

**The 1689 Confession; Chapter 8, Paragraph's 4 & 8 – “Of Christ the Mediator”,
Message # 25 – “A Priest on His Throne”, Presented in the Adult
Sunday School Class, by Pastor Paul Rendall on June 21st, 2020.**

Paragraph 4 – This office the Lord Jesus did most willingly undertake, which that he might discharge he was made under the law, and did perfectly fulfil it, and underwent the punishment due to us, which we should have borne and suffered, being made sin and a curse for us; enduring most grievous sorrows in his soul, and most painful sufferings in his body; was crucified, and died, and remained in the state of the dead, yet saw no corruption: on the third day he arose from the dead with the same body in which he suffered, with which he also ascended into heaven, and there sitteth at the right hand of his Father making intercession, and shall return to judge men and angels at the end of the world.

Paragraph 8 - To all those for whom Christ hath obtained eternal redemption, he doth certainly and effectually apply and communicate the same, making intercession for them; uniting them to himself by his Spirit, revealing unto them, in and by his Word, the mystery of salvation, persuading them to believe and obey, governing their hearts by his Word and Spirit, and overcoming all their enemies by his almighty power and wisdom, in such manner and ways as are most consonant to his wonderful and unsearchable dispensation; and all of free and absolute grace, without any condition foreseen in them to procure it.

1. The Basis of all of Christ's Intercession – His Perfect work as the Branch.

Zechariah 3: 8 – “Hear, O Joshua, the high priest, You and your companions who sit before you, for they are a wondrous sign; For behold, I am bringing forth My Servant the BRANCH.”

So the Branch who is being talked about here in verse 8 is God the Father's servant, our Lord Jesus Christ. All of Christ's finished work was accomplished in one day upon the tree of the cross it says in verse 9.

1st Peter 2: 24 – “...Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness – by whose stripes you were healed.” “For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.”

This Branch is mentioned once again in –

Zechariah 6: 9-13 – “Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying: "Receive the gift from the captives--from Heldai, Tobijah, and Jedaiah, who have come from Babylon – and go the same day and enter the house of Josiah the son of Zephaniah.” “Take the silver and gold, make an elaborate crown, and set it on the head of Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest.” “Then speak to him, saying, “Thus says the LORD of hosts, saying: ‘Behold, the Man whose name is the BRANCH!’ “From His place He shall branch out, And He shall build the temple of the LORD; yes, He shall build the temple of the LORD.” “He shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule on His throne; so He shall be a priest on His throne, and the counsel of peace shall be between them both.”

The offices of Priest and King go well together in our Lord Jesus Christ. He is a priest on His throne. That is, it is His intercession for His saints that not only takes away their sins at their conversion to Himself, but by His intercession and His righteous rule, He sovereignly builds His Church. He shall build the temple of the Lord, and all the glory for what He does by His wisdom, grace, and power will be His reward from the Father. In this passage, all the glory for Heldai, Tobijah, and Jedaiah, being brought back from the Babylonian captivity, goes to God; to the mercy of the Father, and the intercession of the Son. Christ in His High Priestly ministry branches out to include not only individual believers, but also their service together to Him in the building of the Church.

Hosea 14: 1-8 – “O Israel, return to the Lord your God, for you have stumbled because of your iniquity; take words with you, and return to the Lord.” “Say to Him, ‘Take away all iniquity; receive us graciously, for we will offer the sacrifices of our lips.’” “Assyria shall not save us, we will not ride on horses, nor will we say anymore to the work of our hands, ‘You are our gods.’” “For in You the fatherless finds mercy.” “I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely, for My anger has turned away from him.” “I will be like the dew to Israel; He shall grow like the lily, and lengthen his roots like Lebanon.” “His branches shall spread; His beauty shall be like an olive tree, and his fragrance like Lebanon.” “Those who dwell under his shadow shall return they shall be revived like grain, and grow like a vine.” “Their scent shall be like the wine of Lebanon.” “Ephraim shall say, ‘What do I have to do anymore with idols?’” “I have heard and observed him.” “I am like a green cypress tree; your fruit is found in Me.”

Here we see that there was a great need for Israel to return to the Lord because they had stumbled in their iniquity. But notice that when God’s people acknowledge their sins, and say that they will not trust in the nations around them, or in their own military might, or the work of their hands, that He, God would show them mercy. It is for Christ’s sake that God would heal their backslidings, those who were the remnant who were trusting in Him, the true Israel of God in that day. For Christ’s sake, God the Father would turn His anger away from them and be like the dew to Israel. Those who would return and dwell under the shadow of the Almighty would be revived, and grow like a vine. Their scent would be like the wine of Lebanon; a fragrance of Christ and His grace. They would put away their idols and confess that God (Specifically Christ the Lord) was like a green cypress tree to them. All of their fruit would be found coming from them as result of His working His precious grace in their hearts and lives.

John 15: 5-10 – “I am the vine, you are the branches.” “He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.” “If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned.” “If you abide in Me, and my words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.” “By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be my disciples.”