

The Following Message is Message #073A

THE PRIESTHOOD OF JESUS CHRIST

Text: Hebrews 9:1-12

I. Book of Hebrews was written to a despised group of people

That was true for a few reasons

A. They were Hebrews/Jewish a group that has consistently been hated through the years

The words of the Psalmist still ring true today

Psalms 83:1-4 Keep not thou silence, O God: hold not thy peace, and be not still, O God. For, lo, thine enemies make a tumult: and they that hate thee have lifted up the head. They have taken crafty counsel against thy people, and consulted against thy hidden ones. They have said, Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation; that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance.

One can easily look and see how they are hated in the world even today

B. Also they were Christians

This was something that was not trendy at the time the book was written. Persecution was beginning to grow-Satan tried to stamp out church early.

SAD THING-A LOT OF IT WAS COMING FROM THEIR JEWISH RELATIVES

Often when one converted they were shut out of temple and treated as if they were dead by their own families.

Truly they faced great suffering and trials.

II. This book is written to encourage them to remain true to the Lord

The writer turns to this theme time and again

Hebrews 3:6 But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.

Hebrews 4:14 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.

Hebrews 10:23 Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)

III. He calls them to remain faithful to the Lord by using several tools

A. Stern Warnings

Some of strongest warning about turning away if found in this book

B. Historical examples

Give what often call "Hall of Faith" "Heroes of Faith" **Hebrews 11**

Hebrews 12:1-2 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

C. Superiority of Christ

He looks back and talks about what things were and how much better what they have now ia

Hebrews 8:5 Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern showed to thee in the mount.

Hebrews 10:1 For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect.

SUBSTANCE IS ALWAYS GREATER THAN THE SHADOW

IV. One most frequent themes turns to is that of Priesthood

He introduces the topic early in the book

Hebrews 2:17 Wherefore in all things it behooved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.

ONE OF THE TITLES HE GIVES TO THE LORD JESUS

Hebrews 3:1 Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;

This discussion is found repeatedly in chapter 5-10

The writer discusses the priesthood of Jesus and shows why it is superior to that of Levitical Line

Hebrews 7:11 If therefore perfection were by the Levitical priesthood, (for under it the people received the law,) what further need was there that another priest should rise after the order of Melchizedek, and not be called after the order of Aaron?

I want to look throughout this book show ways Christ was superior

Consider for a few moments

The Priesthood of Jesus Christ

Share with you four reasons why Jesus' priesthood is superior

First there is:

I. The Sanctuary where He Served

A. People brag about things they do others not get to do

Places where they have been others not get to go

Ill. Living quarters of the White House-Buckingham palace

B. Imagine with me place of service

One that not available to all

Think about temple-tabernacle places where God ordained service was held

Hebrews 9:1-7 Then verily the first covenant had also ordinances of divine service, and a worldly sanctuary. For there was a tabernacle made; the first, wherein was the candlestick, and the table, and the shewbread; which is called the sanctuary. And after the second veil, the tabernacle which is called the holiest of all; Which had the golden censer, and the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein was the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant; And over it the cherubim of glory shadowing the mercy seat; of which we cannot now speak particularly. Now when these things were thus ordained, the priests went always into the first tabernacle, accomplishing the service of God. But into the second went the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people:

What an amazing place this must have been to see

Imagine having the honor to be one of the few people to serve there

Only one family was given that honor-Aaron and his sons had that honor

PEOPLE NOT TO TRESPASS IN THIS AREA NOT MATTER WHO THEY WERE

Ill. Uzziah the king

2 Chronicles 26:16-19 But when he was strong, his heart was lifted up to his destruction: for he transgressed against the LORD his God, and went into the temple of the LORD to burn incense upon the altar of incense. And Azariah the priest went in after him, and with him fourscore priests of the LORD, that were valiant men: And they withstood Uzziah the king, and said unto him, It appertaineth not unto thee, Uzziah, to burn incense unto the LORD, but to the priests the sons of Aaron, that are consecrated to burn incense: go out of the sanctuary; for thou hast trespassed; neither shall it be for thine honor from the LORD God. Then Uzziah was wroth, and had a censer in his hand to burn incense: and while he was wroth with the priests, the leprosy even rose up in his forehead before the priests in the house of the LORD, from beside the incense altar.

