

The Risen Christ, Prophet, Priest and King

Text: Acts 1:11-14

Luke 24:46-53; Mark 16:15-20

Thank God for the Gospel, i.e., the death, the burial and the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Little is said, comparatively speaking, about the Ascension of our Lord. Without the ascension we would not be enjoying the benefit of Christ's death, burial and resurrection. The government of God rests upon a threefold tier. Allow me to take you back to the Old Testament. David, the king is soon to expire and Adonijah and others are causing havoc in an attempted coup of insurrection. So, for the kingdom to be stabilized, the prophet, priest and king must all three be in agreement for the coronation of Solomon, the true King, to take place. To capture this important event let us read I Kings 1:38-45. Please notice the repetition of prophet, priest and king. Then make note of I Kings 1:47: "And moreover the king's servants came to bless our lord king David, saying, God make the name of Solomon better than thy name, and make his throne greater than thy throne. And the king bowed himself upon the bed." Jesus said in Luke 11:31, "...behold, a greater than Solomon is here." David had a prophetic understanding of this when he said in Acts 2:34, "For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand" (Psalm 110:1).

Just before our Lord's crucifixion He announced to the Sanhedrin, "Hereafter shall the Son of man sit on the right hand of the power of God" (Luke 22:69). As the New Testament is coming to the close, the writer of Hebrews reminds us of the authority that emanates from the throne of God. Hebrews 1:3: "Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high." Remember, when Jesus said to Mary, "Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God" (John 20:17). He wasn't saying something with superstitious ramifications, but rather Christ was saying in essence, "Mary, let go of Me, you'll have Me forever." This seems to be the attitude of the angels who said, "...Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven" (Acts 1:11).

1. CHRIST AS PROPHET

Acts 3:18-23, 26

Acts 1:1: "The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach." The book of Acts has sometimes been called "The Acts of the Apostles." It should be more appropriately be titled "The Acts of the Lord through the Apostles." And notice the Book of Acts begins with "...of all that Jesus began to do and to teach." It did not say that Matthew, Mark, Luke and John were the works of Jesus and the Book of Acts records the works of the disciples. It is simply the continuation of the works of Jesus. The disciples asked Jesus before He left, "...Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?" (Acts 1:6b). Jesus answered in verse 8, "But ye

shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” In other words. “Now it is up to you to continue.” Thus, our Lord was able to say, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father” (John 14:12). As prophet, Christ shall talk directly to us through His word. Ephesians 4:20, 21: “But ye have not so learned Christ; If so be that ye have heard Him, and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus.” The King James is a perfect translation from the Greek text. It says, “...ye have heard Him....” The two most used modern translations missed it by saying, “...when you heard about Christ...” (NIV), and “...assuming that you have heard about Him...” (ESV). Our Lord as prophet talks directly to us through His word! Luke 7:28: “For I say unto you, Among those that are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist: but he that is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.” John was limited in his knowledge of Jesus and power from our Lord. John 10:41: “And many resorted unto him, and said, John did no miracle: but all things that John spake of this man were true.” In the forty days after Christ rose from the dead, He taught his disciples prophecies that John did not have an understanding of, otherwise he would not have doubted. We see Him as prophet teaching the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. Luke 24:27: “And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.” Then he taught the disciples in Luke 24:44, 45: “And He said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures.”

2. CHRIST AS PRIEST

Hebrews 8:1, 2; 7:16-22

Christ as our High Priest ever lives making intercession for us! Romans 8:34: “Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.” I John 2:1: “My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.”

The Priesthood of Jesus is beautifully seen in the martyrdom of Stephen in Acts 7:54-56. The world scorns us, mocks us, condemns us and in some cases would kill us. But no matter what the world thinks or would do to us, Christ, our High Priest intercedes for us and in the case of Stephen stood at the Father’s right hand to welcome and defend His beloved servant.

3. CHRIST AS KING

I Timothy 1:17; Revelation 19:16; Hebrews 1:3-8; Ephesians 1:19-23

Christ has the position of a prime minister, who like Joseph was running things. And yet he has all the authority of the King. This is amazing! The angels said in Acts 1:11, “...this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.” Think of it; the God/Man, Jesus is sitting upon the throne in Heaven. God, yet a human being.

God is Sovereign and rules over all. Here is a comparison: in Genesis 37:17 we see that Joseph is thrown into a pit in Dothan and ended up in Egypt. In II Kings 6:13 we see God answered Elijah's prayer when he was in Dothan and delivered him and his servant through fiery chariots and angelic warfare. The same place, but very different outcomes! In both cases God is still in control, working all things together for good (Romans 8:28). Genesis 50:20: "But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive."

John Newton wrote: "O Jesus, Shepherd, Guardian, Friend,
my Prophet, Priest, and King,
my Lord, my Life, my Way, my End,
accept the praise I bring."

-Pastor Pope-