**The Priest Who Became a King**

**Hebrews 8:1-5**

*Pastor Paul Anthes*

**INTRODUCTION:** Leaders set the tone and direction for those they lead. Believers desire leaders who are not godless and do not harm the nation the family or the church. The sad truth is that there are often times when there is simply no such person available to lead. This is why God has told us that it is vitally important to pray for our leaders.

**1 Timothy 2:1-4**  First of all, then, I urge that entreaties *and* prayers, petitions *and* thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, 2 for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. 3 This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Now when we do this we acknowledge that God has a role to play in our nation and politics and it is not the human “free-for-all” that it appears to be. These leaders are men and women and as such are sinners with feet of clay and blind spots. Satan has seized the moral and spiritual helm of this world. He is intent on keeping Christ from men.

**2 Corinthians 4:3-4**  3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, 4 in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

As “god” Satan is the driving force in the opinions, goals and aspirations of the vast majority of people. World views, how men are educated and business (money and how to obtain it) have all fallen under Satan’s godless leadership. How men think, what they think about and what they think is true are all prisoner to Satan’s lies and deceit.

**Ephesians 2:1-2**  And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, 2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.

Men and women are dead to The one True God, but they are bristling with Satan’s energy that works in them day and night through all the things they come into contact with. Their education, ambitions, sense of right and wrong, solutions to humanities problems are all a product of Satan.

The world is spiritually dark. Dark means NO light!

**Colossians 1:13**  13 For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,

The darkness is filled with traps and snares for you and all men! Only we who have been rescued can help those who are still trapped. We are Christ’s servants (slaves) and….

**2 Timothy 2:24-26**  24 The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, 25 with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, 26 and they may come to their senses *and escape* from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.

Just like us today, New Testament believers were experiencing these same anxieties. The Roman Empire was godless and held under the sway of “the evil one” just like modern America. For the Hebrew believers; Their “church” [so to speak] or religion was gone with all the old familiar rituals and customs. The world is offering them comfort or hope. But God is offering them Christ Jesus.

The Holy Spirit writes our passage to show us that we have something infinitely superior to the false hope of this satanic world system. We belong to Christ! Jesus is our perfect High Priest and also our Gloriously Sovereign King. Believers throughout all time are exhorted to never, ever fix our hope on the things in this world. They are all false hopes and tarnished imitations of what God gives in Jesus Christ, His Son. These five verses reveal that….

* Jesus alone can bring us to heaven [1a]
* Jesus is the sovereign ruler of creation [1b]
* Jesus cares for you in this life [2-5]

**Jesus Alone can Bring us to Heaven [1a]**

**Now the main point in what has been said *is this*: we have such a high priest [1a]:** Chapter 7 has been explaining the Greatness of Christ. He is a better priest, provides a better covenant and is a better Savior when compared to all other things on earth.

The phrase “the main point” describes the “Main” or the “Crowning” argument. God wants to give a more precise explanation of how superior Christ is to all other things on earth and in heaven. Jesus is not one among many, but is the “one and only” He is also Sovereign. Nothing can successfully resist His will and He is supremely good.

It is not true as some suggest, that men can go directly to God without a priest. We may however go directly to our priest. Let me show you from Scripture. We need a priest because God is unapproachable. You cannot see Him! No man has ever seen Him!

**1 Timothy 6:15-16**  -- He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, 16 who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see. To Him *be* honor and eternal dominion! Amen.

A priesthood was established by the Law of Moses allowed men to bring an offering for their sins to a priest who would then sacrifice it to God. Neither the priest nor the sacrifice were ever able to take away sin, only to cover them over. It was intended to foreshadow Christ. It was a shadow cast by the true priest and sacrifice Jesus.

**Hebrews 10:1**  For the Law, since it has *only* a shadow of the good things to come *and* not the very form of things, can never, by the same sacrifices which they offer continually year by year, make perfect those who draw near.

All priesthoods, but Christ’s, are now illegitimate. Let’s go back into Hebrews just long enough to recall the things we already know about Jesus.

* He is fully human and paid for our sins with a fully human sacrifice (Himself).

