

Salvation Rest

1. **Heb 2:17**—In **Hebrews 2**, Paul introduces Jesus for the first time as High Priest whose work is to make atonement for the sins of the people; this information is important, in view of the erroneous idea brought by many that Jesus made full atonement at the cross; if Jesus did so, then why is a work of high priestly atonement for sin in the heavenly sanctuary still needed?
2. **IMPORTANT:** In **Hebrews 2**, Paul also explains the lengths Jesus had to go through in order to qualify for that role of High Priest; without these two preliminary qualifying steps, Jesus could not qualify as High Priest:
 - a. **Qualifying Step # 1: He had to take the form and nature of fallen man**
 - i. **Verse 9**--He had to be made lower than the angels (see DA 49)
 - ii. **Verse 14**—He had to partake of flesh and blood
 - iii. **Verse 16**—He had to be made of the seed of Abraham
 - iv. **Verse 17:** He had to be made in all things like unto His brethren
 - b. **Qualifying Step #2: He had to offer Himself up as a Sacrifice**
 - i. **Verse 9**—made lower than the angels for the suffering of death; He tasted death for every man
3. **Why** these two preliminary qualifying steps in particular?
 - a. **Heb 5:1-2**—Paul explains that priests ordained to serve men had to be taken from among men so he can have compassion on those who were out of the way, being a man himself; this is why Jesus had to take the nature of man to qualify as high priest
 - b. **Heb 5:1**—Paul also explains that priests needed gifts and sacrifices to offer for sin; Jesus did not offer the blood of bulls and goats, but offered Himself up so He can heave gift and sacrifice to offer for sin
 - i. **Heb 8:2-3**—Jesus also needed to have something to offer, if He would be Priest; therefore He sacrificed Himself on the cross that He might have something to offer for sin
 - ii. **Heb 8:4**—Jesus could not be priest on earth (as long as He was alive) for He had nothing to offer; until He died, He had nothing to offer for sin, unlike the priests in the temple who had sacrifices to offer for sin, according to the law of the priesthood)
4. In **Heb 3:1**, Paul opens chapter 3 of Hebrews by admonishing the Hebrew converts to consider Jesus as Apostle (messenger) and High Priest of their profession;
 - a. What does it mean to “consider” Jesus as High Priest of our profession?
 - i. It is to be acquainted with Christ’s work a High Priest—to make atonement for sins by offering gifts and sacrifices so they can be forgiven;
 - ii. Not only that, it is to understand what He had to go through to qualify for that role; to understand the risks that He took and the suffering that He had to go through in order to qualify as our great High Priest!

- iii. **Heb 12:3**--Consider Him in that capacity that you do not become faint and weary in your minds; the Hebrew converts were becoming weary and faint and drawing back to the Old covenant because it was convenient and self-serving;
 - iv. Consider Jesus as High Priest to understand that He is worthy of all human praise and adoration for who He is and what He has done;
5. In **Heb 3:7-8**, Paul also urges the Hebrew converts to pay attention to what Jesus is saying, so they do not repeat the same sad mistake the Israelites made during their forty years sojourn in the wilderness:
- a. **Verse 17**: Their carcasses fell in the wilderness
 - b. **Verse 18**—they could not enter in because of unbelief

The Rest of God

6. Q: What was the rest the Israelites were not able to enter in?
- a. **Verse 11**: I swore in my wrath that they shall not enter into **my rest**
7. **Heb 4:1**--Whatever this “my rest is,” which the Hebrew converts in Jerusalem were also in danger of not being able to enter in, and for the same reason:
8. Three possible answers: only one is technically correct
- a. **Possible answer # 1: Canaan** (the place of rest)
 - i. The Land of Canaan called rest (**Josh 1:13; 1 Ki 8:56**)
 - ii. Indeed, that generation who provoked the Lord could not enter into Canaan
 - iii. Not technically correct in the case of the Hebrew converts --since they were already dwelling in the land of Canaan;
 - iv. **Heb 4:8**—besides, Joshua did manage get Israel into the land of Canaan and yet the invitation to enter into that rest is open
 - b. **Possible answer #2: the Seventh-day Sabbath** (the time of rest)
 - i. **Heb 4:3-4**—the Seventh-day Sabbath is God’s rest
 - ii. Available since the foundation of the world when God rested from all His works
 - iii. Not the rest the Hebrew converts were in danger of not entering into, since they were already keeping the Seventh-day Sabbath
 - iv. **Heb 4:9**—the rest (“sabbatismos” or “keeping of the Sabbath”) that remains to be entered into, cannot refer to the Seventh-day Sabbath because the Hebrew converts were already keeping it; they were not falling away and drawing back from the Sabbath
 - c. **Possible answer #3: Salvation** (the gospel rest)
 - i. **Heb 4:1-2**—believing the gospel means entering into that rest
 - ii. **Acts 16:31**-- But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they.
 - iii. **Rom 10:9**--That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.
 - 1. **Heb 2:3**—Paul refers to this as “so great salvation”
 - 2. **Heb 5:9**—eternal salvation
 - iv. **Matt 10:28-29**--Jesus, the captain of their salvation offers them rest from all their weariness and labors, rest from the guilt and fear of death through the forgiveness and pardon of sin

