as a type of the Lord in his priesthood, Melchisedec had no recorded genealogy (ch. 7:3); He had no beginning nor ending (ch. 7:3); and He abideth a Priest continually (ch. 7:3).
3. They were sinful. He was sinless (ch. 7:25, 26).
4. They functioned in an earthly tabernacle. He is not only made higher than the heavens, He officiates in Heaven (ch. 7:26; 9:24).
5. They never led the people into the holiest. He is our Forerunner (ch. 6:20).

His Ministry

- 1) In the past:
 - a) While the Lord never became a priest until after He ascended, He did perform priestly functions. In this Moses was a fore-gleam of the Lord, for he also performed priestly functions but was never a priest.
 - i) He made propitiation for the sins of people (ch. 2:17; 7:27)
 - ii) He appeared to put away sin (ch. 9:26)
 - iii) He became the surety of the new covenant (ch. 7:22)
 - iv) He sanctified believers (ch. 10:10)
 - v) He offered one sacrifice for sins (ch. 10:12)
 - vi) He perfected the sanctified (ch. 10:14)
 - vii) He entered into heaven as:
 1. Forerunner (ch. 6:20)
 2. Redeemer (ch. 9:12)
 3. Purifier (ch. 9:23, 24; cf. Lev. 16:16)
 - viii) He provided a perfect sacrifice (ch. 7:27; 9:14, 23, 26) procuring a perfect salvation (ch. 7:25); secured by a perfect covenant (ch. 7:22; 8:6); and gives us a perfect approach through Him (ch. 10:20).
- 2) His present ministry (In the true Tabernacle, ch. 8:2).
 - a) He succors the tempted (ch. 2:18; cf. Lk. 22:31, 32)
 - b) He encourages us to draw near to the Throne of Grace (ch. 4:16; 10:22)
 - c) He brightens our hope of being in heaven (ch. 6:20; 10:23)
 - d) He saves to the uttermost those who come unto God (that is those who are coming to Him (God) through Him (ch. 7:25). This is not a verse for the unsaved, but for the redeemed.
 - e) His salvation is eternal (ch. 5:9; 9:12).
 - f) He makes intercession (ch. 7:25; cf. Lev. 16:2-34, the great day of atonement; Psa: 141:2)
 - g) He is the mediator of the new and better covenant, ensuring that believers receive the promises of it (ch. 8:6; 9:15; Cf. 1 Tim. 2:5)
 - h) He appears before God for us (ch. 9:24; cf. Ex. 28:29)
 - i) He presents our sacrifice of praise to God (ch. 13:15)
- 3) His future Ministry
 - a) He will appear a second time for the consummation of our salvation (ch. 9:28), the redemption of the body.

Where He Functions As High Priest

- 1) Within the Veil (ch. 6:19)
- 2) The true Tabernacle, pitched by God, not by man's hand (ch. 8:2, 9:11)
- 3) Heaven (ch. 9:24)
- 4) Before the face of God (ch. 9:24)

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The Character And Excellence Of The Priest

- 1) Merciful, Faithful (ch. 2:17)
- 2) Sympathetic (ch. 4:15)
- 3) Experienced (ch. 4:15)
- 4) Unchanging (ch. 7:16, 24)
- 5) Holy, Harmless, undefiled, Separate from sinners, Made higher than the Heavens (ch. 7:26), Perfect (ch.7:28)
- 6) Majestic (ch. 8:1)
- 7) Without sin (ch. 4:15; 7:27)
- 8) Perfect (ch. 5:9; 7:28)
- 9) Undying (ch. 7:16, 24)

An Example Of His Priestly Work (John 17)

He prays for the believers that:

- a) They might be kept in the knowledge of God's will (Jn. 17:11)
- b) They might have His joy (Jn. 17:13)
- c) They might be kept from the evil in the world (Jn. 17:15)
- d) They might be sanctified, separated to the ministry of the Word (Jn. 17:17, 19)
- e) They might be one with all believers (Jn. 17:21)
- f) They might be with Him in eternity, and see His glory (Jn. 17:24)

**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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