

FOR US AND OUR SALVATION

*An Integrative Study of the Person and Work of Jesus Christ
Lesson #32 – The Work of Christ – Jesus as Priest (Part 5)*

Overall Review

1) What does the phrase the “Work of Christ” refer to?

“In short, it refers to ALL that Christ did when he came to this earth ‘for us and our salvation,’ all that he continues to do now that he risen from the dead and at God’s right hand, and all that he will do when he returns in glory at the end of the age.” – Robert Letham

2) Why should we study the “Work of Christ?”

Essentially and simply put, our understanding of the work of Christ affects every aspect of our being. From the way we live our life to the message that we declare about eternal life, a Biblical understanding of the “work of Christ” is absolutely vital.

3) What is the threefold office of Christ?

Prophet, Priest, and King

4) What was the role of the Old Testament Prophet?

The Prophet was primarily the mouthpiece of God to the People.

5) What was the role of the Old Testament Priest?

The Priest was primarily the representative of the People to God.

Last Week Review

What are the six aspects of Jesus’ priestly ministry that we have considered in the last three lessons?

- **Jesus’ special relationship to the temple, where the High Priest worked, enabled him to transcend it.**
- **Jesus’ intercession is a prominent feature of his entire ministry.**
- **Jesus’ death was seen as the shedding of new covenant blood, which fulfilled the ultimate purpose of the death of the Passover lamb.**
- **Jesus pronounced benedictions over His disciples.**
- **The Sinlessness of Jesus is stressed clearly and consistently throughout the New Testament.**
- **Jesus constantly makes intercession for his people at the right hand of God. Jesus is presented as our advocate, the one mediator between God and men.**

Lesson #32 – The Work of Christ – Jesus as Priest (Part 5)

I. How is Jesus a True Priest?

- **Hebrews 5:5-10** – So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”;⁶ as he says also in another place, “You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek.”⁷ In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence.⁸ Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered.⁹ And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him,¹⁰ being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.
- **Hebrews 6:19** -¹⁹ We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain,²⁰ where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.
- **Levitical Priesthood**
 - The priesthood was strictly national, strictly Jewish.
 - They were subject to the king just as much as were the other tribes.
 - Their priestly sacrifices were temporary.
 - Their right to the priesthood was hereditary.
 - Their priestly service was temporary.
- **Melchizedekian Priesthood**¹
 - **Hebrews 7:1-3** - For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him,² and to him Abraham apportioned a tenth part of everything. He is first, by translation of his name, king of righteousness, and then he is also king of Salem, that is, king of peace.³ He is without father or mother or genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but resembling the Son of God he continues a priest forever.
 - The priesthood was universal, not national – Comparison between Yahweh and El Elyon (the Most High God)
 - The priesthood was royal – Zechariah 6:13, Psalm 110:1,4
 - The priesthood was righteous and peaceful – Psalm 85:10

¹ See for fuller context Genesis 14:17-20, Psalm 110:1-4, Hebrews 5-7

- The priesthood was personal, not hereditary - Hebrews 7:16
- The priesthood is eternal, not temporary²

<i>Levitical Priesthood</i>	<i>Melchizedekian Priesthood</i>
<i>National</i>	<i>Universal</i>
<i>Only Priestly</i>	<i>Priestly and Royal</i>
<i>Sacrificially Temporal</i>	<i>Righteously Permanent</i>
<i>Hereditary</i>	<i>Personal</i>
<i>Institutionally Temporal</i>	<i>Institutionally Eternal</i>

- **Conclusion - Jesus Christ is the True Priest according to the eternally superior priesthood of Melchizedek.**

² "It is not that he lived forever, but that the order of priesthood in which he ministered was forever. If he had lived forever, he would not be a type but a part of the reality. The picture of a landscape is not the landscape, but only a suggestion, a representation, of it. The fact that we have no biblical or other record of the beginning or end of Melchizedek's personal priesthood simply symbolizes the eternality of his priestly order. It is a type of Christ's truly eternal priesthood." – John MacArthur