

THE Gospel Part 4 – Jesus Died for THE Redeemed – Study Guide

This study guide explores the current ministry of Jesus Christ as the High Priest and the specific nature of His sacrifice. By examining the Hebrew scriptures as a "type" for Christ's work, this guide clarifies who the target of His intercession is and the rigorous requirement of obedience for the redeemed.

Definitions of Key Words

- **High Priest:** One chosen from among men to act on behalf of men in relation to God, specifically to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins.
- **Atonement:** The process of cleansing and making the redeemed "clean before the Lord" from all their sins.
- **Type:** A historical figure or ceremony in the Hebrew scriptures that serves as a copy or shadow of the true heavenly reality to come in Jesus Christ.
- **Propitiation:** A sacrifice or offering made to cleanse the sins of a specific group—identified in the sources as "the people" or the redeemed.
- **Intercession:** The active work of the High Priest appearing in the presence of God on behalf of the redeemed to mediate for their sins.
- **Obedience:** The act of following God's commands and "turning up" to the High Priest; identified as the essential condition for obtaining age-lasting salvation.
- **Afflict / Humble:** The mandatory internal state of the redeemed when seeking atonement, involving a lack of arrogance and a recognition of sin.

Expansion of Key Points

1. The Targeted Focus of Christ's Mission

The sources reiterate that the Gospel is addressed exclusively to the redeemed, and Jesus' death was specifically for those God gave Him "out of the world". In **John 17:6**, Jesus clarifies that the people He manifested God's name to were already God's own before being given to Him. This is further supported by **John 10:14-15**, where Jesus identifies Himself as the Good Shepherd who lays down His life specifically for "the sheep"—those He knows and who know Him—rather

than for the world at large.

2. Jesus Christ's Current Role as High Priest

A central question for the redeemed is what Jesus is doing today; the sources teach that He is not passive but is an active High Priest working for the redeemed. As stated in **Hebrews 9:24**, Christ has entered "heaven itself" to appear in the presence of God on "our behalf". This ministry is focused squarely on the redeemed, just as the high priest's ministry in the Hebrew scriptures was focused on the assembly of Israel.

3. Learning from the "Type": The High Priest of Israel

The high priest of Israel, such as Aaron, served as a "type" or copy of Jesus Christ to help the redeemed understand Christ's current heavenly functions. According to **Leviticus 16:1-2**, Aaron was given strict instructions on how to enter the Holy of Holies so that he would not die, emphasizing that God does not change and remains focused on obedience. The high priest was appointed to act on behalf of the redeemed in relation to God, a principle confirmed in **Hebrews 5:1**.

4. The Day of Atonement: A Limited Intercession

The rituals of the Day of Atonement in **Leviticus 16** demonstrate that the high priest made atonement for himself, his house, and "all the assembly of Israel"—but notably, not for the pagans or the unredeemed world. The high priest's focus was entirely on the "uncleanness of the people of Israel" and their transgressions. Similarly, **Hebrews 2:17** states that Jesus became a faithful High Priest specifically to make propitiation for the "sins of the people".

5. The Absolute Necessity of Obedience

Obedience is not optional for the redeemed; it is the prerequisite for receiving the benefits of Christ's intercession. In **Leviticus 23:27-30**, any redeemed person who did not "afflict" (humble) themselves or who did work on the Day of Atonement was "cut off from his people". The sources link this to **Hebrews 5:9**, which declares that Jesus became the source of eternal salvation "to all who obey him".

6. The Danger of Presumption and the Shepherds' Responsibility

Redeemed people can get "lost" when their shepherds lead them astray or cause them to "forget their resting place," as warned in **Jeremiah 50:6**. Many in the church are wrongly taught that they do not need to be obedient because the

"package is delivered," yet the fate of Aaron's sons in **Leviticus 16:1**—who died for being disobedient—serves as a warning against such presumption. Satan's tactic is to lead thoughts astray from "pure devotion to Christ" through distorted gospels that ignore the requirement of striving and obedience (**2 Corinthians 11:3**).

