

- Q23. What offices doth Christ execute as our Redeemer?
A23. **Christ, as our Redeemer, executes the offices of a prophet, of a priest, and of a king, both in his estate of humiliation (lowering Himself) and exaltation.**

Scripture References: Acts 3:21-22; Hebrews 4:14-15, 5:5-7, 7:25, 12:25; Revelations 19:16; Isaiah 9:6-9; Psalm 2:6, 8-11; Matthew 21:5, Ref. Q 21

DQ1: What three anointed offices of the Old Testament are included in the office of Christ?

DQ2: What is entailed in the office of a prophet in the Old Testament?

DQ3: What is entailed in the office of a priest in the Old Testament?

DQ4: What is entailed in the office of a king in the Old Testament?

DQ5: What are the commonalities of these offices?

DQ6: Why did Christ lower Himself?

DQ7: How was Christ exalted?

Notes:

As we have already studied, Christ, a Greek word, and Messiah, a Hebrew word, both mean "The Anointed One," i.e., one and only Anointed One. In this study, we will study the functions and how the Anointed One executes His functions.

Christ, the Anointed One, the one who is the Priest of priests, the Prophets of prophets and the King of kings, is the Redeemer who came to save God's people from their sins. In the early days of the Old Testament, these three offices were not separated but were performed by one person. After Abraham, these offices became more specialized and were performed by different individuals whose functions did not overlap. This was mainly due to rapid and significant increases in the number of God's people.

Abraham, for example, served all three offices. In Genesis 20:7, Abraham served as a prophet. In Genesis 13:4, Abraham served as a priest. In Genesis 14:1-2, 13, 17-24, Abraham served as a king. Thereafter, however, prophets like Moses and priests like Aaron were established. During the time of Samuel, God's established a king for the first time in Israel. Thus, the "specialization" of separate office became the norm in the Old Testament.

But it was God's desire to reunite all of the offices in the person of Jesus Christ. 1 Samuel 2:35 speaks and prophesies of the coming of Jesus Christ as the last priest. "I will raise up for myself a faithful priest, who will do according to what is in my heart and mind. I will firmly establish his house, and he will minister before my anointed one always."

In 2 Samuel 7:12-16, Psalm 2, 72, 110 and so many other passages speak of the coming of Christ in the line of Judah and David as an eternal king.

In Deuteronomy 18:15-20, Moses foretold of Christ as the last prophet to come.

Abraham and Moses were great men of God but they did not qualify as the eternal Redeemer of Israel. Many more leaders were established in Israel but none was God's chosen Redeemer. They were but types and representatives of Christ to come.

In time, Christ came just as prophesied, anticipated and expected and became the Redeemer of the world. He came and carried out his offices of the priest, prophet and king sufficiently and perfectly. Only the one who could execute all three such offices sufficiently and perfectly could indeed be the Redeemer.

What is entailed in the office of a prophet in the Old Testament? The OT prophets were the messengers of God communicating the supernatural and mysterious messages of God. Among additional functions of the prophets was the function as a seer who could foretell what the future held for God's people. In short, prophets were God's spokesmen. Jesus came as the Word (or Logos) and spoke powerfully about the Kingdom of God. He spoke of the past, present and future. He came as the Prophet.

What is entailed in the office of a priest in the Old Testament? If a prophet was God's spokesman and representative, then a priest is man's spokesman and representative. Priests stood before God on behalf of the people. The primary function of priests was to bring reconciliation or restoration of the relationship between God and man. The function was carried on by giving to God an atoning sacrifice usually in the form of a burnt offering of animals. Jesus came to this earth to carry out the duties of a priest. He sufficiently and perfectly performed His duties as a priest by offering Himself as the perfect atoning sacrifice.

What is entailed in the office of a king in the Old Testament? Kings had the responsibility to rule and govern his kingdom. The primary functions of a king were to effectively and righteously rule his kingdom into peaceful existence and to provide protection of the people from the aggressors. Kings were sovereign and were beyond challenge. Jesus is also sovereign. Jesus sovereignly created and governs the universe. He is a King. Jews desired that a Messiah would come to rule a nation but that was not God's desire. Jesus spoke of His kingdom that is not of this world but a different world.

Messiah means "the Anointed One." In the Scripture, prophets (1 Kings 19:16), priests (Exodus 28:41) and kings (1 Samuel 10:1) were all anointed with oil. Anointing was an indication of God's affirmation. Jesus was affirmed by God in numerous ways. Jesus was affirmed in the way in which He was conceived and born. He was affirmed as He was baptized in the river Jordan. He was affirmed by many to be with God.

The three offices of Christ must not be separated. We separate them so that we might understand the office of Christ better and so that we might also understand what is required of God's people in terms of their life before God.

Jesus came as the Prophet and declared God's Word. Yet, He most clearly declared and showed God by His incarnation. No other prophets of the OT did or could possibly have revealed God as clearly as Jesus did and could. Believers have been the recipients of this precious gift of God – the Word. Thus, believers are, along with Christ, to serve as prophets with Him.

Jesus became our Priest and has gone before God on our behalf. Without our Priest, we could not possibly approach the throne of God. By His priesthood, He gave us life resulting from an acceptable atoning sacrifice. He then invited us to serve as priests with Him.

Jesus came as the King and demanded our obedience. We must obey Him. Jesus is our Lord, our Master and our Sovereign. He then invited us to serve as kings with Him.

What a remarkable truth this is! We must examine how closely this truth is felt and is impacting us. We are no ordinary people. We are the Messiah-people. We are Christ-people or Christians.

The three offices of Christ demand three different functions of the church. First, the church must purely teach the Word of God. Jesus Christ, the Word, must be preached every day. Without Christ, there is no church. This function of the church corresponds with the prophetic office of Christ. Second, the church must perform two sacraments, the baptism and the Lord's Table. Without one of these two, there is no church. This function of the church corresponds with the priestly office of Christ. Third, the church must exercise and carry out the disciplines within the church for holiness, unity and order. This function of the church corresponds with the kingly office of Christ.

Though Christ came as the Messiah, He did not boast of His position and qualifications. Rather, He humbled and lowered Himself as He came in the form of man. He lowered Himself to the point dying on the cross. He became our Redeemer. Because of His humility, He was exalted above all and all are required to bow down before Him as Lord. (Philippians 2:5-11)