

## INTRODUCTION

1. This morning we are considering again “The Christ of Christmas.”
2. Last week we began this new four week study on the Person of Christ.
3. We have already looked at *the incarnation of Christ*.
4. Today, we’re considering *the offices of Christ*.
5. There are 3 offices of Christ I want us to consider this morning.
6. The first is *prophet*.
7. Before we consider Jesus being a prophet, let’s establish first what a prophet was.
8. Usually when many think of prophets in the Bible, they think of them telling the future.
9. They did speak of future events but the primary nature of a prophet was speaking for God.
10. Jeremiah 15:19 tells us that a prophet is God’s mouth. He speaks God’s words.
11. We certainly see this in many places in Scripture.

12. For example, **Exodus 7:1-2 (NASB)** <sup>1</sup> Then the Lord said to Moses, "See, I make you *as* God to Pharaoh, and your brother Aaron shall be your prophet. <sup>2</sup> "You shall speak all that I command you, and your brother Aaron shall speak to Pharaoh that he let the sons of Israel go out of his land.
13. Notice that God says this again to Moses in **Exodus 4:15-16 (NASB)** <sup>15</sup> "You are to speak to him and put the words in his mouth; and I, even I, will be with your mouth and his mouth, and I will teach you what you are to do. <sup>16</sup> "Moreover, he shall speak for you to the people; and he will be as a mouth for you and you will be as God to him.
14. When God called Jeremiah, He essentially said the same thing in **Jeremiah 1:4-7 (NASB)** <sup>4</sup> Now the word of the Lord came to me saying, <sup>5</sup> "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, And before you were born I consecrated you; I have appointed you a *prophet* to the nations." <sup>6</sup> Then I said, "Alas, Lord God! Behold, I do not know how to speak, Because I am a youth." <sup>7</sup> But the Lord said to me, "Do not say, 'I am a youth,' Because everywhere I send you, you shall go, And **all that I command you, you shall speak.**
15. The distinguishing feature of Jeremiah's call to the prophetic office was that the Lord "put his words in his mouth."
16. These words were words of authority and power; and thus by them he instrumentally rooted out, and pulled down, and

destroyed, and threw down the enemies of God and godliness, and built and planted the Lord's own peculiar people.

17. This was surely a much wider and more authoritative commission than if he had been sent merely to predict future events.
18. It is perfectly true that he predicted the seventy years' captivity, the destruction of Babylon, and the return of the children of Judah to their own land, with other prophecies, some of which are still unfulfilled--but this was only a part of his prophetic mission.<sup>1</sup>
19. Consider Ezekiel, when God called him He said to him in **Ezekiel 2:7 (NASB)** <sup>7</sup> "**But you shall speak My words to them** whether they listen or not, for they are rebellious.
20. He reiterated it again in **Ezekiel 3:10-11 (NASB)** <sup>10</sup> Moreover, He said to me, "Son of man, take into your heart all My words which I will speak to you and listen closely. <sup>11</sup> "Go to the exiles, to the sons of your people, and speak to them and tell them, whether they listen or not, **'Thus says the Lord God.'** "
21. So the leading characteristic feature of a prophet, then, was that he came to the people with a "Thus says the Lord" in

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<sup>1</sup> J.C. Philpot, Jesus the Great Prophet to His People.  
<http://www.gracegems.org/20/Prophet1.htm>

his mouth; that his words were not his own words, but God's words, and his message the express message of the Lord of hosts.<sup>2</sup>

22. This was true of Jesus.
23. He spoke the Father's word.
24. He said in **John 7:16 (NASB)** <sup>16</sup> "**My teaching is not Mine, but His who sent Me.**
25. **Matthew 13:54 (NASB)** says when they heard His teaching, "they were astonished, and said, '**Where did this man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers.**'"
26. Everything Jesus did and said was in perfect harmony with the Father.
27. In **John 5:19 (NASB)** He said to the Jews, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless *it is* something He sees the Father doing; **for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner.**"
28. Scripture makes it clear that Jesus was the prophet to come and that His coming was foretold.

