



Priest

January 19, 2020

And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. Luke 24:27 (ESV)

At its height, the Old Testament gives us a glimpse in advance of who Jesus is. It gives us the categories of prophet, priest, and king that enable us to comprehend the ministry of the Messiah. In its many depths, the Old Testament shows us repeatedly why no one and nothing other than God himself in human form could possibly be the answer to our deepest need and provide us deliverance from our sins. The prophets, priests, and kings of the Old Testament all failed and fell short, just as we do. They all died without providing a ransom for our sins.

Iain M. Duguid, *Is Jesus in the Old Testament?*

This week, we'll explore the ways that Jesus fulfills the role of priest on our behalf.

In Psalm 110:4, the psalmist prophesied of the Messiah:

The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind, "You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek."

Read Hebrews 5:1–10.

[Q] What was the job of the high priest under the old covenant? (v. 1,3)

How did someone become high priest? (v. 1, 4)

[Q] What do you learn about Christ's better priesthood from Hebrews 5:5-10?

[Q] How does Jesus' costly obedience encourage us? How does His prayer life (v.7) challenge us?

Read Hebrews 7:17–28.

[Q] How much use is the old system of priests now? (v. 18)

[Q] Because of Jesus our Priest, what do we have now that is better? (v. 19-22)

If you have time:

To make intercession (v. 25) literally means "to go between." In the heavenly courtroom Jesus speaks on our behalf as our advocate to God the Father and He never loses a case! Read Jesus' High Priestly prayer in John 17. How is He advocating for His people?

[Q] Look through Hebrews 7:23-28; in what other ways is Jesus' priesthood superior?

Apply

Read Hebrews 4:14–16:

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

"If Christ really is the priest of our souls, let us use him regularly and keep nothing back from him."
J.C. Ryle

[Q] How does this study add to your understanding of who Jesus is and what He came to do? How does it impact your love for Him?

Pray ...fix your thoughts on Jesus, whom we acknowledge as our ... high priest. (Hebrews 3:1 NIV).

Extra Credit: Read 1 Peter 2:5, 9-10. What are we called to do as part of a royal priesthood?