

Merciful and Faithful High Priest

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"... For both He (Jesus) who sanctifies and they who are sanctified (us) are all of One (i.e. of the Father): for which cause He (Jesus) is not ashamed to call them brethren, Saying, '*I will declare Your name unto My brethren, in the midst of the assembly will I sing praise unto You.*' (Psalm 22:22) And again, '*I will put my trust in Him.*' (Isaiah 8:17) And again, '*Behold I and the children who God has given to Me.*' (Isaiah 8:18) For as much then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He also Himself likewise took part of the same; so that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil; and deliver those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. For truly He did not take upon Himself the nature of angels; but He took on Himself the Seed of Abraham. Therefore in all things He was obligated to be made like unto His brethren (i.e. human beings), so that He might be a **Merciful and Faithful High Priest** in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For in that He Himself has suffered being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted." (read in context: Hebrews 2:1-10, **11-17-18**)

Merciful: From the Greek word eleemon which means: merciful, compassionate; full of pity. From eleos which means: mercy, pity, compassion; covenant-loyalty, covenant-love: of God toward sinners. Properly: "**mercy**" as it is defined by loyalty to God's covenant; that is God's loyalty to His covenant with His people. Kindness or good will toward the miserable and afflicted, joined with a desire to deliver them.

Faithful: From the Greek word pistos which means: faithful, reliable; trustworthy, believing. Properly: faithful; loyalty to faith; literally, fullness of faith. (The root of **pistos** - **faithful**; and **pisteuo** - **faith**," are the same: **pist**-, referring to persuasion.)

High-priest: From the Greek word archiereus which means: chief priest, or high priest; from arxe, meaning: "chief," or "pre-eminent one" - and hierous, "a priest." Thus the foremost leader among all the other priests. He who was above all others was honored with the title the Chief of the Priests, or the High Priest.

Some Context Notes:

- **He also Himself likewise took part of the same:** – the same flesh and blood human bodies as the children who were given to Jesus (people who believe in Jesus); His brethren! (see Hebrews 2:12-13)
- **He took on Himself the Seed of Abraham:** – the human **descendant** of Abraham who was to be God's promised Messiah and Savior – Christ Jesus! (see Heb. 2:16)
- **in all things He was obligated to be made like unto His brethren:** Jesus was obligated: He had to endure all the flesh and blood struggles as His fellow brethren: temptations, sorrows, hungers, persecutions, rejection, mocking, physical pain, death, and more! (see Hebrews 2:17)
- **so that He might be:** – it was necessary, it had to be done this way, in order to fulfill prophetic word, and the custom of the Law.
- **so that He might be a Merciful and Faithful High Priest:** – Mercy and faithfulness are preeminent attributes of our Great High Priest Christ Jesus, founded upon the Love of the Father, and of His Son Jesus!
- **in things pertaining to God:** – refers the things that God requires to be accomplished in order to make propitiation for the sins of people, both of Israel and of all Nations.

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- **to make propitiation for the sins of the people:** – Propitiation means to satisfy, and to make appeasement for wrongs done against another, in order to regain forgiveness, mercy, and favor from the person who was sinned against; and also to gain deliverance from any punishment that is justly due. In context the propitiation that needs to be performed is not by an individual for oneself; but rather by Jesus for all sinful people!

Background: Just as the former high priests made propitiation for all the people on the Day of Atonement through an animal sacrifice; so also Jesus our Great High Priest has made propitiation for all people who believe on Him, by offering up Himself as an atoning sacrifice on the Cross – Once, and for all time. (see Leviticus 16:15-34; 23:26-32 concerning the statutes explaining the Day of Atonement)

The mercy and faithfulness of Jesus, our Great High Priest, is indeed altogether founded upon the Father's, and His beloved Son's, great Love for us! It is as says:

“For **God so loved the world**, that He gave His Only Begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him (Jesus) should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved.” (John 3:16-17)

“But you, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the Love of God, looking for the Mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.” (Jude 1:20-21)

This **Mercy** of our Lord Jesus is directed towards us, and for us. It was His mercy, compassion, love, and the Joy of our salvation that enabled Him to endure the suffering, pain, and shame of crucifixion on the Cross - for us. His Mercy is manifested in our lives through the forgiveness of our sins, the free gift of eternal life in God's Kingdom, **and** salvation and deliverance from all eternal judgement and punishment that is justly due.

The **Faithfulness** of our Lord Jesus is directed **towards His Father, who appointed Him as a Merciful and Faithful High Priest for our benefit and salvation.** Jesus was faithful in all things pertaining to why Jesus was sent, and for what the Father sent Jesus to accomplish on our behalf. Consider the following which declare the faithfulness of Jesus to the Father:

“These words spoke Jesus, and lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, so that Your Son may also glorify You; as You have given Him (the Son) power over all flesh, so that He should give Eternal Life to as many as You have given Him. And this is Life Eternal, that they might know You the only True God, **and** Jesus Christ, whom You have sent. I have glorified You on the earth! **The work which You gave Me to do, I have accomplished!** And now, O Father, glorify Me **with Your own Self** with the Glory which I had with You before the world was (i.e. was created).’” (John 17:1-5)

“After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, so that the scripture might be **fulfilled**, said, 'I thirst.' Now there was nearby a vessel full of vinegar; and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to His mouth. When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, He said, '**It is finished:**' and He bowed His head, and gave up His Spirit.” (John 19:28-30)

Context Note:

it is **Finished:** from the Greek word *tetelestai* which means: to bring to an end, to accomplish, to complete, to fulfill, to finish, to consummate.

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“O Righteous Father, the world has not known You: but I have known You, and these have known that You have sent Me. And I have declared unto them Your name, and will declare it: that the love with which You have loved Me may be in them, and I in them.” (John 17:25-26)

“Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus; **Who was faithful to Him (the Father) who appointed Him**, as also Moses was faithful in all his house. For this Man (Jesus) was counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as He who has built the house has more honor than the house. For every house is built by some man; but He who has built all things is God! And Moses truly was faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken afterwards; but Christ (was faithful) as a Son over His own house; **whose house we are**, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.” (Hebrews 3¹-6)

“Though He (Jesus) 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 an High Priest after the order of Melchisedec. “ (Hebrews 5¹-9)

The faithfulness of Christ Jesus also is directed towards His brethren – even us:

“But this Man (Jesus), because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood. He is, therefore, also able to save those to the uttermost who come unto God through Him, seeing He always lives to make intercession for them. For such a High Priest has He became for us, who is Holy, Innocent, Undeiled, Separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens.” (Hebrews 7:24-26)

“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)

“But Christ having come as a High Priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; nor by the blood of goats and calves, but by His own blood He entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.” (Hebrews 9:11-12)

Jesus is a Merciful and Faithful High Priest

Jesus was and still is Merciful towards us!

Jesus was and still is Faithful to the Father; and to His brethren – even us!

Jesus faithfully Fulfilled, Accomplished, and Finished...

... all that the Father sent Him to accomplish here on earth in our behalf.

Jesus, You have obtained eternal redemption for us!

**Through You Jesus, we have Life Eternal, and the knowledge the only True God!
You, Lord Jesus have made propitiation for our sins Once, and for all time!**

All Praise, and Honor, and Glory be Yours forever and ever – Amen!

Thank you Father in Heaven for your Great Love for us in Christ Jesus – Your Son!