

John 67 – Jesus: Priest, Son, Savior

Dr. Leon L. Sanders
John 19:23-30

Bearing His Stauros

Pilate delivered Christ to
the Jews: Rejected King

Jesus dragged his *stauros*
{tree} (Nu 21:18; Ps 22:6-8)

On Golgotha (Skull)
between two thieves,
Christ was executed



Artist rendition of Roman execution based on Greek *stauros*
Stauros changed to Latin *crux*; transliterated into English as *cross*
One thief repented, saved (*True Jews*); one thief did not repent, lost (*False Jews*)

Focus on Three Roles of Jesus

- John provides few details of the Christ's execution; yet, he does illustrate three roles of Jesus on the *stauros*
 - Jesus as King – High Priest
 - Jesus as Son
 - Jesus as Savior: Messiah – Christ
- Each role fulfilled prophecy and highlighted the mercy that believers of the New Covenant could expect versus lack of mercy of the Old Covenant (He 10:26-31)

The Seamless Tunic

Significance of the seamless tunic is lost on most Gentiles due to their ignorance of the Old Testament and Jewish culture

The priest's undergarment, tunic, was woven as one piece, seamless (Woven with skill) (Ex 28:1-3)

On Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement or Mercy) the High Priest would wear the *White Garments* (Le 16:1-28)

White for Holiness of God

All-white garments represented God's righteousness, gained by Christ's death for sin; the High Priest would enter the Holy of Holies twice sprinkling blood (He 9:22)

Bull's Blood - Represented Priesthood's sin (Greater)
(Yahweh) Goat's Blood - Represented the people's sin

Thus, God provided Himself as Sin's Sacrifice
(Ge 22:8; He 9:11-12)

Christ Provided Himself as Sin

- The seamless garment designated Christ as High Priest preparing to provide Himself as Yahweh's goat: the sacrifice for the people's sin: True Day of Mercy (He 10:6-8)
- His death inaugurated a new priesthood replacing the Aaronic priesthood that continually failed (Mal 2:1-9)
- Offered *strange fire* at its beginning (Le 10:1-12)
- Demanded Christ's, God's Son's, death without mercy (Jo 19:14-15)

Christ - King/Priest Forever

- Christ was a High Priest like Melchizedek (Melchi - King; Zedek - Righteousness/Peace) (Ps 110:4; He 5:5-6; Re 19:11-16)
- Melchizedek was both king of Salem (Peace) and priest of El Elyon (God Most High) who blessed Abraham preparing him to avoid vassalage to Sodom's king (Ge 14:17-20)
- Melchizedek's lineage never given in Genesis; however, this does not imply he was a theophany of Christ (He 7:1-10)

¶ If the Greek word had been ἰσομοιος/homoiōsis then the text would mean the same as Christ or the pre-incarnate Jesus. However, the Greek word ἰσομοιότης /isomoiotēs means to be like; ergo, Melchizedek (king/priest) was not Christ. His title resembled Christ who would be both King and Priest once He died on the cross for sin.

Change in Priest-Change in Law

Change in Priesthood means a change in covenants (He 7:11-28)

Aaronic priesthood - Mosaic Law could only condemn
Melchizedek priesthood - New Covenant gives Life

Aaronic priesthood and Pharisaical populace missed the purpose of cultic Law which pointed to Messiah as God; their truths were hebel (abel) babblings of the wise following their father, Satan (Ge 4: 6-7; Jo 8:44; 1Co 1:18-24)

Tale of the Garments

In two verses John lays bare true purpose of Father and Son when describing Jesus' garments (Jn 22:16-18)

His non-priestly garments were divided among the soldiers representing His worldly attire not needed

His priestly tunic was not torn representing His suitability as both sacrifice and priest

Lost: Naked in judgment; Saved: Clothed in Christ (Ge 3:6-11)

Jesus Protects His Mother

- Christ provided for his mother's subsistence and faith
 - Jesus called His mother, Woman, at the wedding in Cana to separate her from His ministry (Jo 2:3-9)
 - He ends His ministry calling her Woman at the stauros
 - Mary was blessed for her faithfulness; yet, she was a sinner who at one point thought Jesus was insane (Jo 3:21)
 - Christ taught against religion based on fleshly ties (Mt 12:46-50)

Responsibility of the Eldest

As eldest son, Jesus was responsible to provide for His mother and sisters; sons were to fend for themselves

