

TODAY!

What Would Jesus Be Doing If He Were You?

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit” (Romans 15:13).

Insight 5. Jesus Christ, Lord, High Priest, and ONLY Head of His Body

The Hebraic Restoration: *Restoring The Centrality Of Jesus And The Melchizedek Priesthood*

Under the Levitical system of the Old Covenant, when a new High Priest came in, the outgoing High Priest would immerse the incoming one in a *mikveh*. So when Jesus came to John the Baptizer, who himself was a Levitical priest through his father (see Luke 1:5), He received the anointing of His priesthood. This was not a baptism of repentance, for Jesus was sinless. And because John misperceived the Lord’s motive he objected. But Jesus replied, *“Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness”* (Matthew 3:15).

In effect, John, the last of the legitimate Levitical line, baptized Jesus in the “Jordan *Mikveh*.” And through this baptism Jesus began the priesthood of Melchizedek—forever! An eternal and uniquely personal Priesthood replaced the Levitical one:



“So Christ also did not take upon Himself the glory of becoming a high priest. But God said to Him, ‘You are My Son; today I have become Your Father.’ And He says in another place, ‘You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek’” (Hebrews 5:5,6).

If you love and follow Jesus as your Lord, *He* is your personal intermediary in heaven. He wants you to know with confidence that He is there for you:

“Because Jesus lives forever, He has a permanent Priesthood. Therefore He is able to save completely those who come to God through Him, because He always lives to intercede for them. Such a high Priest meets our need—one Who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens” (Hebrews 7:24-26).

As you serve Lord Jesus as your “Melchizedek”, you are empowered by His Spirit, guided by His Spirit, and transformed into the nature of Jesus by the same Spirit. “Church” buildings don’t meet your need. Rather, because of the indwelling Spirit, His people are the temple of God. (See 1Corinthians 3:16,17.)

- Ask our Lord Jesus about His role as your Melchizedek. You can’t serve both the old Levitical system and our Lord Who is the High Priest of the New Covenant. Don’t let a Levitical-based, sacerdotal intermediary come between you and your Lord.

Further reading: See our series Repentance Leads to Christ-like Character, Lesson 15: *The Sin of Belonging to Jesus While Also Serving the Queen of Heaven*. Also, Lifebyte 34: *The Abrahamic Covenant: The Groundwork for the Hebraic Restoration*.

If Lord Jesus Is To Be Your Head, You Must Escape Revisionism, Syncretism and Nicolaitanism

In Insights 3 and 4 we noted a spiritually devastating trend which began as far back as the beginning of the second century. Both the Presence and position of our Lord Jesus as the *only Head* of His called-out ones, and the *Hebraic Abra-*

hamic foundations of loving and obedient trust, were being eroded by **reversionism**, **syncretism** and **nicolaitanism**. We realize that it may be difficult for you to even consider that the form of “Christianity” you may hold dear isn’t at all what Jesus was speaking about when He proclaimed:

*“On this rock [of Peter’s declared realization and trust] I will build My collective called-out ones, and the **gates of hell will not withstand it**” (Matthew 16:18).*

Paul adds to this dimension of the *unseen reality* of satanic warfare:

*“His intent was that now, through the called-out ones, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the **rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms**, according to His eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Ephesians 3:10,11).*

*“For **our struggle** is not against flesh and blood, but **against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms**” (Ephesians 6:12).*

What was the weaponry which both our Lord and Paul counted on that even hell’s gates couldn’t withstand?

It’s the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit in which followers of Jesus must abide so they may defeat the demonic forces which cannot stand against them.

We’ll address this topic in depth in a subsequent Insight. But beginning with this Insight we want to discuss *your personal responsibility to Jesus* as the ONLY Head of your life. *HE* is the Commander of the hosts of heaven’s armies (see Revelation 1:8, 4:8, 11:17, CJB). *HE* forcefully engages in an all-out spiritual battle for the souls of humanity. Insights 7 & 8 will deal with His policy for enlisting new recruits.