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<sup>2</sup> J.C. Philpot, Jesus the Great Prophet to His People.  
<http://www.gracegems.org/20/Prophet1.htm>

## I. Jesus is a Prophet

### A. This was Foretold

It is clear that not one single prophet completely revealed the will of the Father except Jesus Christ. When Christ came He completely revealed the Father to the people; He explained the Father to the people.<sup>3</sup>

1. **John 1:18 (NASB)**<sup>18</sup> No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, ***He has explained Him.***
2. In **Deuteronomy 18:15 (NASB)** Moses told the Israelites that “The Lord your God will raise up for you a ***prophet*** like me from among you, from your countrymen, you shall listen to him.”

He reiterated it again in verse 18 when he said...

3. **Deuteronomy 18:18 (NASB)**<sup>18</sup> I will raise up a ***prophet*** from among their countrymen like you, and I will put My words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.

We have already noted several features that marked a true prophet of God: He was called by God, He told the people what God said, the people

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<sup>3</sup>Paul P. Enns, *The Moody Handbook of Theology* (Chicago, Ill.: Moody Press, 1997, c1989). 238.

were to listen to him, what He spoke from God would come to pass. If what he spoke didn't come to pass, he was not a true prophet sent from God and the people were not to listen to him and he was to be stoned to death.

Some Jewish commentators believed the prophet to come was Joshua, the son of Nun but Deuteronomy 34:9-12 stated otherwise.

4. **Deuteronomy 34:9-12 (NASB)** <sup>9</sup> Now Joshua the son of Nun was filled with the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him; and the sons of Israel listened to him and did as the Lord had commanded Moses. <sup>10</sup> **Since that time no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses**, whom the Lord knew face to face, <sup>11</sup> for all the signs and wonders which the Lord sent him to perform in the land of Egypt against Pharaoh, all his servants, and all his land, <sup>12</sup> and for all the mighty power and for all the great terror which Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.

B. This was Proven

1. By the use of grammar

When you look back at Deuteronomy 18:15 the phrase "a Prophet like me" shows us that the

singular pronoun emphasizes the ultimate Prophet who was to come.<sup>4</sup>

2. By what Deuteronomy 34:10 says

It is also clear from Deuteronomy 34:10 that there was no prophet like Moses until the time of Jesus

**Deuteronomy 34:10 (NASB)** <sup>10</sup> *Since that time no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses*, whom the Lord knew face to face.

3. By what the Samaritan woman and people said

- a) During her encounter with Jesus at the well in Sychar, she said to Jesus, “Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet” (**John 4:19 NASB**).
- b) In **verse 25** she told Him, “I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ); when that One comes, He will declare all things to us.”
- c) In **verse 29** she went to the city and said, “Come, see a man who told me all the things that I *have* done; this is not the Christ, is it?”

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<sup>4</sup>John Jr MacArthur, *The MacArthur Study Bible*, electronic ed. (Nashville: Word Pub., 1997, c1997). Dt 18:15.

By her response and later the response of the people of Samaria (v.42), they believed the prophet to come would be the Messiah, “the Christ.”

4. By what Peter said

Peter interpreted Deuteronomy 18:15 to refer to Jesus when he preached to the Jews after the healing of the lame man in the Temple

He quotes from Deuteronomy 18:15 and applies it to Jesus.

**Acts 3:17-26 (NASB)** <sup>17</sup> "And now, brethren, I know that you acted in ignorance, just as your rulers did also. <sup>18</sup> "But the things which God announced beforehand by the mouth of all the prophets, that His Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled. <sup>19</sup> "Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord; <sup>20</sup> and that He may send **Jesus, the Christ** appointed for you, <sup>21</sup> whom heaven must receive until *the* period of restoration of all things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time. <sup>22</sup> **"Moses said, 'The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brethren; to Him you shall give heed to everything He says to you.'** <sup>23</sup> 'And it will be that

every soul that does not heed that prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.'<sup>24</sup> "And likewise, all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and *his* successors onward, also announced these days.<sup>25</sup> "It is you who are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant which God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham, 'And in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'<sup>26</sup> **"For you first, God raised up His Servant and sent Him to bless you by turning every one of you from your wicked ways."**

5. By what Stephen said

Stephen interpreted Deuteronomy 18:15 as referring to Jesus when he spoke to the Sanhedrin in Acts 7:37

**Acts 7:37 (NASB)**<sup>37</sup> "This is the Moses who said to the sons of Israel, 'God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brethren.'

