

**John 17:6-10 & Selected Scriptures**  
*Our Great and Vastly Superior High Priest*

**INTRO:** Why is John 17 often referred to as “the high priestly prayer” of Christ?

Now that the sacrificial system has been fulfilled in the death of Christ on the cross, do we even need a High Priest?

If not, why does the author of Hebrews emphasize King Jesus’ priestly activities in heaven?

What’s the big deal? How does this impact the lives of New Covenant Christians today?

**1) The historical context and chief purpose of Hebrews**

**2) An Old Testament Tabernacle and High Priest \_\_\_\_\_.**  
(and brief summary of Exodus/Leviticus)

Five Reasons why Jesus' high priesthood is **superior** to the Aaronic and Levitical Priesthood.

1) **Jesus' high priesthood is vastly superior because He enters a better \_\_\_\_\_.**

*(Hebrews 9)*

2) **Jesus' priesthood is superior because He's presently and permanently \_\_\_\_\_  
"at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven."**

*(Hebrews 8:1-2; 10:11f)*

3) **Jesus' priesthood is superior because He's an eternal priest who \_\_\_\_\_.**

*(Hebrews 7:23-25)*

4) **Jesus' High Priesthood is vastly superior because He alone is sinless, undefiled, and perfectly righteous!**

5) **Jesus' Priesthood is Vastly Superior is because He alone offers Himself as an \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ to Atonement for the Sins of His People!**

*(Hebrews 7:23-35; 9:24-28; 10:1-18; 1 Peter 3:18)*

**For Further Reflection/Application:** *Lord help us to be effectually doers of the Word!*

Why do you suppose John 17 is often referred to as Jesus' High Priestly prayer? Do you think this is a good description? Why or why not?

What is the relationship between the intercessory ministry of Christ and the Old Testament High Priest?

What are the practical implications of believers having a heavenly High Priest (Jesus)? What difference does it make in our lives today? How does this great truth relate to the past and impact the future?

The most helpful commentary concerning the role of the High Priest in the earthly tabernacle and the role of Jesus as our great High Priest in the heavenly sanctuary is the book of Hebrews.

What was the significance of the earthly tabernacle and what were the specific duties of the (Aaronic) High Priest(s)? In what ways is the earthly tabernacle a copy of the heavenly sanctuary of God.

The Savior-King is the mediator of a new and *better* covenant! The word "better" is used 13 times in Hebrews. Hebrews, in the words of Dr. Ryrie, "*is a stirring apologetic for the superiority of Christ and Christianity over Judaism in terms of priesthood and sacrifice!*" Better promises. A Better High Priest. A Better Covenant, etc, etc.

Review the 5 ways Jesus' high priesthood is superior to the Aaronic and Levitical priesthood.

Meditate on Hebrews 7:23-25 and 9:24-28.

"While God is gracious and forgiving, only those represented by Christ as high priest in the heavenly sanctuary *can be assured of divine forgiveness*. If we imagine that we have no need of a great high priest to intercede with God on our behalf (per Heb. 7:25; 1 John 1:8-2:1) *we have no grasped adequately of the holiness of God and our own uncleanness in His sight!*" Dr. T.D. Alexander

The Great High Priest (King Jesus enables His followers to have royal and priestly status; Ex. 19:6; 1 Peter 2:9; Rev. 5f). He brings us near! He is our heavenly hope!

Technically, Christ's ongoing ministry as High Priest takes place in the heavenly sanctuary (Heb. 4:14; 6:19-20; 8:1-2) yet mustn't be divorced from His substitutionary death on the cross!

Christ is high priest in a heavenly sanctuary not made with human hands. He is now seated at the right hand of the Father on high!

It is difficult to understand the message of Hebrews without some appreciation of the O.T. Particular what the O.T. had to say about the tabernacle and the activities of the Aaronic priesthood.

The high priest, among many things, interceded on behalf of others; the names of the tribes of Israel were part of the Jewish high priest's garments inscribed on precious stones, Ex. 28:9-12; 39:6-7). "As he approaches God, he bears on his shoulders and chest two copies of the names of the twelve sons of Israel." Believer, our name is written on the hands of Christ, our Merciful, Great High Priest.

Only the high priest could draw near to Him because God is holy and we the people are sinful! Yet even the Jewish High Priest had to offer up a sacrifice first for himself (because he too was sinful). To approach the LORD daily Aaron had to daily atone for his own sin.

"This process of atonement included the offering of incense, both morning and night, on the golden altar in front of the curtain that leads into the Holy of Holies." Alexander.

God's commitment to dwell with His people is rooted in the covenant relationship established at Mount Sinai. This was part of God's glorious promise plan!

### John 17:1-5 Sermon Outline

**I) The *Soli Christo Gloria* Petition** (*John 17:1, 5*; see 3/12/23 sermon)

**II) The Father's Three-Pronged Gift** (*John 17:2*; see 3/19 sermon)

**III) The Salvation Explanation** (*John 17:3*; see 3/26 sermon)

**IV) The Foundation of Prayer** (*John 17:4-5*; see 4/2 sermon)

### 3 Personal and Practical Implications of John 17:1-3

- 1) *Eternal Life is a gift of Christ rooted in the Father's love for the Son* (John 17:2; Eph. 1:3-14).
- 2) *Eternal Life entails a personal relationship with our Heavenly Father and with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ* (John 17:3)
- 3) *Eternal Life allows us to live how we were originally made to live in communion with our Creator+* (John 17:3).

*Jesus' Glorify Me and Thee Petition* (John 17:1-5) is more than acceptable for these three reasons:

1) Because unlike us, Messiah Jesus always prayed and lived in harmony with the perfect will of God (John 4:34; Phil 2:1-10; Matthew 26:36-46)

2) Because the pre-existent Word is fully Divine and is thus worthy to receive glory, honor, and praise! (John 20:30-31; John 1:1:1-18; Psalm 2:10-12)

3) Because the Son is jealous for His Father's Glory understanding that when He is exalted the Father is Magnified! (John 17:1b; 4-5; John 5:23-24; Matthew 3:17)

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