7. A Perfect and Singular Sacrifice

Unlike the high priests of old who had to offer sacrifices repeatedly every year with the blood of animals (**Hebrews 9:25**), Jesus offered Himself "once for all". **Hebrews 4:14-16** encourages the redeemed to draw near to the throne of grace with confidence because our High Priest can sympathise with our weaknesses, having been tempted in every way as we are.

Biblical References Within The Source Excerpts

- **Jeremiah 50:6:** The lost sheep of Israel and shepherds leading them astray.
- **2 Corinthians 11:3:** Thoughts being led astray from pure devotion to Christ.
- **2 Timothy 3:16:** All scripture is given by inspiration of God for doctrine and correction.
- **John 17:6:** Jesus manifesting the name to those God gave Him out of the world.
- **John 10:14-15:** The Good Shepherd laying down His life for the sheep.
- **Leviticus 16:1-34:** Detailed instructions for the High Priest and the Day of Atonement.
- **Leviticus 23:27-30:** The requirement to afflict oneself and the penalty of being "cut off".
- **Hebrews 9:24-25:** Christ appearing in heaven on our behalf; the single sacrifice vs. repeated ones.
- **Hebrews 4:14-16:** Having a great High Priest; drawing near to the throne of grace.
- **Hebrews 3:1:** Considering Jesus, the apostle and High Priest of our confession.
- **Hebrews 2:17:** Making propitiation for the sins of the people.
- **Hebrews 5:1-10:** The appointment of the High Priest; Christ learning

obedience; salvation for those who obey.

Study Questions

- **Audience Context:** According to **John 10:14-15**, for whom did Jesus specifically lay down His life? How does this contradict the common theological view of His sacrifice?.
- **The Role of the High Priest:** Why do the sources emphasize that Jesus is "in action" today? What are the implications of ignoring His current ministry as High Priest?.
- **The Penalty of Disobedience:** In the Hebrew "type" (**Leviticus 23:29**), what happened to the redeemed person who failed to "turn up" or humble themselves on the Day of Atonement?.
- **Intercession Criteria:** Based on **Hebrews 5:9** and the Levitical records, who is the recipient of Christ's intercessory work and "age-lasting salvation"?.
- **Distorting the Message:** How do "shepherds" contribute to the redeemed becoming "lost sheep"?.

Answer Key

- Jesus laid down His life for **"the sheep"**—those God gave Him out of the world—rather than the entire unredeemed world.
- Jesus is working as our mediator in the heavenly Holy of Holies; without a High Priest, there is **no relationship with God**, and ignoring this ministry prevents one from "ruling and reigning" with Him.
- They were **"cut off" from their people**, meaning they lost their standing and inheritance among the redeemed despite their initial redemption.
- Jesus makes intercession for the **obedient redeemed** who confess their sins and draw near to the throne of grace.
- They lead the sheep astray by teaching **distorted gospels** that ignore the need for obedience and cause the redeemed to "forget their resting place".

Exhortations

- **Turn Up to the Priest:** Recognize that redemption is not the end of the journey; you must **actively "turn up"** to your High Priest daily, confessing your sins and acknowledging your need for His intercession.
- **Abandon Presumption:** Do not assume your inheritance is guaranteed if you are walking in disobedience. Remember that God's nature is eternal; the same God who "cut off" the disobedient in Leviticus expects the **same standard of obedience** today.
- **Draw Near with Confidence:** When you walk in faith and confess your sins, do so with **boldness and confidence**. Once you have confessed to your High Priest, the sin is "gone," and you must not walk unfaithfully by continuing to dwell on it.
- **Focus on the Insiders:** Shift your priority from "winning the world" to **winning and strengthening the elect**. The High Priest's focus is on the "holy brothers," and our focus must align with His.