

JCI #155 Christmas Poem 2014 Christ: Prophet, Priest, King, Restorer

Christmas is soon to be upon us once again. As you seek and find time to get into a quiet place to seek God's face and worship Him by meditating upon the coming of his Son for us, may this poem and meditations assist you as you consider once more the glory and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. It has been my custom for many years to write a poem based on the scriptures I preach in my four part Christmas series each year, and then we have families in the church stand and read these meditations and light candles in an Advent wreath during morning worship gatherings the four Sundays preceding Christmas. I hope they are a blessing to you and yours during this marvelous time of proclaiming the unsearchable riches of Christ. If you want poems from earlier years, write me back and I'll be glad to send them to you. I will send the full poem in an additional email following this one. Your brother in the grace and gospel of Christ, Ron Berrus

Christmas Series 2014 Advent Readings Prophet, Priest, King, Restorer

Jesus - Prophet - Revealing Jesus - Priest - Redeeming Jesus - King - Reigning Jesus - Son - Restoring

Today is the first Sunday of Advent, the first of four Sundays before Christmas. This is a time to remember the faithfulness of God in sending His Son to be our Savior. Today, we will light the Prophet Candle that reminds us that Jesus came to Reveal the Father to us.

Hear what God told Israel through Moses in Deuteronomy 18

"I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers; I will put my words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I commanded him. If anyone does not listen to my words that this prophet speaks in my name, I myself will call him to account."

This warning and promise was given 1500 years before it was fulfilled in the first coming of Jesus Christ. Jesus is that Prophet, that great Revealer of God's own words to men.

Hear what God said to His church in Hebrews Chapter 1

"Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power."

Jesus is the final Word of God to man. Jesus is also the first Word of God to man.

Hear what God said to His people in John's Gospel chapter 1

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

He was in the beginning with God.

All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made.

In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth."

Christ has come, the Great Revealer

Prophet of the Living God

Word made flesh to live among us

Truth Incarnate walks the sod

Light of Revelation shining

Makes the darkness flee away

No one ever spoke like this One

Bow and hear His word today

Jesus, Great Prophet, Light of the world, Revealed the Father, let us worship Him.

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Today is the second Sunday of Advent, the second of four Sundays before Christmas. This is a time to remember the faithfulness of God in sending His Son to be our Savior. Today, we will light the Priest Candle, that reminds us that Jesus came to Redeem us back to God.

As the Great Final Prophet, Jesus reveals God to men.

As the Great High Priest, Jesus redeems men to God.

Hear what God said to Israel about the Coming Messiah Priest in Psalm 110...

The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet." The LORD will extend your mighty scepter from Zion; you will rule in the midst of your enemies. Your troops will be willing on your day of battle. Arrayed in holy majesty, from the womb of the dawn you will receive the dew of your youth. The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind: "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek."

Again in Hebrews we read the fulfillment of the promise...

"when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant. Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins... He has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

Jesus is both our Great High Priest and Sacrifice - Once-for-all Forever Redeeming Us to God

Christ has come, the Great Redeemer

Priest and Sacrifice is He

High Priest ever interceding

Perfect is His blood to plead

Lamb of sacrifice atoning

Takes the sting of death for us

No One else could save the sinner

Bow and in His mercy trust

Jesus, Perfect Priest and Sacrifice, redeemed us to God, let us worship Him.

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Today is the third Sunday of Advent, the third of four Sundays before Christmas. This is a time to remember the faithfulness of God in sending His Son to be our Savior. Today, we will light the King Candle, that reminds us that Jesus came to Reign Over All Nations

Hear what God told Israel through David in Psalm 110

Ps 110:1 The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet." The LORD will extend your mighty scepter from Zion; you will rule in the midst of your enemies. Your troops will be willing on your day of battle. Arrayed in holy majesty, from the womb of the dawn you will receive the dew of your youth. The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind: "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek." The Lord is at your right hand; he will crush kings on the day of his wrath. He will judge the nations, heaping up the dead and crushing the rulers of the whole earth.

Jesus spoke as Prophet, Offered himself as Priest, Died as sacrificial Lamb, and now is Risen and Seated at God's right hand as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Hear what God said to His church in Hebrews Chapter 1

In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

...When God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."

And again about His Son He says: "Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever, and righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom.

Christ has come, the King eternal

David's greater Son to Reign

At the right hand of His Father

Risen is the Lamb once slain

All His enemies His footstool

Takes the scepter, 'Tis His right

His the throne that lasts forever

Bow before His Sovereign might

Jesus, King of Kings, Seated in Heaven, let us worship Him before whom every knee will bow!

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Today is the last Sunday of Advent, the Sunday before Christmas. This is a time to remember the faithfulness of God in sending His Son to be our Savior. Today, we will light the Restorer Candle that reminds us that Jesus came to Restore all things perfectly and forever.

Hear what God promised to His people in Romans 5

God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation. Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned-- But the gift is not like the trespass. For just as through the disobedience of the one man (Adam) the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man (Jesus) the many will be made righteous.

God has promised that through Jesus all that was lost will be restored fully and forever

Hear the promise of God for full restoration in Revelation 22

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

Christ has come, the Great Restorer

Second Adam, Promised One

Rends the veil of separation

New Jerusalem has come

Light, and Lamb, and Lord of Glory

Making saints of Adam's race

**Tree of Life restored forever
Bow before His smiling face**

Jesus, Restorer of all that sin ruined, Author of life everlasting, let us worship Him.

Self-Check

- 1) Is God the delight of my life?
- 2) Do I treasure God above all "things?"
- 3) Is gratitude my continual response because God is my treasure?
- 4)

For Further Study

Memorize Psalm 16 in whatever version you prefer. Quote it every day throughout the month of November. Do a word study on inheritance including Ezek 44:28 Acts 20:32 Eph 1:14 Eph 1:18 Col 1:12 Heb 9:15 1 Peter 1:4

"Lord, You are my delight and treasured joy. In the midst of all the earthly blessings You give, let me never lose sight of the glory of You as the not just the source but in reality the substance of all blessing and delight. My heart so easily makes idols of those things that can never satisfy the soul. Forgive me for a wayward heart. Show me Your glory, even as Moses prayed. May You be my treasure, delight and joy now and evermore. I pray in the Name of my Inheritance, Jesus Christ, my Lord forever, AMEN."

Remember, you are very special to us and we pray for you.

Living with leaving in view.... John 9:4

Ron & Val

Seeing The Invisible, embracing The Unapproachable, declaring The Unexplainable,
changed by The Immutable, running after The Irresistible
with inexhaustible joy in our inexpressible sorrows,
spending our time on eternity,
owning nothing yet possessing everything
that matters and lasts.
We are Pilgrims in Paradox.
Welcome to THE JOURNEY