

- with a view to helping us serve the living God.
- What is your place in all this?

*“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.”*

1 Peter 2:9

- Our new role as Christians is that we are described as priests
- What is our role as priests?
- What do you think our response should be?
- What is a Pastor? Is he or she more of a priest than you?

The New International Version of the Bible is used throughout

# DISCOVERING THE BIBLE

LESSON 25

JESUS AS HIGH PRIEST—AND HIS PRIESTS

*“Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.”*

John 17:1-4

- This is the picture of Jesus that we recognise
- Eternal life is ... knowing Jesus
- Jesus prays that He can be glorified. This means having the glory He had before the world began. If you want to check this have a look at Philippians 2
- How close to God would you think Jesus is?

*“In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.”*

Hebrews 1:1-4

- God speaks to us through Jesus.

- After his resurrection Jesus sat at the right hand of God.
- This is a position of authority
- Is this Jesus getting His prayer answered?

*“Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”*

*Hebrews 4:14-16*

- Jesus is described as ‘a great High Priest’.
- He is the kind of Priest who understands our needs.
- Did his lifestyle on earth equip Him to understand you and I?
- Is there anything you would like Jesus to do or explain for you? Would this be the task of a High Priest?
- If Jesus is the High Priest—who are His Priests?

*“Such a high priest meets our need--one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself.”*

*Hebrews 9:26,27*

- Jesus is described not only as Priest but also as sacrifice. Jesus died for my sins.

- What does this description say about Jesus as a sacrifice?

*“In the ancient earthly sanctuary service the high priest went into the most holy place, the most sacred room, only once a year. This was for a special service on the Day of Atonement, which was considered a cleansing of the sanctuary from the people’s sins that had been confessed during the year. In fact, the Jews viewed it as a day of judgement. ... The entire sanctuary service, of course, represented the plan of salvation and the work of Jesus for us.”*

*Encounter Bible Study Guide, ‘The Bible’s Greatest Prophecy’*

*“When Christ came as high priest of the good things that are already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not man-made, that is to say, not a part of this creation. He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption. The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!”*

*Hebrews 9:11-14*

- Jesus did the same as the ancient High Priest. He could do this because he has already offered himself as a sacrifice. This must have taken place according to the prophecy in Daniel 8:14—at the end of the 2300 years prophecy in 1844
- The sanctuary Jesus entered was in heaven, He only needed to go there once.
- The purpose is to make us clean and save us from death