

CHRIST, OUR PRIEST



THE PRIESTHOOD OF JESUS



His calling:

According to the order of Melchizedek.

According to the order of Aaron.

His duties:

Advocate and intercessor.

Mediator.

His qualities:

As priest.

As sacrifice.

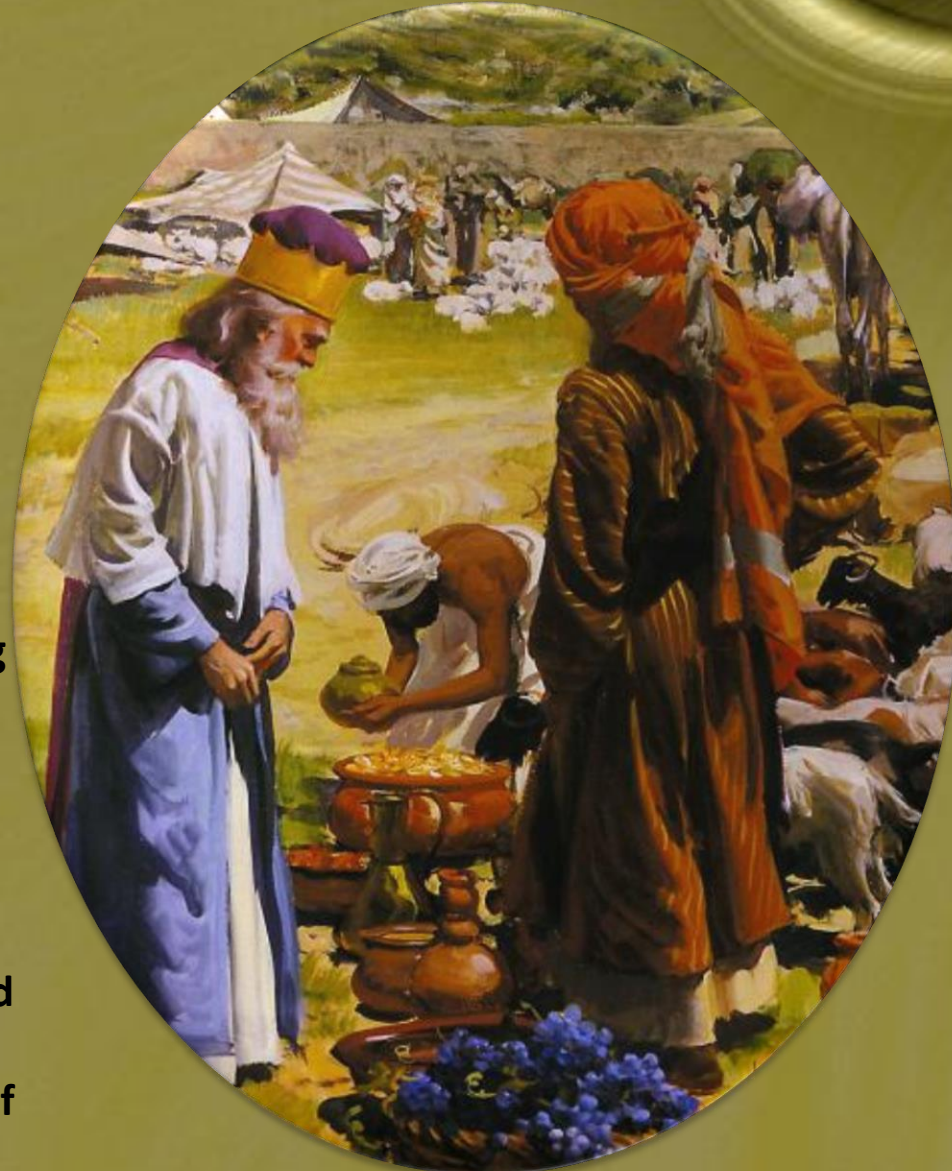
CALLED ACCORDING TO THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK

“The Lord has sworn and will not relent, “You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.”” (Psalm 110:4)

Who was Melchizedek? How is he related to the priesthood of Jesus (Hebrews 7)?

