

We're aware of Charlie Kirks death earlier this week

Gen 50:20

20 But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.

We're living in an evil world today

- where people are angry,
- power hungry and rebellious.

We have the world economic forum which is an annual gathering of

- several wealthy people
- who want to control your life.

And Charlie stood against that sort of thing.

So, we the church, have to remain strong, focused on Christ.

People want to live a life of sin, and they want everyone to embrace it.

You can't fully study the New

- without having some knowledge of the old.

Ps 2

1 Why do the nations rage,

And the people plot a vain thing?

2 The kings of the earth set themselves,

And the rulers take counsel together,

Against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying,

3 "Let us break Their bonds in pieces

And cast away Their cords from us."

As we the church continue to follow the Lord,

- others, even other churches
- will turn on the true church.

That's hard for us to imagine because we think

- the church will remain united,

Some churches will and are turning from the truth

- stating that God's word is changing
- therefore, His standards on sin have changed.

The Psalmist says that His word is firmly fixed in the heavens!

4 He who sits in the heavens shall laugh;
The Lord shall hold them in derision.

Though people rebel against God, He laughs at that.

- This isn't a laugh of amusement.

A person's pride and rebellion are so futile

- compared to God's power
- that He regards them as ridiculous.

5 Then He shall speak to them in His wrath,
And distress them in His deep displeasure:

6 "Yet I have set My King
On My holy hill of Zion."

God has already chosen His King (the Messiah), and He sets Him on the holy hill of Zion. This is a symbol of God's kingdom and rule.

7 "I will declare the decree:
The Lord has said to Me,
'You are My Son,
Today I have begotten You. (begotten is to honor)

There are some religions out there that will argue that God does not have a Son.

- It doesn't get clearer than this.

In Heb 1:5 "You are My Son, Today I have begotten You"

And in Heb 4:14

Heb 4:14

14 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens,
Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

Psa 2:8

8 Ask of Me, and I will give You
The nations for Your inheritance,
And the ends of the earth for Your possession.

9 You shall break them with a rod of iron; (symbolizes unbreakable authority and power)
You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel."

Clay is fragile:

- This illustrates how easily
- Jesus can overthrow those in rebellion.

The opposition is brittle before God.

10 Now therefore, be wise, O kings;
Be instructed, you judges of the earth.
11 Serve the Lord with fear,
And rejoice with trembling.
12 Kiss the Son, lest He be angry,
And you perish in the way,
When His wrath is kindled but a little.
Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.

These last verses are a call to submission.

The choice here is clear, if you rebel you will be judged,

- and when you trust you will be blessed.

So we are living in a world of rebellion,

- but there is time for repentance.

Heb 5:1-4

1 For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins. 2 He can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness. 3 Because of this he is required as for the people, so also for himself, to offer sacrifices for sins. 4 And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron was.

Heb 5:1

1 For every high priest taken from among men (mankind) is appointed for men in things pertaining to God,

- God first appointed the high priest
- when He appointed Aaron.

that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins.

The only way to approach God in the OT was thru a priest.

Today, there are some very zealous Jews who have made

- all of the articles of the temple
- in preparation of the temple being rebuilt.

Those zealous Jews are still waiting on the rebuilding of the temple

- and on the coming Messiah.

Many of us would be familiar with approaching a priest from our BC days, before Christ.

- Exodus 28 & 29 tells us that the high priest
- was raised up by God to serve as that person
- between God and man.

They came from the tribe of Levi.

Why the tribe of Levi?

Moses went up to Mt Sinai

- to receive the 10 commandments
- and while he was up there
- the Hebrew people down below were going wild
- with idolatry and immorality
- and built for themselves
- a golden calf so that they might worship it.

The Lord tells Moses,

Ex 32:7

7 Go, get down! For your people whom you brought out of the land of Egypt have corrupted themselves.

God wasn't disowning the people,

- but He was testing Moses to see
- if he was going to disown the people
- or if he was going to plead for them.

Ex 32:11

11 Then Moses pleaded with the Lord his God, and said: "Lord, why does Your wrath burn hot against Your people whom You have brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand?

Ex 32:12-14

12 Why should the Egyptians speak, and say, 'He brought them out to harm them, to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from Your fierce wrath, and relent from this harm to Your people. 13 Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, Your servants, to whom You swore by Your own self, and said to them, 'I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven; and all this land that I have spoken of I give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.'" 14 So the Lord relented from the harm which He said He would do to His people.

Here we see Moses standing in the gap for the people

- thus, foreshadowing what Jesus does for us His people.

Jesus intercedes for us as well.

- God rewarded the Levites because of their faithfulness.

When Moses was up on the mountain

- and Israel was down below
- worshipping the golden calf,

it was the Levites who stood with Moses

- against their sin.

In the book of Numbers, Phinehas (a Levite priest)

- showed his faithfulness when he stopped Israel's immorality
- with the Moabite women.

Num 25:10-13

10 Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: 11 "Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, has turned back My wrath from the children of Israel, because he was zealous with My zeal among them, so that I did not consume the children of Israel in My zeal. 12 Therefore say, 'Behold, I give to him My covenant of peace; 13 and it shall be to him and his descendants after him a covenant of an everlasting priesthood, because he was zealous for his God, and made atonement for the children of Israel.'"

