

Jesus, the Greatest High Priest
By Trey Sullins

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be under the Law of Moses? To see the priesthood performing the required acts of worship, it would truly be a sight to behold. Perhaps something even greater would be to meet the High Priest, someone who had been in the Holy of Holies where God resided. While all these things would be great to witness, under the Law of Christ we are much more blessed. The High Priest of the Law of Christ is Jesus Christ; therefore, we must understand what makes Him the great High Priest.

Jesus has “passed through the heavens” (Hebrews 4:14). This phrase calls to mind the fact that Jesus Christ is a from heaven. While the physical High priests of the Law of Moses could only enter the Holy of Holies, Jesus entered and came from heaven. Because of this Jesus, as High Priest, is greater than any other High Priest. Furthermore, one of the responsibilities of a High Priest is that they bring the worship of the people to God in a proper manner. Again, Jesus can do a better job with this because He knows God the Father and Has been with Him in heaven.

Jesus can “sympathize with our weaknesses” and He “was in all points tempted as we are” (Hebrews 4:15). Jesus knows and understands the things which we go through on a daily basis. The idea in the original language is more the idea of empathy. In other words, He also faced stress, pain, and suffering; therefore, He can relate to us as we go through these same things. Of greater importance is the fact that Jesus was tempted just as we are. Sometimes we get this idea in our heads that the temptations we face are our own. While certainly it is our responsibility to defeat them, these temptations are not unique to us. Ecclesiastes 1:9 says, “That which is done is what will be done, And there is nothing new under the sun.” From this passage and further study of the Bible, it is clear that there is no sin which we face today that was not faced by someone before us. We all know just how difficult temptation can be at times; Jesus faced all these same things. This empathy allows Him to serve as the greatest High Priest because He can have compassion on us and help us through our struggles.

Jesus was tempted but lived “without sin.” This simple fact is what makes Jesus temptation so remarkable. It is nothing special to be tempted, but to be tempted and never sin is a powerful accomplishment. Throughout the scriptures we find examples of great followers of God who sinned: David, Solomon, and Paul. However, Romans 3:23 confirms to us that no High Priest or any other person throughout all of history that has managed to live a sinless life, except for Jesus. His perfection means that we can fully trust in Him as High Priest. He will never betray us or do anything to harm us. When we look to Him as our High Priest, this perfection should be a great encouragement for us to know that we can live faithfully too.

Jesus, the greatest High Priest, is truly an amazing blessing for us. First Peter 2:9 states, “But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.” We are His priests today, and as such we have to understand how our High Priest passed through the heavens, He can empathize with us, and He was perfect. Like a faithful priest, we too must ensure that we always obey exact what our God requires of us.