

Jesus the High Priest

As the High Priest, Jesus:

1. Offered the perfect sacrifice. Hebrews 10:4-18
2. Brings us near to God. Hebrews 4:14-16
3. Intercedes for us. Romans 8:31-39

Jesus Offered the Perfect Sacrifice.

Hebrews 10:4-18 (CSB)

*⁴ For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. ⁵ Therefore, as he was coming into the world, he said: **You did not desire sacrifice and offering, but you prepared a body for me.** ⁶ **You did not delight in whole burnt offerings and sin offerings.** ⁷ Then I said, “See— it is written about me in the scroll— **I have come to do your will, God.**” ⁸ After he says above, **You did not desire or delight in sacrifices and offerings, whole burnt offerings and sin offerings** (which are offered according to the law), ⁹ he then says, **See, I have come to do your will.** He takes away the first to establish the second. ¹⁰ By this will, we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all time. ¹¹ Every priest stands day after day ministering and offering the same sacrifices time after time, which can never take away sins. ¹² But this man, after offering one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God. ¹³ He is now waiting until his enemies are made his footstool. ¹⁴ For by one offering he has perfected forever those who are sanctified. ¹⁵ The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. For after he says: ¹⁶ **This is the covenant I will make with them after those days, the Lord says, I will put my laws on their hearts and write them on their minds,** ¹⁷ **and I will never again remember their sins and their lawless acts.** ¹⁸ Now where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer an offering for sin.*

Jesus, offered Himself as a sacrifice for sins. This is an amazing truth. God Himself, gave His life, so that we may be forgiven. Not only can one now be forgiven...this forgiveness is an eternal forgiveness. Look at verse 14 again: *For by one offering he has perfected forever those who are sanctified.* Those that are in Christ...are perfected forever. The gospel, good news of Jesus, is that we can be forgiven of our sins and cleansed from all unrighteousness, forever. The sacrificial offering of Jesus, grants His people eternal forgiveness.

Due to the eternal forgiveness of our sins, we no longer have to make sacrifices over and over again. Once you are redeemed...you are redeemed forever. Once you have been forgiven...you are forgiven forever. Look at verse 18: *Now where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer an offering for sin.* No more offerings are necessary. Once you are in Christ...nothing can separate you from the love, grace and mercy of God.

The high priest and priest of the tabernacle/temple...their acts on your behalf were temporary and insufficient. Why? Because it was marred by the sinfulness of man. Praise be to God; the gospel is truly good news.

Not only does Jesus give us eternal forgiveness, He also draws us near to God.

Jesus Brings us Near to God.

Hebrews 4:14-16 (CSB)

¹⁴ Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens—Jesus the Son of God—let us hold fast to our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in every way as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Therefore, let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in time of need.

As I mentioned earlier, only the high priest could enter the Holy of holies once a year. Which is where the presence of God dwelt. Meaning, not just anyone could boldly walk into the presence of God anytime they wanted. Access was limited. Now, through Jesus our High Priest and the Son of God, we can all approach the throne of grace with boldness. Meaning, at any moment we have the privilege to speak directly to God Himself. Not only do we have the privilege to speak to God directly, we can cry out...our Father.

It's one thing to be forgiven...it's another thing to be called the child of God. Jesus has brought us near to God. For the majority of human history...God was kept at a distance. Why? Because we were unworthy to approach the throne of grace. But now, through Christ, we can boldly approach the throne (meaning we have no fear of death coming into the presence of God as the priests did) and cry out to our Father.

Through Christ we have been given an intimate, eternal relationship with God Himself. Jesus sacrificed Himself for us. The Holy Spirit seals us. The Father showers us with grace and mercy. The gospel has given us a full relationship with God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. We have the privilege of experiencing all of God. Not just a piece or a moment...all of Him. Not only are we eternally forgiven...and given the privilege of experiencing all of God at any moment and in any place...Jesus intercedes on our behalf.

Jesus Intercedes for Us.

Romans 8:31-39 (CSB)

*³¹ What, then, are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He did not even spare his own Son but gave him up for us all. How will he not also with him grant us everything? ³³ Who can bring an accusation against God's elect? God is the one who justifies. ³⁴ Who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is the one who died, but even more, has been raised; he also is at the right hand of God and intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who can separate us from the love of Christ? Can affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶ As it is written: **Because of you we are being put to death all day long; we are counted as sheep to be slaughtered.** ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Jesus intercedes for us. Intercede means: to converse on behalf of, to entreat, to make petition, to consult about a person. Meaning, Jesus speaks to the Father on our behalf.

Have you ever had to vouch for someone before? It's almost unfathomable to think...the Son of God, God Himself, is speaking on my behalf. Knowing every way in which I have fallen short of the glory of God.

Jesus' interceding on our behalf is just limited to declaring we are forgiven. He also places His righteousness upon our account. 1 Corinthians 5:21; Romans 5:19; Philippians 3:7-9.

As our High Priest, Jesus is interceding on our behalf by presenting us before our Heavenly Father as forgiven and clothed in righteousness.