

GODHEAD COURSE

Lesson 24

The Priesthood of the spirit

The scriptures speak about four temples and three priesthoods:

1. The earthly temple with the Levitical intercession
2. The heavenly temple with Christ's intercession (Hebrews 8:1, 2)
3. The personal bodily temple with the Holy Spirit's intercession (1 Cor 6:19, 20)
4. The Church, body of Christ built up together as a spiritual temple, also having the Spirit's intercession (1 Corinthians 3:16, 17; Eph 2:21, 22; 1 Peter 2:5)

No one debates the identity of the earthly priesthood or the heavenly priesthood. But when it comes to the bodily temple, there is confusion about the identity of the priest interceding in it. Who is the priest of this temple?

According to Trinitarian theology, the spirit is neither the Father nor the Son. The spirit is a different and separate person or being than the Father and the Son.

This means that the Priest of the bodily temple is not Jesus, neither is the Father. It is someone else called God the holy spirit.

With this in mind, notice what the bible says:

"Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered." Romans 8:26

"And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God." Romans 8:27

The spirit intercedes for the saints. The context is not talking about intercession in heaven, but in the bodily temple. Paul does not mean that the spirit is somewhere in heaven speaking to the Father on our behalf and praying for us. The text applies to the work and intercession of the Spirit in the bodily temple, not the heavenly temple.

The Holy Spirit is interceding, or ministering in our bodily temple. This is the work of a Priest.

"Spirit itself maketh intercession for us"

The Holy Spirit intercedes for us and moves on our hearts to pray giving us the words needed, as the scripture says *"for we know not what we should pray for as we ought"*. In other words, it gives us faith, confidence and boldness to come to God in prayer and to call God our Father.

“with groaning which cannot be uttered”

With sighs, or that deep feeling and intense anxiety which exists in the oppressed and burdened heart of the Christian.

Not that the Holy spirit is the one who is groaning. The spirit stirs up groans within the saints themselves; it is like an intense feeling and intense longing for something. (Romans 8:23) The groaning, or longing is the result of the work of the spirit, the convicting of the spirit and are understood by the spirit.

“the mind of the spirit”

The phrase “the mind of the spirit” simply means, the impressions of the Spirit, or what the Spirit moves us to say and think. God knows the desires which the Holy Spirit excites and produces in our heart.

This text tells us that the Holy spirit ministers in our bodily temple in a different way than how Jesus ministers in Heaven. The spirit works on our hearts to convict and lead us into the ways of God.

Having explained the text, the point still stands. The spirit is the priest of the bodily temple. It is He who is interceding within us and leading us to where God wants us to be. Who is the Priest? Is it Jesus or is it someone else called “God the Holy spirit”?

Two priests

In the **Trinitarian understanding**, there are two separate priests. This creates a problem. Looking at the sanctuary service in the old covenant, one is reminded that there has only been one high priest at a time. Many priests, but only one high priest.

In the new covenant, the Levitical priesthood was replaced with the priesthood of Christ. One High priest ministering in the temple, Jesus Christ. We, His people, are a royal priesthood ministering on earth. Therefore the many priests were replaced by us, and the High priest was replaced by Christ.

Yet according to Trinitarian theology, it appears that today there are two different high priests operating at the same time. Both are ministering for the same people.

- Jesus, is our High priest in heaven. He is ministering on behalf of the church in heaven.
- And the Holy Spirit, is ministering in the bodily temples here on earth. He is the priest of both, the personal bodily temple and the priest of the body of Christ collectively, the church on earth.

This creates a theological problem because it does not harmonize with the type.

Qualifications

To add to this, when we learn from the scriptures what the qualifications of a priest are, the problems increase:

1. *Taken from among men:* He must be a human being in order to represent human beings (Heb 5:1,2).

Jesus fulfilled this pre-requisite (Heb 2:14,16)

But we never read of God the Holy Spirit (Trinitarian) taking upon Himself human flesh. This is a problem. How could he be a priest ordained for men if he never was a man? How could he represent us if he never been us?

