



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Prophet, Priest, & King

SELECTED PASSAGES

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One of the things that has made our country great is how our founding fathers set up our government with three branches – executive, legislative, and judicial. The institution of three offices – governor, legislator, and judge – has served well in governing our people.

In the Old Testament we read of three offices - prophet, priest, and king. These three offices were distinct. The prophet spoke God's words to the people; the priest offered sacrifices, prayers, and praises to God on behalf of the people; and the king ruled over the people as God's representative. Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of all three of these offices. He is the ultimate and greatest prophet, priest, and king.

We have been considering how the whole Bible, including the Old Testament, points to Jesus Christ and tells the story of the redemption of sinful people through His work on the cross and His resurrection from the dead. In Luke 24 Jesus taught His disciples how the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms concerned himself and were written about him. (vs. 27, 44) Much of the Old Testament describes for us the offices of prophet, priest, and king. We will gain a much greater of the Old Testament when we understand how Jesus is the ultimate fulfillment of the offices of prophet, priest and king.

Christ fulfills the three offices in the following ways: as prophet He reveals God to us and speaks God's words to us; as priest he both offers a sacrifice to God on our behalf and is himself the sacrifice that is offered; and as king He rules over his people and over the universe as well.

OUR GREAT NEED AS SINFUL PEOPLE

We are in tremendous need as sinful people. We are ignorant of God and His ways. We are guilty of breaking His law. And we are in bondage to sin and death.

The Bible describes how our foolish hearts are darkened (Rom. 1:21) and how our minds are clouded by sin and we are ignorant of the things of God (Eph. 4:17:18). It points out how our minds are blinded by the god of this world (2 Cor. 4:4).

Each of us bears the weight of guilt – the penalty for our many infractions of the law of God. This is not just a matter of “feeling guilty”, but of actual guilt. Apart from Christ we are condemned already (John 3:18). The wages of our sin is death (Rom. 6:23). We are “children of wrath” (Eph. 2:3).

Not only are we ignorant and guilty, but we are under bondage to sin and death. We were born in sin (Ps. 51:5) and there is no good residing in us (Ps. 14:1-3). We are separate from Christ (Eph. 2:12) and in bondage to Satan and his kingdom. Our great need is summed up in that we are “without hope and without God in the world” (Eph. 2:12).

These three great needs caused by sin are cared for by Christ's fulfillment of prophet, priest, and king. Our ignorance is alleviated as Christ reveals and proclaims God and His word to us. Our guilt is taken away as Christ offered himself as the sacrifice for us and now intercedes on our behalf. And sin's rule over our lives is broken as the King delivered us from the domain of sin and brought us into His kingdom (Col. 1:13). As prophet Christ represents God to us. As priest Christ represents us to God. And as king Christ rules over His people as well as the universe. Contemplating how Christ fulfills these Old Testament offices will help us understand how the Old Testament indeed points to Him and His work. Let us take a closer look at how Christ fulfills the offices of prophet, priest, and king.

CHRIST AS THE PROPHET

The Old Testament prophets spoke God's words to the people. Moses was the first major prophet, writing down the first five books of the Bible. After Moses, there was a series of prophets who spoke and wrote God's words.

The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your countrymen, you shall listen to him... The LORD said to me... '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. Deut. 18:15-18

BIBLE STUDIES

LOBBYIST / STAFF STUDY: TUESDAYS, 12:00 NOON, TREASURER'S CONFERENCE ROOM (EB 54)

LEGISLATOR / ELECTED OFFICIAL STUDIES: THURSDAY 8:00 A.M. TREASURER'S CONFERENCE ROOM (EB 54)

THURSDAY 12:00 NOON (LOCATED BEHIND VISITOR'S DESK ON GROUND FLOOR)

West Virginia

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The Old Testament prophet's ministry was summed up with the words, "Thus says the Lord" (repeated at least 420 times). God would give His words to the prophet and he would pass them on to the people. Jesus, however, as the Son of God, reveals God directly to us. His prophetic ministry is summed up by the words "I say unto you..."

God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son... Hebrews 1:1-2

Jesus fulfilled the office of prophet and was greater than any Old Testament prophet in two ways. First, He was the one about whom the prophecies in the Old Testament were made. The OT prophets looked forward to Christ and what He would do for us. Secondly, Jesus was not merely a messenger for revelation from God like the other prophets, but he himself was the source of revelation. The word of the Lord came to OT prophets, but Jesus spoke on his own authority as the eternal Word of God (John 1:1).

Apart from Christ we are ignorant of God, His ways, and the way we must come to Him. Christ has revealed all this to us in the Bible and we must strive to know Him better through reading and studying His word.

CHRIST AS THE PRIEST

In the Old Testament, priests were appointed by God to offer sacrifices. They also offered prayers and praise to God on behalf of the people. In the New Testament Jesus becomes our great high priest and fulfills this office in three important ways.

JESUS OFFERED A PERFECT SACRIFICE FOR OUR SIN

The Old Testament priest brought sacrifices over and over in order to make atonement for the sins of the people. Jesus offered himself as a perfect sacrifice: "He appeared once for all at the end of the age to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself" (Heb. 9:26).

JESUS CONTINUALLY BRINGS US NEAR TO GOD

Through Christ's work on the cross we have the ongoing privilege of access to God (see last week's study.) We can draw near with

confidence to the throne of grace (Heb. 4:16) and have confidence to enter the holy place (Heb. 10:19).

JESUS CONTINUALLY PRAYS AND INTERCEDES ON OUR BEHALF

Jesus' ongoing priestly work includes interceding on our behalf. Jesus is even now at the right hand of God interceding for those who have trusted Him (Rom. 8:34). We can be encouraged that He ever lives to make intercession for us (Heb. 7:25). Christ is indeed our great high priest. It is when we repent and trust Him that our sins are forgiven and our guilt is removed.

CHRIST AS THE KING

In the Old Testament, kings were established by God to rule over His people, the nation of Israel. The best known of these was David. David was promised that one of his descendants would sit on the throne forever (2 Sam. 7). This promise is indeed fulfilled in a descendant of David – Jesus Christ. We see clearly how Christ ultimately fulfills the office of king in Philippians 2:9-11

...God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

As king, Christ will free us from our bondage to sin and death, and make us a member of his kingdom. As such we will seek to submit ourselves to him in each and every area of our lives.

CONCLUSION

- **SEEING CHRIST AS THE FULFILLMENT OF PROPHET, PRIEST, AND KING WILL HELP US UNDERSTAND HOW ALL OF SCRIPTURE POINTS TO HIM.**
- **JESUS CHRIST IS THE FINAL PROPHET, THE GREAT HIGH PRIEST, AND THE CONQUERING KING. HE IS OUR MIRACULOUS ANSWER TO OUR PROBLEMS OF IGNORANCE, GUILT, AND BONDAGE. ARE WE SEEKING TO KNOW HIM THROUGH HIS WORD? DO WE TRUST HIM AS THE ONLY WAY OF DELIVERANCE FROM OUR GUILT? DO WE SUBMIT TO HIM AS OUR KING?**