

Hebrews

Review

In chapter 4, the inspired writer of Hebrews proclaims Jesus our great High Priest—a clear parallel with the priestly system of ancient Israel. Unlike the high priest of the Mosaic system, Jesus who has “gone through the heavens” (4:14), yet he has also experienced humanity and can therefore “sympathize with our weaknesses” (4:15). Through his mediation, we can come before God to “received mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need” (4:16). Chapter 5 goes on to establish Christ’s credentials as the ultimate High Priest.

Text: Hebrews 5:1-10

¹Every high priest is selected from among men and is appointed to represent them in matters related to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. ²He is able to deal gently with those who are ignorant and are going astray, since he himself is subject to weakness. ³This is why he has to offer sacrifices for his own sins, as well as for the sins of the people.

⁴No one takes this honor upon himself; he must be called by God, just as Aaron was. ⁵So 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."^[a]^[b] ⁶And he says in another place, you are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek."^[c]

⁷During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered ⁹and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him ¹⁰and was designated by God to be high priest in the order of Melchizedek.

Footnotes:

- a. Or have begotten you b. Psalm 2:7 c. Psalm 110:4

Questions for Thought & Discussion

1. What is the role of a high priest? (vs. 1)
2. How does he relate to those people he represents? (vs. 2)
3. Why does the high priest need to offer sacrifices to God? (vs. 3)
4. What qualified someone to be the high priest, under the Mosaic religious system? (vs. 4)
5. What qualified Jesus? (vs. 5)
6. Who is Melchizedek? (vs. 6; cf. Genesis 14:18-20)
7. What did Jesus have to go through to be our High Priest? (vs. 7-10)
More importantly, why?
8. What is Christ Jesus the source of? For whom? (vs. 9)