

Time Audit Chronicles: Jesus' High Priestly Prayer

(John 17)

Prologue: Jesus' Prayer for Unity and Protection

The Presswood family gathered around the table, reading John 17, where Jesus prays a powerful prayer for His disciples and all future believers. This prayer, known as Jesus' High Priestly Prayer, holds deep significance in Christian theology as it reveals Jesus' love, unity, and His desire for the well-being of His followers. It shows the heart of Jesus as He intercedes for His disciples and for all who would come to believe in Him. Ariel had been reflecting on how deeply Jesus cared for His followers, even in His final moments before His crucifixion. Alice, still holding Mr. Fluffernutter, was imagining herself in a place of peace, hearing Jesus pray for her and everyone who would believe in Him.

"Daddy," Ariel asked, "Why is Jesus praying for unity and protection for His disciples? What is He asking for, exactly?"

Ryan smiled, knowing this would be an important moment to reflect on Jesus' love for His followers. "That's a great question, Ariel. In John 17:15, Jesus prays, 'I pray not that thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that thou shouldst keep them from the evil.' Jesus isn't asking for His disciples to be removed from the challenges of the world. Instead, He's asking God to protect them from the evil one while they continue His mission. He knows they'll face opposition, but He's praying for their strength and safeguarding as they carry out His work. But He's not just praying for them—He's also praying for us, for all future believers, that we would experience the same unity, love, and connection with God."

Ariel thought about this for a moment. "It's amazing to think that God's Word can help us grow closer to Him and guide us in what's right. Like when I was nervous about standing up for my friend at school—I prayed and remembered the verse about loving your neighbor. It felt like God gave me the courage I needed and reminded me to do what was right."

Ryan nodded. "That's exactly it, Ariel. Jesus' prayer shows that God is with us, guarding and guiding us in every moment. It's not about escaping challenges but knowing we're never alone in facing them."

Alice raised Mr. Fluffernutter dramatically. "Fluffy says we can stay strong because Jesus is always helping us!" she said with a grin.

"Yes," Ryan said. "Jesus is praying for His disciples to be sanctified in the truth—that is, set apart for God's special purpose, and that they would be empowered by the truth of God's Word. Sanctification means being made holy, growing in our faith, and living in alignment with God's will. It's not something we do on our own—it's God working in us through His Word and His Spirit." He knows that their mission will be difficult, but He's asking God to protect them and keep them faithful."

Jesus Prays for Future Believers: Unity in Christ (John 17:20-23)

Jesus then prayed for all believers who would come to faith in Him in the future, including those who would form the early church. The early church exemplified unity by sharing everything they had and supporting one another, as seen in Acts 2:42-47, which fulfilled Jesus' prayer for unity.

Ryan explained, "In John 17:23, Jesus prays, 'I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.' This unity isn't just about agreeing or being together physically—it's about reflecting the deep connection and love between the Father and the Son. When believers live in harmony, it's a powerful testimony to the world that Jesus is the Son of God."

Ariel's eyes widened with understanding. "So, when we are united as believers—when we love each other and live in peace with one another—we're showing the world that Jesus is real and that He was sent by God. It's like we're part of His plan to help people see who He is."

Alice raised Mr. Fluffernutter dramatically. "Fluffy says we can help people see Jesus by loving each other! Maybe we can even share snacks at school to show kindness!"

Ryan chuckled, "That's a great idea, Alice. Simple acts of love and kindness show people the love of Jesus. Ariel, what do you think are ways we can show unity as a family?"

Ariel thought for a moment. "We could work together to help someone in need, like visiting a neighbor who's lonely or cleaning up a park together. When people see families or believers working together in love, they might wonder what makes us different."

Ryan nodded. "Exactly. Unity is living out our faith in a way that points to Jesus. It's not always easy, but it's worth it because it reflects God's love and shows the world who He is." Ariel paused, thinking deeply. "Jesus is praying for all of us! He's praying for everyone who will believe in Him in the future, even us!"

"Yes," Ryan said, a smile crossing his face. "Jesus' prayer includes you, Ariel, and Alice, and every Christian who has ever lived or will live. It's incredible to think that, in that moment, He was thinking about all of us and asking God to unite us in His love." "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; that they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me." (John 17:20-21).

Ariel paused, thinking deeply. "Jesus is praying for all of us! He's praying for everyone who will believe in Him in the future, even us!"

