



Volume 17 Issue 3

January 16, 2022

## THE UNCHANGEABLE HIGH PRIEST

Exodus 28 records when God told Moses to choose people to make the garment to be worn by Aaron (and all high priests that would follow). This garment was to be worn by Aaron when he entered the Tabernacle. This outfit included (Ex. 28:4) a breastplate, ephod (shoulder-piece), robe, woven tunic, turban (mitre/hat), and sash (girdle/belt). This outfit would set him apart from the other priests and certainly set him apart from any priest or high priest among the pagan worshippers. As we continue reading the chapter, God speaks specifically that the ephod (shoulder-piece) would have onyx stones attached to it that had the names of the tribes on it – six on each stone (v. 9-10). The breastplate would contain twelve gemstones and have the name of a tribe on each stone (v. 15-21), and the Urim and Thummim would be placed in that breastplate. Upon the turban was

attached a plate that said, *“Holiness to the Lord”* (v. 36). These things, as well as a robe, linen breeches, and all that pertained to this garment, were worn by the high priest. When we read Leviticus 8:7-9, we see Aaron wear this outfit for the first time. Leviticus 8-9 describes for us the first time that the sacrifices and work described from Exodus and Leviticus become a reality. By the end of Leviticus 9, Moses and Aaron had successfully offered the sin offering, burnt offering, and peace offering and blessed the people (v. 22-23). God Himself having “lit the fire” that consumed the burnt offering on the altar (Lev. 9:24)! What a day that must have been! What loveliness on that day in Leviticus nine! What majesty as men observed God Himself light a fire on the altar and accept His offering (Lev. 9:24)! What beauty when Aaron had walked into the Tabernacle bearing the tribes

upon his shoulders and his heart (Lev. 9:23; Ex. 28:12, 29) as he did his holy duty. As we continue to read Leviticus, we will see this man carry the blood of the sacrifices into the Most Holy Place (Lev. 16) to obtain forgiveness for the people. This Old Testament "shadow" looked forward to the day in which a high priest with an *"unchangeable priesthood"* (Heb. 7:23-24) would come and offer a sacrifice *"once and for all"* (Heb. 10:10, 7:27, 9:26)! The numerous high priests serving in the Tabernacle and Temple "foreshadowed" the One who serves in the *"true Tabernacle"* that God pitched (Heb. 8:2, 9:11)! This same high priest came into the *"true Tabernacle"* with blood, but not the blood of bulls and goats. He entered with His own blood for man's forgiveness (Heb. 9:12, 14, 10:19-22)! This is the only time in history when the high priest was also the sacrifice! The unchangeable high priest entered, not merely bearing the names of twelve tribes on His heart and shoulders. Instead, the living embodiment of "Holiness" entered the true *"Holy place"* (Heb. 9:12, 10:12, 14) bearing the names of humanity (Matt. 20:28; Heb. 2:9b; 1 Pet. 1:18-19; Matt. 26:28; 1 Jn. 2:2; Col. 1:18-23)! Unlike the sacrifices of the Old Testament that pertained only to the Jews, the sacrifice of Christ pertained to the entire world! The only

question left to ask is will you accept the Lord's salvation? In Old Testament times, children were taught to *"know the Lord"* because they were already Jews and had circumcised their sons on the eighth day of life (Lev. 12:2-3; Heb. 8:11). Today, we accept the Lord's adoption willingly when we believe on Jesus as the Son of God, repent of our sins, confess our faith in Christ, and are baptized for the remission of sins (Jn. 8:24; Lk. 13:3; Rom. 10:10; Acts 2:38). Have you done this? Have you accepted the Lord's plan and been washed in the blood of the Lamb (Rev. 1:5; Matt. 26:28; Acts 22:16)? If not, why not? There is no other way to be saved! There are no other priests to offer a sacrifice because no other sacrifice will be made (Heb. 10:26b)! The high priests under the Mosaic period looked forward to the time in which we live! Will you accept the sacrifice of God's unchangeable high priest (Heb. 6:20)? I beg you to do it today! – Jarrod Jacobs.

