

HIGH PRIEST - INTERCESSION - PRAYER

(Jerry Fite)

INTRODUCTION:

This lesson addresses the place of Jesus continuing to serve as our High Priest. In our prayers to God, does our High Priest take these petitions and present them to God? Do we pray through Christ in the sense that the Catholics pray through Mary? We will focus on Jesus's work as High Priest (Heb 5:14) , intercessor (Rom.8:34) and advocate (I Jn.2:1).

I. JESUS' WORK AS HIGH PRIEST -

- A. "Offer both gifts and sacrifices for sin" (Heb. 5:1,3, 8:3).
- B. "Once for all" sacrifice (Heb. 7:27)
 - 1. "Into the holy place" (Heb. 9:12, cf. 7-10)
 - 2. "for sins" (Heb. 9:24-28).
- C. Entered the Most Holy Place with own sacrifice enabling us with confidence to draw near to God (Heb. 10:11-12, 19-22).
- D. High Priest offered sacrifices for people in Old Testament, not hear their prayers and present them to God for them - example of Eli and Hannah (I Sam. 1: 9-19).

II. JESUS' PRIESTHOOD AFTER ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK

- A. "Priest for ever" - "endless life" (Heb. 5:5-6; 7:1-3)
- B. "intercession" and "advocacy" for salvation, not for interpreting our prayers to God (7:15-28, Rom 8:34, I Jn. 2:1-2).
 - 1. One time death for sin and endless life "pleads our case" for salvation.
- C. His one time sufficient sacrifice for sin allows us with confidence to serve as kingly priests in his priesthood after the order of Melchizedek (10:21, I Pet. 2:9).

III. JESUS' HUMANITY AND RESURRECTION GIVES US CONFIDENCE IN TIME OF NEED (Heb. 4:14-16).

- A. Jesus TEMPTED in "all points" as "we".
- B. Yet, "without sin".
- C. In time of need (out temptation) we have one on the throne of God who has been where we are and Won!
- D. Gives us confidence to come to the throne of grace - receive mercy find grace.
- E. Example of song "In The Hour Of Trial" - page 83.
 - 1. Lk. 22:60-61.
 - 2. 2Pet. 1:8-9.
 - 3. I Pet. 5:6-7.

CONCLUSION:

Jesus' one time sacrifice and resurrection "pleads our case" to God when we come to Him for salvation (cf. I Jn. 1:7-9). His priesthood continues today to give us confidence in time of need because he was tempted like we are, without sin. Jesus did not become a carrier of our prayers in order to make them acceptable to the Father.