

Christ's Priesthood

Hebrews 5 Verse by Verse

Introduction

**Every
High Priest
5:1-4**

**Jesus as
High Priest
5:5-10**

**On to
Maturity
5:11-14**

Conclusions



Introduction

Previously in Hebrews:

- **Hebrews 4:14-16**

14 Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

**What's in
Hebrews 5?**

**Our Key
Verses**

What's in Hebrews 5?

- A priest in the Bible is a go-between, mediator, intercessor, or a liaison – someone to stand between people and God.
- In this chapter we learn that Jesus is the perfect Man for that job.
- Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is our ideal great high priest.
- He is perfectly qualified and God the Father has now appointed Him to the task.

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Key Verses: Hebrews 5:8-10

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Every High Priest 5:1-4

- **5:1** The priest was set apart to act as a liaison between the people and God.
- His job was to offer the gifts and sacrifices – an important part of worship in the times of the Old Testament.
- **5:2 deal gently** This word is used of “one who is not unduly disturbed by the errors, faults, sins of others, but bears them gently.” (Thayer)
- Still, none of the priests were ideal for the position.

His Own
Sins

The Sons
of Aaron

Qualifications

His Own Sins

- **5:3** On the Day of Atonement the high priest had to offer a bull for his own sin offering before he was able to minister on behalf of the people.
- Though appointed by God to his position, the priest was exactly on the same level as the people with respect to sin and sacrifice.
- His situation before God was equal to theirs.



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- **5:4** called by God, just as Aaron was
- Aaron was the older brother of Moses.
- God made him the first of Israel's priests.
- From that time the priesthood was passed down to his sons and their descendants.
- The later high priests were selected from among them in every following generation.



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1. A high priest must be human.

- No animals
- No angels
- No androids

2. God must appoint him to the position.

- Some got in trouble for taking the role of a priest without God's permission:
- **Korah:** He died as a result.
- **Saul:** He lost the right to have one of his sons follow him as king. David took his place.
- **Uzziah:** He became a leper.



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Jesus as High Priest 5:5-10

- **5:5** This verse reminds us of Christ's divine sonship. This is what gives him his deity - his Father's nature.
- **5:6** His priesthood comes through the line of Melchizedek - a line that has no genealogy.
- **5:7** Think of Gethsemane. Here we see the Son in perfect submission to the Father.
- **5:8-10 Key Verses** Perfect submission leads to a perfect sacrifice, obtaining salvation for us.

Melchizedek

He Learned
Obedience

Eternal
Salvation

Melchizedek

Psalm
110:1-4

- **Melchizedek** first appears in **Genesis 14** where he is introduced as the “**king of Salem**” that is, **Jerusalem**, and “**priest of God Most High.**”
- Abraham presents him with an offering.
- He next appears in **Psalm 110**, where David prophesies that the **Messiah**, who will be a **king**, will also be a **priest**.
- By connecting him with the obscure figure of Melchizedek, our rabbi gives Christ's priesthood a scriptural basis. (More on this in Hebrews 7)

Psalm 110:1-4

- 1 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! *[He will be a king.]*
- 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."** *[And he is a priest.]*