"Yes," Ryan said, a smile crossing his face. "Jesus is praying for unity among all believers. He wants us to be one—just as He and the Father are one. This unity is so important because it will be a testimony to the world that Jesus is the Son of God and that God sent Him to save us. The world will know who Jesus is by the way believers love and serve one another."

Ariel's eyes widened with understanding. "So, when we are united as believers—when we love each other and live in peace with one another—we are showing the world that Jesus is real, and that He was sent by God. And even when it's hard to get along, that unity shows something greater than just people being nice—it shows God's love working in us."

Alice raised Mr. Fluffernutter dramatically. "Fluffy says Jesus is praying for him, too! Maybe Jesus is saying, 'Dear God, please help Fluffy to be the best bunny ever!'"

Ryan laughed warmly. "You know, Alice, Jesus' prayer for all believers is like that. He's asking God to help us be the best version of who He created us to be—to love one another and show the world His truth. It's amazing to think about how much Jesus cares for each one of us personally.""

"Yes," Ryan said. "Jesus prayed that we would be one, not just in the sense of being together, but in the sense of sharing the same mission, the same love, and the same purpose. This unity isn't just about getting along—it's about reflecting Jesus' love and the truth of the gospel to the world."

Ariel smiled, understanding the deep connection between love, unity, and testimony. "So, our unity is a witness to the world that Jesus is the Savior, and that we belong to Him."

The Ultimate Purpose: To Know God's Love (John 17:24-26)

Jesus' final words in His prayer were incredibly personal. He said, "Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world." (John 17:24). In this context, 'glory' refers to the divine presence, power, and honor that Jesus shares with the Father—a glory that reflects the very essence of God's love and majesty.

Ryan turned to Ariel and Alice, his tone warm and reflective. "Jesus' ultimate desire is for us to see and experience His glory. This glory isn't just about His divine power—it's about His victory over sin and death, and the love that flows from the Father through Him to us."

Ariel tilted her head thoughtfully. "So, when Jesus prayed for us to see His glory, He wanted us to understand how much God loves us and how He's won that love for us through the cross and resurrection?"

Ryan nodded. "Exactly. It's through His sacrifice that we truly see God's love revealed. And it's not just a love we observe—it's a love we live in and share with others."

Alice hugged Mr. Fluffernutter tightly. "I think His glory must be like the brightest, happiest light that makes everything better. Maybe He's saying, 'I love you this much!' to everyone." She held her arms wide, emphasizing her point.

Ryan chuckled, "You're not far off, Alice. Experiencing His glory is like stepping into the light of His love—a light that changes everything. Ariel, how do you think we can reflect God's glory in our lives?"

Ariel thought for a moment. "Maybe by showing love and forgiveness, even when it's hard. Like, when I had to apologize to my friend after we argued, I felt like God helped me see her differently and love her more. That's kind of like showing His glory, isn't it?"

"It absolutely is," Ryan said. "When we reflect His love and forgiveness, we're living out the glory He prayed for us to experience. And that's how others can see Him through us.""

Ariel thought about the love of God for a long moment. "Jesus is showing us that the love of God is at the heart of everything. It's the love that unites us, protects us, and gives us life."

Reflection: The Power of Jesus' Prayer

Back in the garage, the Time Audit Machine powered down, and the family sat in quiet reflection. Ariel turned to her father, her thoughts filled with the magnitude of Jesus' love. "Daddy," she began, "Jesus really loves us, doesn't He? Praying for our unity, protection, and to know God's love—it's incredible to think He was thinking about all believers, even us."

Ryan nodded, his voice gentle yet firm. "Yes, Ariel. Jesus' prayer shows His deep care for every believer throughout history. He wasn't just thinking of the disciples who were with Him; He was looking ahead to all who would come to faith, including you and Alice. Even now, Jesus intercedes for us, praying for our strength and unity as we live out His mission."

Alice squeezed Mr. Fluffernutter tightly, her imagination taking over. "I think Jesus prayed something like, 'Dear God, please help Fluffy and Alice to be kind and share their snacks!'" She giggled, her playful take adding a lighthearted touch to the solemn moment.

Ryan smiled, placing a hand on her shoulder. "You're not too far off, Alice. Jesus' intercession for us means He's always thinking of ways to help us live out His love and truth. It's like having the best friend who never stops cheering you on."

Ariel tilted her head thoughtfully. "So, Jesus praying for us means He's still helping us today? Like when I felt scared to speak up for my friend, and I prayed, it felt like Jesus gave me the courage to do what was right."