- **He is a symbol of the character of Jesus (Psalm 89:14): Righteousness and peace (v. 2)**
 - **“Melchizedek” = “My king is righteous”.**
 - **“King of Salem” = “King of peace”.**
- **He is a symbol of the eternity of Jesus and His priesthood (v. 3)**
 - **His genealogy is unknown.**
 - **We are not able to determine the date of his birth or death, or how long he lived.**
- **He is a symbol of the superiority of Jesus (v. 6-7)**
 - **He blessed Abraham and Abraham gave him the tithe.**

The priesthood of Melchizedek is a priesthood “not according to the law of a fleshly commandment, but according to the power of an endless life” (Heb. 7:16)



**CALLED
ACCORDING TO
THE ORDER OF
AARON**

"And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron was" (Hebrews 5:4)

Although the Levitical priesthood (the priests were Aaron's descendants) was limited because of human weakness, we still can see a clear example of the priesthood of Jesus in it (Hebrews 5:1-5)

He interceded on behalf of the people (v. 1)

He is patient with ignorant and lost people (v. 2-3)

He was called by God to his duty (v. 4-5)

Jesus fulfilled both the Aaronite and the Melchizedek high priesthood in a better way than either of those priests, or priesthods, ever did or could. Both types met their antitype in Christ.

“The high priest held a position of power and importance. He was not only counselor and mediator, but judge; and there was no appeal from his decision ... The high priest, clad in his consecrated and expensive robes, with the breastplate upon his breast, the light flashing upon the precious stones inlaid in the breastplate, presented a most imposing appearance, and struck the conscientious, true-hearted people with admiration, reverence, and awe. The high priest was designed in an especial manner to represent Christ, who was to become a high priest forever after the order of Melchisedec [RH 12-17-1872]”



JESUS: ADVOCATE AND INTERCESSOR

"My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous"
(1 John 2:1)

What DOES NOT Jesus Christ do when He intercedes on our behalf at the Heavenly Sanctuary?

- Jesus does not need to beg the Father for us, or to beg Him to be merciful, because our Heavenly Father loves us (Jn. 16:26-27)
- Jesus does not need to change the Father's attitude to us or to appease an angry God (Jn. 3:16)

What DOES Christ DO when He intercedes on our behalf at the Heavenly Sanctuary?

- Jesus meets His Father to help men and women in their daily struggles against evil by giving them the Holy Spirit (Jn. 15:5)
- Jesus saves us by forgiving our sins and justifying us (Heb. 7:25)
- Jesus vindicates us against Satan's accusations. He gives us confidence in the Day of Judgment (1Jn. 4:17)