**Hebrews 2:17**  17 Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

* He is a High Priest who is faithful to God. He offered the sacrifice God required for your sins and mine.

**Hebrews 3:1-2**  Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of our confession; 2 He was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also was in all His house.

* He is a High Priest who sacrificed in a temple in heaven and not one on earth.

**Hebrews 4:14**  14 Therefore, since we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

* He is a High Priest who experienced every weakness of humanity. Fear, grief, pain, exhaustion, hunger and death, but did NOT sin.

**Hebrews 4:15**  15 For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as *we are, yet* without sin.

* He is a High Priest appointed directly by God and not the law.

**Hebrews 5:9-10**  9 And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation, 10 being designated by God as a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

**“The main point in what has been said is this:”** We Actually Have such a High Priest! You have a High Priest like this, through whom you may approach God. But there is more!

**Jesus is The Sovereign Ruler of Creation [1b]**

**He has taken His seat [1b]:** The earthly priests never ever sat down. The reason for that is simple; they were never done with their work. There was not even a place provided in the Tabernacle where they could sit.

Their offerings served as a constant reminder to men of their continual sinful state. No earthly priest may or even can offer a true sacrifice for your sins. Jesus did it and He did it only once. For forgiveness of sins you must come to the cross. There Christ offered a sufficient, one time offering for the sins of men. If you want relief from your sin don’t rely on something that just reminds you every time that you are still sinful. Christ is finished with suffering, sacrificing and dying. He is your sufficient High Priest.

**Hebrews 10:11-12**  11 Every priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins; 12 but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, SAT DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD,

**A finished redemption!** It is possessed by faith. Faith equals trust in Jesus and His Promise to have died for your sin. What you or some human priest do will never remove your sins. What Christ did already has. When you come to Christ in faith you too will join those who are destined to sit with Him.

**Ephesians 2:4-6**  4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus,

**When He finished the sacrifice for our sins He took His place as our King.**

**The right hand of God [1c]:** Christ is now a seated priest….finished with His perfect, “once and for all” sacrifice. But… He is also seated at the place of greatest honor. He is seated at the right hand of God. Just to stand in such a place was a great honor. To sit there is almost unthinkable and conveys the thought of “co-sovereign” and “heir to the throne!”

This picture was familiar to men and women of the ancient world. The man seated at the Kings right hand was the next in line to rule. It was the place of highest honor. It also had significance in the everyday legal life of the Jewish people. In his commentary on Hebrews John MacArthur describes the Sanhedrin, the Jewish ruling council of seventy elders.

“When the members sat in judgment, a scribe, or secretary, sat on either side of the presiding judge. The scribe on the left side was responsible for writing condemnations, while the one on the right was responsible for writing acquittals. Jesus said that He came into the world not to condemn but to save [John 3:17] As High Priest, He now sits in the place not only of honor and power but of Mercy. He sits there making intercession [Heb. 7:25]---writing acquittals, as it were, for His Own.” ***John MacArthur***

**Hebrews 7:23-25**  23 The *former* priests, on the one hand, existed in greater numbers because they were prevented by death from continuing, 24 but Jesus, on the other hand, because He continues forever, holds His priesthood permanently. 25 Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

Jesus, who bore our sins on the Cross has acquitted us by doing so. Today, even now, is seated on the throne of the universe. The events bearing down on us from all sides, the coming election, the turmoil and violence is not certainly of Satan, but not beyond the power of our King. God has purposes for all this. The godless are suffering at their own hands. This is judgment for sin and should not be taken lightly.

**Proverbs 16:4**  4 The LORD has made everything for its own purpose, Even the wicked for the day of evil.

Martin Luther famously said the “The Devil is God’s devil.”

The evil in the world is part of God’s judgment on men. Do not waver on this. Romans says that God is continually revealing His burning anger toward mankind for their sin. When men get perverse and wicked enough God actually lets them have exactly what they so long for…a world without God. A society where they can do whatever they want, whenever they want and there is no righteous standard to stop them. God is not saving all judgment up for the end. At the end He will vanquish Satan cast all who will not repent of their evil into The Lake of Fire. But here is what is going on right now!

