

CLC Host's Personal Meeting Room

Overview

This Bible study session focused on Lesson 9 from a systematic theology course, examining God the Son's future ministry with particular emphasis on Christ's threefold office as Prophet, Priest, and King. The lesson began with a brief review of Lesson 8 concerning Christ's present ministry as our intercessor and advocate, then transitioned into exploring how Jesus fulfills the three primary Old Testament offices. The instructor led the group through detailed scriptural analysis demonstrating how Christ supersedes all Old Testament figures, particularly Moses, while fulfilling prophecies established centuries before His birth. The session emphasized that believers now serve as priests with direct access to God's throne room through Christ's finished work.

Key Concepts or Theories:

- **Christ's Threefold Office:** Jesus uniquely holds three distinct offices—Prophet, Priest, and King—which were separate positions in the Old Testament but are unified in Christ
- **The Priesthood of Believers:** All believers are now priests with direct access to God's throne room, no longer requiring human intermediaries
- **Old Testament as Shadow:** The Old Testament figures, offices, and practices served as types, shadows, and foreshadows of Christ's perfect fulfillment
- **Kenosis:** Christ's self-emptying when He took on human form, veiling His divine glory (Philippians 2:7)
- **The Mosaic Covenant vs. New Covenant:** The distinction between living under the dispensation of law versus the dispensation of grace
- **Christ as Superior to Angels:** Hebrews 1 establishes Christ's supremacy over all created beings, including angels

Important Questions Raised:

- How was Jesus like Moses, and what does it mean that God promised a prophet "like Moses"?

- Why did God command Hosea to marry Gomer, a prostitute, and what does this teach about God's relationship with Israel?
- What does it mean that Christ is the "Alpha and Omega"?
- How do we honor the Son, and what are the consequences of not honoring Him?
- Why is it significant that the temple veil was torn from top to bottom rather than bottom to top?
- What is the difference between the Old Testament dispensation of law and the New Testament dispensation of grace?

Key Takeaways and Summary of Learning Objectives

- Jesus Christ serves as our eternal advocate and intercessor, ever living to make intercession for believers at the right hand of God
- All believers are now priests with direct access to God's throne room through Christ's finished work, no longer requiring human intermediaries
- Christ holds three offices—Prophet, Priest, and King—which were separate positions in the Old Testament but are unified perfectly in Him
- The Old Testament serves as a shadow and type of Christ, with figures like Moses foreshadowing the coming Messiah
- Jesus is superior to all Old Testament prophets, priests, kings, and even angels, as demonstrated in Hebrews 1
- Christ's life paralleled Moses in significant ways: both were spared death as babies, renounced royal positions, had compassion on God's people, and spoke to God face-to-face
- The tearing of the temple veil from top to bottom (6 inches thick) symbolized God's action in providing direct access to His presence
- Understanding the Old Testament is essential because it connects directly to the New Testament, revealing God's consistent character and redemptive plan

Topic 1: Christ's Present Ministry - Review

The session opened with a review of Lesson 8, focusing on Christ's current ministry as our advocate and intercessor. The instructor emphasized that Jesus "ever liveth to make intercession for us" (Hebrews 7:25), highlighting that believers have an advocate who speaks to the Father on their behalf despite their faults, failures, and sins. This review established that Christ's love is boundless and He is always present with believers, hearing their prayers and knowing their needs. The discussion reinforced that Christ's intercessory work is the means by which believers are lifted up when they fall and restored to fellowship with the Lord.

The review also covered the priesthood of believers, examining Revelation 1:6, 5:10, and 20:6, which declare that Christ has made believers a kingdom of priests to God. The instructor explained that in the Old Testament, only designated priests could enter the throne room and intercede with God, but now all believers have this access. The tearing of the temple veil from top to bottom—a curtain six inches thick—symbolized that God Himself opened access to His presence, not human effort. This access cannot be reversed or taken away, representing the permanent nature of believers' priestly status through Christ.

Relevant Q&A

Question: What can a priest do?

Answer: A priest has authority, can pray over people, proclaim the word, and most importantly, can intercede with God and enter the throne room. In the Old Testament, only priests had access to God's presence, but now all believers have this access through Christ.

Question: How did God make us priests?