JESUS: THE MEDIATOR

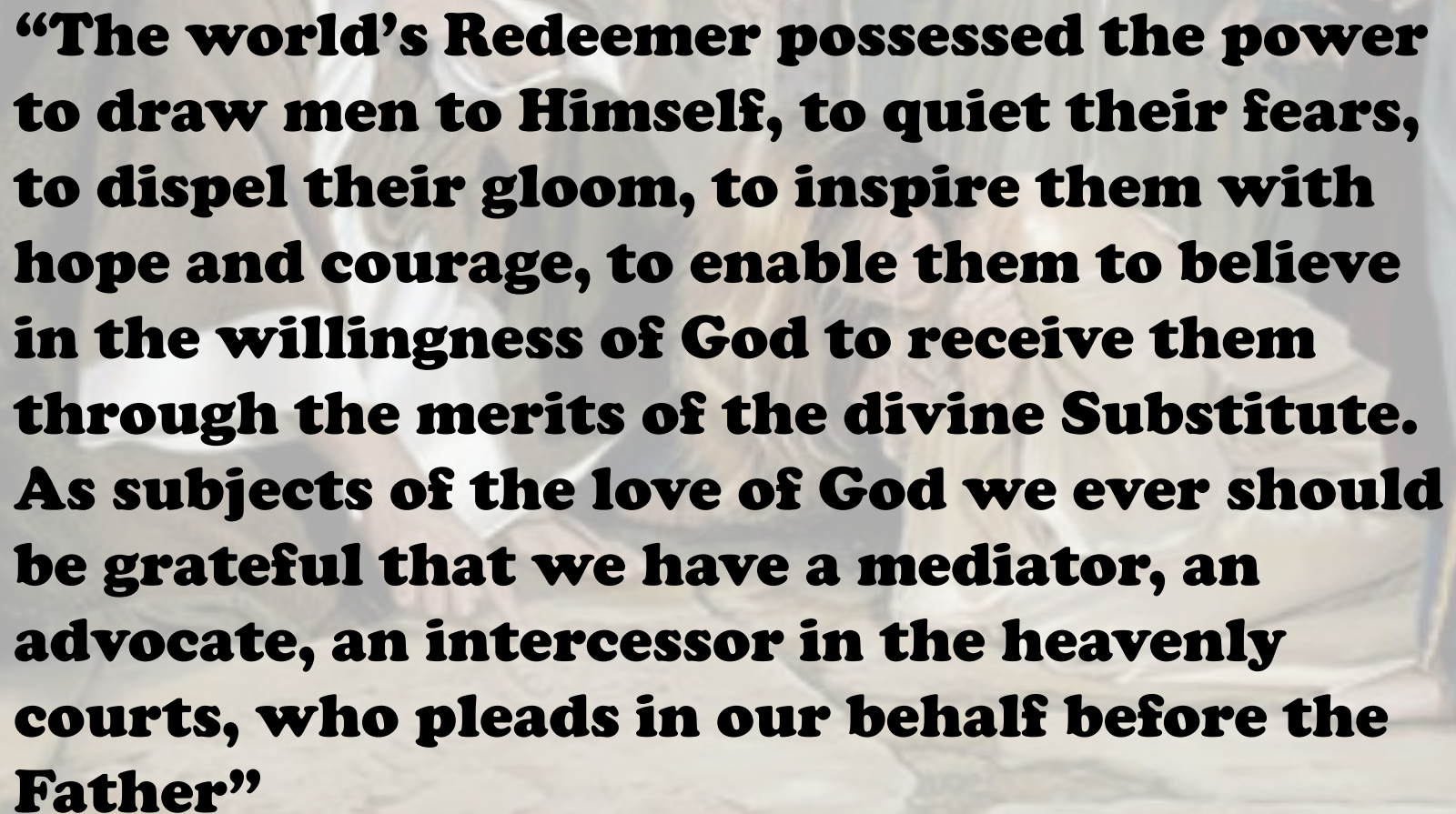
What is the difference between Jesus' ministry of intercession and His ministry of mediation?



The ministry of intercession involves Jesus pleading for the fallen man who needs to be justified.