So both the Old and New Testament interpret Deuteronomy 18:15 as a reference to the coming Messiah, who like Moses would receive and preach divine revelation and lead His people.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</sup>John Jr MacArthur, *The MacArthur Study Bible*, electronic ed. (Nashville: Word Pub., 1997, c1997). Dt 18:15.

6. By what the Scriptures reveal about Jesus

- a) The Holy Spirit came upon the prophets as they spoke

**Ezekiel 2:2 (NASB)** <sup>2</sup> As He spoke to me *the Spirit entered me and set me on my feet*; and I heard *Him* speaking to me.

Jesus applied Isaiah 61:1 to Himself in Luke 4:18 after He read it in the synagogue.

**Luke 4:18 (NASB)** <sup>18</sup> "*The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He anointed Me to preach the Gospel to the poor.* He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives , And recovery of sight to the blind, To set free those who are oppressed.

- b) Jesus revealed God

1) **John 3:34 (NASB)** <sup>34</sup> "For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God; for He gives the Spirit without measure.

2) **Matthew 11:27 (NASB)** <sup>27</sup> "All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the

Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal *Him*.

3) He said to the Father of His disciples in **John 17:6 (NASB)** <sup>6</sup> "I have manifested Your name to the men whom You gave Me out of the world; they were Yours and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word.

c) Jesus taught what the Father said

**John 8:28 (NASB)** <sup>28</sup> So Jesus said, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am *He*, and I do nothing on My own initiative, but *I speak these things as the Father taught Me.*

d) Jesus foretold of things to come (cf. Mat.24)

**Matthew 24:3 (NASB)** <sup>3</sup> As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things happen, and what *will be* the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"

Not only is Jesus a prophet but...

## II. Jesus is a Priest

Whereas the prophet revealed God to man, the priest represented man to God.

Notice several features about His priesthood. First,

A. He was Appointed and Called By God

All priests were called and appointed by God for service, so was Jesus.

1. **Hebrews 3:1-2 (NASB)** <sup>1</sup> Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider **Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest** of our confession; <sup>2</sup> He was faithful to Him who **appointed** Him, as Moses also was in all His house.
  
  2. **Hebrews 5:4-5 (NASB)** <sup>4</sup> And no one takes the honor to himself, but *receives it* when he is **called by God, even as Aaron** was. <sup>5</sup> So also Christ did not glorify Himself so as to become a high priest, but He who said to Him, "You are My Son, Today I have begotten You."
- B. His Priesthood was According to the Order of Melchizedek

4 times in Hebrews Jesus is referred to as a priest according to the order of Melchizedek:

1. **Hebrews 5:6 (NASB)** <sup>6</sup> just as He says also in another *passage*, "You are a priest forever **According to the order of Melchizedek.**"
2. **Hebrews 6:20 (NASB)** <sup>20</sup> where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us, having become a high priest forever **according to the order of Melchizedek.**
3. **Hebrews 7:15 (NASB)** <sup>15</sup> And this is clearer still, if another priest arises **according to the likeness of Melchizedek.**
4. **Hebrews 7:17 (NASB)** <sup>17</sup> For it is attested *of Him*, "You are a priest forever **According to the order of Melchizedek.**"
5. Melchizedek first appears in Genesis 14:17-20 after Abram defeats the four kings and rescues his nephew Lot.

**Genesis 14:17-20 (NASB)** <sup>17</sup> Then after his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley). <sup>18</sup> And **Melchizedek king of Salem** brought out bread and wine; now **he was a priest of God Most High.** <sup>19</sup> He blessed him and said, "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; <sup>20</sup> And blessed be God Most

High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand." He gave him a tenth of all.

Melchizedek means "king of righteousness." He served as the human priest/king of Salem in Genesis 14:17-20 and therefore provides a picture of the order of Christ's priesthood.

