

The Mediator

Who Is Jesus - Part 3

In the final installment of our series on "Who Is Jesus," we will explore the culmination of Jesus' roles as Prophet, Priest, King, and Mediator. Building on our previous discussions, we delve deeper into the significance of Jesus' life, ministry, and eternal impact on humanity.

Jesus as the Perfect Prophet: Jesus' prophetic role is rooted in the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies and His unique relationship with God. Acts 3:20-22 and Deuteronomy 18:15 emphasize that Jesus is the ultimate prophet like Moses, whose words carry divine authority and demand obedience from all people. His teachings, miracles, and predictions underscore His divine nature and His role in revealing God's will to humanity.

Jesus' prophetic ministry is characterized by

Revelation of God's Truth: Jesus reveals God's character and will, providing a clearer understanding of divine truths.

Foretelling and Forth-telling: Jesus predicts future events, such as His own death and resurrection, and speaks forth God's message of repentance and salvation.

Final Authority: As the ultimate prophet, Jesus' words hold supreme authority, surpassing all previous prophets.

Jesus as the Eternal High Priest: The book of Hebrews presents Jesus as the eternal High Priest, who offers Himself as the perfect sacrifice for sins. Hebrews 5:5-6 highlights His divine appointment and eternal priesthood according to the order of Melchizedek, a king-priest figure in the Old Testament. Unlike the Levitical priests, Jesus' priesthood is eternal and perfect, providing a once-for-all sacrifice that reconciles humanity with God.

Key aspects of Jesus' priestly role include

Mediator of a New Covenant: Jesus establishes a new covenant between God and humanity, ensuring access to God's presence.

Perfect Sacrifice: Jesus' sacrifice is sufficient for all time, unlike the repeated sacrifices of the Old Testament.

Intercessor: Jesus continually intercedes for believers, advocating on their behalf before the Father.

Jesus as the Sovereign King: Jesus' kingship is prophesied in the Old Testament and affirmed in the New Testament. Psalms 2:6 and Luke 1:33 depict Jesus as the eternal King, whose reign is characterized by justice, peace, and righteousness. Isaiah 9:6-7 further elaborates on His government, emphasizing its everlasting nature and divine foundation.

As King, Jesus

Rules with Authority: Jesus exercises divine authority over all creation, reigning with justice and righteousness.

Establishes God's Kingdom: Jesus' reign inaugurates the kingdom of God, bringing salvation and restoration to humanity.

Eternal Sovereignty: Jesus' kingship is eternal, transcending all earthly powers and kingdoms.

Jesus as the Mediator

Jesus' mediatorial role is central to His mission. He bridges the gap between God and humanity, enabling reconciliation and peace. 1 Timothy 2:5 explicitly states that Jesus is the one mediator between God and humans, underscoring His unique position and divine ordination. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus mediates a new covenant, providing the means for eternal life.

The multifaceted nature of Jesus' mediatorship involves

Reconciliation: Jesus reconciles humanity with God, restoring the broken relationship caused by sin.

Redemption: Through His sacrificial death, Jesus redeems humanity from sin and its consequences.

Intercession: Jesus continually intercedes for believers, ensuring their perseverance and ultimate glorification.

The Heir of All Things

Hebrews 1:2 declares that Jesus is the appointed heir of all things, emphasizing His supreme authority and ownership over all creation. This divine appointment highlights Jesus' integral role in God's redemptive plan and His ultimate sovereignty.

As the heir, Jesus

Receives All Creation: Everything in creation is under Jesus' dominion, affirming His lordship.

Fulfills God's Promises: Jesus' inheritance includes the fulfillment of God's eschatological promises, bringing about the new creation and the restoration of all things.

Supreme Authority: Jesus' position as heir underscores His divine authority and ultimate purpose in God's plan.

Jesus as Judge

Acts 17:31 and 2 Corinthians 5:10 affirm that Jesus will judge the world with justice and righteousness, holding all people accountable for their actions. His resurrection is the divine endorsement of His authority to execute judgment.

As Judge, Jesus

Administers Justice: Jesus' judgment is fair and just, reflecting God's righteous standards.

Accountability: Every individual will stand before Jesus to account for their deeds, emphasizing personal responsibility.

Final Authority: Jesus' role as judge highlights His ultimate authority over all creation, executing God's final judgment.

Jesus and His People

John 17:6 and Ephesians 1:4 emphasize that Jesus has been given a specific people by God, chosen before the foundation of the world to be His followers. This divine election underscores the intimate relationship between Jesus and His church.

Jesus' relationship with His people involves

Divine Election: Believers are chosen by God and given to Jesus, ensuring their salvation and eternal security.

Redemption and Sanctification: Jesus redeems, calls, justifies, and sanctifies His people, transforming them into His likeness.

Eternal Glorification: Jesus guarantees the ultimate glorification of His people, fulfilling God's redemptive plan.

Supporting scripture

Acts 3:20-22

"and that he may send the Messiah, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus. Heaven must receive him until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets. For Moses said, 'The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you must listen to everything he tells you.'"

Deuteronomy 18:15

"The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your fellow Israelites. You must listen to him."

These passages highlight that Jesus is the fulfillment of the prophetic promise made by Moses. As the ultimate prophet, Jesus' teachings, miracles, and predictions reveal God's character and will, providing a clearer understanding of divine truths. His authority surpasses that of all previous prophets, making His words the final revelation from God.

Jesus as the Eternal High Priest

The book of Hebrews presents Jesus as the eternal High Priest, who offers Himself as the perfect sacrifice for sins. Hebrews 5:5-6 highlights His divine appointment and eternal priesthood according to the order of Melchizedek.

