

Our High Priest

Heb 5:7-10

1

7 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 from death, and He was heard because of His piety. 8 Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered. 9 And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation, 10 being designated by God as a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

2

There are many things this passage brings to light, but the first two are the requirements that were necessary for one to be a high priest.

3

A) “He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation,”

B) “Designated by God as a high priest”

Isn't that what the writer says in...

Heb 5:1

4

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

The high priest must be fit from both points of view, both man-ward and God-ward. Jesus Christ was ordained of God from before the world began...

Eph 2:10

5

10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

Christ was chosen to be the final mediator, the last high priest between man and God, and He was chosen before God created.

The prophets spoke of Him as the Messiah of God, and Jehovah Himself declared...

Ps 110:4

6

4 The Lord has sworn and will not change His mind, “You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek.”

At His baptism by John He was declared by God from on high...

Matt 3:17

7

17 and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased."

Twice Jesus is declared by God to be His chosen one; here in Matt. 3:17, at His baptism, and at the mount of transfiguration in Matt. 17:5. The scriptures tells us that God the Father gave further testimony to Jesus as the Christ...

Acts 17:31

8

31 because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead."

Jesus the Christ was made a high priest after the order of Melchisedec, being both king and priest. The Aaronic order of priesthood was founded in the lineage of Aaron, through the tribe of Levi. For one to be a priest under the Mosaic Law he must be of the tribe of Levi. Melchisedec was not of the tribe of Levi, yet he was a high priest as well as being the king of Salem.

Gen 14:18

9

18 And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; now he was a priest of God Most High.

We are not told much about Melchisedec other than this. He was appointed by God to be His high priest and was recognized as such by Abraham.

Jesus was not of the lineage of Levi, but was chosen by God to be His high priest of the new covenant.

Now back to our text. The writer says...

10

7 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 from death

This is a direct reference to our Lord and Savior in the garden in His prayers to God...

Matt 26:39

11

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."

Jesus, the man, foreseeing His death on the cross prayed that he might not have to endure it. Christ, deity, knowing the penalty for sin, did not want to feel the separation from God that all men feel in their sin. He prayed that the experience of that separation would be something that he did not have to go through, but...

12

8 Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered.

Have you ever asked yourself what obedience it was that Jesus learned from these things? He was God incarnate, what did He need to learn? This idea of obedience here is defined for us in His statement that...

13

"Yet not as I will, but as You will"

Obedience, in this context, is bending our will to God's. Jesus understood that, and did.

As a man, Jesus had the same frailties, the same self-preservation instincts, and the same stubborn self-will that we all do. That was the obedience that He learned, so that He would understand what it is that man goes through so that He could be the perfect high priest for us before God. It is the same that we must all learn, to give ourselves wholly to God through Him, to deny our

own desires and live for His. It was this learning what every man goes through that made him complete, complete in His deity as well as in His humanity...

14 **9** And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation, **10** being designated by God as a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

It is this completeness, this perfection that makes Jesus Christ the perfect high priest.

We have come a long way to get to the discussion of this lesson. I want to spend the remainder of our time looking at Jesus as our high priest. I understand that there are many different directions that a discussion of this topic might take, but we are going to look Jesus. What was it about Him that we can see and learn from? There are three points I want to look at in this...

15 1) A Suppliant

2) A Son

3) A Savior

Christ is uniquely suitable to this work and we want to see His work as we view him in these three characteristics.

Our first thought then, Jesus as...

16 1) A Suppliant

Our text begins with a word which reveals a weakness:

17 ***"Who in the days of his flesh"***

In Romans 7, Paul talks about the weakness of the flesh, the weakness that is man. Jesus was man, He was flesh. John 1:1-14 tells us that clearly. He was God, but while in the flesh was susceptible to all the things that man is subject to. Take note...

James 1:13 **18**

13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone.

God cannot be tempted, yet...

Matt 4:1 **19**

1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

God cannot be tempted, but man can and is. Jesus was tempted by Satan, not as God, but as man. And it is as man that Jesus becomes a suppliant. A suppliant is defined as...

Sup·pli·ant; səplēənt **20**

noun

1. A person making a humble plea to someone in power or authority.

synonyms: petitioner, supplicant, pleader, beggar, applicant

adjective

1. Making or expressing a plea, especially to someone in power or authority.

Jesus was in such a frame of mind that he pleaded out of human weakness with the God who was able to save. Our Lord approached God in prayer to help Him with the weakness of His flesh. What a wonderful example for us that Jesus, even though being God incarnate, still understood that in the weakness of His humanity God was the only source for strength and comfort, and thus went to His father in prayer constantly. Jesus was a suppliant, He prayed to God, He had a communion with God as a man, add to that His relationship as

21

“The only begotten of the Father”

And there can be no one more suitable to our high priest than the one who knows God and His ways as well as the one who knows intimately the weakness of man and his desperate need of what God supplies.

Here then is our next point, that Jesus had a unique relationship with God, being God himself, being...

22

- 2) A Son

The Sonship of Jesus well documented.

Ps 2:7

23

7 “I will surely tell of the decree of the Lord: He said to Me, ‘You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.

And in...

Rom 1:1-4

24

1 Paul, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, called as an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, 2 which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures, 3 concerning His Son, who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh, 4 who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead,

Jesus was proven to be the Son of God with power by the resurrection. Now note how important accepting that Jesus is the Son of God...

1 John 5:5

25

5 Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

This world of sin can be overcome, but only by one who believes with all their heart, soul, and mind that Jesus is the Son of God.

Jesus was a Son because he had been begotten to it, but man can also be a child of God, but he must choose it.

And there is our last point concerning Jesus as our high priest...

26 3) A Savior

As a Savior, Jesus is perfect, complete. He embodies everything that a compassionate and loving high priest should be. He brings man to God and petitions His father for man's forgiveness. He gave himself that that forgiveness might be had. Being made perfect through His suffering, he knows what man needs. Everything about His character, His Words, and His actions make Jesus the one and only source for salvation.

Rom 10:9-10 **27**

9 that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; **10** for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

Jesus is the cause of salvation; the originator, the worker, the producer of salvation. Salvation begins with Christ; salvation is carried on by Christ: salvation is completed by Christ. Because Jesus assumed our nature, and entered into fellowship with us, he has become the author of salvation.

Heb 5:9 **28**

9 And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him; **KJV**

The KJV reads the "author of eternal salvation." The NASV reads...

Heb 5:9 **29**

9 And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation, **NASV**

A salvation that is not eternal is no salvation at all. Those that Jesus saves are saved indeed. Their sins are forgiven and the burden of the weight of the penalty for that sin is removed, here and now. At least for as long as they place themselves into His care and comfort. But the eternal reward, the eternal salvation, that Jesus brings is reserved for the man who comes to Him in faithful obedience and through Him to God. The role of the high priest under the Old Law was to offer sacrifice, to enter the Most holy Place, once a year, to perform the ceremony of cleansing. Jesus performs those same functions for man today.

- 30**
- A) He has offered the sacrifice that need be offered only once, His
 - B) He has gone before God in heaven and sprinkled the blood of that sacrifice
 - C) His blood is the atoning agent for the sin of every man who comes to Him

Is He your high priest?