***The Hope of Every Nation and Every Person is the Coming Prophet, Priest, King***

**More than A Priest, He is OUR Great High Priest**

**A Prophet – One who speaks for God to us
A Priest – One who speaks to God for us
A King – One who rules over us**

**A Brief History of the Priesthood**

**Melchizedek: Around 2000 BC, Genesis 14
Aaron: Around 1500 BC, Exodus 28
Samuel: Around 1000 BC, I Samuel 3
Ezra: Around 500 BC, Ezra 7**

**We need help, but not just any priest will do**

**I. Christ is the forever high priest: He lives forever and He intercedes for us**

* **He is like Melchizedek and not Aaron, Samuel or Ezra in that He has a forever priesthood**

**II. Christ is the perfect high priest: He has no sin or weakness in Himself and He can help us in our sin and weakness**

* **Aaron and all his successors made sin offerings for themselves first because of their sin but Christ in absolute perfection offered Himself for us all**

**III. Christ is the compassionate high priest: He face all of our temptations and trials and He can sympathize with our struggles**

* **He interceded for us in the Upper Room, the Garden of Gethsemane and on the Cross**

**IV. Christ is the great and gracious high priest: He sits at His Father’s right hand and He invites us to confidently come to Him for help**

* **Having completely satisfied all the demands of the Law for righteousness and restitution He continually invites us into His presence**

***The Hope of Every Nation and Every Person is the Coming Prophet, Priest, King***

**More than A Priest, He is OUR Great High Priest**

**Scripture Reading and Prayer…Leslie Evans (Hebrews 4:14-16)**

**More than A Priest, He is OUR Great High Priest (Header Slide)**

* **We discussed last week the portrait of Christ is the coming prophet in fulfillment of God’s promises to Israel through Moses**
* **We say last week that as Peter was preaching in Acts chapter 3 that Peter connected Jesus Christ with the great promise of Moses from Deuteronomy 18**
* **Today we will look at Jesus Christ as the fulfillment of the Great High Priest to come into the world with a permanent priesthood**
* **So these three offices, Prophet, Priest and King, Christ fulfills all three roles**
* **Slide 2**
* **A Prophet – One who speaks for God to us**
* **A Priest – One who speaks to God for us**
* **A King – One who rules over us**
* **The merger of these 2 offices, Priest who is also a king, is our focus today**

**A Brief History of the Priesthood**

**Melchizedek: Around 2000 BC, Genesis 14 (Slide 3)**

* **Read Genesis 14:18-20 (Slide 4)**
* **Read Psalm 110:4-5 (Slide 5)**

**Aaron: Around 1500 BC, Exodus 28 (Slide 6)**

* **Read Leviticus 16:29-30 (Slide 7)**

**Samuel: Around 1000 BC, I Samuel 3 (Slide 8)**

**Ezra: Around 500 BC, Ezra 7 (Slide 9)**

* **Turn to Zechariah 3**
* **During the time of Judah’s return to Jerusalem, they had just rebuilt the temple and in that moment the confidence of the people is low**
* **Who are we to build this temple, given the rebellion of the nation**
* **Look how small this temple is compared to others around us and compared to the temple that once stood here**
* **Then we get this vision in Zechariah 3 with Joshua the high priest coming into the temple to offer sacrifice before the Lord on behalf of the people**
* **Zechariah 3:1-7 summarize**
* **Read Zechariah 3:8 (Slide 10)**
* **Read Zechariah 3:9-10 (Slide 11)**
* **Read Zechariah 6:12-13 (Slide 12)**

**We need help, but not just any priest will do**

**I. Christ is the forever high priest: He lives forever and He intercedes for us**

* **He is like Melchizedek and not Aaron, Samuel, Ezra or Zechariah in that He has a forever priesthood**
* **Read Hebrews 7:23-24 (Slide 13)**
* **Read Hebrews 7:25 (Slide 14)**

**II. Christ is the perfect high priest: He has no sin or weakness in Himself and He can help us in our sin and weakness**

* **Aaron and all his successors made sin offerings for themselves first because of their sin but Christ in absolute perfection offered Himself for us all**
* **He interceded for us in the Upper Room, the Garden of Gethsemane and on the Cross**
* **Read Hebrews 7:26-27 (Slide 15)**

**III. Christ is the compassionate high priest: He face all of our temptations and trials and He can sympathize with our struggles**

* **Read Hebrews 4:14 (Slide 16)**
* **Read Hebrews 4:15 (Slide 17)**

**IV. Christ is the great and gracious high priest: He sits at His Father’s right hand and He invites us to confidently come to Him for help**

* **Having completely satisfied all the demands of the Law for righteousness and restitution He continually invites us into His presence**
* **Read Hebrews 4:16 (Slide 18)**
* **We have incredible needs, needs before God and God has appointed His own Son to meet our needs**
* **We need a permanent, forever advocate before our Holy God**
* **We need a perfect high priest, so that we are not concerned whether His ministry is sufficient or well received**
* **We need someone who can really minister to us because He understands our weaknesses**
* **We need a compassionate priest who offers grace and help in our deepest moments of need**
* **Jesus Christ, the Great Prophet, High Priest and King, the fulfillment of all our hopes came to speak for us to His loving, Heavenly Father**
* **He is our Great High Priest**