



**Resurrection Sunday April 12, 2020**  
**Blood Covenant**  
**Part-3 : The Present Day Ministry Of Jesus**

Quick Review.

**What The Resurrection And Exaltation Of Jesus Christ Means To The Believer**

Jesus Christ - The First Born From The Dead

Authority Over Hell And Death

All Authority Belongs To Him

....therefore....

Every Believer Lives With The Hope Of The Resurrection

Every Believer Has The Right To Use The Name Above Every Name

Every Believer Has His Resurrection Power At Work In Them

We now consider what the Scriptures reveal Jesus is doing on our behalf at the Father's right hand.

**His Two-Fold Role Before The Father On Our Behalf**

The New Testament reveals that THE EXALTED AND GLORIFIED JESUS IS IN THE PRESENCE OF THE FATHER AS OUR HIGH PRIEST AND AS MEDIATOR.

AS HIGH PRIEST HE STANDS ON OUR BEHALF BEFORE THE FATHER. His role as Intercessor and 'Advocate' (1 John 2:1) as we will explain later is part of His High Priestly role.....(explain John 16:22??)

AS MEDIATOR HE ENFORCES THE NEW COVENANT FOR US HERE ON EARTH.

**Jesus Our High Priest**

***The Role of the priests in the Old Testament***

This is a brief or summary of the main responsibilities of the priests under the Aaronic priesthood (Old Covenant):

- The priests were anointed and consecrated to minister to the Lord on behalf of the people (Exodus 40:13).
- They offered the sacrifices brought by the people on the altar (Leviticus 1).



- If the anointed priest himself sinned, and he had to make a sin offering for himself and the people (Leviticus 4).
- The priest as part of his (ephod) robe bore the names of the 12 tribes on his shoulders before the Lord (Exodus 28:11-12). The priest therefore lifted the people before the Lord as intercessor and was the 'burden bearer' of the people.
- The priest as part of his robe had the names of the 12 tribes on the breastplate of judgment over his heart as he went before the Lord (Exodus 28:29). He also had the Urim and the Thummin in the breastplate of judgment (Exodus 28:30). The priest had to hold the people close to his heart, knowing what they were going through. He also had to instruct them teaching them right from wrong, so they could follow the ways of the Lord.
- Once every year, on the annual day of atonement the priest went into the Holy of Holies to make atonement for the sins of the entire nation (Leviticus 16).
- The priests had to be holy unto the Lord (Leviticus 21:6).

#### ***Work Jesus completed as High Priest***

- As our High Priest He was called by God to be a High Priest in a perpetual priesthood (Hebrews 7:16-17). This means He is our High Priest always, forever.
- He has made propitiation (reconciliation, atonement, obtained forgiveness) for our sins (Hebrews 2:17).
- Jesus has completed the work and become the Source of eternal salvation to all who obey Him (Hebrews 5:5-10; Hebrews 6:20).
- As High Priest Jesus entered into the heavenly tabernacle and offered His own blood once for all, obtained eternal redemption for us, and released our conscience from dead works to serve the living God (Hebrews 9:11-14).
- As our High Priest He permanently removed the list of offences written against us (Colossians 2:14-15) judged and condemned the Accuser (John 16:11) and closed all cases against us. There is nothing pending against you as a believer in the Court of Heaven (Romans 8:33-34). We have been declared righteous and justified.

#### ***What Jesus our High Priest Is Doing For Us***

- Jesus is a merciful and faithful High Priest and is able to aid us when we are tempted (Hebrews 2:17-18).
- He is Apostle and High Priest of our confession (Hebrews 3:1). So we are to hold fast to our confession of faith (Hebrews 4:14; Hebrews 10:21-23).
- He is a High Priest who understands our weaknesses, having been tempted in all points as we are. Therefore we can come boldly to the throne of grace to obtain mercy and find grace in our time of need (Hebrews 4:15-16)
- As our High Priest, according to the order of Melchizedek, Jesus receives our tithes (Hebrews 7:4-8) even as Abraham gave a tenth to Melchizedek.