Answer: Because Christ is the High Priest, and through His work, all believers now have direct access to God's throne room, which was previously reserved only for designated priests.

Question: Why was the temple veil torn from top to bottom?

Answer: To show that God, not man, tore it—it was so tall that a ladder would be needed to reach the top, and so thick (6 inches) that human strength couldn't tear it. This demonstrated that God Himself provided access to His presence, and it was torn top to bottom so it couldn't be sewn back together or reused, signifying the permanent nature of this new access.

Topic 2: Introduction to Christ's Threefold Office

The lesson transitioned to examining Christ's future ministry by first establishing His threefold office as Prophet, Priest, and King. The instructor explained that these were three distinct

offices in the Old Testament era, each held by different individuals who were anointed by God for their specific roles. The prophetic order in Israel, the blood sacrifices offered by Aaron and the priests, and the throne of David all foreshadowed Christ's complete fulfillment of these offices. Unlike Old Testament figures who could only fulfill one office and did so imperfectly due to their sinful nature, Christ uniquely holds all three offices simultaneously and fulfills them perfectly.

The discussion emphasized that the Old Testament serves as a shadow of what Christ would accomplish. The instructor used the analogy of a model car versus the actual car—once you have the real thing, the model loses its purpose. Similarly, Old Testament figures and practices were types pointing forward to Christ, but once Christ came and fulfilled these offices perfectly, the shadows were no longer needed. The group examined how God's redemptive plan was established before the foundation of the world, with all Old Testament revelation from Adam to Malachi presenting God's plan to completely redeem all who accept Christ as Lord and Savior.

Relevant Q&A

Question: What does "Alpha and Omega" mean?

Answer: Alpha is the first letter of the Greek alphabet, meaning "beginning," and Omega is the last letter, meaning "end." Christ is declaring that He has been here from the beginning and will be here at the end—He is eternal and supreme.

Question: What does the title "Christ" mean?

Answer: Christ means "the Anointed One." It is the official title of the Son of God, indicating His divine appointment to the threefold office of Prophet, Priest, and King.

Question: If you don't honor Jesus, what does that mean for your salvation?

Answer: According to John 5:23, whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him. Therefore, if you don't honor Jesus, you are not saved, because honoring Christ is inseparable from honoring God the Father.

Topic 3: Christ the Prophet - Prophesied and Fulfilled

The session devoted significant attention to Christ's office as Prophet, beginning with the prophecy in Deuteronomy 18:18 where God told Moses, "I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers, and I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to

them all that I command them." This prophecy was given approximately 1,400 years (14 centuries) before Christ's birth, demonstrating God's foreknowledge and sovereign plan. The instructor emphasized that Peter recognized the fulfillment of this prophecy in Acts 3:18, 22, and 26, understanding that all Old Testament prophecies about the suffering Messiah had been fulfilled in Christ.

The group conducted an extensive comparison between Moses and Jesus, identifying multiple parallels that demonstrated how Jesus was indeed the prophet "like Moses" that God had promised. Both were spared death as babies—Moses from Pharaoh's decree to kill Hebrew male children (Exodus 2:1-4) and Jesus from Herod's massacre of children two years old and under (Matthew 2:13). Both renounced royal positions—Moses refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing instead to be mistreated with God's people (Hebrews 11:24-27), while Jesus emptied Himself of His divine glory, taking the form of a servant (Philippians 2:5-8). Both demonstrated compassion for God's people, with Moses interceding for Israel (Numbers 27:17) and Jesus having compassion on the crowds who were like sheep without a shepherd (Matthew 9:36). Finally, both spoke to God face-to-face—Moses on Mount Sinai where his face shone with God's glory (Exodus 34:29-30), and Jesus throughout His earthly ministry, including at the Mount of Transfiguration, in Gethsemane, and at the raising of Lazarus.

Relevant Q&A

Question: How many years is 14 centuries?

Answer: 1,400 years—the prophecy about Christ the Prophet was given to Moses approximately 1,400 years before Jesus' birth.

Question: Who were Christ's "companions" mentioned in Hebrews 1:9?

Answer: The prophets, priests, and other leaders in the Old Testament. They were Christ's companions because Christ came down and became a man like them, but He fulfilled the offices better than they did—He loved righteousness and hated wickedness completely, while they were sinful and imperfect.