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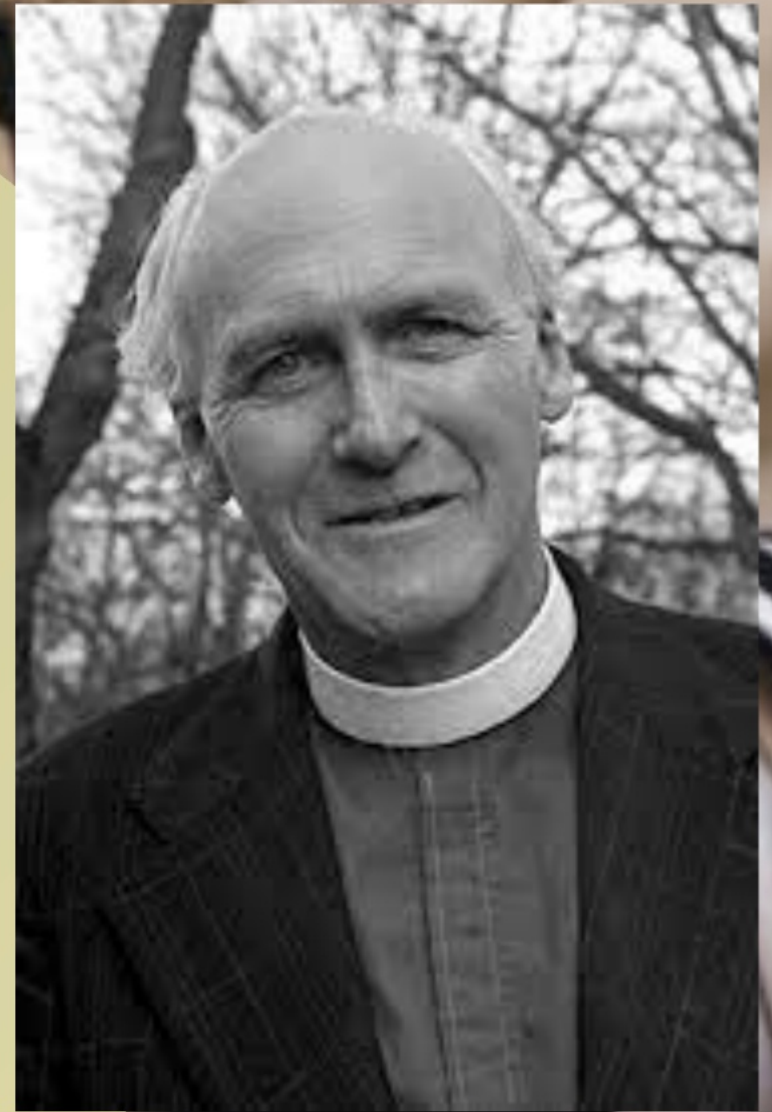
He Learned Obedience

- **5:8 He learned obedience through what he suffered.**
- Submission to his Father was nothing new for Christ.
- His heart was always united with the Father's heart.
- They were One in desire and in will.
- What was essential, however, was that Jesus follow through with complete obedience as a man.
- In this sense, he *learned obedience* through his suffering.
- In this way he shares the experience of obedience with us.

From Hugh
Montefiore

From Chuck
Smith

In the garden, Jesus “learnt that prayer can meet with an answer very different from that which is requested ... he took his obedience up to death, to the point beyond which it could be taken no further.”



Hugh Montefiore (1920 - 2005)
Anglican Archbishop,
Jewish Convert to Christianity

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Chuck Smith (1927-2013),
founding pastor of the
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Movement

[Jesus] learned obedience as He submitted His will to the will of the Father, and we, too, learn obedience when we submit our will to His. Thus, He was "perfected" or "made completely ready" to save us.

