

## **The Priesthood of the order of Melchizedek**

Melchizedek was a priest and king, a type or shadow of Christ. Christ, therefore, is the antitype of Melchizedek, and the true and real Priest and King. Moreover, he was also a prophet, which further highlights His superiority.

The prophet of the Third Angel Movement delineates Christ's priestly and kingly functions while He was incarnate in human flesh. We shall consider her references to Him as such. Today we shall present the Biblical proof of his priesthood while on earth, and later, his kingship on earth.

We shall first consider the Levitical priesthood, which is given to teach about His priestly ministry in the incarnation.

Questions of atonement from the Bible for consideration.

1. What is atonement? Hebrews 2:17
2. Who makes atonement? Leviticus 4.
3. Where is atonement made? In the MH place, and the HP. Leviticus 16:17-20, 27
4. In the type, there is one other place where atonement was made.

There is a belief that atonement was only made in the sanctuary when the blood of the sin offering was taken into it. But is this true?

Let us examine some passages from the Bible that teach that atonement was also made in other than the MHP or the HP. Understanding this will help us appreciate the work of Christ as priest after the order of Melchizedek during His earthly life.

### **Leviticus 4:22-35.**

When a ruler hath sinned, and done somewhat through ignorance against any of the commandments of the Lord his God concerning things which should not be done, and is guilty;<sup>23</sup> Or if his sin, wherein he hath sinned, come to his knowledge; he shall bring his offering, a kid of the goats, a male without blemish:<sup>24</sup> And he shall lay his hand upon the head of the goat, and *kill it in the place where they kill the burnt offering* before the Lord: it is a sin offering.<sup>25</sup> *And the priest shall take of the blood of the sin offering with his finger, and put it upon the horns of the altar of burnt offering, and shall pour out his blood at the bottom of the altar of burnt offering.*<sup>26</sup> And he shall burn all his fat upon the altar, as the fat of the sacrifice of peace offerings: and *the priest shall make an atonement for him as concerning his sin, and it shall be*

**forgiven him.** <sup>27</sup> And if any one of the common people sin through ignorance, while he doeth somewhat against any of the commandments of the Lord concerning things which ought not to be done, and be guilty; <sup>28</sup> Or if his sin, which he hath sinned, come to his knowledge: then he shall bring his offering, a kid of the goats, a female without blemish, for his sin which he hath sinned. <sup>29</sup> And he shall lay his hand upon the head of the sin offering, and slay the sin offering in the place of the burnt offering. <sup>30</sup> And ***the priest shall take of the blood thereof with his finger, and put it upon the horns of the altar of burnt offering, and shall pour out all the blood thereof at the bottom of the altar.*** <sup>31</sup> And he shall take away all the fat thereof, as the fat is taken away from off the sacrifice of peace offerings; ***and the priest shall burn it upon the altar for a sweet savour unto the Lord; and the priest shall make an atonement for him, and it shall be forgiven him.*** <sup>32</sup> ***And if he bring a lamb for a sin offering,*** he shall bring it a female without blemish. <sup>33</sup> And he shall lay his hand upon the head of the sin offering, and slay it for a sin offering in the place where they kill the burnt offering. <sup>34</sup> And ***the priest*** shall take of the blood of the sin offering with his finger, and put it upon the horns of the altar of burnt offering, and shall pour out all the blood thereof at the bottom of the altar: <sup>35</sup> And he shall take away all the fat thereof, as the fat of the lamb is taken away from the sacrifice of the peace offerings; and the priest shall burn them upon the altar, according to the offerings made by fire unto the Lord: ***and the priest shall make an atonement for his sin that he hath committed, and it shall be forgiven him.***

In the above instances, atonement was made by the priest at the altar of burnt offering in the courtyard. When this was done, the blood was not taken into the sanctuary. Other instances of the same are: Leviticus 9:1-7; 14:(20-21, 27-32).

