

JESUS OUR HIGH PRIEST

Text: Hebrews 4:14-16

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Jesus is our compassionate High Priest who lives to make intercession for us

Introduction:

1. It has been said: **“The Old Testament is the New Testament Concealed—and the New Testament is the Old Testament Revealed.”**
2. Understanding the Old Covenant helps us to understand how much better the New Covenant is for us today...

I. THE NECESSITY FOR A HIGH PRIEST

A. GOD’S DIVINE PATTERN...

1. When God Gave the Law to Israel He Told Moses and the People to Follow the Divine Pattern God Had Given Them
 - a) God’s Instructions for Those on Earth Must Match the Divine Pattern that is Happening in Heaven (**Hebrews 8:4a-5**)
2. Our Worship Today Must Be According to the Divine Pattern Given to Us By God in the New Testament — For Us to Properly Join the Spiritual Worship Taking Place Right Now Around the Throne of God!
 - a) Jesus Said We Must Worship God in Spirit and in Truth
 - b) If We Alter Our Worship from the Divine Pattern Given to us in NT...
 - c) Then We are Practicing VAIN WORSHIP and Are No Longer Joining the True and Spiritual Worship of All the Redeemed of All Time... Who Are Worshipping God Around the Throne Right Now
3. People Don’t Usually Do This Intentionally — They’re Usually Thinking They’re Just IMPROVING the Worship of God...
 - a) They Don’t Realize—You Cannot Improve God’s Divine Pattern!

B. GOD’S DIVINE PATTERN PROVIDED ATONEMENT FOR SIN

1. God’s Divine Pattern is so critically important because only God’s Divine Pattern provides Atonement for sin...
 - a) Blood Atonement for Those in a Covenant Relationship with God
2. Blood Atonement Provided by an Innocent Lamb
 - a) There were Sin Offerings Given BY the people
 - b) There Were the Daily Sacrifice Offered by the Priests FOR the People
3. But There was the Passover Lamb Offering For the Sins of ALL the People
Sacrificed Once every Year by the High Priest.
4. A Spotless Lamb, Male, without Blemish was to be Sacrificed for Sin

C. GOD'S DIVINE PATTERN INCLUDED SPECIAL WORK OF HIGH PRIEST

1. Only High Priest Could Enter the Holy of Holies Behind the Veil in Temple where the Ark of the Covenant was [GRAPH]

- a) Ark was Made just as God had given divine instructions for
- b) It Contained the LAW (10 commandments on tablets of stone)
 - It also contained Manna from wilderness and Aaron's staff
- c) Above the LAW was the Mercy Seat
- d) Above the Mercy Seat was the Cherubim (that are around the throne and had guarded access to the Tree of Life in the Garden)
- e) Above the Mercy Seat—God allowed His Presence to Dwell

2. This was the spiritual throne Room of God Who Allowed His Glory and Presence to Dwell Above the Mercy Seat of the Ark...

- a) And the Ark Acted Spiritually as the Throne of God.

3. No One Else Could Enter—Only the High Priest

- a) and Only Once a Year at Passover to sprinkle the blood of the lamb on the Ark of the Covenant for atonement of sin

4. This Divine Pattern for Worship and the Priesthood and Atonement for Sin

- a) Not only Reflect What Was Happening in Heaven
- b) but it Also Pointed to the Future Ministry of Jesus (**Hebrews 8:4–5; 9:24**)

II. JESUS IS OUR GREAT HIGH PRIEST

A. JESUS IS PERFECTLY DIVINE...

1. Jesus came to earth fully God— (Hebrews 1:2–3**)**

- a) Some misunderstand thinking that Jesus laid aside part of His Deity
- b) He Did Not Lay Aside His Deity... He Laid Aside the Privileges of His Deity
- c) He Left the Glory of Heaven To Become a Servant

2. Jesus never denied His own Deity because He Cannot Deny the Truth

B. JESUS IS ALSO PERFECTLY HUMAN...

1. The Word Became Flesh—Fully God and Fully Human!

- a) Jesus Left the Glory of Heaven to take on the Same Humanity We Have!
- b) Even to the Point of Learning Obedience through Suffering (5:8)
- c) This Suffering Had a Special Purpose for us (2:10)
- d) So Human that He Even Cried Out to God in Tears (5:7)
- e) He Did This For Our Sake! (5:2)

2. Jesus was Tempted and He Suffered — but without Sin...

C. JESUS IS OUR PERFECT HIGH PRIEST...

1. He is at one and the same time perfectly divine and perfectly human;

- a) All Other High Priests Had to make atonement for their own sin...

2. Jesus was Tempted and Suffered Yet without Sin... (Hebrews 4:14–16**)**

- a) So He can bring together God and Man because He is both God and Man.

