

DEVOTION for PENTECOST 22

Psalm 126

When the Lord brought back the captives to Zion, we were like men who dreamed.

Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with shouts of joy.

Then it was said among the nations, “The Lord has done great things for them.”

The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.

Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like streams in the Negev.

Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy.

He who goes out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with him.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen

Hebrews 7:1-28

Jesus has the greater and eternal priesthood

Why was Melchizedek’s priesthood greater than the Levitical priesthood?

How does Melchizedek resemble and foreshadow Jesus and His priesthood?

Why is Jesus our great high priest?

Mark 10:46-52

Jesus heals Bartimaeus of his blindness

Although he was physically blind how did Bartimaeus show his spiritual insight?

How did Bartimaeus know who Jesus was?

What did Bartimaeus’ physical healing reveal about Jesus?

Our Great High Priest II

Hebrews 7:24-25

“But He holds His priesthood permanently, because He continues forever. Consequently, He is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through Him...”

Melchizedek is identified in scripture as priest of Salem, or Jerusalem. He appears in Genesis, where he blessed Abraham after his victory over the kings and the rescue of his nephew Lot. Abraham acknowledged his priesthood by receiving his blessing. He gave thanks by making an offering of a tenth of his possessions. Melchizedek is mentioned in the letter to the Hebrews to make at least two points. First, that God established a priesthood prior to the priesthood He established through Moses and mediated by the tribe of Levi. His second point is that Jesus is the true high priest represented first by Melchizedek and later by Aaron the high priest and the tribe of Levi.

This is important. It shows that everything that was promised in the covenants of the Old Testament and foreshadowed in the priestly service of Melchizedek and the Levitical priests, is perfectly expressed in Jesus. He is true priest who mediates between us and God. All the works of the priests who offered sacrifices for sins are fulfilled by Him and His priestly service. He offered the sacrifice that truly atoned for sin by offering Himself on the cross.

Because of Jesus, His eternal nature as God’s Son and the sacrifice He made, our sins are covered in the sight of God. In Jesus, we have confidence to approach God in the assurance that we will receive the grace of forgiveness and help in our all needs. No further sacrifice can be offered, or needs to be offered. Jesus sacrificed once and for all! His sacrifice is effective in time and for eternity in the lives of all who believe!

“OH, BLESS the LORD, MY SOUL”

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**Oh, bless the Lord, my soul! Let all in me combine.
To aid my tongue to bless his name, whose favour is divine.**

**Oh, bless the Lord, my soul. Nor let his mercies lie.
Forgotten in unthankfulness. And without praises die.**

**The Lord forgives my sins. And he relieves my pain;
The Lord has healed my sicknesses. And made me whole again.**

**He crowns my life with love. He ransoms from the grave;
He that redeemed my soul from hell, has sovereign power to save.**

**He fills the poor with good; He gives the sufferers rest;
The Lord has judgements for the proud, Relief for those oppressed.**

**His works and laws and ways, He made through Moses known.
But showed the world his loving heart, In Christ, his only Son.**

PRAYER

Dearest Jesus, our great High Priest. We thank you for the sacrifice you made, offering yourself on the cross for the sin of the world. We thank you for the forgiveness we receive in you and for the access to the Father we have through you. Bless us with your Spirit. Lead us into the presence of the Father through faith that we may pray, praise and give thanks until you call us to stand in His presence in our share of your resurrection to eternal life. In your Name we pray. Amen

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven. Hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, Forever and ever. Amen

THE CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

BENEDICTION

Psalm 116:5

“Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; our God is merciful.”

Bible Knowledge Quiz

Who were the parents of the priest Melchizedek?

Who were the parents of the priest Aaron?

Who were the parents of John the Baptizer?

Answers to Last Week’s Quiz

On the Day of Atonement (Leviticus 16).

Blood (Leviticus 16 and Hebrews 9:7).

The curtain of the Most Holy Place was torn in two from top to bottom (Matthew 27:51 and Luke 23:44).