- v. The soul is restless until it find rest in Jesus
- vi. **Heb 4:11**—this was the rest that the Hebrew Christians were in danger of failing to enter into because of unbelief; by leaning on the temple service, the priesthood, the animal sacrifices and the performance of Old covenant rites and ceremonies (**Acts 15:1, 5**), the Hebrew converts were manifesting unbelief in the work and person of Jesus Christ as atoning sacrifice and High Priest

9. **IMPORTANT APPLICATION:** Seventh-day Adventists today who keep the true Sabbath (time of rest) and are already in the church (the place of rest), are also in danger of failing to enter into God’s rest (soul rest), because of their ignorance and lack of faith in the work of Jesus in the heavenly sanctuary.

Today, If Ye Will Hear His Voice. . .

10. **Heb 3:7-8, 15**—the call to hear His voice if ye will hear it Today, harden not your hearts, is mentioned 3 times, to emphasize its great importance;
- a. The word “Today” is capitalized to give it even more emphasis and urgency
 - b. **2 Cor 6:2**--“Now” is the appointed time? To hear His voice and not harden the hearts!
11. What is Jesus saying?
- a. Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden. . .I will give you rest
 - b. **Heb 4:16**—come boldly to the throne of grace, that you might obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need
 - c. **John 7:37**— ‘If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.’
 - d. **Ps 95:2**—come into His presence in a worshipful attitude and prayerful
 - i. Come with thanksgiving
 - ii. Come and worship and bow down, to kneel before our Maker
12. Paul quotes from this Psalm to invite the Hebrew converts to follow Jesus by faith into the heavenly sanctuary to worship there by faith, instead of worshipping in the temple and looking to the temple for grace and salvation; this was the only way to find rest of soul.

It is those who by faith follow Jesus in the great work of the atonement who receive the benefits of His mediation in their behalf, while those who reject the light which brings to view this work of ministration are not benefited thereby. The Jews who rejected the light given at Christ’s first advent, and refused to believe on Him as the Saviour of the world, could not receive pardon through Him. When Jesus at His ascension entered by His own blood into the heavenly sanctuary to shed upon His disciples the blessings of His mediation, the Jews were left in total darkness to continue their useless sacrifices and offerings. The ministration of types and shadows had ceased. That door by which men had formerly found access to God was no longer open. The Jews had refused to seek Him in the only way whereby He could then be found, through the ministration in the sanctuary in heaven. Therefore they found no communion with God. To them the door was shut. They had no knowledge of Christ as the true sacrifice and the only mediator before God; hence they could not receive the benefits of His mediation. **GC 430.**

13. The first angel’s message is a call to follow Jesus to the heavenly sanctuary to worship. . .
- a. It is only as we worship God that we find grace and mercy in time of need
 - b. It is as we worship God in spirit and in truth that we find rest unto our souls, even during the judgment

14. In the third angel's message, those who worship the beast instead of worshipping God in the sanctuary are described as having no rest of soul day nor night;
- a. It means they can never find salvation at that point in time for there is no more Priest in the sanctuary to offer their prayers and confession of sin.

Oh, let us live wholly for the Lord and show by a well-ordered life and godly conversation that we have been with Jesus and are His meek and lowly followers. We must work while the day lasts, for when the dark night of trouble and anguish comes, it will be too late to work for God. Jesus is in His holy temple and will now accept our sacrifices, our prayers, and our confessions of faults and sins and will pardon all the transgressions of Israel, that they may be blotted out before He leaves the sanctuary. When Jesus leaves the sanctuary, then they who are holy and righteous will be holy and righteous still; for all their sins will then be blotted out, and they will be sealed with the seal of the living God. But those that are unjust and filthy will be unjust and filthy still; for then there will be no Priest in the sanctuary to offer their sacrifices, their confessions, and their prayers before the Father's throne. Therefore what is done to rescue souls from the coming storm of wrath must be done before Jesus leaves the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary. EW 48.

15. There is a need to take more seriously, the call to "Consider Jesus as Apostle and High Priest of our profession;" in this call is wrapped up the destiny of everyone; our response to this call determines whether we are saved or not.
16. It took all that Jesus had, in order to provide this great rest; do we dare spurn it?
17. Let us therefore labor to enter into this rest. . .

Paul's Final Appeal

18. **Heb 4:14-16**—seeing we have a great high priest, let us hold fast our profession and not draw back
- a. **Heb 3:6**—we are part of Christ's house if we hold fast the confidence and the hope firm until the end
 - b. **Heb 3:14**—we are made partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end. . .
19. It is the knowledge of Christ's work in the heavenly sanctuary that enables us to hold fast to our faith until the end; ignorance of His ministration in the heavenly sanctuary puts us on shaky ground