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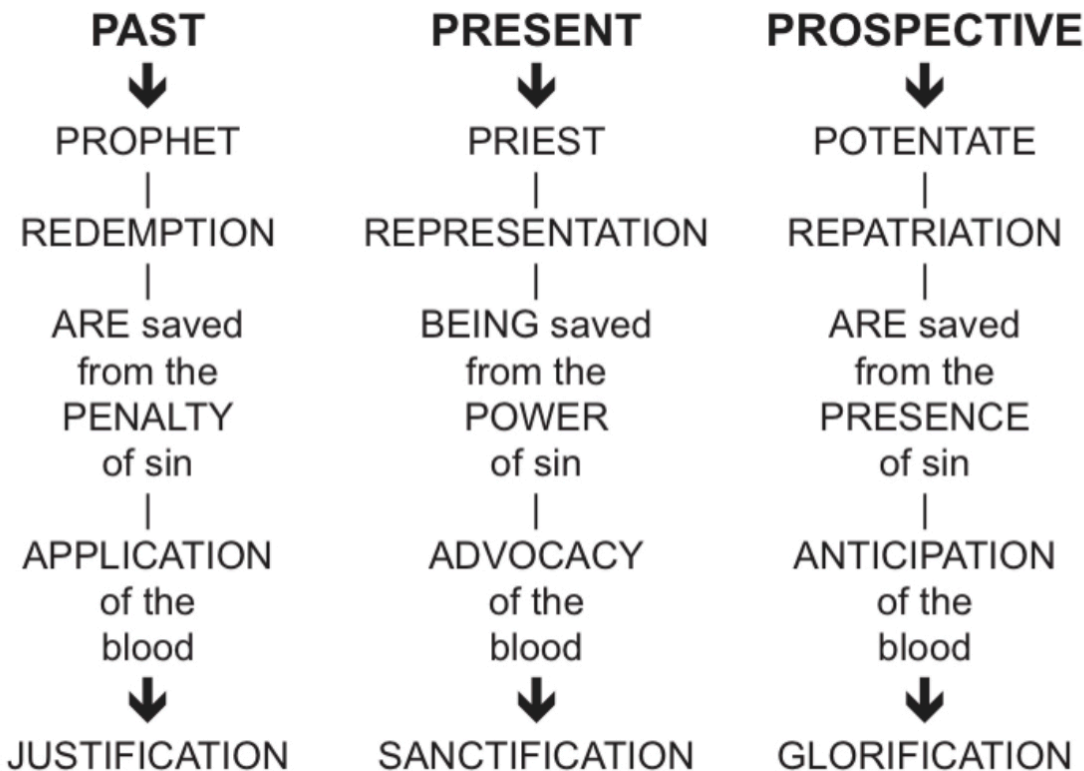
TBC – Arlington, Texas

September 30, 2020 – Wednesday Night

The Offices of Christ

We now enter upon a study of the work of Jesus Christ, a subject which is generally viewed in its three stages: past, present, and future — or as a presentation of our Lord in His three distinctive offices — Prophet, Priest, and King.

A simple outline of the three-fold work of Christ is as follows:



This outline given in Hebrews 9:24-28:

- He HATH appeared to put away sin — verse 26.
- NOW to appear in the presence of God for us — verse 24.
- SHALL He appear the second time — verse 28.

According to Revelation 1:8, our Lord Jesus Christ is the One “which IS, and which WAS, and which IS TO COME.”

It is important not to apply the above outline too rigidly as to exclude some aspect of our Lord’s great work. Keep in mind that each of the three chief offices of Christ are in themselves “past, present, and future.”

I. THE THREE CHIEF OFFICES OF CHRIST DEFINED

A. PROPHET — One Who Speaks to the People for God.

1. The Old Testament.

“I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him” — Deuteronomy 18:18,19.

“For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you” — Acts 3:22.

2. The New Testament.

“And the multitude said, This is Jesus the prophet of Nazareth of Galilee” — Matthew 21:11.

“All things are delivered to me of my Father: and no man knoweth who the Son is, but the Father; and who the Father is, but the Son, and he to whom the Son will reveal him” — Luke 10:22.

“Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son...” — Hebrews 1:2a.

3. Christ’s Present Prophetic Ministry.

“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come. He shall glorify me: for HE SHALL RECEIVE OF MINE, and shall show it unto you. All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall show it unto you” — John 16:13-15.

This has been fulfilled with the completion of the New Testament.

B. PRIEST — One Who Speaks to God for the People.

1. The Old Testament.

“The LORD hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek” — Psalms 110:4.

2. The New Testament.

“So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, to day have I begotten thee. As he saith also in another place, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec” — Hebrews 5:5,6.

“Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec” — Hebrews 6:20.

“But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God” — Hebrews 10:12.

3. Christ’s Present Priestly Ministry.

a. Reconciliation — Romans 5:1,2,9-11; II Corinthians 5:18,19.

b. Intercession — Romans 8:34; Hebrews 4:14,15; 7:17-28.

c. Mediation — I Timothy 2:5.

C. POTENTATE — One Who Reigns over the People as God.

1. Old Testament.

“Yet have I set my KING upon my holy hill of Zion” — Psalms 2:6.

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this” — Isaiah 9:6,7.

2. New Testament.

“Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet” — I Corinthians 15:25,26.

“And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS” — Revelation 19:16.

“Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years”
— Revelation 20:6.

3. Christ’s Present Kingly Ministry.

“Tell ye the daughter of Sion, Behold, thy KING cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon an ass, and a colt the foal of an ass”
— Matthew 21:5.

The Lord Jesus Christ is King in the sense that He rules over the Kingdom of God, i.e. over all who are born again.

II. A SYNOPSIS OF THE WORK OF JESUS CHRIST

A. THE PAST WORK OF CHRIST:

There are many things Jesus did and said (John 21:25), but the past work of Christ centers upon the cross of Calvary.

- The cross is central to the Bible.
- We preach Christ crucified!

The Lord Jesus Christ did not come to be a teacher (though He taught,) to set a good example (though He did,) to bring social revolution to Israel, etc. — He came to “seek and to save that which was lost,” Luke 19:10.

Man was born to live — Christ was born to die.

It is not “lessons from the life of Christ”— but “life from the death of Christ!”

The life and personal example of Christ is only ever held up for believers to follow — never the lost! See: Ephesians 4:20; 5:1; I Peter 2:21; I John 2:6.

B. THE PRESENT WORK OF CHRIST:

This centers around the advocacy of Christ in Heaven, where He appears on the behalf of each believer.

“My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an ADVOCATE with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous” — I John 2:1.

Just as the past work of Christ has to do with our past sins, so His present work has to do with our present sins and our present relationship with our Heavenly Father.

C. THE FUTURE WORK OF CHRIST:

Much of what the Bible says concerning the Lord Jesus Christ has yet to be fulfilled. One day, the Lord Jesus Christ will return to this earth and reign in millennial splendor.