2. *Offer for sins:* every High priest ought to have something to offer for sin (Heb 5:1, 3). Jesus fulfilled this pre-requisite. He offered up Himself (Heb 8:3; 9:26). God the Holy Spirit (Trinitarian) never offered Himself, never died for humanity, hence he cannot be a priest because He has nothing to offer.
3. *Compassed with infirmity:* “has weaknesses” He must understand by experience what it means to be tempted with the weakness of flesh and tempted with sin so he can have compassion on` those who are going through the same experience. (Heb 5:2). Jesus fulfilled that. (Heb 2:17; 4:15)
4. Jesus has been in my shoes; He knows what it means to be me. He knows what it means to be hungry, poor and rejected. He knows what it means to be tempted with sin, tempted to take yourself out of the Father’s hands, to put self-first. Therefore, He can comfort those who are struggling, He can empathize with me.

But we never read of God the Holy Spirit (Trinitarian) being tempted with sin. that is one of the reasons why Jesus took upon Himself humanity because as God He could not be tempted, but as man He could. God the Holy Spirit (Trinitarian) has never been tempted with sin and could not be tempted with sin.

5. *Called of God as was Aaron:* Not anyone can fill this position, he must be called or ordained by God to be a priest. (Heb 5:4). To be called as a High priest, means you are anointed as a high priest. Again, Jesus fulfilled this pre-requisite. (Heb 5:5). Jesus was called to be a high priest, and He was anointed with the Holy Spirit to be the High priest of His people.

We never read of God the Holy Spirit (Trinitarian) being called to be a priest or being anointed to be a priest.

The understanding of the trinity creates a major problem when it comes to the bodily temple and the priesthood of the spirit.

- It does not fit with the type that teaches one High priest at a time
- And it does not fit the qualifications of a priest as presented in Hebrews.

The Spirit was never incarnated, never was tempted with sin, has no offering to give,

and was never called of God to be a priest.

As you can see, the understanding that the Holy Spirit is a different person than Jesus creates a major problem when it comes to the priesthood of the bodily temple.

But when we understand what we have seen in the previous studies, that the Holy Spirit is the Spirit, life and person of Jesus Christ, the problem will vanish

We already established this truth from different angles. In this study I want to reemphasis this truth from “the Jobs of the High priest.”

Jobs of the priest

Five roles of the High priest that are relevant to this topic:

Notice how it is the Spirit that is fulfilling the role of the earthly high priest, even though we know that Jesus is our only High priest.

Every Christian including Trinitarians would agree that Jesus is the anti-type of the earthly high priest, not God the Holy Spirit. Yet as we examine these five roles of the priest, we will see that the Holy Spirit is the one fulfilling the five roles, not Jesus Christ **when it comes to the bodily temple.**

This should serve as evidence that the Holy Spirit, the one fulfilling the roles of the High Priest, can not be other than Jesus Christ.

Every Christian including Trinitarians would agree that Jesus is the anti-type of the earthly high priest; not God the Holy Spirit. Yet as we examine these five roles of the priest, we will see that the Holy Spirit is the one fulfilling them. This creates a problem in the Trinitarian understanding because God the Holy spirit is not God the Son (Jesus).

This should serve as evidence that the Holy Spirit, the one fulfilling the roles of the High Priest, is none other than Jesus Christ.

1. Atonement & cleansing

The High priest is the one who makes atonement for and cleanse the temple, his household, and all the congregation of Israel (Lev 16: 16-20)

However, when we consider cleansing the bodily temple, our bodies, our souls from sin, it is the Holy spirit that does that. Notice

*“Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through **sanctification of the Spirit**, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.” 1 Peter 1:2*

The Spirit is doing the anti-typical work of the high priest when it comes to making the bodily temple holy.

2. Overseeing the priests:

One of his roles was overseeing the responsibilities of all the subordinate priests (2 Chronicles 19:8, 11).

We, the believers, are the priests. (1 Peter 2:5, 9; Rev 1:6).

