

DISCOVERING THE BIBLE

LESSON 25

JESUS AS HIGH PRIEST

"How long will it take for the vision to be fulfilled--the vision concerning the daily sacrifice, the rebellion that causes desolation, and the surrender of the sanctuary and of the host that will be trampled underfoot?" He said to me, "It will take 2,300 evenings and mornings; then the sanctuary will be re-consecrated."

Daniel 8:13,14

1. In the vision Daniel saw we needed to find out what would happen in 1844 at the end of 2300 years
2. The sanctuary is to be re-consecrated

"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

1. God speaks to us through Jesus.
2. After his resurrection Jesus sat at the right hand of God.
3. This is a position of authority

3. How do you think they felt?

"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

1. 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
2. The sanctuary Jesus entered was in heaven, He only needed to go there once.
3. The purpose is to make us clean and save us from death with a view to helping us serve the living God.

“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

1. Jesus is also described as ‘a great High Priest’.
2. He is the kind of Priest who understands our needs.
3. Did his lifestyle on earth equip Him to understand you and I?

“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

1. Jesus is described not only as Priest but also as sacrifice. Jesus died for my sins.
2. Do you feel the need of a Priest at times in your life?

“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’

We ought to read Leviticus 16 for an outline of the yearly service. In summary what happens is that once a year the High Priest cleanses himself (by washing and with the sacrifice of a bull). He then takes 2 male goats for a sin offering. He then casts lots to choose between the two goats. One is to be sacrificed for the people, the blood to be sprinkled into the Most Holy Place of the sanctuary. This makes a final atonement for the year. The other goat is to have all the sins of the people prayed over it—and is then to be released in the desert with its own load of sins. No-one takes away it’s sin. Only sacrifice can do that.

“This is to be a lasting ordinance for you: On the tenth day of the seventh month you must deny yourselves and not do any work--whether native-born or an alien living among you—because on this day atonement will be made for you, to cleanse you. Then, before the LORD, you will be clean from all your sins.”

Leviticus 16:29,30

1. That one day was very important to the people of God.
2. Every person was assured of cleansing from their sins then.