

Offices of Jesus Christ

Christ the Priest

The Garden and the Temple

Compare Gen. 3:24 with Ex. 25:18–22; 1 Kgs. 6:29–35, 8:6–7; Ezek. 28:14–16, 41:18.

“He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.”

Compare Gen. 3:8 with Lev. 26:12, Deut. 23:14; 2 Sam. 7:6–7.

“And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.”

Adam's Priestly Role in the Garden

- Genesis 2:15 – “...to work it and keep it.”
 - Cf. Num. 3:7–8; 8:25–26; 18:5–6; 1 Chr. 23:32; Ezek. 44:14

Templates of the Priesthood

- Melchizedek
- Job
- **God's Gracious Provision: Priests in Israel**
 - The **priesthood** was the third sphere of authority and responsibility in Israel. This can be seen with Uzziah (2 Chronicles 26:19; Isaiah 53:4). Like the prophet, the priest was to instruct the people in the ways of the Lord (Malachi 2:7).
 - Leviticus 8-10 shows that the nation was to be the mediator between the Lord and the other nations.
 - Leviticus 21-22 show the holiness of the priests because of God's holiness
 - Priests were multiple, mortal, and flawed (cf. Lev 10)

Promises: A Sacrifice and Priest

“Behold, my servant shall ask wisely...so he shall sprinkle many nations...Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrow...the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all...Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief, when his soul makes an offering for guilt...by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.”

– Excerpted from Isaiah 52:13- 53:11

Promises: A Priest After Melchizedek

A Psalm of David. The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool." ² The LORD sends forth from Zion your mighty scepter. Rule in the midst of your enemies! ³ Your people will offer themselves freely on the day of your power, in holy garments; from the womb of the morning, the dew of your youth will be yours. ⁴ The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind, "You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek." ⁵ The Lord is at your right hand; he will shatter kings on the day of his wrath. ⁶ He will execute judgment among the nations, filling them with corpses; he will shatter chiefs over the wide earth. ⁷ He will drink from the brook by the way; therefore he will lift up his head."

-- Psalm 110

Promises: A King-Priest

“And say to him, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, ‘Behold, the man whose name is the Branch: for he shall branch out from this place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD. It is he who shall build the temple of the LORD and shall bear royal honor, and shall sit and rule on his throne. And there shall be a priest on the throne, and the counsel of peace shall be between them both.’”

-- Zechariah 6:12-13

Hebrews 5:1-10

Human Priests

- Are appointed among men to go between man and God (1)
- Can deal gently ("It refers to taking the middle course between apathy and anger.")...because he himself is a sinner (2)
- Must offer sacrifices for himself first (3)
 - Leviticus 8 – ordination required a sacrifice
 - Day of Atonement – first sacrifice was for the priest
- Must be properly called (4)

Christ the High Priest

- Was properly appointed (5-6)
- "Offered up" prayers and supplications (7)
- "Learned" Ezek 19:3 – suffering is necessary to his work
- Offers *eternal* salvation
- Is the God-man

1 Timothy 2:1-7

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, ² for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. ³ This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵ **For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,** ⁶ **who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.** ⁷ For this I was appointed a preacher and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 25. *How doth Christ execute the office of a priest?*

A. Christ executeth the office of a priest, in his once offering up of himself a sacrifice to satisfy divine justice, and reconcile us to God; and in making continual intercession for us.

Some Implications

- If you are not a Christian, how is it that you think you can reach God? Do you think you can get there yourself? Really?
- If you are a Christian, do you draw near to God in prayer, recognizing your privileged access in Jesus Christ?
- How do you handle your own weaknesses?
- There can be no other priests or mediators. You understand your need – that's good! But Christ is the *only* one who can meet that need.
- Christ fully satisfies all the greatest needs we have for mediation.
- This must be the focus of our Christian worship and preaching. This has to be what the church emphasizes. Christ alone!

Tests and a Promise

Deuteronomy 18:20-22

Deuteronomy 13:1-5

“The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers – it is to him you shall listen... [And the LORD said to me] ‘I will raise up for them a prophet like you among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.’”

– Deuteronomy 18:15, 18-19

Hebrews 1:1

“Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophet...”

Deuteronomy 34 and 2 Chronicles 36

“And Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him. So the people of Israel obeyed him and did as the LORD commanded Moses. And there has not arisen a prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face, none like him for all the signs and the wonders that the LORD sent him to do in the land of Egypt, to Pharaoh and to all his servants and to all his land, and for all the mighty power and all the great deeds of terror that Moses did in the sight of all Israel” – Deut 34:9-12

“The LORD, the God of their fathers, sent persistently to them by his messengers, because he had compassion on his people and on his dwelling place. But they kept mocking the messengers of God, despising his words and scoffing at his prophets...” – 2 Chron 36:15-16a

Christ's Claims and Actions

“...but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son”

Claims: Matt. 13:57; Mark 6:4; Luke 4:24; 13:23; John 4:44

Actions: John 8:26; 13:49-50; 15:15; 17:8

Acts 3:22-27; 7:37

“Moses said, 'The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers. You shall listen to him in whatever he tells you. ²³ And it shall be that every soul who does not listen to that prophet shall be destroyed from the people.' ²⁴ And all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and those who came after him, also proclaimed these days. ²⁵ You are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant that God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham, 'And in your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed.' ²⁶ God, having raised up his servant, sent him to you first, to bless you by turning every one of you from your wickedness.”

This is the Moses who said to the Israelites, 'God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers.'

Some Implications

John 17:6-8, 26

Colossians 3:16

Q. 24. How doth Christ execute the office of a prophet?

A. Christ executeth the office of a prophet, in revealing to us, by his word and Spirit, the will of God for our salvation.