Question: Why did God command Hosea to marry Gomer, a prostitute?

Answer: God wanted Hosea to understand how He felt about Israel's spiritual adultery—their worship of idols and unfaithfulness. By experiencing the pain of having an unfaithful wife, Hosea could better preach to Israel about God's feelings toward their unfaithfulness. God even commanded Hosea to redeem (buy back) Gomer after she had been unfaithful, just as God redeems His people despite their unfaithfulness.

Question: What does it mean that Christ "redeems" us?

Answer: To redeem means to pay the price to buy someone back. Christ paid the price through His death to buy us back from sin and death, just as Hosea bought back Gomer.

Topic 4: Christ's Superiority - Hebrews Chapter 1

The instructor led an in-depth study of Hebrews 1 to establish Christ's absolute superiority over all Old Testament figures and even angels. The passage begins by acknowledging that God spoke to the fathers through the prophets in various ways, but emphasizes that in these last days, God has spoken through His Son, who is the heir of all things and through whom God created the world (Hebrews 1:1-2). The text describes Christ as "the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature," who upholds the universe by the word of His power and, after making purification for sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high (Hebrews 1:3).

The discussion highlighted how the writer of Hebrews systematically demonstrates Christ's superiority. First, Christ is superior to the prophets and patriarchs like Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Moses—He is the one who made all of them and appointed them. Second, Christ is superior to angels, having "become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs" (Hebrews 1:4). The rhetorical question "For to which of the angels did God ever say, 'You are my Son, today I have begotten you?'" (Hebrews 1:5) establishes that no angel holds the position of Son. The passage continues by declaring that angels worship Christ, and while angels are described as winds and flames of fire, Christ's throne is forever and the scepter of His kingdom is righteousness (Hebrews 1:7-8).

The instructor emphasized verse 9, which states that God anointed Christ "with the oil of gladness beyond your companions" because Christ "loved righteousness and hated wickedness." The "companions" refer to the Old Testament prophets, priests, and kings who attempted to fulfill these offices but failed due to their sinful nature. Christ succeeded where they failed, fulfilling the offices perfectly. The passage concludes by affirming that Christ laid the foundation of the earth and the heavens are the work of His hands—they will perish and wear out like a garment, but Christ remains forever (Hebrews 1:10-11). This comprehensive presentation establishes that Christ supersedes all Old Testament shadows and types, being the ultimate and perfect fulfillment of God's redemptive plan.

Relevant Q&A

Question: Why is it important to understand that the Old Testament connects to the New Testament?

Answer: Because everything that happened in the Old Testament has a connection to the New Testament. The Old Testament shows the prophecies and types that point to Christ, and the New Testament shows their fulfillment. Understanding this connection helps us see God's consistent character and His redemptive plan from beginning to end.

Question: What does it mean that the Old Testament is a "shadow" of Christ?

Answer: A shadow is a resemblance, a forecast, a type, or an example of what was to come. The Old Testament figures and practices pointed forward to Christ but were imperfect and incomplete. Once Christ came as the reality, the shadows were no longer needed—like having a model car versus the actual car. Once you have the real thing, the model serves no purpose.

Question: Why couldn't the Old Testament prophets, priests, and kings fulfill their offices perfectly?

Answer: Because they had sinful natures and were fragile, imperfect men. Abraham lied about Sarah being his sister, Moses disobeyed God, David committed adultery and murder, Solomon worshiped idols—they all failed in various ways. God used them as shadows to show that man cannot fulfill these offices on his own, which is why Christ had to come and fulfill them perfectly.

Question: What is the significance of Christ being anointed "beyond your companions"?

Answer: It means Christ fulfilled the offices of prophet, priest, and king better and more completely than all the Old Testament figures who held these positions. Because Christ loved righteousness and hated wickedness perfectly, without sin, God anointed Him with greater glory and authority than any of His human "companions" who attempted these roles.

Topic 5: The Dispensation of Law versus Grace

The instructor briefly addressed the distinction between the dispensation of law under which Old Testament believers lived and the dispensation of grace under which New Testament believers now live. In the Old Testament, people were under the Mosaic Covenant, which was characterized by the law given at Mount Sinai. The law served as a guardian or tutor (Galatians 3:25), showing people their sin and God's standards, but it could not save anyone or give them the power to fulfill its requirements. The law functioned like a mirror—it could show you that your face was dirty, but it couldn't wash your face clean.