What an amazing thing it was to serve in position-place where few had honor of serving

C. Think with me about the place Jesus served

Hebrews 8:4 For if he were on earth, he should not be a priest, seeing that there are priests that offer gifts according to the law:

JESUS DID NOT SERVE IN THE TEMPLE WHILE HE WAS ON EARTH

THE PLACE WHERE HE SERVED WAS SO MUCH GREATER

Hebrews 4:14 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.

Hebrews 8:1-2 Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such a high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man.

Hebrews 9:11 But Christ being come a 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;

Hebrews 9:24 For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:

Hebrews 10:12 But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down on the right hand of God;

WHAT A GLORIOUS SANCTUARY WHERE HE SERVED

FAR GREATER THAN ANY SANCTUARY WERE ANYONE ELSE EVER SERVED

His Priesthood was also superior because of:

II. The Service that He Provided

Think about those that served as a priest in the Old Testament. They were all men who sinned.

A. Aaron's Failure

Person chosen by God to be the first priest-not always faithful

Exodus 32:1 And when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down out of the mount, the people gathered themselves together unto Aaron, and said unto him, Up, make us gods, which shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we know not what is become of him.

Numbers 12:1 And Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married: for he had married an Ethiopian woman.

Numbers 20:10-12 And Moses and Aaron gathered the congregation together before the rock, and he said unto them, Hear now, ye rebels; must we fetch you water out of this rock? And Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote the rock twice: and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their beasts also. And the LORD spoke 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.

EVEN THOUGH WE WAS CHOSEN BY GOD-LIFE MARKED BY FILURE

B. Think about others that served in this position

Ill. Time of Christ

Matthew 26:3-4 Then assembled together the chief priests, and the scribes, and the elders of the people, unto the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas, And consulted that they might take Jesus by subtlety, and kill him.

Ill. Time of Paul

Acts 23:1-2 And Paul, earnestly beholding the council, said, Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God unto this day. And the high priest Ananias commanded them that stood by him to smite him on the mouth.

TIME AND TIME AGAIN YOU SEE THIS FACT IN THIR LIVES

Hebrews 7:27 Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself.

Hebrews 7:28 For the law maketh men high priests which have infirmity; but the word of the oath, which was since the law, maketh the Son, who is consecrated forevermore.

C. Think of Jesus' Faithfulness

Hebrews 3:1-2 Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus; Who was faithful to him that appointed him, as also Moses was faithful in all his house.

Hebrews 10:7 Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God.

Hebrews 8:6 But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.

Hebrews 7:26 For such a high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;

Also we could say that Jesus' priesthood is superior because of:

III. The Sacrifice that He Offered Hebrews 10

A. Truly a bloody Job that the priest Had

Imagine all sacrifices that they had to offer over their time of ministry

B. Even in all of the sacrifices there was weakness

Hebrews 10:4 For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.

Hebrews 10:11 And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins:

C. Think about the Sacrifice that Jesus offered

Hebrews 9:13-14 For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Hebrews 7:27 Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself.

Ill. Jesus after the resurrection

John 20:17 Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.

Finally notice that the Priesthood of Jesus was superior because of

IV. The Security that He Provides

A. Already spoke about the weakness of the sacrifices

Weaknesses in priests as well

Hebrews 7:23 And they truly were many priests, because they were not suffered to continue by reason of death:

B. Think endless life of Jesus

Hebrews 7:16 Who is made, not after the law of a carnal commandment, but after the power of an endless life.

Hebrews 9:25-26 Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others; For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

C. What this means to us

Hebrews 9:12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

Hebrews 9:15 And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.

Hebrews 7:24-25 But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

WHAT A GLORIOUS THING TO THINK ABOUT HIS PREISTHOOD

Hebrews 9:14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

IF YOU HAVE NEVER BEEN SAVED RESPOND TO HE LORD AS HIS CALL COMES TO YOU

Hebrews 4:7 Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, Today, after so long a time; as it is said, Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.