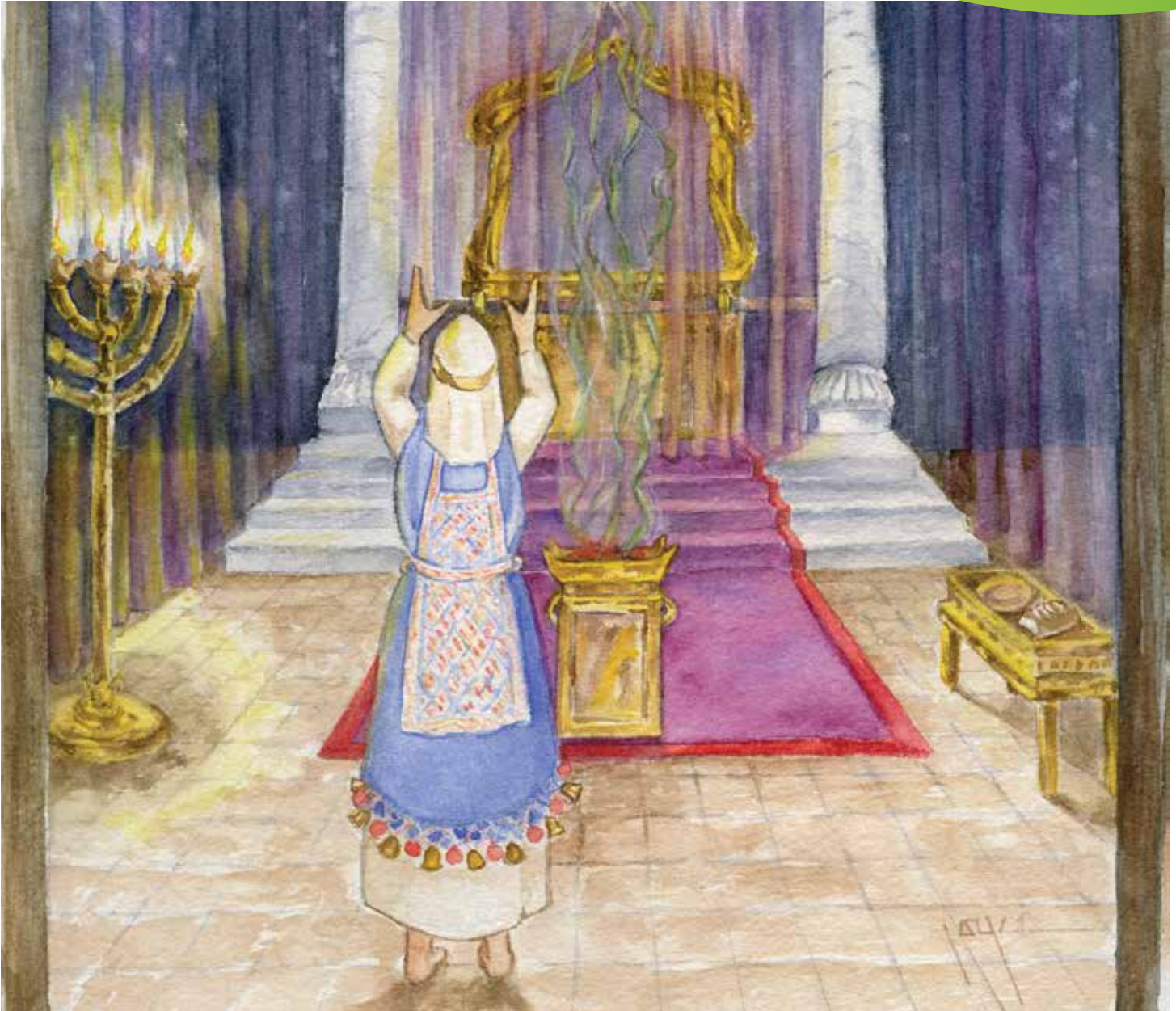




Jesus Christ, the Great High Priest



I What is a priest? One definition says that a priest is “someone who has charge of the religious life of the people.” Israel’s religious leaders in the Old Testament were the priests and Levites. They were the **intercessors** between the people and God.

Because Adam and Eve sinned, everyone has been born into sin, which separates man from his Creator God. So God established **sacrifices** to **atone** for sin. When God brought His people out of Egypt, God chose Aaron, Moses’ brother, as the first high priest. God also gave the high priest many, many detailed

instructions about choosing perfect animals and how to offer those animals as a sacrifice.

Every year on the **Day of Atonement**, the **high priest** was to make a sacrifice for his sins and the sins of the people. He would be dressed in clean, richly decorated robes and would carefully prepare the offering following God's detailed directions. The high priest would enter the **Most Holy Place** and sprinkle the blood of the sacrifice on the Ark of the Covenant. God instructed the Israelites to observe the Day of Atonement year after year. Over and over the people had to make sacrifices for their sin.

The sacrificial system was God's plan to forgive the people's sin, but it was only temporary. Because of this, the sacrifices had to be repeated year after year. But God promised that a High Priest would come and offer a perfect sacrifice that would not have to be repeated ever again. Jesus, God's Son, was that High Priest who gave His own life as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.

Why is it important that Jesus is the great High Priest? Since the high priests in the Old Testament were not perfectly holy, they would die someday. Their sacrifices were not perfect. But the Bible says Christ is better than every other priest because He is sinless. He did not die for any sin of His own but for the sins of all people. Christ took the place of all other priests and sacrifices.

Jesus Christ is your High Priest. He is the perfect sacrifice for your sin. He is the **Lamb of God** which takes away the sin of the world.



Jesus fulfilled God's promise given in Psalm 103:12, "As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us." We know that God accepted the sacrifice Jesus offered because God raised Him from the dead. Jesus continues to be our High Priest. He ascended into heaven where He lives forever and always **intercedes** for us, pleading to God the Father on our behalf.

You can go to God in confession whenever you have sinned. God will forgive your sins because Christ is your High Priest and the perfect sacrifice for all sinners. It is because of Christ's finished sacrifice on the cross that God looks upon you as perfectly holy and forgiven. Micah 7:19 says that He will tread our iniquities under foot and cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. Jesus forgives you. Your sin is gone. Your guilt is gone. You are free.

ACTIVITY 1

Our Great High Priest

A. Read Exodus 28:4-6 to learn the garments God told the people to make for the high priest.

1. a _____
2. an _____
3. a _____
4. a _____
5. a _____
6. a _____

B. God said these are holy garments and show the glory and beauty of Christ, our great High Priest. What are the colors of the garments? (v.5)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

C. The high priest wore a linen turban with a gold plate on the front. What was written on the gold plate? (see Exodus 28:36) _____

D. Read Hebrews 7:26. This verse tells what five things about Jesus, our great High Priest.

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____
4. _____ 5. _____



ACTIVITY 2

Do You Remember?

Match each word with the related description. These words are either from today's lesson or last week's lesson.

1. sacrifice
2. priest
3. high priest
4. Most Holy Place
5. intercessors
6. Day of Atonement
7. prophet
8. Gospel
9. fulfilled
10. ascended

- a. A person who speaks to people with a message from God.
- b. The priest with the most important duties.
- c. When animals were killed and offered to God because of the people's sin.
- d. Completed; came true.
- e. The good news that God sent Jesus to die for our sins.
- f. Someone who has charge of the religious life of the people.
- g. A yearly event when the high priest would go into the Most Holy Place and make a sacrifice for his sins and the sins of the people.
- h. Rose to heaven.
- i. The place where the high priest would sprinkle the blood of the sacrifice on the Ark of the Covenant.
- j. Priests and Levites in the Old Testament.

Catechism

The Second Article of Redemption

... He ascended into heaven,
And is seated on the right
hand of God the Father
Almighty; From where He
shall come to judge the living
and the dead.

Memory Verse

"Behold, the Lamb of
God who takes away
the sin of the world!"
—John 1:29b

Enrichment Verse:
Hebrews 8:1b

