

The Priesthood of All Believers

040803-3

Hello! This is Dorothy -

The difference between a prophet and a priest is that of direction. A prophet directs his words to man on behalf of God, whereas a priest directs his words to God on behalf of man. Now if you would turn, if you have a Bible available, to **John chapter 17** as we are looking at that amazing, amazing chapter, where the Lord Jesus is beginning His ministry as a priest. He is directing His words to God on behalf of man. Therefore, He was a Prophet and now He is speaking the role of a Priest.

In **Exodus 28:3**, we read of Aaron. “Well,” you say, “who is Aaron?” Moses’ brother, who became the first high priest. As such, it was his personal privilege and responsibility to go into the Holy of Holies of the tabernacle on the Day of Atonement, once a year. Aaron had sons and they were called priests, but they were not high priests. The Lord Jesus is what we call an antitype of Aaron in that He is not the high priest, but He is the Great High Priest. That is how we refer to the Lord Jesus: the Great High Priest. That is what He is right now. What Aaron only pictured, - he got a little idea about this - the Lord Jesus actually was. Praise God! Jesus, our Great High Priest, has gone into the eternal Holy of Holies to represent sinful man before the throne of

God and to pray on our behalf. Oh, how I love the fact that He is praying on my behalf — on my behalf — because I personally know and love Him. He prays for me all the time. This is so amazing. I am so grateful for the prayers of any of you, but how tremendous to know Jesus is praying! He is praying when I am sleeping and He is praying for you if you love Him.

Just as the sons of Aaron were called to be priests, so is it for the born-again child of God as a believer of our Lord Jesus. We, too, are called priests. Isn't that an amazing thing? The Scriptures talks about the priesthood of all believers. Every one of us, who are believers, are part of that priesthood. Our Lord Jesus ever-lives to make intercession for us. All His children have that amazing privilege and responsibility to have that name of being priests unto God. Did you know you are a priest if you are a believer? You are a priest unto God. As a priest, you don't just sit back and say, "That is a nice new title. I will put it on the wall!" No. It is something we are to do something about.

We read in **Hebrews 4, verses 14 and 15 -**

14 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.

15 For we have not a 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. Jesus emphasizes His humanity. As a perfect Man, He is touched with a feeling of our infirmities. This Great High Priest is the One who, at this moment, is representing us — believers — before God. He is the One who knows our infirmities; He knows every tiny thing about us. Therefore, in this connection, He is qualified to be our Great High Priest. The name, Son of God, reminds us again that He is the God-Man, who has gone into the eternal Holy of Holies, just as the priest Aaron went into the Holy of holies in the tabernacle.

As sons of our Great High Priest, as those who love and know Jesus Christ, are called to the priestly ministry ourselves. That is a shock for many of us! We are told in **Hebrews 4:16** -

16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy . . . *Not only is the **throne of grace** mentioned, but also the word **mercy**.* Indeed, when Aaron entered the Holy of Holies with boldness, it was because of the mercy seat. That is where the blood was sprinkled that it covered the very place where the Law of God could not be met by the achievement of man. Our Lord Jesus has entered the Holy of Holies in Heaven in a perfect humanity. He is our *propitiation*, which is another word meaning He is our mercy seat. We can approach the throne of God as His priests. Our access is not as one would come in our own merit or our own perfect or looking to what our title is or who we think we really are to come to God. No. It is on the very grounds of that precious Blood of His propitiatory sacrifice,

His mercy. As we look to Jesus as our mercy seat, the throne of judgment becomes a throne of grace. We can come and we can obtain mercy. Will you come to Jesus and meet Him as one who is a mercy seat and not a judgment seat?

In the mighty Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.