

Jesus as Priest | Matthew 1:21-23

“She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).

The Ministry of a Priest

- Priests were called by God to serve Him and the people in four basic ways:
 1. To serve as a mediator or representative between God and the people of God
 - a. “For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins.” (Hebrews 5:1)
 2. To atone for the sins of the people through animal sacrifice
 - a. “He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. Because of this he is obligated to offer sacrifice for his own sins just as he does for those of the people.” (Hebrews 5:2-3)
 - b. “This is to the end that the people of Israel may bring their sacrifices that they sacrifice in the open field, that they may bring them to the Lord, to the priest at the entrance of the tent of meeting, and sacrifice them as sacrifices of peace offerings to the Lord. And the priest shall throw the blood on the altar of the Lord at the entrance of the tent of meeting and burn the fat for a pleasing aroma to the Lord.” (Leviticus 17:5-6)
 3. To teach the law of God to the people
 - a. “For the lips of a priest should guard knowledge, and people[d] should seek instruction from his mouth, for he is the messenger of the Lord of hosts...” (Malachi 2:7)
 4. To pray for the people of God
 - a. “Then the priests and the Levites arose and blessed the people, and their voice was heard, and their prayer came to his holy habitation in heaven.” (2 Chronicles 30:27)

The Perfect Priest

- Jesus fulfills the office and ministry of a priest perfectly in two ways:
 1. By saving sinners and reconciling them to God (Savior)
 - a. Salvation
 - b. Sin
 - i. Sin is debt
 - ii. Sin is hostility toward God
 - iii. Sin is a crime against God
 - c. Jesus fulfills the office of priest perfectly by:
 - i. Jesus proclaims
 - ii. Jesus teaches
 - iii. Jesus mediates
 1. "For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus..." (1 Timothy 2:5)
 - iv. Jesus intercedes
 - v. Jesus advocates
 - vi. Jesus atones
 1. "...but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)
 - vii. Jesus cleanses
 1. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)
 2. By dwelling among us as one of us yet without sin (God with us)
 - a. Jesus obeys
 - b. Jesus sympathizes
 - i. "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. For 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." (Hebrews 4:14-15)