Who is it that oversees our responsibilities? That dictates our duties?
As we read the book of acts we discover that the Holy spirit directed and instructed the apostles. Yet we know Jesus is the High priest. He is the anti-type of the earthly high priest

3. Communicator of the will of God:

Only the high priest could wear the Urim and the Thummim which served to reveal the will of God to the people. (Numbers 27:21). The High priest was to relate or communicate the will of God to His people. He would receive the instruction from God and relate it to the people

Yet when we come to the bodily temple, the church here on earth, it is the Holy Spirit that communicates the will of God to you and me. It is the Spirit that whispers in your ear, this is the way, walk ye in it. (John 16:13)

This is the anti-type of the work of the High priest.

4. Teach the people:

Aaron, the High priest, and the other priests, were to teach the people the difference between holy and unholy (Lev 10:10,11)

Yet again, when we look at the bodily temple and the church of God, it is the spirit that teaches and convicts of sin (John 14:26; 1 John 2:27; John 16:8)

These are the jobs of the spirit as the priest of the bodily temple. Yet they are the exact fulfilment of the type which the earthly High priest did. This is a problem because the bible tells us that Jesus is the antitype of the earthly High priest, not God the Holy spirit

5. Clothing:

Where it becomes really interesting and sheds a lot of light on this seeming paradox is when you examine the clothing of the priests.

On the Day of Atonement, the High priest was to put the holy linen clothe when he goes in before God, and he is to change his clothe, put on other clothe before he comes out. (Lev 16: 4, 23,24).

In other words, when appearing before God, the High priest was to dress and look differently than when he appeared before the people.

Talking about the priests, God said:

“They shall enter into my sanctuary, and they shall come near to my table, to minister unto me, and they shall keep my charge.” Ezekiel 44:16

“And it shall come to pass, that when they enter in at the gates of the inner court, they shall be clothed with linen garments; and no wool shall come upon them, whiles they minister in the gates of the inner court, and within.” Ezekiel 44:17

“They shall have linen bonnets upon their heads, and shall have linen breeches upon their loins; they shall not gird themselves with any thing that causeth sweat.” Ezekiel 44:18

“And when they go forth into the utter court, even into the utter court to the people, they shall put off their garments wherein they ministered, and lay them in the holy chambers, and they shall put on other garments; and they shall not sanctify the people with their garments.” Ezekiel 44:19

A bit further in the passage we discover that one of the Jobs listed there for the priest to do is to “teach the people”.

“And they shall teach my people the difference between the holy and profane, and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean.” Ezekiel 44:23

Obviously, it doesn't mean every time they change their clothes, they have to teach the people, but when they appear before God, they should not be dressed in the same cloth they put on when teaching the people.

It is here where the type gives us a very interesting and illuminating insight. One of the duties of Christ, our High priest, is to teach the people outside the sanctuary. Not only that, but according to the type, He is to wear a different outfit, or He is to appear in “another form” different than while in the presence of God.

And that is exactly what Christ is doing; While Jesus ministers in the sanctuary above in His physical or bodily form, He is still by His Spirit the minister of the church on earth. (Galatians 4:6).

It is the same priest, but in a different form. The same Jesus, but in a different manifestation and capacity. Physically He is in heaven with the Father, but when He comes to teach, guide, instruct and relate the will of God to the people, He comes in a

different form. That is why in the bodily temple, He comes in His Spirit. He is referred to as the Holy Spirit, or as Paul put it: "The spirit of His Son" Gal 4:6

The bible tells us that Jesus was with His followers wherever they went to preach:

"So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God." Mark 16:19

"And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen." Mark 16:20

From examining the roles of the earthly priest and seeing the fulfilment, or anti-type of it, we learn very clearly that the Priest of the bodily temple, is none other than Jesus Christ Himself; the Heavenly Priest, in a different form.

With this in mind it is very interesting that the messages to the seven churches, begin with identifying the speaker as Jesus under different descriptions, then end the message with *"hear what the Spirit sayeth unto the churches"*

It is the same person, but two different roles. **Communicating the message from Heaven hence identified as the Son of God, and delivered to the church on earth, the bodily temple, hence identified as the spirit.**

When we receive the Holy spirit, we are receiving Christ Himself. It is the same Priest just present in a different Form.

The anti-type of the earthly High priest is Jesus Christ, not someone else called God the Holy Spirit. It doesn't fit the type and it doesn't meet the criteria of a priest.

Jesus is the High priest of our bodily temple here on earth. He is the only mediator between God and man.