

We Have a Great High Priest

The Substitutionary Sacrificial System Points to Three Realities:

1. Forgiveness is costly.
2. The punishment for sin is death.
3. Without the shedding of blood, there can be no remission of sins.

Chapter 4, Verse 14: The High Priesthood of the Lord Jesus Christ

- The writer has already mentioned this in passing in **2:17** and **3:1**,
 - but in this text, he now comes to explain it and apply it.
- The writer to the Hebrews calls attention to the specific, unique character of Jesus as our Great High Priest.
 - No other High Priest was called Great.
 - No other High Priest passed through the heavens.
 - No other High Priest is the Son of God.

Chapter 5, Verses 1 - 4: The Qualities and Responsibilities Required of High Priests

1. Must be chosen from among the people.
2. Must represent the people to God and God to the people.
3. Must offer gifts and sacrifices for sins.
4. Must deal gently with the ignorant and wayward.
5. Must be called by God.

Verses 5 – 6: The Validity of Christ’s Appointment to the Priesthood

- He did not appoint himself.
- Just as much as Jesus was declared to be the **Son** (in **Psalm 2:7**),
 - he was also declared to be a **priest forever** (in **Psalm 110:4**).

Psalm 2:6 - 8

6 “As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill.”

7 I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, “You are my Son; today I have begotten you.”

8 Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession.

Psalm 110:1 – 4

1 A Psalm of David. The LORD says to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.”

2 The LORD sends forth from Zion your mighty scepter. Rule in the midst of your enemies!

3 Your people will offer themselves freely on the day of your power, in holy garments; from the womb of the morning, the dew of your youth will be yours.

4 The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind, “You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.”

- Melchizedek is only mentioned two times in the Old Testament (**Genesis 14:18** and **Psalm 110:4**)

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Verse 7 – 10: The Sympathies of our Suffering High Priest

Matthew 26:36 – 29

36 Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, “Sit here, while I go over there and pray.”

37 And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled.

38 Then he said to them, “My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me.”

39 And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, “My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.”

Isaiah 53: 2b – 3a

2b ...he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him.

3a He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief...

Chapter 4, Verses 14 - 16: What is the Application of Having a Great High Priest?

Jesus, the Son of God, reminds us of his unique qualification of being both a representative of us and heaven.

- Remember, a high priest is a mediator – on behalf of men to God and God to men.

Luke 1:31 – 32a

31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.

32a He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High

So, What Should We Do?

1. Let us hold fast to our confession.
2. Let us, with confidence, draw near to the throne of grace.

Matthew 27:50 – 51

50 And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit.

51 And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split.