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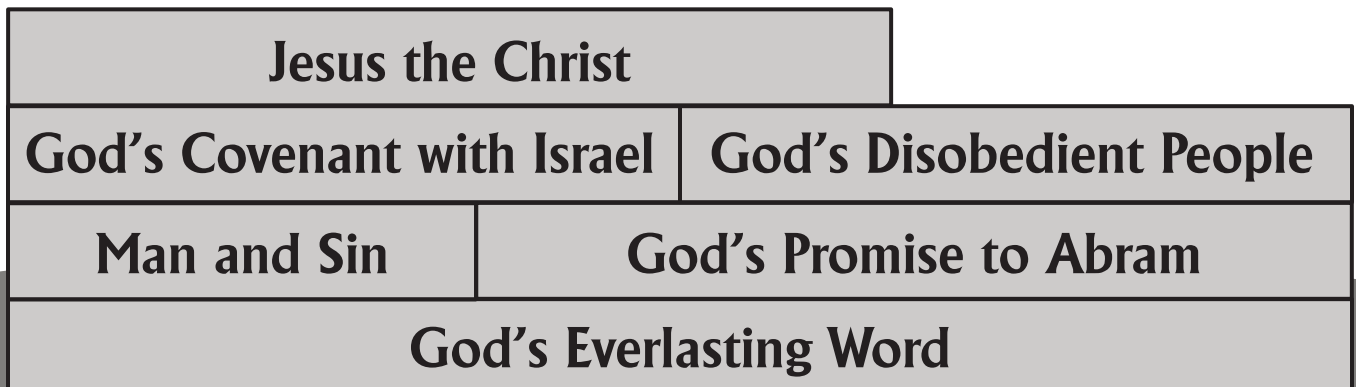
Introduction

In the previous lesson, we looked at examples of the Israelites' disobedience and rebellion. Time and time again, they broke their covenant with God. As a result, there was a need for a change in the priesthood, a change in the law, and a change in sacrifices.

In this lesson, *Jesus the Christ*, we will see how through Jesus, all the world would be blessed, just as God promised to Abraham.

Jesus, Descended from Abraham

- A. God's promise to Abraham included the following component:
 - 1. "And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." (Genesis 12:3)
 - 2. "In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice." (Genesis 22:18)
 - 3. God issued the same promise to Isaac and the Jacob. (Genesis 26:4; 28:14)
- B. Jesus was born into a family descended from Abraham.
 - 1. Joseph, the husband of Mary, was descended from Abraham. (Matthew 1:1-17) Matthew's genealogy appears to focus on Jesus' legal claim to the throne of David by showing Jesus' legal descent from David and Abraham. Matthew follows the lineage from Solomon, the son of David, to Joseph, the son of Jacob.
 - 2. Mary, the mother of Jesus, was also descended from Abraham. (Luke 3:23-28) Luke's genealogy appears to focus on Jesus' biological descent from David and Adam. Luke follows the lineage from Nathan, the son of David, to Heli, the son of Matthat. It is likely Heli was Mary's father, the father-in-law of Joseph.



World Filled with Sin

3. The physical side of Jesus, the Son of Man, was of the seed of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Through Jesus, all the world would be blessed.

NOTES

Jesus, the Perfect Sacrifice

- A. Under the law of Moses, God instituted requirements for a sin offering and requirements for a trespass offering. In both instances the sin or trespass would be forgiven. (Leviticus 4:1-35; 5:1 - 6:7)
- B. However, the sacrifices under the Old Law were not sufficient to take away sins.
 1. Hebrews 10:1-4 reveals that it was “not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.”
 2. The law of Moses, “a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things,” was unable to make those who approach perfect. If the law had made the people perfect, then the sacrifices would have ceased. (Hebrews 10:2-3)
 3. The yearly Day of Atonement helps to emphasize the inability of the law of Moses to make the people perfect before God. (cf. Leviticus 23:26-32; cf. Numbers 29:7-11)
 4. The prophets had taught Israel that sacrifices alone would not please the Lord. (Psalm 51:16,17; Isaiah 1:13-17; Micah 6:6-7)
- C. God sent Jesus to be the perfect sacrifice for sins.
 1. Jesus was born into a physical body, a body prepared for Him. (Hebrews 10:5-7)
 - a. In Psalm 40:6-8, the psalmist prophesies of a greater sacrifice prepared by God.
 - Is there a difference between Hebrews 10:5 and Psalm 40:6?
 - The writer of Hebrews quotes Psalm 40:6 as, “...But a body you have prepared for Me.” However, Psalm 40:6 reads, “...My ears You have opened” (NKJV).
 - The phrase “...My ears You have opened” literally means “ears you have dug for me.” (Masoretic Text)
 - In the Greek Septuagint, this Hebrew metaphor is rendered as “but ears you fashioned for me.”
 - The writer of Hebrews rendered this quote in a way that helps the reader to understand its application to Jesus Christ. (Peter, in Acts 2:17, does something similar when quoting Joel 2:28.)