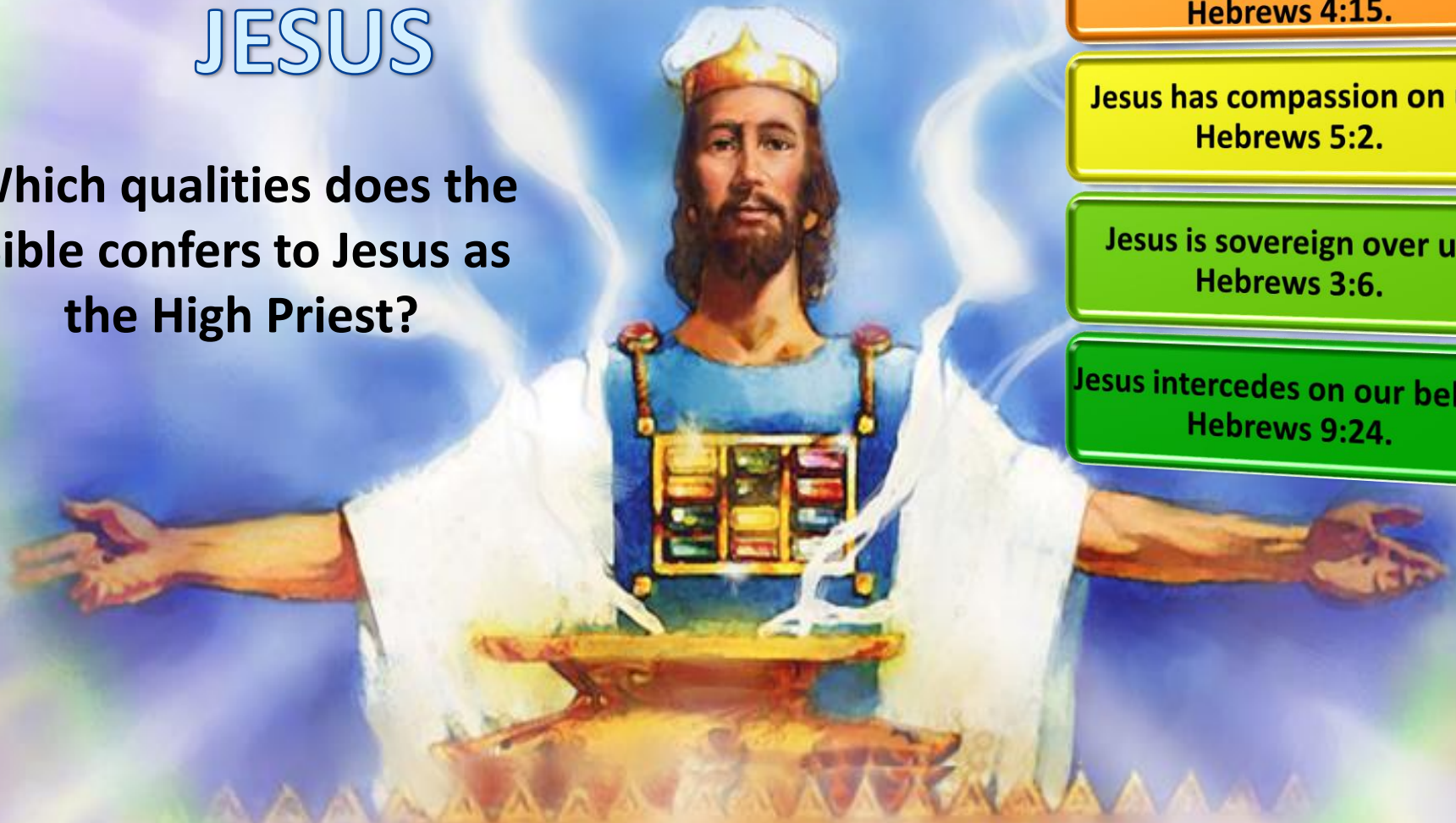
The ministry of mediation involves Jesus restoring the broken relationship between God and man. He brings man to God through reconciliation and sanctification.



“The world’s Redeemer possessed the power to draw men to Himself, to quiet their fears, to dispel their gloom, to inspire them with hope and courage, to enable them to believe in the willingness of God to receive them through the merits of the divine Substitute. As subjects of the love of God we ever should be grateful that we have a mediator, an advocate, an intercessor in the heavenly courts, who pleads in our behalf before the Father”

PRIESTLY QUALITIES OF JESUS

Which qualities does the Bible confer to Jesus as the High Priest?



**Jesus is merciful and faithful.
Hebrews 2:17.**

**Jesus was in all points tempted
as we are.
Hebrews 4:15.**

**Jesus has compassion on us.
Hebrews 5:2.**

**Jesus is sovereign over us.
Hebrews 3:6.**

**Jesus intercedes on our behalf.
Hebrews 9:24.**

"For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens" (Hebrews 7:26)

QUALITIES OF JESUS AS SACRIFICE

“And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God” (Hebrews 10:11-12)

The animal sacrifices were symbols, so they could not actually forgive or cleanse any sin.

Sin is something too terrible to be forgiven by the death of mere animals. Only the death of God —represented by Jesus— can forgive sins.

The death of Jesus is the only one that can cleanse the sins of the whole human race.



“As by His own choice He [Jesus] died in the presence of an assembled nation of worshipers, type met antitype. Priest and victim combined, He entered the Temple as a place of sacrifice. Christ our Passover was sacrificed for us. He was the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. He is a true high priest, for after enduring humiliation, shame, and reproach, after being crucified and buried, He was raised from the grave, triumphing over death. He is a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek”