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Jesus Christ as Prophet, Priest, and King

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THE OFFICES OF CHRIST

- Those offices as overviewed by the Old Testament men of God.
 - A. The prophet, an individual who represented God before man – A prophet thus exercised:
 - Hindsight** – He knew the secrets of the past. Moses wrote of man’s creation, his fall, the universal flood, and other early events that transpired centuries before he himself was born in Egypt.
 - Insight** – He knew the problems and needs of the present. Prophets like Isaiah, Amos, Joel, Jeremiah, and others thundered out God's wrath against the sin and decay of their times.
 - Foresight** – He knew the secrets of the future. Daniel wrote of the coming Tribulation, and Ezekiel described the glorious Millennium.
 - B. The priest, an individual who represented man before God – Qualifications of the priesthood were:
 1. He must be taken from among men—a man with compassion for other men

“For every high priest taken from among men is ordained for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins: who can have compassion on the ignorant, and on them that are out of the way; for that he himself also is compassed with infirmity” (Heb. 5:1-2).
 2. He must be chosen by God

“And he spake unto Korah and unto all his company, saying, Even tomorrow the Lord will shew who are his, and who is holy; and will cause him to come near unto him: even him whom he hath chosen will he cause to come near unto him” (Num. 16:5). *“And no man taketh this honour unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron”* (Heb. 5:4).
 3. He must be consecrated to God

“They shall be holy unto their God, and not profane the name of their God: for the offerings of the Lord made by fire, and the bread of their God, they do offer: therefore they shall be holy” (Lev. 21:6).
 - C. The king, an individual who ruled for God
 1. He was to come from the tribe of Judah

“The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come” (Gen. 49:10).
 2. He was to come from the seed of David (2 Sam. 7:8-17; Psa. 89:3-4)

"I have made a covenant with my chosen, I have sworn unto David my servant, thy seed will I establish for ever, and build up thy throne to all generations. Selah" (Psa. 89:3-4).

- Those offices as occupied by the New Testament Son of God

A. The prophet

1. The requirements involved

Our Lord fulfilled this office as was predicted concerning Him by Moses:

"I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him" (Deut. 18:18).

Some 14 centuries later the Pharisees demanded to know from John the Baptist if he was this prophet (see John 1:21-23).

As a prophet, our Lord demonstrated:

Hindsight – He knew the failures of the Samaritan woman (John 4:16-18).

Insight – He knew the fears of the disciples (John 14:1-3).

Foresight – He knew the fate of the temple (Matt. 24:1-2).

- ##### b. The recognition involved – Christ was looked upon as a prophet by many during His earthly ministry.

By the Samaritan woman

"The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet" (John 4:19).

By the people of Galilee

"And there came a fear on all: and they glorified God, saying, That a great prophet is risen up among us; and, That God hath visited his people" (Luke 7:16).

By the crowd in Jerusalem

"And the multitude said, This is Jesus the prophet of Nazareth of Galilee" (Matt. 21:11).

"Many of the people therefore, when they heard this saying, said, Of a truth this is the Prophet" (John 7:40).

By his enemies – *"And when they had blindfolded him, they struck him on the face, and asked him, saying, Prophesy, who is it that smote thee?"* (Luke 22:64).

By the two disciples on the Emmaus Road – *"And he said unto them, What things? And they said unto him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people"* (Luke 24:19).

B. The priest

- ##### 1. He met the requirements for the priest's office.

He was taken from among men

“For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham” (Heb. 2:16). “For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin” (Heb. 4:15).

2. He was chosen by God

“And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: and lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased” (Matt. 3:16-17). (See also Matt. 17:5.)

“And no man taketh this honour unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron. So also Christ glorified not himself to be made high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, to day have I begotten thee. As he saith also in another place, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec” (Heb. 5:4-6).

3. He was consecrated to God

“And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God” (Luke 1:35). “For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens” (Heb. 7:26).

4. He performed the responsibilities of the priest’s office.

He offered himself upon Calvary

“But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man” (Heb. 2:9).

He prayed (and prays) for His people (John 17; Rom. 8:34; Heb. 7:25)

“I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth” (John 17:15-17). “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” (Rom. 8:34). “Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them” (Heb. 7:25).

He blesses His people (Eph. 1:3; 2:11-22)

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ” (Eph. 1:3).

C. The king – He will fulfill the office of the king.

1. He comes from the tribe of Judah.
2. He comes from the seed of David

“And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof” (Rev. 5:5).

Jesus was a prophet. He is a priest. He shall be the King of kings and Lord of lords when He comes. You see, this is the reason God, in the Old Testament, pronounced judgment upon men like Saul and Uzziah, who were both kings and who both usurped the office of the priest. (Read about these two men for a clearer understanding.) There is only one man in whom God is going to entrust these offices of prophet, priest, and king. This man Jesus Christ our Lord, the mediator between God and man.

Thus, to summarize His three offices: His role as a prophet began at the River Jordan and ended at Calvary. His role as a priest began at Calvary (where He offered up Himself), and continues today in heaven (where He prays for His people), and will end at the Second Coming. His role as a king will begin at the Battle of Armageddon and continue through the Millennium.