



## THERE'S NO ONE QUITE LIKE HIM

*The Great High Priest*

“Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,” **Phil 2:9**

### THE LEVITICAL PRIESTHOOD

#### ◆ LEVITICAL PRIESTHOOD

The term *Levitical* is derived from the Israelite tribe of Levi. Levi was the third son of Leah and Jacob (Genesis 29:34) and the father of the tribe of Levi, the tribe of Moses and Aaron. And then out of the nation of Israel God chose the tribe of Levi to serve Him and the sons of Aaron to be the priests. Thus, all priests were Levites, but not every Levite was a priest. The Levitical priesthood began with Aaron, the older brother of Moses. **Exodus 28**

- ◆ **SACRIFICES**-Sacrifices were outward acts to demonstrate inward repentance. Sacrifices were made to symbolize atonement for sin, in order that the barrier might be taken down and there might be access to God.
- ◆ **HIGH PRIEST**-The priest of ancient Israel was appointed by God to be mediators between Himself and His people. As no other human instrument could, he represented God before the people and the people before God.
- ◆ **DAY OF ANTONEMENT**-On The Day of Atonement the high priest would take two goats. One of them would be slain and its blood offered as a sacrifice. But the other he would confess the sins of the people before it was taken out into the wilderness by the hand of a man ready to do it. This “scapegoat” carried into the wilderness the sins confessed over its head. It was then released into no-man’s land, bearing the peoples sin and guilt.
- ◆ **THE ATONING WORK OF JESUS**-Jesus shed His own blood as the high priest who gave himself on the cross as the final sacrifice for our sins. His sacrificial blood gave us atonement for all our sins. His death on the cross, initiates the New Covenant.  
**John 19:28-30**  
**Matthew 27:50-54**

### HEBREWS 4:14-16

#### JESUS IS SUPERIOR

##### A. “great High Priest”

The Levitical priesthood system was imperfect. **Heb 7:11-19**

- The Priest was imperfect. Before he could make sacrifices for the people, he had to offer sacrifices for himself. **Heb 5:1-4**
- The system was imperfect! Everyday, every year, day after day, thousands of sacrifices were made.
- Jesus offered the perfect sacrifice once and for all.

## B. "passed through the heavens"

- Once a year on the Day of Atonement the priest passed through three parts of the Temple. The Outer Court, The Holy Place, The Holy of Holies. He did not sit down or delay.
- After Jesus made His one-time sacrifice on the cross, he also passed through three areas. He passed through the heavens.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> HEAVEN-The atmosphere
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> HEAVEN-Outer space
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> HEAVEN-God's abode
- After he entered the 3<sup>rd</sup> Heaven, He didn't have to leave. He sat down. **Heb 8:1-6**

## JESUS IS SENSITIVE

**"For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses"**

We serve a triune God. God in three manifestations. Jesus is God in the flesh. Divinity wrapped up in humanity. God became Jesus to share triumphantly the temptation and the testing and the suffering of men, in order that He might be a sensitive and understanding High Priest.

- He wept at the tomb of Lazarus. **John 11:35**
- He experienced anguish. **Luke 22:44**
- He experienced temptation. **Matthew 4:1-11**

## OUR WEAKNESSES

- Limitations
- Liabilities

**"but was in all *points* tempted as *we are*, yet without sin"**

**Jesus did not sin. If He had sinned, he would have been a blemished sacrifice.**

## JESUS IS SUFFICIENT

**"Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace,"**

This is an explicit reference to the kingship of the Son of God. Jesus sits at the right hand of God and has been given full authority in heaven and on earth. But the word *grace* implies that the reference is also to the priesthood of Christ. The sinner who comes to the throne of grace in repentance and faith indeed finds the forgiving grace of Jesus.

- God's Throne=GRACE

**"that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."**

- Mercy=The act of sparing or forbearance of rightful punishment or harm.