

Wednesday Night Bible Class, NRCOC

August 2021

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Assignment: Hebrews 3:1c-Roberta B. Heard

Topic: The Significance of **the Apostle, High Priest** of our profession, including the functional role(s); versus the significance of the **High Priest of the previous profession**, including the functional role(s).

Hebrews 3:1

Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the Heavenly calling, consider the **Apostle** and **High Priest** of our profession, **Jesus Christ**.

My task is to address: (a) The significance of the **Apostle, High Priest of our profession, including the functional role(s)** (b) versus the significance of the High Priest of the **previous Profession**, including **the functional role(s)**.

First let's look at three definitions: (1) **Functional Role** (2) **Profession** and (3) **Apostle**

Functional Role means specific tasks or duties that one is **responsible** for caring out.

Profession means a system of belief in the context of Hebrews 3:1.

Define "**Apostle**"

"In the Christian faith, an apostle means messenger, or one sent on a mission. The word Apostle implies **three things**:

1. You **must** be sent by someone
2. You **must** have a specific mission/task to perform
3. You **must** be sent with sufficient power, or authority to accomplish the mission/task." (Charles Spears, Christianity. Com).

When the word, “**Apostle**” is applied to the 12 men in the NT, it means they were chosen by Jesus and sent into all the world, to preach the gospel, in **His name and by his authority (Matt. 28:19-20)**. When the word “Apostle” is applied to **Jesus Christ**, it means the Father sent Jesus to be our redeemer. God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to **save the world through Him (John 3:16, 17)**.

Let’s view Jesus’ functional role(s) as an “Apostle”: To **speak and act** with divine authority given to Him, by His Heavenly father. He was sent to earth with God’s holy and **divine word**, which He faithfully delivered. Jesus is the fulfillment and culmination of God’s revelation through the centuries. He was sent to be the savior of the world (**Hebrews 1:1-5**). He was the master teacher (John 13:13), who selected, ordained and trained 12 men for the work on earth, using a variety of teaching methodologies (**Mark 1:22; Matt.10:1-5; and Mark 3:14-15**). He was sent by God to be a spokesman and a revealer (**Acts 7:37, John 8:42 and Deut. 18:15**). He served as the Good Shepherd (**John 10:11-18**), He was sent as the Savior of the world and to be the propitiation for sins of all mankind (**1 John 4:10, 11 and Titus 2:13**). He is our Advocate with the Father (**1 John 2:1**).

The significance of the High Priest of the previous profession/functional role(s)

The High Priest of the **previous profession** was appointed by or called by God. He oversaw the tabernacle and the Temple worship. Normally The High Priest served for life (**Numbers 18:7; 25:11-13**). The OT consists of about 25 High Priests all of whom came from the Tribe of Levi. Aaron being the first one (**Exodus 28: 1-2**). The High Priest had to have a special degree of holiness (**Lev. 10:6,9; 21:10-15**). He had to avoid contact with the dead, even if it were his own parents. Only the High Priest was allowed to enter the Holy of Hollies, and **then only**, on the **Day of Atonement (Lev.16:1-25)**.

The High Priest of **the previous profession** presided over the Sanhedrin and oversaw the temple rituals, to make sure they were carried out according to the Law. He would make the annual sacrifice on the Day of Atonement, using the blood of animals. The animal sacrifices were used to offer atonements for sins of the people and **foreshadowed** the complete, **perfect sacrifice of the blood of Christ** upon the cross, **for** the sins of the world. The High Priest served as an advocate for the people of Israel before God. Their sins would be brought forward each year, **not forgiven**. Under the old covenant, animal sacrifices could not take

away sins, they provided only a temporary way to deal with sin. The OT Priest showed compassion on those who sinned out of ignorant (Hebrews 5:1-4). The High Priest had to first make an atonement for himself, because he was human and did sin. Only Jesus' blood could permanently forgive sin (**Hebrew 10:4**).

The significance of Jesus, the High Priest of our profession/functional role

” Christ being Superior” is demonstrated throughout the book of Hebrews. He is known as the ultimate authority and is greater than any prophet, Angel or High Priest of the previous profession ((**Hebrews 1:1-10**). **Christ was divinely appointed the Great High Priest (Hebrews 5: 5-6)**.

Jesus' **death, sacrifice and humility** raised Him to **the role of our Lord and Savior**. He suffered through the human experience, **to be perfectly equipped** for His office as our High Priest (**Hebrew 2:10**). His faithfulness is unsurpassed. He **willingly gave His life**, so that we might be saved (Matt.20:28) and His love knows no boundaries.

Hebrews 3:1 depicts Jesus as the High Priest **of our profession**. Jesus was highly qualified to serve as High Priest according to” **the likeness of Melchizedek**” (**Hebrews 7:15, Psalm 110:4**). Jesus had superior credentials. He triumphed over death forever and He did not come “according to the law of fleshly commandment, but according to the power of an endless life” (**Hebrews 7:16**). His functional role includes being our mediator, to **make a onetime sacrifice** that provided cleaning for the sins of the world. Rather than a yearly atonement, Jesus' sacrificed His precious blood only one time for all mankind (**Hebrews 10:1-18**). Jesus, our High Priest did not have to make an atonement for himself, because he had no sin. The mediation of Jesus is permanent and continual. Today, we can approach the throne of God with confidence, because He is our High Priest, (**Hebrews 4:16**). The High Priest **of our profession** has broken the barrier, made the sacrifice once and for all, established a new covenant, and reinstated our relationship with God. Jesus serves as our great High Priest because of (1) God's **Oath (Hebrews 7:13-17)**, (2) He defeated death, (3) His spotless character and (4) because of His **powerful one-time sacrifice**. Consequently, Jesus did for the world, what no **others** could do. He offers his people **genuine forgiveness of sin, Hope and eternal life**.

Christ is not only our High Priest, but greater than all who came before him. He is described as one who **is holy, compassionate** (Gethsemane- Mark 14:32-42), **harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners** and has **become higher than the heavens**” (**Hebrews 7:26**). Our High Priest' **one time sacrifice, position** and

ministry are superior to all mankind. He is” **Mediator of a better Covenant”, which was established upon better promises (Hebrews 8:6).**

In summary: The high Priest **of our Profession** and the High Priest of the **previous profession** were both appointed, compassionate and had a unique role to perform. Jesus being our High Priest and savior, died on the cross for the sins of the world and The High Priest of the OT had to offer a sin offering for the people once a year on the **Day of Atonement**, only to roll their sins forward.

(1) The High Priest of the **previous profession** work was never finished. Whereas Christ suffering and dying on the cross for our sins is finish. (2) The High Priest of OT repeated the sacrifices often for the sins of the people, but our High Priest, Christ made only one sacrifice **for the sins of the world** (3) The High Priest sacrifices of the OT could not completely forgive sin. However, Jesus’ one time sacrifice effectively cleaned all who **willingly obey** and **serve Him**, according to his holy and divine word.

How thankful we must be for our **Apostle, Our High Priest, Jesus Christ.**

Sources:

Christianity.Com

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Life Application Study Bible, King James Version, 1996

The Holy Bible, King James Version, 2010