"Exactly," Ryan said. "His prayer wasn't just for back then—it's ongoing. Knowing He prays for us reminds us we're never alone in facing challenges or showing love to others. Ariel, how do you think we can show that love as a family?"

Ariel smiled. "Maybe by doing something together to help others, like making cards for people at church or inviting someone who feels left out to play."

Alice waved Mr. Fluffernutter like a microphone. "Fluffy says we can even pray for people, just like Jesus does for us!"

Ryan laughed warmly. "That's a perfect idea, Alice. Whether it's through prayer, kindness, or working together, every act of love reflects the unity Jesus prayed for and shows the world who He is."

"Jesus really loves us, doesn't He?" Ariel said softly. "He prayed for our unity and protection, even for all the people who would believe in Him after the disciples. He prayed that we would know God's love and be united in it."

"Yes," Ryan said, a tender smile on his face. "Jesus' prayer shows just how much He cares for us. He didn't just pray for His disciples, He prayed for us, for every believer in history. He prayed that we would experience the love of God, be protected from evil, and be unified in Him, so that the world would know who He is."

Ariel smiled, feeling deeply connected to the love of God. "So, when we live in unity with other believers and show love to each other, we're answering Jesus' prayer. We're showing the world that Jesus is the Son of God, and that God sent Him to save us."

“Yes,” Ryan said. “And when we know God’s love, we are empowered to live the life He created us for, to reflect His glory, and to love others with the same love that He has shown us.”

Jesus Defines Eternal Life: Knowing the Father and the Son (John 17:3)

As the family continued reflecting on John 17, Ariel asked, "Daddy, what does Jesus mean when He says eternal life is knowing the Father and the Son? Does that mean just learning about them?"

Ryan smiled, ready to share an important truth. "That’s a great question, Ariel. In John 17:3, Jesus says, ‘And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.’ Knowing God isn’t just about understanding facts or stories about Him. It’s about having a deep, personal relationship with Him—like the way you know me and Mommy. It means trusting Him, loving Him, and experiencing His presence in your life."

Ariel nodded, beginning to grasp the idea. "So, it’s more like being close to God, like a best friend you can talk to and trust?"

"Exactly," Ryan replied. "When we know God like that, it changes everything. We start to see the world differently and live with His love and guidance in our hearts."

Alice hugged Mr. Fluffernutter tightly, her imagination sparking. "I bet Jesus is like, ‘I know all about Alice and Fluffy, and I love them so much!’ Maybe we can talk to Him every day and tell Him all our secrets!"

Ryan chuckled warmly. "That’s a wonderful way to think about it, Alice. Prayer is exactly that—talking to God and sharing everything in your heart. And the more we do, the more we grow in our relationship with Him. Ariel, how do you think you can grow closer to God?"

Ariel thought for a moment. "Maybe by spending more time praying and reading the Bible, and also by thinking about what God would want me to do, like being kind or helping someone who’s sad."

Ryan nodded. "Those are perfect ways to grow closer to God. The more we know Him, the more we experience the eternal life Jesus was talking about—not just in heaven, but here and now, as we live in His love and presence."

Living Out Jesus’ Prayer: Unity, Love, and Testimony

As the family reflected on the themes of Jesus’ prayer, Ryan spoke with heartfelt conviction. "Jesus’ prayer isn’t just words—it’s a call to action for all believers. He prayed for unity, love, sanctification, and testimony. These aren’t abstract ideas; they’re ways we live out our faith every day."

Ariel tilted her head thoughtfully. "How can we do that, Daddy? How can we show unity and love to others?"

Ryan smiled. "One way is by being peacemakers—choosing to forgive instead of holding grudges. Another is by working together as a family to help someone in need or by standing up for truth and kindness, even when it’s hard."

Ariel’s face brightened. "At school, I could invite someone who looks lonely to join me at lunch. Or, if a friend is upset, I could listen and pray for them. That would show God’s love, right?"

"Absolutely," Ryan said. "Those small actions reflect the love and unity Jesus prayed for. When people see that, they see something greater—they see Jesus."

Alice, holding Mr. Fluffernutter, chimed in. "Fluffy says we should all have a big group hug to show unity! And maybe we can make cookies to share with our neighbors!"

Ryan chuckled. "That's a wonderful idea, Alice. Simple acts of kindness can create ripples of love and unity in our community. It's all about showing people that they're seen, valued, and loved by God."

