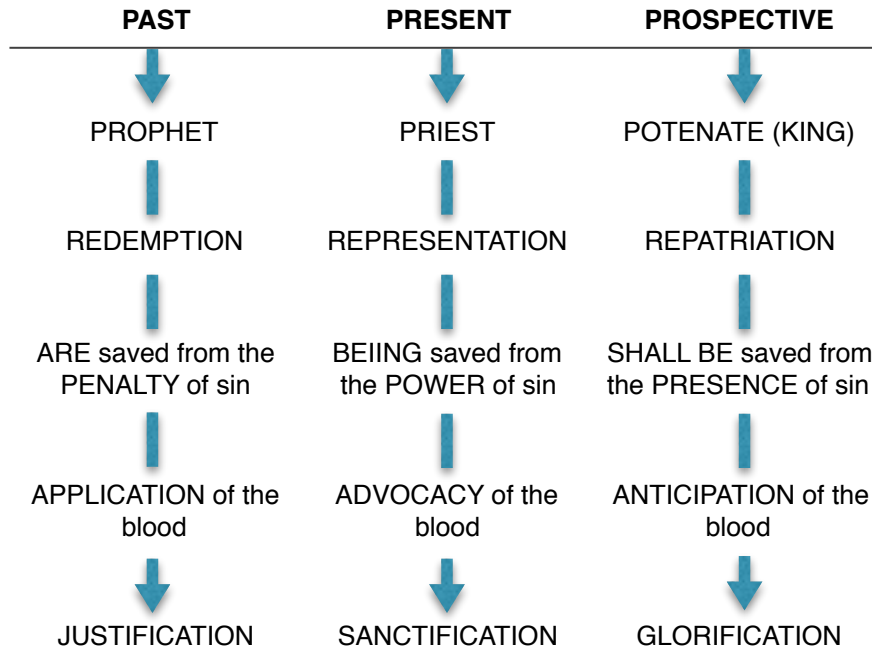


The Offices of Jesus Christ

Introduction:

We now enter into a study of the work of Jesus Christ, a subject which is viewed in three stages: past, present, and future — or a presentation of our Lord in His three distinctive offices — Prophet, Priest, and King.

A simple outline of the tree-fold work of Christ is:



This is in fact the outline given in Hebrews 9:24-28:

- He HATH appeared to put away sin — vs. 26
- NOW to appear in the presence of God for us — vs. 24
- SHALL He appear the second time — vs. 28

According to Revelation 1:8, our Lord Jesus Christ is the One “which IS, and which WAS, and which IS TO COME.”

Note: It is important not to apply the above outline too rigidly as to exclude some aspect of our Lord’s great work. Remember that each of the three chief offices of Christ are in themselves “past, present, and future.”

I. The Three Chief Offices of Christ Defined

A. Prophet - One who speaks to the people for God.

1. The Old Testament.

Deuteronomy 18:18-19; Luke 7:16; Acts 3:22-23; 7:37

2. The New Testament.

Matthew 21:11; Luke 10:22; Hebrews 1:2a.

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3. Christ's Present Prophetic Ministry.
John 14:26; 16:13-15 — since fulfilled.
- B. Priest - One who speaks to God for the people.
 1. The Old Testament.
Psalm 110:4
 2. The New Testament.
Hebrews 5:5-6; 6:20; 10:12.
 3. Christ's Present Priestly Ministry.
 - a) Reconciliation — Romans 5:1, 2, 9-11; II Corinthians 5:18-19.
 - b) Intercession — Romans 8:34; Hebrews 4:14-15; 7:17-28.
 - c) Mediation — I Timothy 2:5.
Note: A mediator is one who intervenes between two, either in order to make or restore peace and friendship, or form a compact, or for ratifying a covenant.
- C. Potentate (King) - One who reigns over the people as God.
 1. The Old Testament.
Psalm 2:6; Isaiah 9:6-7
 2. The New Testament.
I Corinthians 15:24-25; Revelation 19:16; 20:6.
 3. Christ's Present Kingly Ministry.
Matthew 21:5; John 12:15

The Lord Jesus Christ is King in the sense that He seeks to rule in the Kingdom of God, i.e. over all who are born again.

II. A Synopsis of the Work of Jesus Christ

A. The Past Work of Christ

There are many things Jesus did and said (John 21:25), but the past work of Christ centers upon the cross of Calvary.

The cross is central to the Bible.
We preach Christ crucified!

The Lord Jesus Christ did not come to be a Teacher (though He taught), to set a good example (though He did), to bring social revolution to Palestine, etc., etc. — He came to "seek and to save that which was lost." (Luke 19:10).

Man was born to live — Christ was born to die.

It is not "lessons from the life of Christ" — but "life from the death of Christ!"

The life and personal example of Christ is only ever held up for believers to follow — not the lost! (Ephesians 4:20; 5:1; I John 2:6)

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B. The Present Work of Christ

This centers around the advocacy of Christ in Heaven, where He appears on the behalf of each believer. See I John 2:1.

Just as the past work of Christ has to do with our past sins, so His present work has to do with our present sins and our present relationship with our Heavenly Father.

C. The Future Work of Christ

Much of what the Bible has to say concerning the Lord Jesus Christ is yet to be fulfilled. One day, the Lord Jesus will return to this earth and reign in Millennial splendor.