

No. 18 How Christ's Loyalty as High Priest Helps Us

[PLEASE NOTE: This talk includes videos]

WHY DID ISRAEL NEED A LOYAL HIGH PRIEST? (3 min.)

The high priest was one of the most important men in ancient Israel

His loyalty to God was vital because he bore great responsibility

(*it-1* 1112 ¶4-1113 ¶2)

He assisted the nation's leaders in upholding justice

More important, he represented the nation before Jehovah God

The high priest took the lead in the spiritual instruction of the people

He oversaw the temple and the observance of the annual festivals

He offered the most important of sacrifices on Atonement Day

Through the apostle Paul, God revealed that Jesus Christ is the

Greater High Priest [Read Hebrews 7:26]

What makes Jesus a better high priest than any man who ever served in that position?

How does Jesus show loyalty in a way that benefits us today?

WHY IS JESUS A BETTER HIGH PRIEST? (4 min.)

Jesus became the High Priest of Jehovah's great spiritual temple upon

his baptism in 29 C.E. (*w00* 1/15 15-16 ¶7-10; *it-2* 1080-1081)

Paul was inspired to explain how Jesus' high priesthood is superior to that of Aaron or any of his descendants

Jesus offered up to Jehovah, not a mere animal sacrifice, but a

perfect sacrifice that actually takes away sins (Heb 10:1-4)

Jesus' sacrifice did not need to be offered up repeatedly; the

ransom was provided "once for all time" (Heb 7:27)

Jesus did not need to offer a sacrifice for his own sins, for he

remained "without sin" (Heb 4:15)

Sin and death are grim realities (Ro 5:12)

We urgently need the services of the High Priest whom Jehovah has appointed in our behalf

HOW DOES JESUS SHOW LOYALTY AS HIGH PRIEST? (23 min.)

Hebrews 7:26 draws our attention to Jesus' loyalty as High Priest;

consider four ways in which he shows perfect loyalty to Jehovah

(1) Jesus loyally *obeys his Father* in all things

Imperfect human high priests were prone to failing the test of obedience (Ex 32:1-4, 22-24; 1Sa 2:22-25)

Jesus "learned obedience" through sufferings [Read Hebrews 5:8]

He had always been obedient, but his sufferings refined and tested him to the full

Jesus remained obedient even when hungry, exhausted, or in extreme pain

Jesus obediently teaches just as Jehovah directs (Joh 12:49)

(2) Jesus loyally *reflects Jehovah's impartial justice*

In Jesus' day, chief priests, such as Annas and Caiaphas, corrupted justice; religious leaders, such as the Sadducees and

the Pharisees, were heavy-handed bullies who cared more about

their man-made rules than about the needs of the people

Let us look at a video clip from '*For a Certainty God Made Him Lord and Christ*'—Part II, depicting John 9:1-35

[Video crew begins 1-minute, 30-second video]

Did you notice how the religious leaders were harsh and cold, using threats to control people?

In contrast, Jesus showed a compassionate, reasonable spirit

Is that not the kind of high priest we need?

(3) Jesus loyally *reflects Jehovah's love and compassion*

Jesus was deeply grieved by the hard-heartedness of the religious leaders (Mr 3:1-6)

As High Priest, Jesus is nothing like them

Remember how Jesus treated the woman with the flow of blood

Let us look at another clip, this time from '*For a Certainty God Made Him Lord and Christ*'—Part I, depicting Mark 5:25-34

[Video crew begins five-minute video]

Did you notice that Jesus did even more than heal that woman?

He felt pity for her, though he had never been sick

He referred to her as "daughter" and praised her faith

He acknowledged that her illness had been "grievous," a source of great pain

Is it not comforting to know that our High Priest is fully able to "sympathize with our weaknesses"? (Heb 4:15)

(4) Jesus loyally *joins Jehovah's fight against sin and death*

On the annual Day of Atonement, the high priest acted out a prophetic drama

By entering the Most Holy of the temple with the blood of the sacrifice, the high priest represented the way Christ would enter heaven itself to present to Jehovah the value of the ransom sacrifice (Heb 9:24-26)

Even before offering up his life, Jesus showed that he was "the resurrection and the life" (Joh 11:25); Jehovah empowered him to defeat mankind's terrifying enemy, death

Recall how the resurrection of Lazarus was portrayed in '*For a Certainty God Made Him Lord and Christ*'—Part II (Joh 11:11-36)

[Video crew begins five-minute video]

Did you notice the feelings Jesus revealed when he was with those mourning the death of Lazarus?

Jesus' heartfelt tears should be of great comfort to us

He was not acting; he sincerely hates sin and death

Jesus loyally reflected the feelings of his heavenly Father (Joh 14:9)

Imagine Jesus' joy when his Father directs him to carry out resurrections on a global scale! (Joh 5:28, 29)

It is comforting to contemplate the loyal High Priest whom Jehovah has appointed to restore us to perfection and to wipe out sin and death for all time

SHOW GRATITUDE FOR OUR LOYAL HIGH PRIEST (4 min.)

Thinking of Jesus as the loyal High Priest fills us with gratitude

His life course on earth proved his loyalty; he displayed all the qualities foretold (Isa 11:1-15; 42:1-4)

As our loyal High Priest, he comes to our aid now and will continue to do so, helping us grow to perfection (Heb 2:18; w00 3/15 7-9)

How can we strengthen our gratitude for our High Priest?

Did watching those scenes from last year's video drama refresh your memory and fill you with gratitude?

We are pleased to announce at this convention the release of the video *'For a Certainty God Made Him Lord and Christ'—Parts I and II*

The chairman will indicate how you can access this video
You will surely agree that these beautiful dramas are worth viewing repeatedly

Meditating on them and discussing them with fellow believers and in our family worship will strengthen our appreciation for Jesus

How can we show our gratitude?

Continue to carry out the work Jesus assigned to his followers
(Mt 28:19, 20)

By following in his footsteps and reaching out to help others, we can ensure that more and more people will come to benefit eternally from the services of Jesus, our loyal High Priest

TO BE COVERED IN 34 MINUTES

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