Ariel nodded. "So, by living like Jesus prayed for us to, we're showing the world who He is and how much He loves them."

Ryan placed an arm around both girls. "Exactly. Jesus' prayer is a reminder that our lives are part of His mission. By loving others, staying united, and living in truth, we're answering His prayer and reflecting His glory to the world."

Takeaway: Jesus' High Priestly Prayer

In John 17, Jesus prays for His disciples and all future believers, asking for their unity in Him and protection from the evil one. He desires that believers be united in love, reflecting the relationship between the Father and the Son, so that the world will know that Jesus was sent by God. Jesus prays for believers to experience the love of God, to be sanctified in truth, and to share in His glory. This prayer reveals the heart of Jesus for His followers—His deep longing for us to live in harmony, grounded in His love, and to be empowered to carry out His mission in the world. Jesus' prayer is a beautiful reminder of how God's love unites, protects, and empowers believers to bear witness to the truth of the gospel.

=
=
=
=
=

Interactive Reflections

1. Jesus prayed for His disciples' protection and unity. How can you help create unity among your family, friends, or church community?
2. What does it mean to you to be sanctified in the truth, as Jesus prayed for His followers?
3. Jesus prayed for all future believers, including you. How does knowing this make you feel about your relationship with Him?
4. How can your love for others show the world that Jesus is real?
5. Think about a time when you felt God's love deeply. How can you share that love with someone else this week?

Songs or Poetry

Children's Poem: "Jesus Prayed for Me"

*“In the garden, Jesus prayed,
For unity and love to never fade.
He asked the Father, ‘Keep them near,
Protect them always, calm their fear.’*

*“For those who believe in days to come,
He prayed for their hearts to be as one.
‘Let them know my love so true,
That the world may see and follow too.’”*

Chorus:

*Jesus prayed for me, oh, what a thought!
His love and care can’t be bought.
I’ll love like Him, and always show,
The world that God’s great love does flow!”*

Mr. Fluffernutter’s Perspective

"Hi there, fluffy friends! It’s me, Mr. Fluffernutter, and oh my bunny ears, I have something incredible to share! Did you know that Jesus prayed for YOU? That’s right—He thought of you way back in the garden. Isn’t that amazing?

He prayed that we’d all get along and be united in love, like a big happy bunny family. I think of it like a giant hoppy circle where everyone holds paws—oops, I mean hands—and works together.

But here’s the best part: Jesus said we’d show the world how great God’s love is by loving each other. So, what do you say, friends? Are you ready to be a part of the hoppy circle of love? Leave me a comment—what’s one way you can show God’s love today?"

Ariel’s Journal Reflection

"Jesus’ prayer in the garden was so powerful. It wasn’t just for His disciples—it was for all of us, including me. That makes me feel so special, like I’m part of a big family connected by God’s love.

I was especially moved when Jesus prayed for unity. He wanted believers to be so close and loving toward each other that the world would see His love through us. That made me think about how I can help bring unity to the people around me. Maybe it means being kind to someone who feels left out or helping my little sister Alice when she’s upset.

Jesus also prayed that we’d be protected from the evil one. I know that doesn’t mean life will be easy, but it reminds me that God is always watching over us, even when things are hard. I want to live out Jesus’ prayer by staying close to God and loving others the way He loves me."

Alice's Reflection with Mr. Fluffernutter

Alice sat in her room, cradling Mr. Fluffernutter like he was the most important bunny in the world. "Fluffy," she whispered, "did you hear? Jesus prayed for us! He wants us to stick together and love each other." She tilted her head, imagining what that would look like.

"If you were there, Fluffy, I bet Jesus would have prayed for you too. He'd say, 'Help Fluffy to always hop with kindness and never nibble on someone else's carrots without asking.'"

She giggled at the thought, then grew serious. "But really, Fluffy, I think Jesus was saying that we need to love like He does. So tomorrow, I'll share my crayons with Ariel, even the sparkly ones. That'll show her I love her, and it'll make Jesus happy too."

Alice hugged Mr. Fluffernutter tightly. "Let's be good at loving people, Fluffy. That's the best way to show we're part of Jesus' family."

KJV Scripture

- **John 17:1:** *"These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee."*
- **John 17:15:** *"I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil."*
- **John 17:21:** *"That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me."*
- **John 17:24:** *"Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world."*