**Romans 1:18** For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

**Romans 1:21-23**  21 For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. 22 Professing to be wise, they became fools, 23 and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.

**Romans 1:28-32**  28 And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper, 29 being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; *they are* gossips, 30 slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, 31 without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful; 32 and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.

We proclaim that Jesus is the King of the Universe and is therefore able to save those who come to Him. As sovereign Lord He also keeps us completely by His loving power.

**John 6:39-40**  39 "This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day. 40 "For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day."

**Jesus cares for you in this life. [2-5]**

**A minister in the sanctuary and in the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, not man [2]:** Here God tells us of the “true tabernacle.” This is not saying that the one God designated for the Jews before the cross was “false.” “True” in this case is the opposite of “copy” or “shadow” tabernacle. In other words this is the one that casts the shadow.

**For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices; so it is necessary that this *high priest* also have something to offer [3]:** This is a pretty obvious statement but it has real purpose. Priests offer sacrifices for sin. What they offer? They offered lambs, rams and what the Law told them to offer. They were priests appointed by The Law and they offered sacrifices that were just shadows of the real sacrifice.

**Now if He were on earth, He would not be a priest at all, since there are those who offer the gifts according to the Law [4]:** Jesus was NOT a priest under The Law. He was directly chosen by God the Father to be your priest. If Jesus were just an earthly priest He would have offered just earthly sacrifices and we already know those can never take away your sin and….

**….Who serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things, just as Moses was warned *by God* when he was about to erect the tabernacle; for, "SEE," He says, "THAT YOU MAKE all things ACCORDING TO THE PATTERN WHICH WAS SHOWN YOU ON THE MOUNTAIN." [5]:** Moses had been instructed to make everything just like the one He “saw” on the mountain. God was casting shadows. Now all shadows have certain things in common.

* They are always in the shape of the object that is casting it.
* They can usually be recognized pretty well
* They can be distorted by our vantage point
* They are never ever actually the object itself

Like everything else in the Law, the tabernacle was not false and it was not bad. It was a shadow cast by the real object. That real object is Jesus Christ Himself.

Jesus is a minister in this tabernacle. What is He doing there? Well He is absolutely NOT offering sacrifices for sin. He is not investigating you (as per SDA) to see if you are good enough to get to heaven.

**Hebrews 10:18-22**  18 Now where there is forgiveness of these things, there is no longer *any* offering for sin. 19 Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, 21 and since *we have* a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled *clean* from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

Here are some of the things He is doing;

* He is praying for you.

**Hebrews 7:25-27**  25 Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. 26 For it was fitting for us to have such a high priest, holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners and exalted above the heavens; 27 who does not need daily, like those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the *sins* of the people, because this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.

Do you have prayer needs you are unwilling to share? Jesus Christ is praying for you.

* He is defending you.

Satan knows about your sin as well as you do. He somehow finds the time to accuse you day and night before God. He knows the penalty for sin. “The wages of sin is death.” “The soul that sins…it shall die.” How he delights in pointing out our every defect to the Father and to one another….But his days are numbered.

**Revelation 12:9-10**  9 And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. 10 Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night.

Jesus pleads your case on His merits and not on your own. Each new charge is answered with the perfect defense. “I myself am the propitiation [payment] for his or her sins.”

**1 John 2:1-2**  My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; 2 and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for *those of* the whole world.

* He is preparing a place for you.

**John 14:1-3**  "Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 "In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. 3 "If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, *there* you may be also.

You are not forgotten. You are not abandon. Our Great High Priest is preparing a place for our eternal and joyous homecoming. He will come for us. We do not need to find the way. How will a man ever find His way back to God? Jesus will “pick you up.”

**Conclusion:** Christ is enough for you. If Christ is able to get you to heaven He is also able to banish your anxieties and give you great joy and peace in this world.

**Romans 8:26-32**  26 In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for *us* with groanings too deep for words; 27 and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to *the will of* God. 28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose. 29 For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; 30 and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified. 31 What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *is* against us? 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?