

Christ as Our High Priest

Jesus Christ is a better high priest than all from Aaron. He is our high priest for all eternity. Think of this from the time of Old Testament through all Church Age.

Man as high priest; Christ is so much better as high priest 5-10

Hebrews 5:1 For every high priest taken from among men is appointed on behalf of people in things pertaining to God, in order to offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins;

Hebrews 5:2 he can deal gently with the ignorant and misguided, since he himself also is clothed in weakness;

Hebrews 5:3 and because of it he is obligated to offer sacrifices for sins for himself, as well as for the people.

Hebrews 5:4 And no one takes the honor for himself, but receives it when he is called by God, just as Aaron also was.

You must understand there is so much required by Jesus Christ, so much more than salvation! This was important to the Old Testament and of course it is vital to the Church Age.

The writer here, in Hebrews, has listed Six Requirements of Jesus Christ in the priesthood in the Old Testament. Here we have descriptions of human priesthood.

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Human Priesthood Description (Hebrews 5:1-4)

1. Chosen from men (verse 1)
2. Purpose of high priest (verse 1b) *he is appointed on behalf of men in things pertaining to God*
3. Why the high priest (verse 1c)
4. Trait Requirement of the high priest (verse 2)
5. Requirement of high priest (verse 3)
6. Qualification of appointment of priesthood (verse 4)

Many Christians in the Church Age try to apply the Law of Israel to the Church. But what is so interesting is the fact that about three fourths of the Law is related to the Temple. And with the beginning of the Church Age, Israel still lived and worshiped in reference to the Temple and that living with reference to the Temple was the center of so much. So God had the Temple completely taken out in 70 AD.

It was so much about Israel and about the place of Israel but to Israel not much about the Church. Jews were moved out of Jerusalem, and scattered throughout the world.

So many have deep problems with what happened to the Jews in the Second World War. Why did God allow all this to happen to the Jews? The answer is very simple. They would love to stay out of Israel when it was time for the nation of Israel to come into the history of the Church Age. There is so much going on in the world related to Israel and the time is near when Israel will turn to the protection of the European world. Unfortunately, many of the Jews today want to build a Temple at which to worship. So, not until Jesus Christ returns to the world and He builds that Temple will the Jews and all men be able to worship at the Temple. Now what is so interesting is that when the Temple is built Jesus will be

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the high priest; the high priest over Israel and over the world. Jesus will be the high priest! and we will be Priest to serve and work for Him.

Now look at what is going on in the New Age about the high priest coming.

1. Requirement of the high priest: He was to be *chosen from men* in Hebrews 5:1. He must be a male descendants of Levi. Females were prohibited. Jesus is a priest according to the priesthood of Melchizedek.
2. Purpose of high priest (Verse 1b) He is appointed on behalf of men in things pertaining to God. God set up the priesthood in the history of Israel to be a Prefigure or type of Jesus Christ. It means that God wanted to have a way or means for man to approach Him. So God set up the high priest as the way for man to approach God. Of course Jesus Christ will be the appointed one to approach Him.
3. Why does God need man to approach Himself by gifts and the proper sacrifices for sins, He created the high priest. There is difference between Gifts and Sacrifices in Hebrews 5:1. Many teachers of the Bible believe that the difference is that *gifts* refers to general sacrifices such as meal and fat offerings while *sacrifices* refers to blood-type of sacrifices such as burnt offerings, the peace and sin offerings. It is so important to note that these were offered on behalf of sins! It offered the penalty that sin demanded. We know that the person who was guilty was taken out of the suffering and it was given to Jesus Christ to take their place. What is so important in the study of the Old Testament was that offerings could not take away sins. They simply were a teaching of the prefigure of the efficacious offering of Jesus Christ. this will be dealt with in 10:1-10

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Hebrews 10:4 For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

Hebrews 10:5 Therefore, when He comes into the world, He says, “sacrifice and offering, you have not desired, but a body You have prepared for Me;

Hebrews 10:6 in whole burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin you have taken no pleasure.

4. Gentle treatment is a requirement of the high priest (verse 2). *He* (normal high priest) *can deal gently with the ignorant and misguided since he* (high priest) *himself also is beset with weakness*; Now we learn about God. He demanded that the human high priest handle gently in regards to their sins since they were under sin themselves. In the Church Age *gentleness* is required among believers.
5. The high priest was to offer sacrifices for personal sins. Hebrews 5:3 *and because of it he is obligated to offer sacrifices for sins, as for the people, so also for himself*. Every time he read something like this you have to remember that Jesus sacrifices for all mankind. Now note in the thinking of the work of the priesthood that they are *obligated* as a priest, they are *bound* or *obligated* to offer these sacrifices. What is so interesting is that they also had to offer sacrifices first for themselves and their family *then* they were to sacrifice for the people.
6. The priesthood in the history of Israel was chosen as a priesthood by God.