Hebrews 5:5-6

"In the same way, Christ did not take on himself the glory of becoming a high priest. But God said to him, 'You are my Son; today I have become your Father.' And he says in another place, 'You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.'"

Hebrews 7:24-25

"But because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them."

Unlike the Levitical priests, Jesus' priesthood is eternal and perfect, providing a once-for-all sacrifice that reconciles humanity with God. His priestly role involves mediating a new covenant, interceding on behalf of believers, and ensuring their salvation.

Jesus as the Sovereign King

Jesus' kingship is prophesied in the Old Testament and affirmed in the New Testament. Psalms 2:6 and Luke 1:33 depict Jesus as the eternal King, whose reign is characterized by justice, peace, and righteousness.

Psalms 2:6

"I have installed my king on Zion, my holy mountain."

Luke 1:32-33

"He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

Isaiah 9:6-7

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this."

As King, Jesus exercises divine authority over all creation, inaugurating the kingdom of God and ensuring its everlasting nature. His kingship transcends all earthly powers, embodying God's ultimate plan for justice and peace.

Jesus as the Mediator

Jesus' mediatorial role is central to His mission. He bridges the gap between God and humanity, enabling reconciliation and peace. 1 Timothy 2:5-6 explicitly states that Jesus is the one mediator between God and humans, underscoring His unique position and divine ordination.

1 Timothy 2:5-6

"For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all people. This has now been witnessed to at the proper time."

Hebrews 9:15

"For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance—now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant."

Hebrews 8:6

"But in fact the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, since the new covenant is established on better promises."

Through His death and resurrection, Jesus mediates a new covenant, providing the means for eternal life. His mediatorship involves reconciliation, redemption, and continual intercession for believers, ensuring their relationship with God is restored and maintained.

The Heir of All Things

Hebrews 1:2 declares that Jesus is the appointed heir of all things, emphasizing His supreme authority and ownership over all creation.

Hebrews 1:2

"But in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe."

Colossians 1:16-17

"For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together."

This divine appointment highlights Jesus' integral role in God's redemptive plan and His ultimate sovereignty. As the heir, Jesus receives all creation, fulfills God's eschatological promises, and exercises supreme authority over the universe.

Jesus as Judge

Acts 17:31 and 2 Corinthians 5:10 affirm that Jesus will judge the world with justice and righteousness, holding all people accountable for their actions.

Acts 17:31

"For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead."

2 Corinthians 5:10

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad."

Jesus' role as judge highlights His ultimate authority over all creation, executing God's final judgment with fairness and righteousness. His resurrection serves as divine proof of His authority to judge.

Jesus and His People

John 17:6 and Ephesians 1:4 emphasize that Jesus has been given a specific people by God, chosen before the foundation of the world to be His followers.

John 17:6

"I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word."

Ephesians 1:4

"For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love"

John 6:37

"All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away."

John 6:39

"And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day."

Jesus' relationship with His people involves divine election, redemption, sanctification, and ultimate glorification. Believers are chosen by God, redeemed through Jesus' sacrifice, sanctified by His intercession, and assured of eternal life.

Key Scriptures

Isaiah 53:5

"But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed."

Isaiah 53:5 vividly portrays the suffering servant, who is identified as Jesus in the New Testament. This passage highlights the sacrificial nature of Jesus' mediatorship. By bearing the punishment for our sins, Jesus brings peace and healing, reconciling us to God.

Romans 3:23-24

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus."

Romans 3:23-24 underscores the universal need for redemption and the grace that Jesus provides as the mediator. All have sinned, but through Jesus' sacrificial death, believers are justified and redeemed, highlighting His central role in salvation.

1 John 2:1-2

"My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world."

1 John 2:1-2 presents Jesus as our advocate and atoning sacrifice. His role as mediator involves advocating for believers before the Father and providing atonement for sins, reinforcing His continuous intercessory work.

Hebrews 4:14-16

"Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to feel sympathy for our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."

Hebrews 4:14-16 emphasizes Jesus' empathy and understanding as our High Priest. His humanity and experience of temptation make Him a compassionate mediator who provides mercy and grace in our times of need.

Galatians 3:13

"Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: 'Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole.'"

Galatians 3:13 highlights the redemptive work of Jesus as He takes on the curse of the law for humanity. His sacrificial death frees believers from the law's curse, emphasizing His mediatorial role in achieving redemption.

Revelation 5:9-10

"And they sang a new song, saying: 'You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.'"

Revelation 5:9-10 celebrates Jesus' worthiness as the Lamb who was slain. His blood purchases redemption for people from every nation, establishing them as a kingdom and priests to serve God, illustrating the global scope of His mediatorial work.

In conclusion, Jesus' roles as Prophet, Priest, King, and Mediator are integral to understanding His identity and mission. Each role highlights a different aspect of His work and character, providing a comprehensive view of who Jesus is and what He accomplishes for humanity. By examining these roles through a detailed scriptural lens, we gain a deeper appreciation of Jesus' divine nature and the profound impact of His work on our lives.

Jesus' mediatorship is a central theme that ties together His prophetic, priestly, and kingly roles. As the ultimate Prophet, He reveals God's truth; as the eternal High Priest, He provides the perfect sacrifice for sin; as the Sovereign King, He rules with justice and righteousness; and as the Mediator, He reconciles humanity with God. Through His life, death, and resurrection, Jesus bridges the gap between the divine and the human, offering eternal life and hope to all who believe.

As we conclude this series, let us continue to seek a deeper relationship with Jesus, allowing His teachings and example to guide our lives. May we always remember that Jesus is the ultimate revelation of God's love, grace, and truth, and through Him, the Father grants eternal life and hope.