

GREAT HIGH PRIEST

Pg 1

"Seeing then that we have a **Great High Priest**, who has passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." (Hebrews 4:14-16)

"Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the **Apostle and High Priest of our profession**, Christ Jesus; who was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as also Moses was faithful in all his house. For this man was counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as he who has built the house has more honor than the house." (Heb 3:1-4)

"Since then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He also Himself likewise took part of the same; that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is the devil; and might deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. For truly He took not on Himself the nature of angels; but He took on Himself the Seed of Abraham. Therefore in all things it was necessary for Him to be made like unto His brethren, that He might be a Merciful and Faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people." (Hebrews 2:14-17)

"For every high priest taken from among men is ordained for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins; and who can also have compassion on the ignorant, and on those who are out of the way; for he himself also is compassed with infirmity. And by reason, therefore, he ought, just as for the people, so also for himself, make offering for sins. And no man takes this honor unto himself, but he who is called of God, as was Aaron. So also Christ glorified not Himself to be made a high priest; but He who said unto Him, "You are My Son, today have I begotten You." (Psalm 2:7) As He also says in another place, "You are a Priest Forever after the order of Melchisedec;" (Psalm 110:4) who in the days of His flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto Him Who was able to save Him from death, and was heard in that He feared; although He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered; and being made perfect, He became the Author of Eternal Salvation unto all those who obey Him; **called of God as a High Priest after the order of Melchisedec.**" (Hebrews 5:1-10)

Therefore God, willing more abundantly to show to the heirs of promise the unchangeableness of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath; so that by two unchangeable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, we who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us; Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which enters into that place within the veil; where the Forerunner has for us entered, even Jesus, having become a High Priest forever after the Order of Melchisedec. For this Melchisedec, King of Salem, Priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him; to whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of Righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which means, King of Peace; and who is without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; **but made like unto the Son of God; he abides a priest continually.** (Hebrews 6:17-20 - 7:1-3)

Great: from the Greek word megas which means: "large, or great, in the widest sense."

High Priest: from the Greek word archiereus which means: "High-Priest, or Chief-Priest"; and is formed from two Greek words: arche, a prefix which means: "chief, or first, in the sense of being the pre-eminent one"; and hiereus, which means: "a priest".

Melchisedec: He was the King of Salem (King of Peace). He was also a Priest of the Most High God; and to him Abraham gave tithes. The name **Melchisedec** means '**My-king is-right**' – or '**King of Righteousness**'. (Please read Genesis chapter 14)

GREAT HIGH PRIEST

Pg 2

The title **Great High Priest is one of the supreme titles of Jesus**; along with such titles as KING OF KINGS, LORD OF LORDS, MESSIAH, EVERLASTING FATHER, MIGHTY GOD, and SAVIOR.

The unique duties of the High Priest in the lives of the people of ancient Israel were:

He alone served as **Mediator** between God and all the people of Israel; symbolized by the Breastplate of Judgement which he wore over his heart.

Before God, **he alone** could offer to God **the Sacrifice for Atonement as a sin offering** for all the people.

He alone could enter the Holy of Holies of the Temple on the Day of Atonement and **make atonement for the sins of all the people** of Israel.

(For a more detailed account of these High Priest duties please read Exodus 28: 15-30, and Leviticus 16 & 17)

Now, consider these additional verses concerning the High Priesthood of Jesus:

"But this Man (Jesus), because He lives forever, He has an unchangeable priesthood. Therefore He is able also to save to the uttermost those who come unto God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. For **He became for us such a High Priest, who is holy, innocent, undefiled, separate from sinners, and exalted higher than the heavens**. He does not need to 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." (Hebrews 7:24-27)

"Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum of it all: **We have such a High Priest, who sits on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty** in the heavens; a minister of the Sanctuary, and of the True Tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man." (Hebrews 8:1-2)

"But **Christ came as a High Priest** of the good things to come, by a greater and more perfect Tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation; and neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by **His own blood** He entered into the Holy Place just once, having obtained eternal redemption for us." (Hebrews 9:11-12)

So then, for those persons who have put their trust and faith in Jesus, **He has become their Great High Priest**.

Only Jesus is an Everlasting Great High Priest, who sits on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; a minister of the Sanctuary, and of the True Tabernacle" of God.

Only Jesus could offer the eternal Sacrifice of Atonement for the forgiveness of sins.

Because Jesus is "holy, innocent, undefiled, and separate from sinners" **only He** could offer Himself as the once and for all time perfect sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins for all people.

JESUS IS ...

our Great High Priest;

who sits at the right hand of the throne of God;
He is our mediator before God for the forgiveness of **our** sins;
He is **our** perfect sinless sacrifice!

He is the Author of **our** Eternal Salvation!

Lord Jesus you are my Great High Priest before the Father in the Holy of Holies in Heaven
"You are the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world"