

TSP Express

Habakkuk 2:2

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2015 - 2017 which is designed for enhancing one's spiritual growth toward a
deepening personal relationship with Jesus Christ

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Have you noticed it? the peacefulness and sense of security in a great house at night. People might be sleeping somewhere close by but lights here are burning. Soft music might be playing. Attendants are moving about in gentle order, tending to necessary details. Perhaps you have known this in a large hotel, a hospital, an airport – a place where activity goes on constantly, even though perhaps a bit more sedately through the night. The underlying feeling here is that service and provision are present for the asking and one need not fear any danger from "outside."

Recently, with spirit eyes, I have seen Jesus in His sanctuary, performing His high priestly duties in what must be the temple of heaven. It is to the present role of **Jesus as High Priest** and its wonderful application to our lives that I will address this issue of *TSP Express*.

Jesus, Master of His Father's house, (*Hebrews 3:1-6*) is keeping order, tending to every detail in the upkeep of His church. He, this very minute, is our High Priest, "*set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; a MINISTER OF THE SANCTUARY, AND OF THE TRUE TABERNACLE, which the Lord pitched, and not man ... TO OFFER GIFTS AND SACRIFICES ...*" (*Hebrews 8:1-3*, emphases mine)

When Moses was shown the plan for the tabernacle he was to build, it was the pattern of the heavenly. *Hebrews 9* gives the floorplan, the furniture and its placement in the first covenant tabernacle as it paralleled the

heavenly. God was ministered to by a network of priests headed up by the high priest, Aaron being the very first. Though Jesus was declared by the Father to be a "*priest forever after the ORDER of Melchisedec*" (*Hebrews 5:6*) -- having to do with Jesus' unique appointment and the eternal and changeless nature of His person and office -- for glimpses of His WORK as high priest of the new covenant we must turn to Aaron, a type of the Perfect One who was to come (*Exodus 28-29*).

Aaron's most awesome task was to take blood from proper sacrifices into the very Holy of Holies once a year to "make atonement" for the people's sins of the previous year (*Leviticus 16*). Jesus' fulfillment of this was His "once and for all" offering of Himself as the complete sacrifice to wipe out our sins (*Hebrews 9:11-26*). After His resurrection He carried His own blood into the very Holy of Holies of heaven and thereby opened up that sacred chamber, the dwelling place of God the Father, to anyone who would enter by faith in Jesus' shed blood. This part of Jesus' high priestly duties is over and done with, yet His blood continues to guarantee full grace and forgiveness and righteousness for all who put their trust in Him. He does not ever again need to take His blood to the mercy seat. It is still there, still working. It will NEVER lose its power!

Aaron, however, also had "other duties," among which were his daily tending of the lampstand and the golden altar of incense in the Holy Place. Every evening and morning he would clean and relight the wicks in the lampstand to insure a continual light before God's presence (*Exodus 27:20-21, Leviticus 24:1-4, Numbers 8:2-3*). Likewise, he would lay holy incense upon a freshly gathered censer-full of live coals, still burning from the previous sacrifice just expended upon the brazen altar outside in the outer court of the tabernacle compound. The sweet smelling fragrance was to continually rise before the presence of God inside the Holy of Holies just behind the thick veil from the golden altar of incense (*Exodus 30:6-9*).

What about these "daily duties" of Aaron? Is there a counterpart in the high priestly ministry of Jesus? I believe it is His constant intercession for the saints (*Hebrews 7:24-25*). If the daily duties of Aaron were to insure perpetual light and a sweet fragrance before God under the first covenant, how much more will the continual present work of Jesus over each of His believers make us a glory and a delight to the Father? As high priest, Jesus ministers to God the Father, presenting HIMself, HIS praise, HIS prayer, HIS worship and HIS service ALONG WITH OUR offerings of OUR-selves, OUR praise, OUR prayer, OUR worship and OUR service

(Romans 12:1-2, Hebrews 13:15-16, Psalms 141:2, Revelation 5:8; 8:3-4, Hebrews 12:28-29). His perfection mingles with our imperfection and all become acceptable to the Father.

Cannot we see Jesus now? ... moving about in the inner sanctuary of heaven while He is carefully shepherding us, "trimming our wicks" spent from previous use - we ARE the light of the world, remember (*Matthew 5:14-16, Philippians 2:15, Revelation 1:10-20*) -- and tenderly and powerfully praying and joyfully singing over us, carrying us as live coals and "sprinkling His own incense" over us and our love gifts to Him and the Father (*Ephesians 5:1-2, II Corinthians 2:14-17, Zephaniah 3:17*).

This High Priest of ours abides forever. He neither slumbers nor sleeps. He is awake through the night. He not only represents us before the Father but insures our access to and acceptance by Him. He identifies with us and helps us in all our weaknesses. He is ever THERE (as well as within us) to supply whatever is needed to our life and living in Him. So let us confidently draw near, surrendering every shred of ourselves to our merciful and compassionate and capable High Priest (*Hebrews 10:19-39; 4:14-16*).

Oh, the unutterable comfort of being able to entrust ourselves to Him in the hours of sacrificial burning as well as when we find ourselves in furnaces of affliction (*Hebrews 6:19-20*).



Oh wondrous Lord!
Gracious, kingly and elegant Priest!
Silently you tend my needs, making up my lack of which only You may know.

My greatest need ... to be accepted by the Father in this holiest of places.
Your blood covers. I come boldly, without fear, to Him because of You.

Regal Servant,
My Master,
Bishop and Shepherd of my soul,
Healer of my heart,
Enabler of my soul and body,

You prevail for every need.

Intercessor of my hours,
Tender of the Flame,
Carrier of the coals,

Sprinkler of the blood and incense,
Great Custodian.

Do Your work in me. I am Your holy place.
Prepare and maintain me to honor, house and display You.

I surrender all to You, Beloved One of Glory.
Rise triumphantly through me to give our Father praise.
Let us worship Him together,

Blessed Lamb of Calvary.
Worthy Lamb,
Stupendous King,
Humble Servant,
Merciful God.
Jesus

Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,

Make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Hebrews 13:20-21

(adapted from *The Fruitful Vine*, Second Issue, November 8, 1990, by Lucy Brown
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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U8D9AgEB6VM>
Divine Mercy (UnCatolico)

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Romans 8:31-38

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<http://catholicexchange.com/jesus-st-faustina-spiritual-warfare-25-secrets>

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tfXQ5Mfqvbg>
Oh the Glory of Your Presence