

The Priesthood of Jesus Christ

Heb. 3:1

Introduction:

- A. Hebrews understood qualifications and functions of Old Testament priesthood.
 - 1. High priests offered gifts and sacrifices (Heb. 5:1; 8:3).
 - a. Annual atonement (Lev. 16).
 - b. Sin offerings (Lev. 4).
 - c. Daily grain (meal) offerings (Lev. 6).
 - 2. Other priests served at all sacrifices – not in Holy of Holies.
 - 3. Mediated between God and man.
- B. We need to understand New Testament priesthood.
 - 1. Jesus is the High Priest. (Heb. 3:1).
 - 2. Each Christian is a priest. (1 Pet. 2:5,9; cf. Heb. 13:15).
 - 3. Catholic-type priesthood not in the picture.
- C. Hebrews compares and contrasts Jesus's priesthood to Levitical priesthood:

Discussion:

I. Jesus Offers Us a *Superior* Priesthood.

- A. He is greater than Levi. (Heb. 7:1-11).
- B. He is Priest and King (Heb. 7:1,2; cf. Zech. 6:12-13).
- C. He is Priest and Son (Heb. 5:1-10).
- D. He is Priest and Sacrifice (Heb. 8:3,4; 9:7-14; 24-28; 10:1-15).

II. Jesus Offers Us a *More Suitable* Priesthood.

- A. He understands both God and man. (Heb. 2:14-18; 4:14-16; 5:7-10).
- B. He has become a forerunner for us. (Heb. 6:18-20)
- C. He is a priest under a better law. (Heb. 7:11-19)

III. Jesus Offers Us a *More Stable* Priesthood.

- A. He is not subject to death. (Heb 7:23-25).
- B. He is not subject to weakness and failure. (Heb. 7:26-28).

Conclusion:

- A. His priesthood is over the house of God. (Heb. 10:21).
- B. His priestly benefits are conditional. (Cf. Acts 2:38; 1 John 1:7-9).