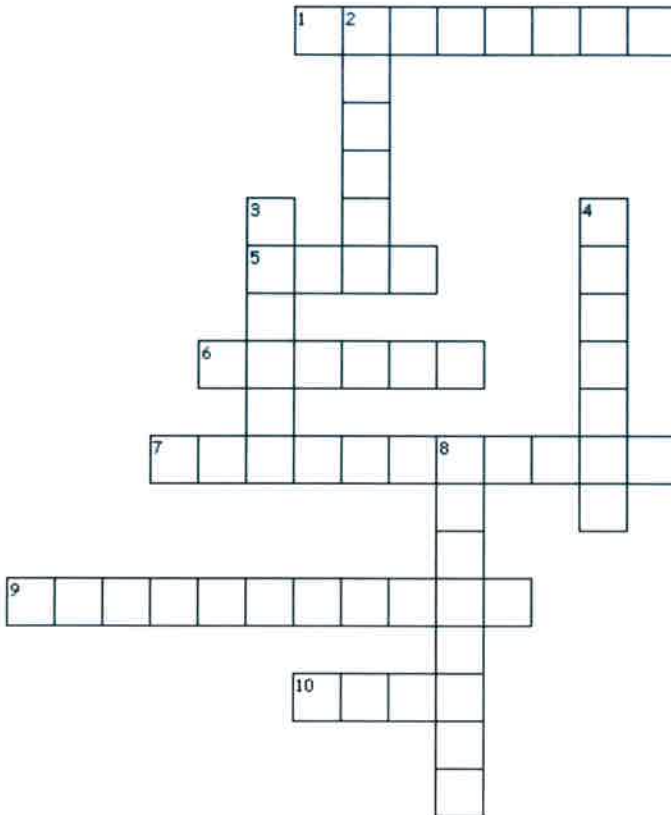
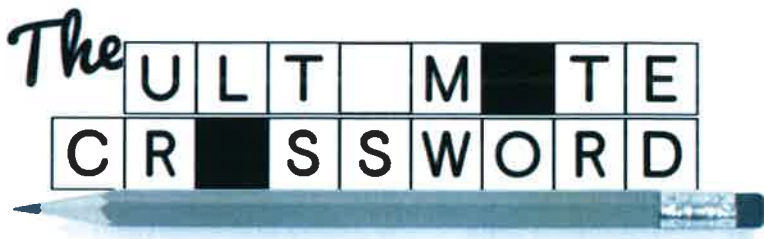
**"Mercy And Grace"** Someone stated that mercy is God holding back what we deserve. God's mercy is why we are not eternally lost. Similarly, grace is God's unmerited favor. Thankfully, God is not giving us what we deserve. However, mercy and grace are always not going to be available. They have a limit. In Titus 2:11, we read about how the grace that brings salvation has appeared not to

just a few men but all men. In this verse, it is also written that we need to deny ungodliness and worldly lust. This means we need to be different from the world (Rom. 12:2), and for that to happen, we need to repent from sin and live soberly, righteously, and godly while we have access to God's mercy and grace (Titus 2:1). We also continue to look for the blessed hope and the glorious appearance of our precious Lord. He gave Himself that He might redeem us from all iniquity and purify unto Himself a peculiar people zealous of good works (Titus 2:14). In Titus 3:4-5, we read about more types of unrighteousness we sometimes practice. These include foolishness, disobedience, deceitfulness, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, and hatefulness. Though man has been guilty of so much, we know that the kindness of God appeared. It was not because of our righteousness, but according to His mercy, He saved us from sin. Finally, in John 1:17, we read that grace and truth came through Jesus Christ and not through the law of Moses. The conclusion is we now understand that God's anger is held back because it is mixed with mercy and grace. Therefore we need to seek salvation now because there is no hope of salvation once we die (II Cor. 6:2; Heb. 3:7-8, 15). – JD Espinoza

### **What We Know Is Right**

Benjamin Franklin (1812-1878). We *know* it is right to "Let the word of Christ dwell in us richly; and with all wisdom *teach* and *admonish* each other by *psalms* and *hymns* and *spiritual songs*; *singing* with gratitude in our hearts to the Lord" — to be "filled with the Spirit; *speaking* to one another in *psalms* and *hymns* and *spiritual songs*; *singing* and making melody in our hearts to the Lord." This *can* be done, and we *know* it is right; but that a man can make melody in his heart to the Lord "with an organ," a fiddle, banjo, clarinet, lute, fife, or jew's-harp, we do not know, nor do we believe it. We want to do what is written, and enjoin it on others, to do it. What is not written we do not want to do. When the Lord so minutely describes *how* we are to do anything, we want to do it in that *way*. The *way* he prescribes will do the thing commanded; some other *way* might not do what is commanded at all.

(From: Book of Gems, p. 107)



## ACROSS

1. In Antioch, it was told how God opened a door of faith to \_\_\_\_\_. (Acts 14:27)
5. When you \_\_\_\_\_, go in your inner room and close the door. (Mt. 6:6)
6. Two \_\_\_\_\_ pulled Lot back into his house and shut the door. (Gen. 19:10,15)
7. Isaiah sung, "Close the doors behind you until \_\_\_\_\_ passes by." (Is. 26:20)
9. Whoever entered a \_\_\_\_\_ house became unclean until evening. (Lev. 14:46)
10. Once inside the ark, God closed the \_\_\_\_\_ behind them. (Gen. 7:16;6:16)

## DOWN

2. \_\_\_\_\_ told a widow to shut the door behind her while pouring oil. (2 Kgs. 4:4)
3. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ a door no one could shut in Philadelphia. (Rev. 3:8;7)
4. God knew \_\_\_\_\_ would say the wilderness had shut Israel in. (Ex. 14:3)
8. The doors were shut where Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ to the disciples. (Jn. 20:19)