- As our High Priest, Jesus continues forever with an unchangeable priesthood, and so He is always there ready to save to the uttermost, as we come to the Father through Him (Hebrews 7:23-25; Romans 8:34; Jude 24).
- As our High Priest Jesus is currently making intercession for us (Hebrews 7:25; Romans 8:33-34; Jude 1:24-25) and is standing in the presence of God for us (Hebrews 9:24). He is sitting at the right hand of the Father interceding for us. He wants us to have everything He died to make available to us, all the riches of glory. He intercedes and prays for us in our moments of weakness, challenges so that we can be strengthened.
- Jesus is our great and perfect High Priest who is above the heavens, seated at the right hand of the Father, who ministers in the true and heavenly tabernacle and whom heaven will never reject. There couldn't be a better or greater or more perfect High Priest than Him (Hebrews 4:14; Hebrews 7:26-28; Hebrews 8:1-2).
- Jesus is High Priest over the House of God, therefore we have boldness to enter the Holiest place and we draw near with full assurance of faith (Hebrews 10:19-23).
- As High Priest He also speaks the Father's heart to us through His Spirit (John 16:13-15).

Jesus being Intercessor and Advocate is fulfilled in His High Priestly role for us.

### ***Jesus Our Advocate***

**1 John 2:1-2**

**1 My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.**

**2 And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.**

The word 'Advocate' is the Greek '*parakletos*' literally meaning called to one's side, or called to one's aid. It was used in a court of justice to denote a legal assistant or a counsel for the defense, and was also generally used of one who pleads another's cause. '*Parakletos*' occurs just 5 times in the New Testament and is only translated one, here in 1 John 2:1 as Advocate.

In John 14:16 Jesus referred to the Holy Spirit as "another Comforter" or "*allos parakletos*", implying He Himself was *parakletos* and the Holy Spirit would be to them all that He was.

The word '*parakletos*' has a seven-fold meaning as brought out in the Amplified Bible: Comforter, Helper, Strengthener, Intercessor, Counselor, Stand-by and Advocate. So any of these other words could have been used in 1 John 2:1 to describe what Jesus does on our behalf if we sin.



So we can read 1 John 2:1 like this: *My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Comforter, Helper, Strengthened, Intercessor, Counselor, Stand-by and Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.*

In I John 2:1-2 the context has to do with sin. If/when we sin, the One who paid for all our sins is standing there before the Father on our behalf. Sin does not break the **relationship** we have with God, but it temporarily breaks our **fellowship** with Him. When we do what 1 John 1:7-9 instructs, the blood of Jesus cleanses all sin immediately, and we are forgiven for His name's sake (1 John 2:12). So we can have the confidence not only of being forgiven and restored, but also of being helped and strengthened out of the weakness that caused us to sin.

Therefore we can walk completely free from shame and condemnation because His blood has cleansed us.

#### **SIDE NOTE:**

There is a lot of teaching going on about believers having to go into the Courts of Heaven to plead their case. This does not hold in the light of the completed work of Christ on the Cross. Through His finished work on the Cross, Jesus has removed everything that was against us out of the way, having condemned Satan, the accuser of the brethren once for all, declared us righteous and fully welcome in the presence of the Father and qualified us to partake of all the inheritance that is ours. There are no more court cases against the believer in heaven. The accuser of the brethren, accuses us here on earth day and night. These accusations are known to God (Revelation 12:10-11) but as believers we cast down these accusations (2 Corinthians 10:3-4) knowing that we have been justified by our Great High Priest.

#### ***How the 'Parakleto' Helps Us***

Jesus is our '*Parakletos*' in heaven and He has sent the Holy Spirit to be the '*Allos Parakletos*' for us here on earth. How does the Holy Spirit be the '*Parakletos*' to us? How does He come to our aid? How does He strengthen us? Romans 8:26 states the He helps us in our weaknesses. He takes a hold together with us against our weaknesses. He does this through deep prayer and intercession that rises out of us.

A) We must be willing to go against our weakness. He comes alongside, He aids and assists us in overcoming our weakness.

B) He does this through prayer and intercession. So we must pray, and He enters in and empowers us in this prayer and intercession.



### ***Learn to relate to Jesus as your High Priest.***

- Know that because of Him as your High Priest you can enter the presence of God with all boldness and confidence, with full assurance of faith, coming to obtain what you need from the Father. The One who completely acquitted you in there in the presence of the Father.
- Know that He is interceding with you as you take your requests to the Father in His name.
- Know that He is there, merciful and faithful, to strengthen you in every moment of weakness. He will take a hold together with you, aid and assist you, and help you to the uttermost, to come out victorious.
- Know that He speaks the Father's heart to you by His Spirit.

### **Jesus Our Mediator**

The word mediator in Greek is '*mesites*' literally meaning "a go-between" (from *mesos*, "middle," and *eimi*, "to go").

There are two aspects to Jesus our Mediator. The first has to do with His redemptive work on the Cross where He alone could mediate between God and man (1 Timothy 2:5-6). He is the mediator between God and man. He was the only one who could do this because He was equal with God and equal with man. He could fully represent man to God and fully represent God to man. He offered His life as our Mediator.

The other aspect is His being the Mediator of the New Covenant. Here the word 'mediator' is used as "one who acts as a guarantee" so as to secure something which otherwise would not be obtained. Thus in the book of Hebrews Jesus is the Mediator of the New Covenant guaranteeing, securing and enforcing its terms for His people.

#### **Hebrews 8:6**

**But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises.**

#### **Hebrews 9:15**

**And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.**

#### **Hebrews 12:24**

**to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.**



As our Mediator, He lives to see His covenant (will) enforced for and on our behalf. He is not only the One who wrote (setup) the Covenant, and who died so that the Covenant can come into effect, but also lives, to ensure that the Covenant is enforced in our lives now!

In Hebrews 9:16-17, the word 'covenant' is translated 'testament' referring to the last will of a person. The important truth to keep in mind is that Jesus Christ who established the New Covenant through His death, now lives to ensure that the New Covenant is enforced for us in our lives.

**Hebrews 9:16-17**

**16 For where there is a testament, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator.**

**17 For a testament is in force after men are dead, since it has no power at all while the testator lives.**

The Old Testament also points to Jesus as Mediator of the New Covenant (Isaiah 42:6; Isaiah 49:8; Malachi 3:1).

### **How Do We Receive Christ's Mediation of the New Covenant?**

We will consider two examples how Jesus ministered to people under the previous covenants:

**Matthew 8:16-17**

**16 When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick,**

**17 that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: "He Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses."**

People came to Him in faith and to all who came to Him in faith, He ministered to them based on the work He would fulfill on the Cross. Today, the Cross is a completed work. And Christ Mediates for us based on the finished work on the Cross. We must understand what has been completed for us on the Cross and receive by faith.

In Luke 13, Jesus points out that satan had deprived a daughter of Abraham from enjoying the provisions and blessings of the Abrahamic covenant.

**Luke 13:10-17**

**10 Now He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath.**

**11 And behold, there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bent over and could in no way raise herself up.**

**12 But when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him and said to her, "Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity."**

**13 And He laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God.**



**14 But the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath; and he said to the crowd, "There are six days on which men ought to work; therefore come and be healed on them, and not on the Sabbath day."**

**15 The Lord then answered him and said, "Hypocrite! Does not each one of you on the Sabbath loose his ox or donkey from the stall, and lead it away to water it?"**

**16 So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound—think of it—for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?"**

**17 And when He said these things, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the multitude rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by Him.**

Jesus Christ is the Mediator of the New Covenant, and He ensures that we will enjoy all of the provisions and blessings given to us. We receive this by faith.

When we extend our faith to possess (receive, walk in) our covenant blessings Jesus is the Mediator (Guarantor, Enforcer) of these covenant blessings. Remember His covenant cannot fail. He Himself is the Mediator of His covenant.

#### **2 Corinthians 1:20**

**For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.**

There is one, the devil, who wants to deprive us of New Covenant provisions and blessings. The enemy may attempt to keep us in ignorance, so that we do not know what the New Covenant promises and provides for us (Hosea 4:6). The enemy may attempt to cause us to forsake or forget the God of Covenant (Deuteronomy 4:23). As in Daniel 11:32, the enemy may flatter (seduce, lure) us away to do wickedly against the covenant, or as Hebrews states, some people may count the blood of the covenant as a common thing (Hebrews 10:29).

**SALVATION CALL**

**COMMUNION**

**PRAYER AND MINISTRY**



LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

**Resurrection Sunday April 12, 2020**  
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This is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

**Preparation**

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at [apcwo.org/sermons](http://apcwo.org/sermons). Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

**Welcome**

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship and a fun activity.

**LISTEN to God's Word**

Read the following Scripture passages: *Hebrews 2:17-18; Hebrews 4:14; Hebrews 12:24; 1 John 2:1-2*

**INVESTIGATE God's Word Together**

Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

1) *Discuss Jesus as our Great High Priest and how this enables you in your covenant relationship with God.*

2) *Discuss Jesus as our Mediator and what this means to you as a person in blood covenant with God.*

If time permits, each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key learning and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

**FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey**





Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

**ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another**

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

*1, families to be protected and strengthened*

*2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.*

*3, for the BUILD TO IMPACT project - for God's hand to guide us through the land search and acquisition process, and for finances to be more than enough to get this project done.*

Close by thanking God together.