If you’ve been deceived into some form of **catatonic** Christian complac-

cy, you need to repent and change your ways. But keep in mind that with more insight comes more responsibility. If you press on with these truths, you’ll be held responsible to *put your trust into action*. That means trusting our Lord with the same heartfelt conviction that impelled Abraham to obey. From this point forward you won’t be able to say to our Lord, “I didn’t know.” And you’ll have to consider yourself a *soldier for our Lord* (see 2Timothy 2:4) whom He has recruited to fight, and we do mean FIGHT!

“[Jesus] is the Head of the body, the ones He has called out of the world, Who is the Beginning and the Firstborn from among the dead, so that in EVERYTHING He might have the supremacy” (Colossians 1:18).

It’s essential for your journey in Christ that you commit yourself to this truth: *no one is an intermediary between you and Jesus as your Lord*. He has direct and personal contact with each of His followers via His indwelling Spirit. In a later Insight we’ll discuss biblical leadership within Christianity—and that leadership *isn’t* someone acting as an intermediary between you and Jesus.

Our Lord is your personal Commander! Let’s see how the Bible reinforces His Headship over everything:

*“And God placed **ALL things under His feet** and appointed Him to be **Head over everything** for the called-out ones, which is **His body**, the fullness of Him who fills everything in every way” (Ephesians 1:22,23).*

*“For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ, **Who is the Head over every power and authority... [Jesus], the Head from Whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow**”*

(Colossians 2:9,10,19).

There's no doubt that our Lord is Head of everything, especially the lives of those He called out of the world's values and goals, the ones He considers His own family. And while He is seated at the right hand of the Father (Luke 22:69; Colossians 3:1), His called-out ones on earth are privileged and responsible to function in unity *as one body* with each doing his or her part to extend His Kingdom.

Our Lord established one way, and one way only, for His followers to be trained as a unified fighting force against Satan and his nefarious demon minions:

*“It was [Jesus] Who gave some to be **apostles**, some to be **prophets**, some to be **evangelists**, and some to be **shepherds and teachers**,*

*• to **prepare God's people for works of service**,*

*• so that the **body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God***

*• and **become mature**, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.*

*• Then we will **no longer be infants**, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the **cunning and craftiness of [sacerdotal] men** in their deceitful scheming.*

*• Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will **in all things grow up into Him Who is the Head, that is, Christ**. From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, **as each part does its work**” (Ephesians 4:11-16).*

Today, are we finding the cooperating anointings of apostle, prophet, evangelist, shepherd and teacher which our Lord Jesus Himself established? If not, why not? The answer is that the military-backed religious/political entity of Roman Catholicism did away with them centuries ago in favor of *pagan-adapted*

ecclesiastical hierarchy. But take heart! The anointings which Jesus calls for to prepare His followers to serve in faith as one unified force will be restored as the last days of all-out warfare against Satan descend on us. It's going to take *unified spiritual power and training* to know how to fight.

As Jesus told His disciples to wait in Jerusalem until they had received the power of the Holy Spirit (see Acts 1:4-8), He foresaw how *He would build His called-out ones* so that *the gates of hell would not withstand them*. In a later Insight you'll find how each person who follows Jesus receives this power. For now, realize this about those with whom you fellowship:

Not everyone who claims to be “Christian” is among our Lord's called-out ones. Satan's means to hinder the true body of Christ from being unified and effective are many, from the satanic introduction of nicolaitan clergy who removed the Headship of Christ in the individual's life, to those who regularly sit next to you in services with unconfessed sin.

The true called-out ones are those whose only Head is Jesus their Lord. Through the guidance and power of His Spirit they are cooperating as a unified body, doing their part according to the grace Christ gives them (Ephesians 4:7).

The unity of the body of Christ is more readily seen wherever His followers are being persecuted. Persecution because of obedient trust in Jesus is still a foreign concept in the US, but not for long. Wherever the called-out ones of Jesus totally depend on Him as their Head, their *loving trust in Him* identifies them:

“They overcame [Satan] by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death” (Revelation 12:11).