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Hebrews 5:4 And No one takes the honor to himself, but receives it when He is called by God, even as Aaron was.

God chose Aaron, not Moses or anyone else, it was God. And think about this in regards to the pastor-teacher in the Church Age. A man does not decide for himself that he will be a pastor-teacher, and neither does anyone else decide that this person is a pastor-teacher. Unfortunately, often times one is picked to be a pastor-teacher, but is not designated so by God. At Dallas Theological Seminary there were several young men who realized they themselves that they were not pastor-teachers. Some dropped out of Dallas Theological Seminary, while others chose to work in some other place but not as a pastor-teacher.

Now, Jesus Christ Himself was chosen by God (Hebrews 5:5-10) as Superior to Old Testament

Hebrews 5:5 So also Christ did not glorify Himself so as to become a high priest but He who said to Him, “you are My Son, today I have Begotten You”

Hebrews 5:6 just as He says also in another passage “You are a Priest Forever According to the order of Melchizedek

Look at Psalm 2:7 and Psalm 110:4. First, these two Psalms are Messianic Psalms, and they were in this order: (Psalm 2 then Psalm 110) that is, in Psalm 2, you are my Son and then in Psalm 110 you are a priest forever.

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According to the order of Melchizedek. So He was chosen by God, and not in the order of Aaron but in order of Melchizedek before the priesthood was ever picked by the order of Aaron. (Merryman lists the following three facts that set forth the glories of the priesthood of Jesus Christ:

1. His essential Deity – *Thou are My Son.*
2. His true humanity, sin apart, ‘*today have I begotten you*’ (Consistently used in reference to the virgin birth). By His absolute oneness with mankind, He has perfect experiential knowledge of our needs and maximal empathy with our weakness. In this sense He was ‘made perfect’ for the role of high priest through sufferings, Hebrews 5:7-9.
3. His superior, enduring order, ‘a priest forever after the order of Melchizekek “(rather than that of Aaron). The significance of the Melchizedek typology is the subject of Hebrews chapter 7. These make Jesus Christ ‘*able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for Him.*” Hebrews 7:25.

- 1 Jesus Christ dependent on God the Father (Verse 7).
- 2 Jesus Christ as Obedient to God the Father (Verse 8).
- 3 Jesus Christ for Salvation (Verse 9).
- 4 Jesus Christ as high priest by God the Father (Verse 10).

What does Hebrews 5:7 mean? Just read it and try to understand it! It gives dependence by Jesus Christ on God the Father.

Hebrews 5:7 In the days of His flesh, (this is speaking of Jesus Christ, before His

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Resurrection) **He offered up both prayers and supplications with loud crying and tears to the One able to save Him from death** (this refers to God the Father, and not dying on the cross) **and He was heard because of His piety/reverence.**

In other words, you look at this verse and it sounds like Jesus Christ is praying to God that He does not die; and that He was heard from God because of Jesus Christ reverence.

What is so important in verse 7 is the correct reading: *able to save Him from death*. This is so incorrect- *to save Him out from death* this is **not From death** but is **out of death**. In the Greek this is the presence of *ek* —out of death. In other words Jesus Christ is **not** praying that God the Father will take Him out from death but that God will deliver Jesus Christ *out of death*. In other words this is to pray to God the Father to **Resurrect Jesus Christ out of death that He is experiencing death.**

He did not pray to *avert or simply not experience death!* but that He **would** experience death but not remain in death in Sheol but would bring Him out of death, at Resurrection.

Now look at the end of the verse *and He (Jesus Christ) was heard (from God the Father so as to answer His prayer) because of His piety*. This is the Greek word *eulabeia* which means an *awe, reverence or fear or total respect of God*.

So verse 7 is from Jesus Christ to God the Father before the crucifixion *In the days of His flesh, He offered up both prayers and supplications with loud crying and tears to the One able to save Him out of death and He was heard because of His total respect of God.*

Lets look at *supplications*. Since it is said of Jesus Christ to God the Father do you know what *supplications* is? First of all, this is the only

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place in the New Testament where the word *supplications* appears. The following quote captures the full sense of this word: (The complete Biblical Library, vol. 3, pg 160) *I make my petition to you with full confidence that I shall obtain justice from your highness”* The Greek word generally translated *supplication* is *to make known ones particular need or a particular benefit.*

This prayer and its supplications was answered and was the beginning of His Glory as in

Hebrews 2:9 –but we do see Him who was made for a little while lower than angels, namely Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowed with glory and honor, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone.

