

**The High Priest Who Truly Meets Our Need**

1. **By His Sacrifice**
2. **By His Intercession**

*Jesus is Our High Priest*

- **Vs. 26a.** Jesus is our... We understand; tangible; get them. But what Bible mean – HP? Just sang; focus. So to understand today's worship, hymn, what Bible means – what HP is, what does.

*By His Sacrifice*

- Turn to OT, priesthood of Israelites. Two jobs: make sacrifice, intercession. Sacrifices: back in OT, animals to church; to be forgiven, animals to temple; priest sacrificed animals; kill, shed blood, bodies burned on altar. Morbid for M-Day; graphic, smelled; but by God's design. Teaching with bloodshed that sins deserved great punishment; only way for forgiveness, shedding of blood. So, what priests did, all the time: morning, evening; for their own sins – they sinful; special occasions; special festivals. Very special, Day of Atonement. On day, HP make special sacrifice, cover sins whole nation; on that day HP to Holy of Holies in temple, sprinkle blood on ark of covenant. Most imp fest, celebrate annually. So that's what priests did, esp HP; sacrifice-r of animals for sins.
- What to do with you? Never brought animal to church (don't!). Never had anyone sacrifice animal on your behalf. So what mean for you, Jesus HP? **Vs. 26a.** We have same need as OT believers: someone to make sacrifice to pay for sins. **Vs. 27.** So Jesus is HP who truly meets need because made that sacrifice for us. 3 key truths about how sacrifice meets need: for others, once for all, himself.
- For others: **vs. 27a.** OT priests sacrificed for others, also for selves, still sinful; not any better than people. But Jesus different; no sins of own to sacrifice for. **Vs. 26b** – no sin. Devote entire priestly ministry to sacrificing for us. Big job: lot of sins that need forgiving. We present Jesus with record of sinful behavior what would demand herds if lived in OT. That's just us. Jesus is HP of entire world, everyone ever lived. God tasked Jesus with bearing every single sin, every single person. Literally had weight of world on shoulders on cross. When you see Jesus dying on cross, realize: your punishment, what you deserve – not him, because sacrificed for others.
- Once for all: **vs. 27b.** When think how many animals sacrificed/year, and how many years, realize over centuries hundreds of millions of animals met fate at temple altar; hardly fathom amount of blood shed. That too teaches lesson. To people like us who in pride think, "Good person; good morals, values; raise kids right; not perfect but alright," God: "You can hardly fathom bloodshed it would take to forgive your sins." Hundreds of millions of animal sacrifices on temple altar couldn't cover them. Only Jesus HP could. So sacrificed once for all. On cross on GF Jesus made sacrifice to end all sacrifices. Why said "Finished;" why don't brings animals to church. In one moment, on cross, Jesus accomplished what hundreds of millions of dead animals could never do, paid for sins of humanity once for all. All of world history revolves around one moment; there is no more important event in human history than crucifixion of Christ. Everything depends on this sacrifice. So on GF every demon in hell, angel in heaven, eye on earth watched with uninterrupted gaze as God justified entire world of its guilt, when our HP JC made sacrifice once for all.
- Himself: **vs. 27bc.** In OT, was animals who died, not priests; they never died. Sacrifice-rs, not sacrifice-ees. But not with Jesus; sacrificed himself. Laid down life; actually died for you. As Christian, you know. Really think: died for you! In spite of who you are, to give you what don't deserve, sacrificed himself. You had great need, forgiveness of your great sin. But **vs. 26a.** Jesus is the HP who truly meets need, because by his sacrifice (for others, once for all, himself), your need for forgiveness finally met.

### *By His Intercession*

- Something else priests and HPs would do: pray for people. Go into temple, burn incense, smoke rise up into rafters, offer prayers; was like smoke bringing them up to heaven. Priests prayed for people; called intercession. Speak to God for people, like in courtroom, defense attorney speaks to judge for defendant. What priests did when prayed; called intercession.
- Jesus is our HP because intercedes for us: prays for, speaks to God for us. **Vs. 25.** Best example in Gospel. **Jn 17:11a**; you! **17:15.** Jesus prays for his people, protected from Satan. Spoke prayer MT night, right before made sacrifice – called Hply prayer. His intercession: speaks to God for us, prays for us. **Rom 8:34:** “**Christ Jesus, who died – more than that, who was raised to life – is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.**”
- Nice to find out someone praying for you? Sick/surgery – nice that praying to God on your behalf. Why we pray for each other, at home, at church. But Jesus always praying for us, always interceding for us. Always asking God to guard/protect; Spirit to strengthen faith, defend from temptation. You always on Jesus mind, lips. Says, “Father, they’re innocent! I paid for their sins with my blood! Don’t look at mistakes or consider their sins. Look at my death, my res. I’ve brought them into our family. Your children, my brothers/sisters. So when they die, bring them home to live with us in heaven forever.” That’s Jesus’ intercession. **Vs. 25.**

### *Truly Meets Our Need*

- That’s kind of HP we have: sacrificed himself, rose, intercedes. With this service Easter season comes to close. Thursday Ascension – to heaven. Today, one last to fully ponder res before Pentecost, coming of HS, next Sunday. But for as much comfort as you take in know Jesus is..., also take comfort knowing that Jesus, who sacrificed and intercedes, is your great HP.

### **Hebrews 7:23-27**

<sup>23</sup> Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office; <sup>24</sup> but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. <sup>25</sup> Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

<sup>26</sup> Such a high priest truly meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. <sup>27</sup> 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.

