



For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth... in every place. (1 Thessalonians 1:8)

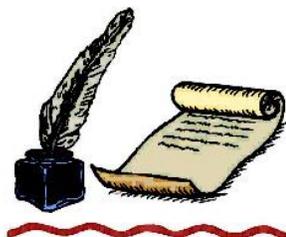
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The Greatest High Priest – Part One

As one studies the Old Testament they will notice that under the law of Moses there were many different requirements. One of these requirements was to have priests perform the role of the religious leaders. They would offer sacrifices, burn incense, and execute various other commands. Though there were many priests there was always to be a high priest. We learn from Exodus 28:1, 43 who those priests were to be. Verse 1 records, “and take thou unto thee Aaron thy brother, and his sons with him, from among the children of Israel, that he may minister unto me in the priest’s office, even Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithaca’s, Aarons’s sons.” Aaron and his sons were to take on the role of priests and, of course, the high priest. We learn from Hebrews 10 that, “the law having a shadow of good things to come” (v. 1). The law of Moses contained many things similar to the law of Christ. There are, however, many distinctions to be made. We will be focusing on one of those distinctions, that is the High Priest.



Under the law of Moses there was always a man that served in this role. For us, we have a High Priest that is so much more than just a man. Hebrews 7:26-27 captures this fact. Here we read, “for such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens: who needed not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people’s: for this he did once, when he offered up himself.” This is describing the superior High Priest, which is Jesus (v. 22). There are six aspects of our High Priest that the writer mentions and in this article we will be examining those briefly.

The first aspect mentioned is “holy.” Our High Priest is one that is pure in heart. He himself taught about the importance of the heart. “That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, and evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: all these evil things come from within, and defile the man” (Mark 7:20-23). The High Priest that is over us is holy. Christ constrained not only His actions but His heart from being polluted.

The second aspect mentioned is “harmless.” The word that is being used here is ‘akakos’ which means “not bad, that is (objectively) innocent or (subjectively) unsuspecting:- harmless, simple” (Strong’s). Many people when they think of God picture Him as a vengeful, hate-filled being. However, that could not be further from the truth. The High Priest we serve is called harmless, not vindictive. In Matthew 11:29 Christ said, “take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.” Christ was the most meek, and harmless person to ever live. If you need any more evidence read Matthew 26:53.

The third word used is “undefiled.” This one is closely related the first. However, I believe the usage of this word emphasizes not just His heart but His actions. Jesus never did anything that would have defiled Him. Peter wrote, “who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth” (1 Peter 2:22). Christ did not even sin in the usage of His tongue and, as James says, “if any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able to bridle the whole body” (James 1:2). Our High Priest is the only man, and priest that walked this earth undefiled.

To be continued.

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