An epitome of the mission of Christ to the world is condensed in Heb 1:2-3, and then expanded throughout the whole epistle. Its message reveals a threefold characterization of the Incarnate Son in His redemptive ministry and atonement for mankind. This research explores that threefold characterization of Christ as a prerequisite for the fulfillment of a complete atonement.

The enormous significance of the atonement and the questions that surround it have been the frequent focus of scholarly Christian writing and thought. Pertinent questions have been posed; was the saving act of Christ an atonement completed? Or an atonement continuing? Is there a correlation between the Person of Christ and His atoning work? What is the relationship between Christ’s atonement on the cross and His atoning ministry in the heavenly sanctuary? This study affirms that the Epistle to the Hebrews contains some unique revealing elements that contribute to the resolution of these problems.

Of central significance to the study is the threefold characterization of the person of Christ as High Priest. This threefold characterization is traced throughout the entire Epistle. The heart of the research that follows explores the theological correlation of the threefold
characterization of the person of Christ as prerequisite for the fulfillment of a complete atonement.

The study proceeds to an evaluation of the evidences provided by the Epistle to the Hebrews regarding whether the atonement of Christ on the cross was complete. It bridges the tension existing between that aspect of the atonement which was accomplished on the cross and the atonement which continues in the heavenly sanctuary.

The significance of the atoning work of Christ in the heavenly sanctuary is particularly relevant to the finding of the research. An investigation of the two phases of the atonement in terms of the earthly sanctuary service provides valuable insights into the complete fulfillment of Christ’s atoning ministry.

The conclusion of the study affirms that Heb 1:2-3 may provide an essential key to the understanding of a two-phase atonement. In these two phases, Christ as Creator and Christ as God-man continues His saving ministry as High Priest in the heavenly sanctuary for a complete consummation of His atoning mission to the world.