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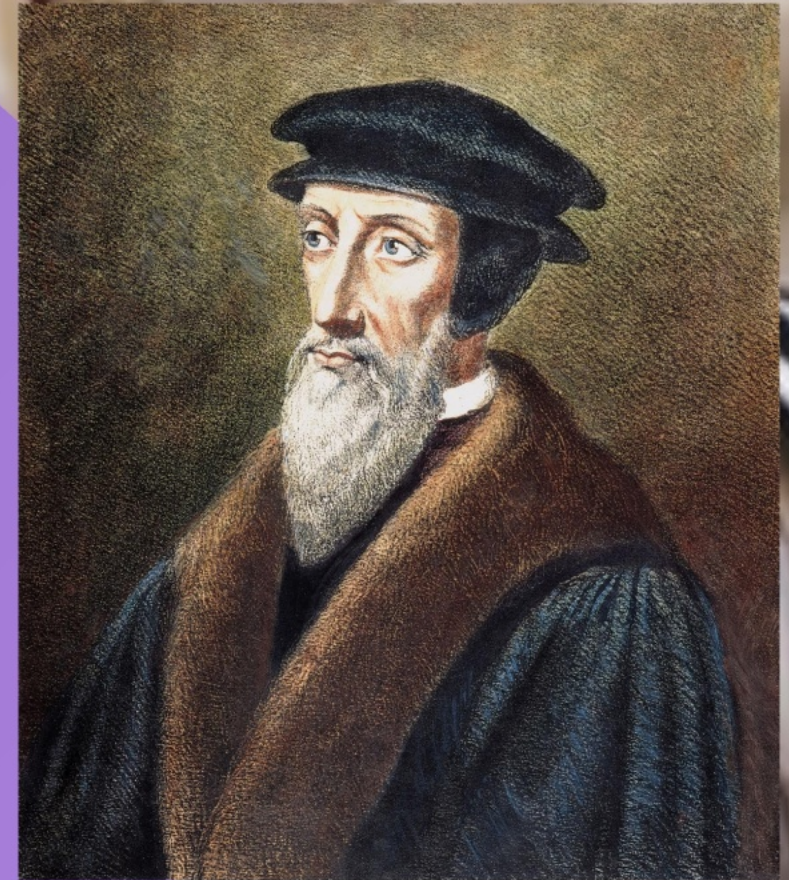
Eternal Salvation

From John
Calvin

- **5:9** **became the author of eternal salvation**
- Christ finished properly all that He had set out to do, being obedient unto death.
- His resurrection uniquely qualifies Him to serve in the role of high priest for all eternity..
- A human high priest eternally represents us in the presence of God.
- Christ is, therefore, the “source” or “active cause” of our eternal salvation.

If then we desire that Christ's obedience should be profitable to us, we must imitate him ... no one is precluded from salvation who is but teachable and becomes obedient to the Gospel of Christ.

- Not sounding especially Calvinistic, in his *Commentary on Hebrews*



John Calvin
(1509 - 1564),
French Theologian

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On to Maturity 5:11-14

- **5:11 you have become dull of hearing**
- They probably started out with greater enthusiasm for their faith.
- The rabbi's audience ought to be farther along in the Christian faith than they actually are.
- They still need **milk**. They need to keep going back over the basics or the ABCs of the Christian life.
- They should be ready for **solid food**.
- There are deeper, more satisfying, more enjoyable truths that cannot be grasped until we are ready – but more on this next week.

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- Again, a priest in the Bible is a go-between, mediator, intercessor, or a liaison – someone to stand between people and God.
- In this chapter we learned that Jesus is the perfect Man for the position of our Great High Priest.
- He is truly human. God the Father has now appointed Him to the task.
- The result, if we are *in Christ* is that we become priests along with him.

Our
Priesthood

Reverent
Submission

Key Verses

A Final
Prayer

Our Priesthood

The Priesthood of Believers

- This principle declares that it is the privilege and freedom of all believing Christians to stand before God in personal communion through Christ.
- We directly receive forgiveness without the need to go through any other human intercessors.
- We then, as priests, can learn to have compassion on those who are ignorant and wayward (as in 5:2).
- It is our privilege to intercede for the people that God places in our path.

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Reverent Submission

- Jesus showed us that it is possible to be **obedient to the point of death**.
- His prayers in **Gethsemane** show us that it is possible to submit to our Father's will even when that involves a great spiritual struggle.
- Think how perfectly these experiences prepared Jesus to identify with us when our desires or prayers are not exactly in line with God's will.
- He was willing to go the route that the Father had ordained for Him.
- Are we OK doing the same in imitation of him?

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A Final Prayer

Our Father in heaven,

- Thank you for giving us a high priest with the perfect qualifications to stand before you in our place.
- We thank you for his perfect obedience - an obedience which made the way for eternal salvation for lost sinners like ourselves.
- Please help us now, like Jesus, to walk in perfect obedience to you.
- And help us to willingly engage in the priestly ministry of intercession to all of those who you place in our paths.
- In Christ,
- Amen.

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