Because of their faithfulness at critical moments God distinguished them as faithful.

Some examples of faithfulness are,

- Joseph choosing integrity when tempted
- by Potiphar's wife.

Ruth chose to be faithful to Naomi

- and she put her faith in the God of Israel.

Solomon asked for wisdom

- when he could have asked for riches.
- God gave him both.

God blesses the faithful,

And He blesses us with practical blessings, Prov 3:1-4.

God supplies all of our needs

- according to His riches in glory by Jesus Christ. (Phil 4:9)

God also places the lonely in families:

- He sets the prisoners free
- and gives them joy. Psa 68:6.

He gives us eternal blessings, Matt 6:19-20.

God often blesses the unfaithful as well? Matt 5:45.

Aaron was the first High priest selected by God

- and he's the one that took the earrings
- from the complaining Israelites, melted them
- and formed a golden calf for the people to worship.

God often takes the least godly of people

- and chooses to use them for His glory.

2 He can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness.

As we saw earlier, the high priest was a go between God and man.

- He himself was a man so he was susceptible
- to the same sin as anyone else.

He had the same temptations as others

- and in many cases the same weaknesses as others.

Therefore, he could have compassion on others

- since he himself was not perfect.

3 Because of this he is required as for the people, so also for himself, to offer sacrifices for sins.

Unlike the earthly priests who did sin,

- Jesus the High Priest was without sin.

The priest was to deal with his own sin

- before interceding for others.

It reminds me of Jesus' teaching in the sermon of the mount Mt 7:3-5.

We may be critical of someone else's sin

- while we ourselves
- may be guilty of the same sin.

And so it was with the high priest.

- Before they could offer a sacrifice on behalf of others,
- they first had to deal with their own sin.

4 And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron was.

Heb 5:4 (NLT)

4 And no one can become a high priest simply because he wants such an honor. He must be called by God for this work, just as Aaron was.

God is the one who calls someone into ministry.

Jn 15 says that we must abide in God and without Him we can do nothing.

Think about this, on the day of Pentecost at Peter's first sermon Acts 2,

- we're told that about 3,000 people were saved that day.

He preached Jesus' death, resurrection and exaltation as Lord and Savior.

When God uses you don't think to yourself

- that you're the one doing the work.

Heb 5:5

5 So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, (Jesus didn't ask the Father nor did He do anything to impress the Father to become the High Priest) but it was He who said to Him:

"You are My Son,
Today I have begotten (glorified) You."

This refers to Jesus' resurrection from the dead. It was at that time that He fully assumed His role as our great High Priest.

Acts 13:33-34

33 God has fulfilled this for us their children, in that He has raised up Jesus. As it is also written in the second Psalm:

'You are My Son,
Today I have begotten You.'

34 And that He raised Him from the dead, no more to return to corruption, He has spoken thus:

'I will give you the sure mercies of David.'

The priests were not self-appointed

- nor did Jesus appoint Himself
- to be the High Priest,

instead,

- He submitted to the Father's plan.

Luke traces Jesus' genealogy back to David through Nathan, one of David's sons.

And it was thru David to whom God promised an everlasting kingdom

- according to 2nd Sam 7:12-16.

The prophets foretold of the Messiah from the line of David

- in Isa 11:1 and Jer 23:5-6.

In the book of Matthew the crowds addressed Him as the "Son of David"

- as they acknowledged Him as
- the expected Messiah from David's lineage.

Verse 6:

When you read the scriptures, are you looking for Jesus on every page?

Will Jesus find a church that is doing His word

- or will it be a church like Laodicea in the book of Revelation?

The church of Laodicea found no praise from God.

- They were lukewarm, neither hot nor cold.

The church of Laodicea is the last church mentioned.

Are we living in that last church age where few people are going to be doing God's work?

Is this going to be the age where few people are reading God's word

- and dismissing it as something
- for a different period and as outdated?

The picture of the Laodicean church is that of Jesus knocking and waiting to be invited in.

We don't want church to be a church that lacks passion for God.

There is so much evil today

- that we might tend to think there is no hope.
- People don't want the gospel message.

6 As He also says in another place:

"You are a priest forever

According to the order of Melchizedek"; (Melchizedek - king-righteousness)

This verse is a quote from Psalm 110:4.

Jesus has an eternal priesthood.

- We don't need to go thru anyone to get to God,
- we can go straight to Him.

The author is saying that Jesus is the eternal priesthood,

- Therefore, any other form of priesthood
- has been replaced by Jesus.

And because He wasn't of the lineage of Aaron,

- it's easy to see why His priesthood was difficult
- for early Jewish Christians to grasp this.

The name Melchizedek only appears in three books of the bible

- and only 11 times.

For most Jews hearing this there would have been a mental block

- because the priests came from the tribe of Levi,
- but Jesus was a Jew and came from the tribe of Judah.

The author was saying Jesus is superior to the high priest

- because God has ordained Him
- and He does not fit into the line of Aaron
- because He is of a greater more superior line.