

## WHEN DID CHRIST BECOME OUR HIGH PRIEST?

**Heb 7:12** *For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law.*

What changes were made to the priesthood?

**Heb 7:17-19** *For he testifieth, Thou art a priest for ever after the **order of Melchisedec**. 7:18 For there is verily a disannulling of the commandment going before for the weakness and unprofitableness thereof. 7:19 For the **law made nothing perfect**, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God.*

The law never made a man perfect or free from sin. Only Christ could make a man perfect.

**Lev 4:20** *And he shall do with the bullock as he did with the bullock for a sin offering, so shall he do with this: and the **priest shall make an atonement** for them, and it shall be **forgiven** them.*

**Exo 29:32,33** *And Aaron and his sons shall eat the flesh of the ram, and the bread that is in the basket, by the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. 29:33 And they shall eat those things wherewith **the atonement was made, to consecrate and to sanctify them**: but a stranger shall not eat thereof, because they are holy.*

**Exo 30:10** *And **Aaron shall make an atonement** upon the horns of it once in a year with the blood of the sin offering of atonements: once in the year shall he make atonement upon it throughout your generations: it is most holy unto the LORD.*

The law demonstrates that only a priest could make an atonement for sin, pointing to Christ's sacrifice and His high priestly office. Enoch was made perfect as he was translated to heaven. Was he made perfect through the law or by faith in Christ? When did Christ make an atonement for Enoch's sin?

**Ms 101 1897** *"After Adam fell, Jesus entered upon the **work of redeeming men**."*

**2T p591** *"The sin of Adam and Eve caused a fearful separation between God and man. And Christ steps in between fallen man and God, and says to man: "You may yet come to the Father; there is a plan devised through which God can be reconciled to man, and man to God; **through a mediator** you can approach God."*

Who was Adam's mediator?

**RH March 3 1874** *"Abel, as priest, in solemn faith offered his sacrifice."*

Abel was a priest was he his own mediator? Could an earthly priest forgive sin? Could Abel offer a sacrifice and that sacrifice forgive his sins? Who can forgive sin?

**Mar 2:7** *Why doth this man thus speak blasphemies? who can forgive sins but God only?*

**1Pe 1:20** *Who verily was **foreordained before the foundation of the world**, but was manifest in these last times for you,*

Foreordain means to appoint beforehand. What was Christ appointed to beforehand?

**Manuscript 128, 1897** "Christ Himself **was a priest forever** after the order of Melchizedek. Heaven **was His home.**"

Christ was a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek. How long is forever and when did it begin?

**Rev 13:8** *And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the **Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.***

If Christ was slain from the foundation of the world then was He man's mediator from the foundation of the world? Divine words cannot fail when Divinity speaks it is as though it has happened.

**Review and Herald Apr 5 1906** "God and Christ knew from the beginning of the apostasy of Satan and of the fall of Adam through the deceptive power of the apostate. The plan of salvation was designed to redeem the fallen race, to give them another trial. **Christ was appointed to the office of Mediator from the creation of God**, set up from everlasting to be our substitute and surety. **Before the world was made**, it was arranged that the divinity of Christ should be enshrouded in humanity."

Definition : A mediator is a go between two or more parties; involving an intermediary; without direct contract.

Who was the mediator for Adam, or was he his own mediator?

**4SP p266** " It was seen, also, that while the sin-offering pointed to Christ as a sacrifice, and the **high priest represented Christ as a mediator,**"

The role of the high priest was that of a mediator so when Christ was appointed to the office of Mediator was He also represented as the high Priest - before the world was made.

**MS 148 1897** "Anciently believers were saved by the same Saviour **as now**, but it was a God veiled."

**ST May 20 1889** "The plan of salvation was revealed to Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden. They were made to understand how the Son of God would come and bear their sin, and redeem them from the curse of the law."

**ST Dec 15 1914** "None but Christ could redeem man from the curse of the law. He proposed to take upon Himself the guilt and shame of sin,--sin so offensive in the sight of God that it would necessitate separation from His Father. Christ proposed to reach to the depths of man's degradation and woe, and restore the repenting, believing soul to harmony with God. Christ, the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world, offered Himself as a sacrifice and substitute for the fallen sons of Adam, though in this offering all heaven was involved in infinite sacrifice."

**ST March 14 1878 1SM p230** " The **sins** of the people were **transferred** in figure to the **officiating priest**, who was a **mediator for the people**. The priest could not himself become an offering for sin, and make an atonement with his life, for he was also a sinner. Therefore, instead of suffering death himself, he killed a lamb without blemish; the penalty of sin was transferred to the innocent beast, which thus became his immediate substitute, and typified the perfect offering of Jesus Christ. ... If Adam had **not transgressed the law of God**, the ceremonial law would never have been instituted."

Adam did transgress the law. Who mediated for Adam?

Moses was told to make a sanctuary after the pattern that he saw. Did Moses see a ministering high priest that was the Mediator for the human race?

**Heb 5:1** *For every **high priest** taken from among men is **ordained** for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both **gifts and sacrifices for sins**:*

Christ had to be ordained as a high priest in order to offer Himself as a sacrifice for sin as He fulfilled the law.

**Heb 9:11 (LITV)** *But Christ having **appeared as a High Priest** of the coming good things, through the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation,*

In the KJV it states - *But Christ **being come an high priest** of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; and the word being come can mean public appearance.*

These two verses show that Christ when He came to this earth was already our great high Priest.

**MS 148 1897** *"Anciently **believers were saved** by the same **Saviour as now**, but it was a God veiled. They saw God's mercy in figures. . . . Christ's sacrifice is the glorious fulfillment of the whole Jewish economy. . . . When as a sinless offering Christ bowed His head and died, when by the Almighty's unseen hand the veil of the temple was rent in twain, a new and living way was opened. All can now approach God through the merits of Christ. It is because the veil has been rent that men can draw nigh to God. They **need not depend on priest** or ceremonial sacrifice. Liberty is given to all to go directly to God through a personal Saviour."*

**FE p509** *"Bitter and deeply humiliating was the judgment immediately pronounced. "The Lord spake unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye believed Me not, to sanctify Me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them." With rebellious Israel they must die before **crossing the Jordan**."*

**4SP p266** *"... the **high priest represented Christ as a mediator**,"*

**The Story of Jesus 1896 p42** *"When the time for Christ's public ministry had come, His first act was to go to the river **Jordan**, and be baptized by John the Baptist."*

Jordan symbolised the new life or the change from slavery to Satan to freedom in Christ. This means that only the people who have had their sins forgiven by Christ were allowed to go into the Promised Land. A change had taken place. Christ's baptism symbolised the only way to heaven. A change had to take place. Christ began to go through the ceremonial law consecration service of the priest.

**Mat 3:17** *And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*

This was confirmed by the Father at Christ's baptism.

**Mat 5:17** *Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.*

What law did Christ come to fulfil? Both the moral and ceremonial laws. Jordan represented a change and Christ was baptised in the Jordan indicating a change in the priesthood. Christ was going to be consecrated as our high priest to fulfil the law.

Christ was slain before the foundation of the world but it was confirmed in 31AD. Christ has always been a priest since the plan of salvation was worked out before the world was made. Christ had to fulfil the law. In the consecration of the priests, the very first thing that happened to them was they went into the water.

**Lev 8:5,6** *And Moses said unto the congregation, This is the thing which the LORD commanded to be done. 8:6 And Moses brought Aaron and his sons, and washed them with water.*

The priest was dressed in a garment without seam so that it could not be rent.

**Exo 39:23** *And there was an hole in the midst of the robe, as the hole of an habergeon, with a band round about the hole, that it should not rend.*

Christ wore a garment that was made without a seam so that it was difficult to tear or rend.

**DA p746** *"They part My garments among them, and cast lots upon My vesture." Psalm 22:16-18. The prophecy concerning His garments was carried out without counsel or interference from the friends or the enemies of the Crucified One. To the soldiers who had placed Him upon the cross, His clothing was given. Christ heard the men's contention as they parted the garments among them. His tunic was woven throughout without seam, and they said, "Let us not rend it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be."*

Christ was wearing a garment that was not rent or torn even at the crucifixion as it was made in one piece without a seam and represented the high priest's garment.

Christ worked through the consecration service when He was on earth as He was fulfilling the law.

**Lev 8:12** *And he poured of the anointing oil upon Aaron's head, and anointed him, to sanctify him.*

**Luk 4:18-21** *The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath **anointed** me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, 4:19 To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. 4:20 And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him. 4:21 And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture **fulfilled** in your ears.*

When Christ wore the crown of thorns His blood ran over Him.

**Lev 8:23** *And he slew it; and Moses took of the blood of it, and put it upon the tip of Aaron's right ear, and upon the thumb of his right hand, and upon the great toe of his right foot.*

**DA p734** *"The blood drops of agony that from His wounded temples flowed down His face and beard were the pledge of **His anointing** with "the oil of gladness" (Hebrews 1:9.) **as our great high priest.**"*

**Lev 8:26-28** *And out of the basket of unleavened bread, that was before the LORD, he took one unleavened cake, and a cake of oiled bread, and one wafer, and put them on the fat, and upon the right shoulder: 8:27 And he put all upon Aaron's hands, and upon his sons' hands, and waved them for a wave offering before the LORD. 8:28 And Moses took them from off their hands, and burnt them on the altar upon the burnt offering: they were **consecrations for a sweet savour**: it is an offering made by fire unto the LORD.*

Christ was the bread the unleavened bread (without sin) that came down from heaven. His body represented the wave offering. Christ fulfilled every aspect of the consecration of the high priest while on this earth.

**3SM p141** " Christ took upon Himself humanity, and laid down His life a sacrifice, that man, by becoming a partaker of the divine nature, might have eternal life. Not only was **Christ the Sacrifice** but He was **also the Priest** who offered the sacrifice."

**Joh 10:15** *As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and **I lay down my life** for the sheep.*

Christ became the Mediator and high Priest for the human race before the foundation of the world as He was crucified from the foundation of the world. Christ to be the sacrifice for man had to be the high priest that offered the sacrifice. There had to be an end of the ceremonial law that made a man a high priest.