NOTES

2. Jesus came to do the Father's will so that His people could be sanctified "through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." (Hebrews 10:8-10)
 - a. Jesus was the "Lamb of God." (Revelation 5:6)
 - John the baptizer proclaimed, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29-31, 36)
 - Isaiah prophesied the suffering servant (the Messiah) would be "led as a lamb to the slaughter." (Isaiah 53:7)
 - Paul referred to Jesus as "our Passover" who was "sacrificed for us." (1 Corinthians 5:7)
 - Christians have been "redeemed...with the precious blood of Christ, as a lamb without blemish and without spot." (1 Peter 1:18-19)
 - b. Jesus was offered once to "bear the sins of many." (Hebrews 9:23-28; cf. 1 Peter 2:24)

Jesus, High Priest and King

- A. Under the law of Moses, the king of Judah could never serve as a high priest.
 1. All priests were appointed from the tribe of Levi. (Exodus 28; Numbers 18)
 2. All kings from David forward were of the tribe of Judah. (Genesis 49:10; cf. 2 Samuel 7:12-17) (After the kingdom divided, the kings of the southern nation were of the lineage of Judah.)
 3. This limitation regarding who could serve as priest and who could serve as king was established in the Law of Moses, God's covenant with Israel.
- B. Jesus, the High Priest.
 1. Jesus is serving as High Priest according to the order of Melchizedek.
 - a. About 500 years before the law of Moses, there was a man named Melchizedek who was both the king of Salem and priest of "God Most High." (Genesis 14:18-20; cf. Hebrews 7:1-10)
 - b. Jesus was "called by God as High Priest 'according to the order of Melchizedek.'" (Hebrews 5:1-11)
 2. Jesus is a High Priest "fitting for us." (Hebrews 7:20-28)
 - a. Jesus was made a priest with an oath. (vs 20-21, 28)

- b. Jesus became a “surety of a better covenant.” (vs 22)
 - c. Jesus “has an unchangeable priesthood” because “He continues forever.” (vs 24)
 - d. Jesus “always lives to make intercession.” (vs 25)
 - e. Jesus is “fitting for us” because He is “holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens.” (vs 26)
 - f. Jesus sympathizes with our weaknesses. (Hebrews 5:14-16)
3. Jesus is a “Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected.” (Hebrews 8:1-6)
- C. Jesus, the King.
- 1. Just as Melchizedek was a king, so too would Jesus reign as king.
 - 2. Jesus’ kingship was foretold in prophecy. (Psalm 110)
 - a. God commanded the Son to sit at His right hand. (vs 1)
 - b. God commanded the Son to rule in the midst of His enemies. (vs 2)
 - c. God appointed the Son to be a priest forever. (vs 4)
 - d. God described the battle the Son would wage to win His kingdom. (vs 5-7)
 - 3. Jesus’ kingship was fulfilled.
 - a. Forty days after His resurrection, Jesus ascended to the right hand of His Father in heaven. (Acts 1:3) Ten days after that, on the Day of Pentecost, the apostle Peter preached the fulfillment of David’s prophecy in Jesus Christ. (Acts 2:32-36)
 - b. God has put all things in subjection to Jesus the King. (Hebrews 2:5-9; Ephesians 1:20-23; 1 Corinthians 15:24-25)
 - c. Jesus is truly King of kings and Lord of lords. (1 Timothy 6:15; cf. Revelation 17:14; 19:16)

NOTES

Jesus, Mediator of a Better Covenant

- A. There was a need for a new and better covenant.
- 1. A new law was needed because of the change in priesthoods. (Hebrews 7:11-19)
 - 2. A new law was needed because the first covenant was not “faultless.” (Hebrews 8:7)

NOTES

- a. God established the first covenant with Israel because of the transgressions of the people. (cf. Galatians 3:19-20)
 - The first covenant showed the people how to serve the Lord.
 - The first covenant also served as a witness against the people when they would disobey the Lord.
- b. While the first covenant offered means for forgiveness, it was not designed to take away the sins of the people. (cf. Hebrews 10:1-4)
3. A new law was needed because of Israel's disobedience. (Hebrews 8:8-13)
 - a. The Lord found "fault" with the people of Israel because of their disobedience. (vs 8a)
 - b. Because Israel rejected God's first covenant, there grew a need for a new covenant. (vs 8b-13)
 - c. Under this new covenant, God would...
 - Put His laws in the mind of His people and would write it on their hearts. (vs 10a)
 - Be their God and they would be His people. (vs 10b)
 - Be known by all His people. (vs 11)
 - Be merciful to His people's unrighteousness, no longer remembering their sins and their lawless deeds. (vs 12)
 - d. With this new covenant, God would make the first covenant obsolete. (vs 13)
- B. The death of the Jesus Christ, the testator of the new and better covenant.
 1. Jesus is the "Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death." (Hebrews 9:11-15)
 2. Jesus, the testator, had to die in order for His testament to be enforced. (Hebrews 9:16-22)

Conclusion

Jesus the Christ became the perfect sacrifice for sins, the perfect Mediator between God and man, the perfect High Priest, and the perfect King of His people.

In our next lesson, *The Gospel*, we will look the good news of salvation which Jesus and His apostles preached to the world. ◀