John MacArthur says in *The MacArthur Study Bible*, "The Levitical priesthood was hereditary, but Melchizedek's was not. His parentage and origin are unknown because they were irrelevant to his priesthood. Contrary to some interpretations, Melchizedek did have a father and a mother. The ancient Syriac Peshitta gives a more accurate translation of what was intended by the Gr. phrase: "whose father and mother are not written in genealogies." No record existed of Melchizedek's birth or death. This is quite a contrast to the details of Aaron's death (Num. 20:22–29). **like**. Lit. "made to be like"; this word is used nowhere else in the NT. The implication is that the resemblance to Christ rests upon the way Melchizedek's history is reported in the OT, not upon Melchizedek himself. Melchizedek was not the pre-incarnate Christ, as some maintain, but

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Gr. Greek

Lit. literally

was similar to Christ in that his priesthood was universal (v. 1), royal (v. 1,2; cf. Zech. 6:13), righteous (v. 2; cf. Ps. 72:2; Jer. 23:5; 1 Cor. 1:30), peaceful (v. 2; cf. Ps. 72:7; Is. 9:6; Rom. 5:1), and unending (v. 3; cf. vv. 24,25).”<sup>6</sup>

C. His Priesthood was Superior to Aaron and the Levitical Priests

1. Their priesthood was temporary, His eternal.

**Hebrews 8:1-6 (NASB)** <sup>1</sup> Now the main point in what has been said *is this*: we have such a **high priest**, who has taken His seat at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, <sup>2</sup> a minister in the sanctuary and in the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, not man. <sup>3</sup> For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices; so it is necessary that this *high priest* also have something to offer. <sup>4</sup> Now if He were on earth, He would not be a priest at all, since there are those who offer the gifts according to the Law; <sup>5</sup> who serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things, just as Moses was warned *by God* when he was about to erect the tabernacle; for, "See," He says, "that you make all things

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<sup>6</sup>John Jr MacArthur, *The MacArthur Study Bible*, electronic ed. (Nashville: Word Pub., 1997, c1997). Heb 7:3.

according to the pattern which was shown you on the mountain." <sup>6</sup> But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, by as much as He is also the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted on better promises.

2. His one sacrifice was perfect never needing to be repeated

The priests work was never finished. Jesus, when He offered Himself as a sacrifice to God for sin, "sat down" indicating His work was perfect and accepted by God.

**Hebrews 1:3 (NASB)** <sup>3</sup> And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. **When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.**

- D. His Priesthood is of Unblemished Purity

**Hebrews 7:26-28 (NASB)** <sup>26</sup> For it was fitting for us to have **such a high priest, holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners and exalted above the heavens;** <sup>27</sup> **who does not need daily, like those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins** and then for the *sins* of the people, because this He did once for all when He offered up Himself. <sup>28</sup> For the

Law appoints men as high priests who are weak, but the word of the oath, which came after the Law, *appoints* a Son, ***made perfect forever***.

Paul Enns says, “As a priest: (1) Christ continually represents the believer because He lives forever (Heb. 7:24); (2) Christ completely saves the believer because His intercession never ceases (Heb. 7:25); (3) Christ has no personal sins to impede His work as priest (Heb. 7:27); (4) Christ finished His priestly work by *one* offering (Heb. 10:12).”<sup>7</sup>

Not only is Jesus a prophet and priest but...

### **III. Jesus is a King**

Prophecy not only spoke of the Prophet to come but also the King.

#### A. This was Foretold

1. **Numbers 24:17 (NASB)** <sup>17</sup> "I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near; A star shall come forth from Jacob, A ***scepter*** shall rise from Israel, And shall crush through the forehead of Moab, And tear down all the sons of Sheth.

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<sup>7</sup>Paul P. Enns, *The Moody Handbook of Theology* (Chicago, Ill.: Moody Press, 1997, c1989). 238.

2. **Isaiah 9:6-7 (NASB)** <sup>6</sup> For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup> There will be no end to the increase of *His* government or of peace, On the **throne** of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will accomplish this.
  
3. **Jeremiah 23:5 (NASB)** <sup>5</sup> "Behold, *the* days are coming," declares the Lord, "When I will raise up for David a righteous Branch; And He will **reign as king** and act wisely And do justice and righteousness in the land.
  
4. **Micah 5:2 (NASB)** <sup>2</sup> "But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, *Too* little to be among the clans of Judah, From you One will go forth for Me to be **ruler** in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity."
  
5. **Matthew 2 (NASB)**
  - a) "Bethlehem" means "house of bread" and was a small village on the southern outskirts of Jerusalem.

Bethlehem was the expected birthplace of the Messiah according to Mic.5:2 and John 7:42.