**Mat 26:65** *Then the high priest rent his clothes, saying, He hath spoken blasphemy; what further need have we of witnesses? behold, now ye have heard his blasphemy.*

Caiaphas had rent his high priestly robe and therefore that disqualified him as high priest. Israel was without a high priest or mediator and therefore had no means to have their sins forgiven unless they accepted Christ as their Saviour. God's people have never been without a high Priest otherwise they would never have salvation as there would have been no means to have their sins forgiven.

**DA p709** "When Caiaphas rent his garment, his act was significant of the place that the Jewish nation as a nation would thereafter occupy toward God. The once favored people of God were separating themselves from Him, and were fast becoming a people disowned by Jehovah. When Christ upon the cross cried out, "It is finished" (John 19:30), and the veil of the temple was rent in twain, the **Holy Watcher declared that the Jewish people had rejected Him** who was the antitype of all their types, the substance of all their shadows. **Israel was divorced from God.** Well might Caiaphas then rend his official robes, which signified that he claimed to be a representative of the great High Priest; for no longer had they any meaning for him or for the people. Well might the high priest rend his robes in horror for himself and for the nation."

What is Christ doing at this moment?

**AA p586** "Christ is spoken of as walking in the midst of the golden candlesticks. Thus is symbolized His relation to the churches. He is in constant communication with His people. He knows their true state. He observes their order, their piety, their devotion. Although He is **high priest and mediator** in the sanctuary above, yet He is represented as walking up and down in the midst of His churches on the earth."

**COL p148** "Like Aaron, who symbolized Christ, our Saviour bears the names of all His people on His heart in the **holy place**."

It is generally believed that Christ went into the second apartment to make the final atonement in 1844 but this is not the case. We see in the following quote that Christ did go into the second apartment in 1844 but He was wearing the daily garments with the bells and a pomegranates on the hem and not the white linen Day of Atonement garments.

**EW p54** "I saw a throne, and on it sat the Father and the Son. I gazed on Jesus' countenance and admired His lovely person. ...." Before the throne I saw the Advent people--the church and the world. ... A light would come from the Father to the Son and from the Son to the praying company. Then I saw an exceeding bright light come from the Father to the Son, and from the Son it waved over the people before the throne. But few would receive this great light. Many came out from under it and immediately resisted it; others were careless and did not cherish the light, and it moved off from them. ... I saw the Father rise from the throne, and in a flaming chariot go into the holy of holies within the veil, and sit down. Then Jesus rose up from the throne, and the most of those who were bowed down arose with Him. I did not see one ray of light pass from Jesus to the careless multitude after He arose, and they were left in perfect darkness. Those who arose when Jesus did, kept their eyes fixed on Him as He left the throne and led them out a little way. Then He raised His right arm, and we heard His lovely voice saying, "Wait here; I am going to My Father to receive the kingdom; keep your garments spotless, and in a little while I will return from the wedding and receive you to Myself." Then a cloudy chariot, with wheels like flaming fire, surrounded by angels, came to where Jesus was. He stepped into the chariot and was borne to the holiest, where the Father sat. There I beheld Jesus, a great High Priest, standing before the Father. On the **hem of His garment was a bell and a pomegranate, a bell and a pomegranate.**"

**CCh p348** " The blood of Christ, while it was to release the repentant sinner from the condemnation of the law, was **not to cancel the sin**; it would stand on record in the sanctuary **until the final atonement**; so in the type the blood of the sin offering removed the sin from the penitent, but it rested in the sanctuary **until** the day of atonement."

**Signs of the Times May 9 1900; Signs of the Times October 25 1905; Desire of Ages 1898 p568** "He is today standing at the **altar of incense**, presenting before God the prayers of those who desire His help."

**1888 Materials p865** "He is at this moment standing at the **altar of incense** presenting before the Father my prayers, my heart-longing desires for His grace, His heavenly endowment, that I may through the grace given unto me reveal to others His great love and complete efficiency."

**Manuscript Release vol 12 p415** "By faith, in His humanity Christ saw what we are permitted to see by faith--the atoning sacrifice connected with the Lord upon the mercy seat. The **golden censer** is waved, and the incense, the representation of the purity and righteousness of Christ, ascends, bearing the prayers of every soul that receives and believes on Christ to the **altar** which is before the throne of God."

**1888 Materials Jan 3 1891** "... **Great Intercessor** is seen by faith, **standing at the altar of incense** and having in His hand the **golden censer.**"

If we do not know where and what Christ is doing how do we know who is answering our prayers?

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**Letter 208 1906; Counsels for the Church p347** *"The correct understanding of the ministration in the heavenly sanctuary is the foundation of our faith."*

Are we repeating the same sins as Israel and do not know which apartment of the heavenly sanctuary Christ is ministering in? Faith has a foundation and it is knowing that Christ is ministering in the first apartment of the heavenly sanctuary before the golden altar. The final atonement for the high Priest's household has not commenced. Lev 16:11-15. Tradition is not truth.

**Heb 11:6** *But without faith it is impossible to please him: ...*