

Theme: No sacrifices of sinful men could ever fully take away the guilt they bear before a holy God. Jesus Christ came into the world to offer himself as a perfect sacrifice for sin – and entered heaven itself with his sinless blood as the offering for our sins.

Background: Prophet, priest, king - historical offices of the Old Testament that foreshadow the work of Christ.

Introduction: Problem in our world that no one wants to talk about? Sin & Guilt!

I. A Major Problem – Sin & Guilt!

A. We need a priest/mediator! Hebrews 5: 1

1. Priests in the cultures of the world
2. Making sacrifices for sin

B. *We know we are guilty!*

1. Sin affects *everyone*. 1 Kings 8:46; Psalm 14:3; Romans 3:10ff ; Proverbs 20:9; Romans 1:20
2. It is deadly *serious*. Colossians 1:21; Habakkuk 1:13; Numbers 32:23
3. We can't deal with it by ourselves.
4. Sacrifice is required to take away sin and guilt! Hebrews 9:22; Leviticus 17:11

II. An Imperfect Solution

A. The patriarchs

B. Priests in Israel – The Aaronic Priesthood

1. From the lineage of Aaron. Numbers 3:10
2. Emphasizing the Holiness of God. The whole system emphasized the Holiness of God!!
 - Consecration of the priests. Exodus 29; Leviticus 8-9
 - Details of the sacrifices.
3. Representatives – called by God. Numbers 3
4. Intermediaries – standing between a sinful people and a holy God!
 - Praying for the people. Numbers 33

- Making sacrifices for sin. Leviticus 4-7

C. The high priest

1 Makes atonement. Leviticus 16 & 17

2. The *Day of Atonement*. Leviticus 16; 17:11

D. Teaching the way of salvation

- Sin means *death!*. Ezekiel 18:4

- A *substitute* can be offered. Micah 6:6-7; Hebrews 10:4-7

The Priesthood of Aaron was not the solution – it was a picture of what would be required for forgiveness and cleansing from sin and guilt.

III. The *Perfect Solution*

A. Perfect mediator - 1 Timothy 2:5

- Called of God, humbled himself. Hebrews 5:4-6

- Enters the Holy of Holies by his own blood. Hebrews 9:12

- An eternal priesthood. Hebrews 7:27; 9:12,26; 10:10

B. Perfect intercessor – Hebrews 7:25

IV. A Spiritual Priesthood for His People

A. A clear conscience – guilt of sin taken away! Jeremiah 33:8

B. Offering spiritual sacrifices

- Romans 12:1,2

- The sacrifice of praise. Psalm 50:23; 1 Thessalonians 5:18

- The sacrifices of the heart. Psalm 51:17

C. Access to the throne of grace

- A counselor/advocate (para- “alongside” kletos – “called”)

- Drawing near to God. Hebrews 4:16

But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God. Hebrews 10:12