D. JESUS IS OUR SACRIFICIAL HIGH PRIEST...

- 1. No Priest in Israel Would've Ever Thought of themself as the Sacrifice**
 - a) They Were the Priest NOT the Sacrifice for SIN!
 - b) That Would've Been Unthinkable Especially for Annas and Caiaphas!
- 2. The FAKE High Priest was conspiring to kill the TRUE High Priest Jesus!**
 - a) Jesus was arrested and interrogated by Annas first (Jn. 18:13)
 - b) and then Annas sent Jesus to Caiaphas the High Priest for trial (Jn. 18:24)
- 3. Annas and Caiaphas were FAKE High Priests — because this had become a Political position appointed by the Romans.**
 - a) Like An Unspoken Agreement that they would cooperate w/ Rome to maintain power
- 4. They were so Corrupt that they Ran the Temple as if it were a Casino**
 - a) They made massive amounts of money running the Tables of the Money Changers
 - b) and the Monopoly of selling Temple Approved Animals for Sacrifice.
 - c) The Loophole of Corbin used the Temple Treasury as an offshore account to hide \$
- 5. This was a CRIME FAMILY SYNDICATE!**
 - a) They Controlled the Temple, they controlled the power of Jerusalem,
 - b) they controlled the power of the Sanhedrin—the Supreme Court of Israel!
 - c) and they Were Going to Get Rid of This Threat to there Power—and Murder JESUS
- 6. The Fake High Priests Plotted to Kill the TRUE High Priest...**

But Jesus is Not Only High Priest — He is also our sacrifice for sin

E. JESUS IS OUR ETERNAL HIGH PRIEST...

- 1. All Other High Priests Aged and Eventually Died...**
 - a) They Could Not Continue in their office or service as High Priest
- 2. But Jesus is Eternal! And His Ministry as High Priest Lasts Forever!**

(7:23-24)
- 3. Jesus is Ministering For Us Right Now!**
 - a) He always lives to make intercession for men (7:25).
 - b) He is now appearing in the presence of God on our behalf (9:24).

F. JESUS IS OUR COMPASSIONATE HIGH PRIEST (Hebrews 4:15)

- 1. Jesus knows what it is like to suffer in obedience**
 - a) In the Garden He pleaded three times in prayer
that the cup of suffering would pass from Him
- 2. But Jesus Submitted and Suffered to Save Us From Sin**

G. JESUS LIVES TO MAKE INTERCESSION FOR US! (Hebrews 7:23–25)

- 1. Jesus is at the right hand of God making intercession today!**
- 2. Jesus Lives to make intercession for us!**
- 3. This is Why We Can Go Boldly Before the Throne of Grace! (Heb 4:15–16)**

III. THE IMPLICATIONS FOR US TODAY

A. IN ORDER TO BECOME A PERFECT HIGH PRIEST—JESUS BECAME LIKE US SO THAT WE CAN BECOME LIKE HIM

1. Just as We Are Flesh and —Jesus Lived in Flesh and Blood to Became Like us ([Hebrews 2:14–15](#))
2. He Even Suffered and Was Tempted So He Can Help Us Who Suffer and Are Tempted ([Hebrews 2:17–18](#))

B. OBEDIENCE TO GOD IS NOT EASY—BUT JESUS EVEN LEARNED OBEDIENCE THROUGH SUFFERING TO HELP US LEARN OBEDIENCE

1. Even Jesus Learned Obedience through Suffering ([Hebrews 5:7–9](#))
2. Suffering to the Point of Death—Even Death on a Cross
3. Why is this important? Because Jesus Obedience was Necessary for Our Salvation and Our Obedience is Necessary for Salvation! ([5:9–10](#))
4. Jesus is High Priest who intercedes for those who obey Him

C. BUT OUR OBEDIENCE IS NOT PERFECT LIKE JESUS WAS...

1. Our Obedience is often Weak and Shallow...
 - a) We Fail, Get Discouraged, Beat ourselves up, wonder if we should quit because we will never be good enough to make ourselves holy
2. **But This is Why We Need Our Savior and High Priest Jesus!**
 - a) Jesus told Peter, satan wants to sift you like wheat...
 - b) Peter refused to Believe that He Would Fail... ([Luke 22:31–34](#))
 - c) He Said Even If Everyone Denies You I Will Never Deny You!
3. ‘...But I Have Prayed for You...’
 - a) Jesus knew Peter would Fail Even Before Peter Knew He Would Fail
 - b) But Jesus Prayed for Peter — and Jesus Prays for Us!

D. JESUS LIVES TO INTERCEDE FOR US!

1. **Even Though Our Obedience is often Weak**
Jesus Lives to Intercede for us! ([Hebrews 7:23–25](#))
2. **Jesus Goes Before the Throne of God Personally For Us!**
to take away our sins ([Hebrews 9:24](#))

CONCLUSION:

1. **Jesus is our Perfect, Eternal, Compassionate High Priest**
2. **Who Lives to Make Intercession for Us!** ([Rom 8:34](#))
3. **No One Else but Jesus Could Do This!**

For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,
⁶ who gave Himself a ransom for all (1 Timothy 2:5)