This would be a perfect time to read Isaiah chapter 53. By the way, while Psalms is the most quoted book of the Bible, Isaiah is second, which means a great deal of Isaiah is referred to in the New Testament.

While many people know that Jesus Christ shed tears for Israel, more tears were shed by Jesus Christ in reference to His death on the cross. Look at

Matthew 26:39 And He went a little beyond them, and fell on His face and prayed saying “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You Will.

and of course

Matthew 27:46 Among the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli Eli,

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**Lama Sabchthani?” That is “My God, My God
why have you forsaken Me?”**

Jesus Christ as Obedient to God the Father. *Although He was a Son, He learned Obedience from the things which he suffered.*

Why did Jesus Christ have to learn about obedience in suffering? If He was going to suffer on the cross, He had to suffer beyond all members of the human race. We learn about God the Father by learning from Christ's obedience to His Father. Learn to thank Jesus Christ for His Obedience to God the Father. He has been the Son of God, since all time (John 1:1) but He was to learn obedience toward God the Father and because of His Task He was to learn in Suffering. He was to learn to be obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. What did we learn of God? That God loves the human race! Think about it sometime and we wonder why He loves us.

The whole study of Israel is a study of the Love of God.

The love of the human race on the cross is the Love of God the Father. The love toward His Son is a study of the Love of God the Father. But ask yourself: Why does God love the human race?

God loves the human race because He created mankind in His own Image.

Hebrews 5:9 tells us of the love of Jesus Christ and the Love of God the Father.

He has given to us Salvation:

**Hebrews 5:9 And having been made perfect,
He became to all those who obey Him the
source of Eternal Salvation.**

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The *perfect* by which Jesus Christ was made was because He was made perfectly to provide salvation to the entire human race. His righteousness is perfect; His love is perfect; His obedience to God the Father was perfect. An automobile is not made for the water but is perfect to drive on the road. A Woman is made perfectly for a man but she is not made perfectly for a woman. A man is made perfectly for a woman but not another man. When God makes something it is made perfect for its purpose.

John 4:34 *food* is made to eat and keep you alive, but God brought His Son to us to be perfect for our salvation. the human cell is made up of 3.3 billion bases. If one of the 3.3 billion is incorrect the whole body is broken. But when God made our Savior every member of the human race can be saved. Not everyone is saved but everyone of them can be saved if they believe in Jesus Christ. He is perfect to provide Salvation and high priest. The secret to salvation is to be of the perfect *obedience*. Now what is the perfect Obedience? Simple faith in Jesus Christ as Savior. Now what is so beautiful is that our salvation through Jesus Christ is for eternal! Which of course means that *without end*.

The divine conclusion is that Jesus Christ is by God, the high priest.

**Hebrews 5:10 being designated by God as
high priest according to the order of
Melchizedek.**

Designated. The Greek word appears only once in the New Testament, here in Hebrews 5:10 and comes from the idea of *speaking or proclaiming* and means to *designate* –where Jesus is called by God a *high priest* where Jesus Christ is *designated* by God as high priest after the order of Melchizedek. Other Religions had high priests like the Egyptians, Canaanites, Baal, Sumerians, and early Hittites. Melchizedek was a worshiper of the True God in about 2166 BC.

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Hebrews 5:11-14 the Christian Jews were weak in any understanding of the Christianity.

Hebrews 5:11 Concerning him we have much to say, and it is difficult to explain, since you have become poor listeners.

Hebrews 5:12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food.

Hebrews 5:13 For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed with the word of righteousness, for he is an infant.

Hebrews 5:14 But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern between good and evil.

Now, remember, “Hebrews had to be written while sacrifices were yet being offered in the Temple in Jerusalem” (Rod Merriman). It was written around 68 AD.

The believers around 68 AD are *dull of hearing*, or *you no longer try to understand*, or *don't seem to listen*, or *it is for you hard*, or *too lazy to understand* or *sluggish in hearing*.

This is the way today throughout the world. especially today. The writer of Hebrews wanted to say much more about Jesus Christ as the high priest after the order of Melchizedek but the listeners are not able to handle more about Jesus Christ.