

John 17 – The Greatest Prayer. (5) Christ Jesus glorified at the Father's right hand. (refs for Bible study 23/11/17).

*Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son also may glorify you. v1*

*And now, O Father, glorify me together with yourself, with the glory which I had with you before the world was. v5*

Jesus prayed that his Father would glorify him, and his prayers are always answered, Jn.11v41-42. We owe more to that prayer than we shall ever realise. He is glorified – he is at the Father's right hand, and there he is interceding for us, just as he did for Peter, Lk.22v32.

**Where is he now? Seated at the right hand of the Father:** Ac.2v32-33, place of highest honour, of authority and power. The ascension was not the end, it was a beginning. What he is doing continues to bring him glory, for he is glorified in each and every conversion, Jn.17v10, and in bringing each and every one of his people safe home.

**What is he doing? He is our High Priest:** Hb.7v24-25, 8v1-2. Many are confused about priesthood. We must realise that priesthood begins with the OT, and that it ends with Christ. He fulfilled it! Hb.5v1-4 tells us priests were not volunteers, but chosen by God. Their role was: \*to offer sacrifices, \*as mediators with God to make intercession, \*to teach, \*to judge. Jesus fulfilled all this perfectly, and he will be our judge, Jn.5v27.

We need to distinguish carefully between that part of his work which is complete, and that which is continuing:

- **his completed work:** he sat down, Hb.1v3, 10v11-12, because this work was completed, 'once-and- for-all' (hapax), Hb.7v26-27. There is nothing to add. His offering does not need to be re-presented. This is the death-knell for much false and blasphemous religion – no priests, no masses! Be sure that you are trusting in the finished work of Christ, and not trying to add something of your own!
- **his continuing work:** seated does not mean idle, there is work that is done sitting down! His continuing work as HP is interceding on our behalf, Hb.7v25, Rom.8v34. There is a sample of the kind of intercession here in Jn.17: see v.11,13,15,17,24. He is sympathetic, Hb.2v18, 4v15, and does not change, 13v8. He knows what it is to be abused, misunderstood, unfairly treated, deserted; to have poverty, hostile family, pain, hunger, thirst, weariness, discouragement, etc. Ex.28 gives a picture of the HP's work which points to what *our* HP is doing. Symbolically the whole people were on his shoulders as he represented them and carried them into the presence of God, v12. More than that they were held close to his heart, v29.
  - Christian – you have an intercessor 'at the very top', who carries you (as it were) on his shoulders, yet close to his heart! He takes our intercessions, purifies and presents them before the throne. So take advantage of the privilege that you have, Hb.4v16!