

Our High Priest

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The Old Testament priests were not perfect. Their limitations were because:

- They were ordained (“appointed by”) men, although they were of an ancestry ordered by God (Hebrews 5:1). Not just any man could be a priest.

- They had to go to God with sacrifices and gifts (Heb. 5:1, 3). The offerings were not a one-time gift. They had to be offered more than once. They were only temporary appeasements to a Holy God.

- The priests themselves were sinners. They also had to give an offering for themselves. (Heb. 5: 2, 3)

Soon, the priesthood stopped. The sacrifices halted. Intercessory prayers and gifts to God ceased, but man was still in desperate need of a mediator between him and God.

God then sent man the perfect Priest. Man did not appoint him. He only had to make one offering for all of man’s sins. That sacrifice covered sins past, present, and even into our future.

That priest was not of Levi’s lineage. He was very much like a priest of Abraham’s time — Melchisedec. Like Melchisedec, whose name means “king of righteousness,” this God-appointed priest was the real King



of righteousness. That priest was the only God-appointed priest. The priest was God’s only begotten son — Jesus! Jesus’ one-time sacrifice, which never had to be re-offered, was His own life.

Unfortunately, many have not allowed God’s High Priest to be the sacrifice for their sins. Too many have rejected Jesus and are still appointing their own priests. No matter what those sincere people offer to God, it will be refused by the Creator. They are doing it their way and are rejecting the one-time sacrifice Jesus made for them on Calvary’s cross.

The Old Testament priesthood was for another time — a time before the perfect Priest had been sent by God. Today, we have the privilege of going to that High Priest, who is not sitting in some earthly temple or church, but is seated at the right hand of the Father in Heaven. We can accept His offering on the cross to cover all our sins. After we have accepted Him as our Saviour, we can go to Him anytime with our prayers and needs. We no longer need an imperfect middleman; we have the perfect mediator — Christ Jesus.

“The sacrifice of Jesus is the only reason for our salvation.” — Spurgeon

The Bible View



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The Greatest Sacrifice

Bill Brinkworth

Jesus existed before being born on Earth. The Bible states that fact.

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2

The same was in the beginning with God.... 14 And the Word [Capital “W” so it is a proper noun. Jesus is the “Word.”] was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.” John 1:1-14 Jesus was there at Creation.

“But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.” Micah 5:2

“Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.” John 8:58

“And now, O Father, glorify thou



me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.” John 17:5

“When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. And He placed His right hand on me, saying, ‘Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, 18 I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades.”

Revelation 1:17-18

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During Old Testament times, some priests served as mediators between God and man, presenting their prayers and sacrifices to Him. Before Moses, the priests’ duties were often performed by the head of a household, as was the case with Job, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. During Moses’ day, God appointed priests from the Levite lineage, and this practice was intended to continue until the perfect priest came, Jesus Christ.

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The Greatest Sacrifice

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However, God's only Son came from a glorious heavenly home to be born as a child on Earth. Jesus came from a place free from the ravages of sin but chose to go to an iniquity-infested world for an essential, divine purpose. His purpose was to be the ultimate sacrifice for professing believers to be saved from an eternal punishment due them because of their inherited and committed sin.

"And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) 5 *To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. 6 And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. 7 And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. 8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. 10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I*



bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. 12 And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, 14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. 15 And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. 16 And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. 17 And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child...

20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them."

Luke 2:4-20

BUT, knowing who He was and what would eventually happen to Him when He came here, Jesus came anyway. The eternal destiny of your soul was important to Him.

Jesus knew He was born here to die. He surrendered Himself to be the ultimate sacrifice for all who would trust His gift to be the sacrifice for their sins.

"But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man. 10 For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings." Hebrews 2:9-10

With all Jesus knew about who He was, where He came from, and all the terrible treatments and tortures He would face on Earth, He still came. He endured sufferings and unpleasant-ries so that all who would accept His ultimate sacrifice as payment for all their sins would be spared from an eternal, tormenting Hell. He was a willing sacrifice for what we did.

Has Jesus' birth and suffering on Earth been for naught because you never accepted His gift for your iniquities? Or do you have a special reason to celebrate His birth because He came to be your personal Saviour?

I am glad Jesus became the greatest sacrifice for us! If He did not, none of us would have

**"Jesus is the reason
the season"**

any hope because He is the only way anyone can get to Heaven.

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." John 14:6

The Sacrifice for Others

Talmage

During a plague years ago in Marseilles, thousands died. One day, the College of Physicians met and resolved that a victim of the plague should be dissected so that the physicians might know how to treat the disease.

There was silence among the physicians, for it was known that whoever undertook that dissection would lose his own life. After a while, Dr. Guyon stepped forth and said, "I will do the work."

The next morning, he made his will. He prepared for death. He entered the dissecting room, but he did what he promised to do. He wrote down the result of his observation, and in twelve hours, he died.

"Oh," you say, "what a self-sacrifice that was!" The Lord Jesus Christ looked out on this plague-stricken world. He saw that its sins must be "dissected." He came down and entered the hospital of the world's suffering. He made His will, giving all things to His dear people. Of our plague, He died; the well for the sick, the pure for the impure, the good for the bad, the only God for man.