

3ABN SABBATH SCHOOL PANEL
001 - THURSDAY – APRIL 4, 2024

OUR HIGH PRIEST

LESSON INTRO: What sin did to Jesus, is nothing compared to what Jesus did to sin. What Jesus did for us on the cross enables Him also to intercede for us in heaven. **Our resurrected Lord is our great High Priest**, providing everything we need to be saved and to live in God's kingdom forever.

Hebrews 4:15–16 (NKJV) “For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are*, yet without sin. (16) Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

- To appreciate the High Priest, it is imperative to understand his role.
- **The High Priest was the intercessor between God and His people**, acting as **their representative before God**.
- The role of the earthly priest was in force as long as he lived.

Hebrews 7:25 (NKJV) “Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.”

- **We have a heavenly High Priest**. Not so with Jesus. **Hebrews 8.1 NKJV “Now *this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens,*”**
- The **priest offered sacrifices and gifts on behalf of the people** to reconcile them to God.

1 John 2.1 NKJV “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.” He stands up for the rights of His children.

Foreknowledge and Foreordained, p. 2.3: “Freedom to do right implies freedom to do wrong. If a man were made so that he could not do wrong, he would have

no freedom at all, not even to do right. He would be less than the brutes. There is no virtue in forced obedience, nor would there be any virtue in doing that which is right if it were impossible to do wrong.”

How do these verses give us assurance in a world of temptation, suffering, disease, and death?

1. **IDENTITY**: Jesus **understands our struggles**; He **empathizes** with our **frailty**. We don't have to feel **diffident** to approach God's throne. We don't need to be shy or lack in self-assurance. **Insecurity vanishes in the presence of Jesus.**
 - a. **Jeremiah 33:3 (NKJV) ““Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.””**
2. **INVITATION**: We are invited to come to Jesus with confidence, not to demand His grace but to receive grace that is extended to us.
 - a. **Matthew 11:28 (NKJV) “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”**
3. **INFLUENCE**: There is no depth to which we can sink that God cannot reach. Jesus **reaches to our extremity to redeem** us for **His eternity**.
 - a. **Psalm 139:8 (NKJV) “If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there.”**
4. **INTERCESSION**: The Throne of Grace is reserved for the hopeless and helpless. Jesus delights in saving us.
 - a. **Lamentations 5:19 (NKJV) “You, O LORD, remain forever; Your throne from generation to generation.”**

Romans 5:6 (NKJV) “For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.”

Jesus presents us before the universe as clothed in His righteousness, **Atoned for by His death, redeemed by His blood, and empowered by His life.**

- Everything we should have been, He IS.
- In Christ there is **no condemnation for the sins of our past.**
- In Christ **our guilt is gone, and through His mighty intercession,**
- In Christ, **the power of sin, in us, is broken.**
- The chains that bind us are loosed, and we are free.

John 17:24–26 (NKJV) “Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. (25) O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me. (26) And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.”

What is Christ’s longing desire in the great controversy between good and evil?

1. **DEMONSTRATION**: Christ is longing to have us **demonstrate His unrestricted love** to the world. The world has **restrictions** and **conditions** on its love; God does not.
2. **DEPARTMENT**: When are not called to **manufacture** God’s love for the world; we are **chosen and affected by God’s love** so that we can **exhibit** or **validate**, His love.
3. **DISPLAY**: We **cannot exhibit or effectively represent** that which **has not affected us**.

Romans 5:8 (NKJV) “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

Jeremiah 31:3 (NKJV) “The LORD has appeared of old to me, *saying*: “Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.”

Without an Intercessor we cannot come to God, without Intercessory ministry others cannot come to know Jesus. We are not the High Priest, we are Royal Priests. As such we are anointed to reflect the light that has been entrusted to us.

1 Peter 2:9 (NKJV) “But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.”

We are empowered to represent Jesus through the ministry of **acquiesce** in:

2 Corinthians 5:20 (NKJV) “Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God.”

The desire of His heart, the reason for His death and intercession, is to save us. Do you have a special need in your life? Tell it to Jesus. Where there is sorrow, He brings comfort. Where there is fear, He brings peace. Where there is guilt, He brings forgiveness. Where there is weakness, He brings strength.

Why do you think Christ sacrificed Himself for us? What makes us so valuable to Him?

John 3:16 (NKJV) “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”