

Christ as Prophet, Priest, and King

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99 Essentials

From The 99 Essential Doctrines

Christ As Prophet

As one of His offices, Jesus fulfills the role of prophet: He alone is the ultimate teacher and has the words of eternal life (John 6:68). Jesus is also God's ultimate revelation of Himself, the very Word of God (John 1:1).

Christ As Priest

As our Great High Priest, Jesus accomplishes the work of reconciling us to God. He is the One whose perfect righteousness is presented to the Father for our justification. He is the One who intercedes for us before the Father (Heb. 7:25; 9:24) and prays for us to remain faithful (Luke 22:31-32; John 17).

Christ As King

God has always been King over His creation, whether in heaven or on earth. Yet some of His creatures in both realms have rebelled against Him, leaving destruction in their wake. To restore His broken world, God promised a King who would deliver His people and restore all of creation. The promise of a coming King finds its fulfillment

in Jesus Christ and looks forward to its perfection when Jesus returns for His bride, the church.

From The Bible

Deuteronomy 18:15 NKJV

¹⁵ “The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear,

Acts 3:18–22 NKJV

¹⁸ But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled.

¹⁹ Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,

²⁰ and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before,

²¹ whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.

²² For Moses truly said to the fathers, ‘*The Lord* your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you.

John 6:68 NKJV

⁶⁸ But Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

John 1:1 NKJV

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Hebrews 7:25 NKJV

²⁵ Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

Hebrews 9:24 NKJV

²⁴ For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, *which are* copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us;

Luke 22:31–32 NKJV

³¹ And the Lord said, “Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift *you* as wheat.

³² But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to *Me*, strengthen your brethren.”

See also John 17

Genesis 49:9–12 NKJV

⁹ Judah *is* a lion’s whelp; From the prey, my son, you have gone up. He bows down, he lies down as a lion; And as a lion, who shall rouse him?

¹⁰ The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor a lawgiver from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes; And to Him

shall be the obedience of the people.

¹¹ Binding his donkey to the vine, And his donkey's colt to the choice vine, He washed his garments in wine, And his clothes in the blood of grapes.

¹² His eyes *are* darker than wine, And his teeth whiter than milk.

Key Thoughts

In Israel, there were three primary roles that foreshadowed the coming Messiah.

- A Prophet was a spokesperson for God, delivering messages from God to His people and generally calling them back into relationship with Him.
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- A Priest was a representative of God's people to God, interceding for them and generally conducting the tasks necessary to reconcile the people to God.
- A King was an administrator over God's people in His place. He was to rule, judge, protect, and deliver as God would.

All three of these roles were ultimately fulfilled in Jesus.

Additional Thought

Interestingly, Jesus fulfills these roles in a unique way that no human could as the priesthood and kingship were

segregated into different Jewish tribes (Levi and Judah respectively). The Apostle Paul describes Jesus' priesthood as being both better and before the priesthood was entrusted to the tribe of Levi in Hebrews 7.