- b) “Herod the king” refers to Herod the Great who ruled from 37-4 B.C.

He was a descendant of Esau and, therefore, a traditional enemy of the Jews. He was a convert to Judaism, but his conversion was perhaps politically motivated.<sup>8</sup>

- c) “Magi”

There were not kings, but magicians or astrologers—possibly Zoroastrian wise men from Persia whose knowledge of the Hebrew Scriptures could be traced back to the time of Daniel (cf. Dan. 5:11).<sup>9</sup>

- d) Their question, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews?” (v.2)

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<sup>8</sup>William MacDonald and Arthur Farstad, *Believer's Bible Commentary : Old and New Testaments* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997, c1995). Mt 2:1.

<sup>9</sup>John Jr MacArthur, *The MacArthur Study Bible*, electronic ed. (Nashville: Word Pub., 1997, c1997). Mt 2:1.

B. He is King Over All Kings and Kingdoms

1. **Psalms 89:27 (NASB)** <sup>27</sup> "I also shall make him My firstborn, **The highest of the kings of the earth.**
2. **Revelation 1:5 (NASB)** <sup>5</sup> and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and **the ruler of the kings of the earth.** To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood.
3. **Revelation 19:16 (NASB)** <sup>16</sup> And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "**KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.**"

C. His Throne is From God

**Revelation 3:21 (NASB)** <sup>21</sup> "He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me **on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.**

D. His Throne is in the Line of David

1. **Isaiah 9:7 (NASB)** <sup>7</sup> There will be no end to the increase of *His* government or of peace, **On the throne of David** and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and

righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will accomplish this.

2. **Luke 1:32 (NASB)** <sup>32</sup> "He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him *the throne of His father David.*

E. He Has a Righteous Kingdom

**Hebrews 1:8-9 (NASB)** <sup>8</sup> But of the Son *He says*, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, And the *righteous* scepter is the scepter of His kingdom. <sup>9</sup> "You have *loved righteousness and hated lawlessness;* Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness above Your companions."

F. He Has an Everlasting Kingdom

**Luke 1:33 (NASB)** <sup>33</sup> and He will reign over the house of Jacob *forever,* and *His kingdom will have no end.*"

G. He Has a Universal Kingdom

1. **Psalms 72:8 (NASB)** <sup>8</sup> May he also *rule from sea to sea And from the River to the ends of the earth.*
2. **Revelation 11:15 (NASB)** <sup>15</sup> Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in

heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become *the kingdom* of our Lord and of His Christ; and **He will reign forever and ever.**"

H. He Has a Spiritual Kingdom

**John 18:36 (NASB)** <sup>36</sup> Jesus answered, "**My kingdom is not of this world.** If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, **My kingdom is not of this realm.**"

I. Believers Are the Subject of His Kingdom

1. **Colossians 1:13 (NASB)** <sup>13</sup> For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, **and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son.**
2. **Hebrews 12:28 (NASB)** <sup>28</sup> Therefore, since **we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken,** let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe;.
3. **Revelation 15:3 (NASB)** <sup>3</sup> And they sang the song of Moses, the bond-servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, "Great and marvelous are Your works, O Lord God, the Almighty; Righteous and true are Your ways, **King of the nations!**"

4. **Revelation 22:3-4 (NASB)** <sup>3</sup> There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and **His bond-servants will serve Him; <sup>4</sup> they will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads.**

Paul Enns says, “These three offices of Christ as Prophet, Priest, and King are the key to the purpose of the incarnation. His prophetic office was involved with the revealing of God’s message; the priestly office was related to His saving and intercessory work; His kingly office gave Him the right to reign over Israel and the entire earth. All the divine intention of these three historic offices was perfectly culminated in the Lord Jesus Christ.<sup>10</sup>”

## **CONCLUSION**

1. **Philippians 2:10-11 (NASB)** <sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
2. I would encourage you this morning to consider the Scriptures that you have heard that proclaim Jesus as

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<sup>10</sup>Paul P. Enns, *The Moody Handbook of Theology* (Chicago, Ill.: Moody Press, 1997, c1989). 239.

Prophet, Priest, and King and repent and surrender your life to Him.

3. He will soon come “in flaming fire, dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed” (**2 Thessalonians 1:8-10 NASB**).
  
4. Let’s pray.