The discussion emphasized that with Christ's coming, believers are no longer under the guardian of the law. Galatians 3:25 states, "But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian." This doesn't mean believers should disregard moral standards—it remains morally right not to murder, commit adultery, or steal. However, believers don't follow these moral principles to earn salvation or maintain their standing with God. Christ has already fulfilled the law completely, and believers are saved by grace through faith, not by works of the law. The instructor clarified that while believers should strive to live righteously because Jesus would want them to, they are not trying to get into heaven by keeping the law—Christ has already secured their salvation through His perfect obedience and sacrificial death.

Relevant Q&A

Question: Are we still under the law?

Answer: We are no longer under the law as a means of salvation or as a guardian. We are under the new covenant of grace. However, the moral aspects of the law still reflect God's character and how we should live—not to earn salvation, but because Christ has already saved us.

Question: Should we still follow the moral law even though we're not under the law?

Answer: Yes, because it's morally right and reflects God's character. We should try to live righteously because Jesus would want us to, but we're not trying to fulfill the law to get into heaven—Christ already did that for us.

Question: What was the purpose of the law if it couldn't save anyone?

Answer: The law served as a mirror to show people their sin and God's standards. It revealed that humans cannot save themselves and need a Savior. It was a guardian leading people to Christ.

Topic 6: Practical Applications and Modern Parallels

Throughout the session, the instructor drew practical applications for contemporary believers. He emphasized that understanding Christ's intercessory work and believers' priestly status should produce confidence and gratitude. Knowing that Christ has compassion on believers and ever lives to intercede for them should encourage believers during difficult times and remind them that their struggles are temporary compared to their eternal inheritance. The instructor noted that believers will reign with Christ as priests forever (Revelation 20:6), which should provide perspective when facing earthly challenges.

The discussion also touched on the importance of personal Bible study beyond formal classes. While acknowledging the value of structured teaching, the instructor encouraged participants to engage in private study, noting that Peter and other New Testament believers knew the Old Testament scriptures well, which enabled them to recognize Christ's fulfillment of prophecy. One participant shared that he had been discussing the story of Hosea and Gomer with his spouse that same day, illustrating how the material was relevant to personal reflection and family discussions.

The instructor also shared a conversation with Roger, a church member undergoing medical treatment, who had encountered someone claiming to be an Israelite who rejected the New Testament and believed only in the law. Roger had responded by explaining that the law is a mirror that cannot save, demonstrating how the theological concepts being studied in class equip believers to engage in real-world conversations about faith. The instructor emphasized that the material being learned would come back to believers at the right time, enabling them to give answers to those who ask about their faith and potentially win people to Christ.

Relevant Q&A

Question: How does understanding that we're priests with access to God's throne room affect our daily lives?

Answer: It should give us confidence to approach God boldly in prayer, knowing we have direct access through Christ. We don't need human intermediaries. It should also fill us with gratitude that Christ has given us this incredible privilege and position.

Question: Why is it important to study the Bible personally, not just in classes?

Answer: While classes and preaching are valuable, we need to do our own private study so that God's Word becomes part of us. Peter knew the scriptures well, which enabled him to recognize Christ's fulfillment of prophecy. Personal study equips us to engage in conversations about faith and potentially win others to Christ.

Question: How can we use what we're learning in real-life situations?

Answer: The material we're learning will come back to us when we need it. For example, when Roger encountered someone who rejected the New Testament and believed only in the law, he was able to explain that the law is a mirror that cannot save. God will bring back what we've learned and help us give answers to those who ask about our faith.

Actionable Next Steps / Assignments

- Review Deuteronomy 18:18 before the next class session, as this will be the starting point for continuing the study of Christ as Prophet
- Continue personal Bible study beyond class sessions, following the example of Peter and other New Testament believers who knew the scriptures well
- Reflect on the parallels between Moses and Jesus discussed in this session, considering how Christ fulfills and supersedes all Old Testament types
- Prepare to continue studying Christ's threefold office, with more material on Christ as Prophet remaining to be covered, followed by studies of Christ as Priest and King

Supplemental Resources

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