## **2 Chronicles 29:20-24.**

Then Hezekiah, the king, rose early, and gathered the rulers of the city, and went up to the house of the Lord. <sup>21</sup> And they brought seven bullocks, and seven rams, and seven lambs, and seven he goats, ***for a sin offering for the kingdom, and for the sanctuary, and for Judah.*** And he commanded the priests, the sons of Aaron, to offer them on the altar of the Lord. <sup>22</sup> So they killed the bullocks, and the priests received the blood, and sprinkled it on the altar: likewise, when they had killed the rams, they sprinkled the blood upon the altar: they killed also the lambs, and they sprinkled the blood upon the altar. <sup>23</sup> And they brought forth the he goats for the sin offering before the king and the congregation; and they laid their hands upon them: <sup>24</sup> And ***the priests***

*killed them, and they made reconciliation with their blood upon the altar, to make an atonement for all Israel:* for the king commanded that the burnt offering and the sin offering should be made for all Israel.

It should be carefully noted that it is the priest who killed the sacrifice and made the atonement at the altar of burnt offering, in the courtyard.

Let us consider some statements from the prophet to the Third Angel Movement in relation to Christ, the antitypical priest who made atonement on earth, heaven's courtyard. And more precisely at Calvary.

1. "The Son of God ... has fulfilled His pledge, and has passed into the heavens, to take upon Himself the government of the heavenly host. *He fulfilled one phase of His priesthood by dying on the cross for the fallen race. He is now fulfilling another phase by pleading before the Father the case of the repenting, believing sinner, presenting to God the offerings of His people.*" 7BC 929.1
2. With amazement, the angels beheld the infinite love of Jesus, who, suffering the most intense agony of mind and body, thought only of others, and encouraged the penitent soul to believe. In His humiliation, He, as a prophet, had addressed the daughters of Jerusalem; *as priest and advocate, He had pleaded with the Father to forgive His murderers*; as a loving Saviour, He had forgiven the sins of the penitent thief. Desire of Ages 752.1
3. "As in the typical service, the high priest laid aside his pontifical robes and officiated in the white linen dress of an ordinary priest; so *Christ laid aside His royal robes and garbed Himself with humanity and offered sacrifice, Himself the priest, Himself the victim.*" Acts of the Apostles 33.3.
4. "Christ has purchased the world by making a ransom for it, by taking human nature. *He was not only the offering, but He Himself was the Offerer.* He clothed his divinity with humanity, and voluntarily took upon Him human nature, making it possible to offer Himself as a ransom." (Letters & Manuscripts, vol. 4, Manuscript 92, 1899).
5. "Our great High Priest completed *the sacrificial offering of Himself* when He suffered without the gate. Then *a perfect atonement was made for the sins of the people.*" That I may Know Him 73.2.

6. “His visage was so marred more than any man, and His form more than the sons of men; so shall He sprinkle many nations” [Isaiah 52:14]. In the Temple service, when the animal brought as a sacrifice was slain, the high priest, clothed in white robes, caught in his hand the blood that gushed forth, and cast it in the direction of the tabernacle or Temple. This was done seven times, as an expression of perfection. ***So Christ, the great antitype, Himself both High Priest and Victim, clothed with His own spotless robes of righteousness, after giving His life for the world, cast the virtue of His offering, a crimson current, in the direction of the holy place, reconciling man to God through the blood of the cross.***” 12MR 397.1.
7. Jesus refused to receive the homage of His people until He had the assurance that His sacrifice was accepted by the Father. ***He ascended to the heavenly courts, and from God Himself heard the assurance that His atonement for the sins of men had been ample, that through His blood all might gain eternal life.*** The Father ratified the covenant made with Christ, that He would receive repentant and obedient men, and would love them even as He loves His Son. Christ was to complete His work, and fulfill His pledge to “make a man more precious than fine gold; even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir.” Isaiah 13:12. All power in heaven and on earth was given to the Prince of Life, and He returned to His followers in a world of sin, that He might impart to them of His power and glory. Desire of Ages 790.3.
8. ***"After His ascension, our Saviour began His work as our High Priest.*** Says Paul, "Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us." Hebrews 9:24. Maranatha 248.2
9. “Imagine, if possible, the nature and degree of Christ’s suffering. This suffering in humanity was to prevent the outpouring of the wrath of God upon those for whom Christ died. Yea, for the church, this great sacrifice will be efficacious throughout eternity. Can we compute the amount of her transgressions in figures?—Impossible! Then, ***who can approach to a conception of what Christ endured when standing as surety for his church, in the solemn hour of atonement, when he yielded up his life as a sacrificial offering?***” Home Missionary, November 1, 1897, par. 5.