Jesus entrusts John with His mother and family

Both submit to His will

Provides us comfort realizing that even in great distress, Jesus looked after His family's needs (Jo 2:17-18)

He is Our Priest Also

Through this act Christ demonstrated He knows our needs and will meet them even before we know them (He 2:14-18)

This was not the mercy of the Aaronic priesthood of the cultic Law covenant which had no mercy (He 10:28)

Jesus in the Good Samaritan parable taught mercy (Lk 10:25-37)

Mercy separates true Christianity from both religious Christendom and all other faiths

“I Thirst”

Sacrifice for sin was completed and Jesus ready to release His spirit from His fleshly body (Death) when He said, “I thirst” (Jn 6:9, 20-21; Lk 23:44-48)

He was offered wine and *gall* at the beginning which He refused, considering it poison which would have destroyed His sacrificial death; i.e., sin (Jn 6:9, 20-21; Mk 17:33-34)

Christ took the soured wine given Him in a sponge impaled on hyssop (used to sprinkle sacrifice's blood)

Understanding Wine

- Wine in the Bible signifies the goodness of God (1K 4:25)
 - Christ had created man calling him good (Ge 1:31; Jo 1:1-3)
 - Christ had fulfilled God's justice for men's sins
 - Christ's, “I thirst” reinforced men's utter weakness
 - Men could only offer sour wine; sinful flesh
- Reinforced the need for God to provide Himself as the sacrifice for sin; a haunting reminder for all eternity

The English word, vinegar, comes from the French *vin* (wine) *egre* (sour)

Wine fermented by bacteria rather than yeast to yield a sour taste

Diluted in water, it was the usual drink for the poor and, also for Roman soldiers on duty - Sobriety

God's Anointed One

John displays three roles Jesus the Christ fulfilled on the stauros: Priest, Son, and Savior

Priest

The seamless white garment designated His priesthood

Aaronic priesthood a parenthesis between the priests of Genesis (Melchizedek who represented Christ's coming priesthood) and Christ's eternal priesthood

Job was also a type of priest after His salvation; chosen by God to offer sacrifices for his friends (Job 42:7-9)

God directly selected these priests; just like Jesus (He 5:5-6)

The Patriarch of each clan was probably both leader and priest, like Noah
This pattern is seen in Genesis and continued in Judges despite the Aaronic Priesthood in existence
(Ge 35:1-6; Ju 17)

Son

- Christ took care of His mother's earthly future entrusting her to John; setting us an example (Jn 19:27)
- Using the term, woman, He divorced all human claims from the coming New Covenant ministry: Faith alone
- This has not stopped Lucifer and man from co-opting His ministry into Christendom and deifying His mother
- This devotion to our needs that sets Christianity from all other faiths; giving us peace and assurance

Savior

Christ gave up His spirit when He successfully satisfied God's justice against sin; however, He had one last example to leave; sour wine

Purpose of drinking vin egre demonstrated the inability of people to satisfy God's justice on their own merit

One accepts Christ's sacrifice, new wine in His Kingdom, or drink one's own sour wine forever

(Mt 9:17; 26:29)

“It is Finished”

These victorious words signal Jesus had accomplished **everything** the Father sent Him to do (Jn 6:37-40)

He had no further need of His fleshly body

Jews rejected His priestly office; yet, insured He would be Priest forever like Melchizedek

The Centurion over His execution praised God saying Christ was innocent; further condemning the Jews

(Lk 23:44)

While simultaneously saying, “It is finished,” He is also saying everything is “very good” at Creation and, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end” in Revelation. To this the Bride (all saved throughout history) and the Spirit are also saying, “Come”. So, Come (Ge 1:31; Re 21:13, 17)

John’s Gospel: King and Priest

- John did not include many details because his emphasis was Jesus, Son of God (Opening Hymn) (Jn 1:1-18)
 - The other Gospels also included only details pertinent to their focused message
 - One must read all four accounts to obtain a rounded view of events
- John’s Gospel: Priest-Son-Savior; ergo, Lord of Lords

Jesus Not Savior then Lord

The modern concept of Christendom of Jesus first as one’s savior and then at some point in one’s maturation you make Him Lord of your life

This concept has **no** basis in Scripture

He is Lord over saved and lost, and creation (Jn 1:1-3)

He calls those He has saved (Eph 1:3-5)

We do not earn salvation; works and makes us gods (1Co 1:28-30; Eph 2:8-9)