

NOTES:

We see three appearances of Christ in the Bible. First, He came and died for our sins in the past. Unlike the original priests, He didn't have to continue making sacrifices every year—instead He was the perfect sacrifice for our sins, only required once. His death was to remove the guilt, condemnation, and penalty of our sins.

Second, He appears in Heaven, in the presence of the throne of God—as the lamb that was slain for our sin. Jesus is our priest before the Father carrying the sacrifice for us to God. This is the intercessory part of His ministry that we spoke about previously.

Third, Jesus will appear on earth a second time to bring the completion of our salvation. In this coming, He is applying the full victory of His sacrifice. He is coming to fully consummate what He started at the cross and continued on in Heaven. He is coming back as our priest.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Why did Jesus die on the cross?

What is different from Jesus's one time sacrifice and the required yearly sacrifice of the priests that once was enough?

What does it mean to you to know that Jesus is before the throne of God, praying for you today?

If we have been saved, why do we still struggle with sin? Where is Jesus in the middle of these temptations?

Why do we have to account to God our lives that we lived on Earth?

How does this hope of knowing that Jesus is coming back as your priest to bring the completion of your salvation help you endure hard times?

VERSES:

Hebrews 9:24-28

For Christ did not enter a man-made sanctuary that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's presence. 25 Nor did he enter heaven to offer himself again and again, the way the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood that is not his own. 26 Then Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But now he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself. 27 Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, 28 so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

Revelation 19:11-15

I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. 12 His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. 13 He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. 14 The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. 15 Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations.