

Hebrews Chapter 5

- **The Priesthood of Christ (1-10)**

- 1 For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins.
- 2 He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness.
- 3 Because of this he is obligated to offer sacrifice for his own sins just as he does for those of the people.
- 4 And no one takes this honor for himself, but only when called by God, just as Aaron was.
- 5 So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”;

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- **The Priesthood of Christ (1-10)**

- 6 as he says also in another place, “You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek.”
- 7 In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence.
- 8 Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered.
- 9 And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him,
- 10 being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.

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- 5:1 For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins.
 - Exodus 28 --- Aaron was appointed; offspring of Aaron succeeded him as long as there was a tabernacle or temple in which to serve (ceased in 70 AD)
 - Jewish high priests served as an intermediary between God and the people of God.
 - Leviticus 16 --- The high priest offered the sacrifice on the day of atonement (yom kippur).
 - It is a divine appointment – chosen by God.
 - Hebrews 8:3, 9:9 --- to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins
 - Hebrews 11:4 --- gifts and sacrifices; a sacrifice offered by man, a gift accepted by God.

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- 5:2 He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness.
 - A prophet would point out sins and call for repentance.
 - A priest would sympathize with the sinner since he is also guilty.
 - Hebrews 2:18 --- because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.
 - Numbers 15:22-31 --- distinction between unintentional and willful sin.

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- 5:3 Because of this he is obligated to offer sacrifice for his own sins just as he does for those of the people.
 - Leviticus 16:6, 11 --- sacrifice for his own sins was offered before sacrifice for those of the people.
 - Hebrews 7:26-27 --- Jesus had no need to offer sacrifice for his own sins.

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- 5:4 And no one takes this honor for himself, but only when called by God, just as Aaron was.
 - Exodus 28:1 --- Aaron was appointed; he did not choose, nor was he elected; God chose him.
 - 2 Chronicles 26:16-18 --- Uzziah entered the temple intending to burn incense
 - Numbers 16 --- Korah rebelled against the leadership of Moses and priesthood of Aaron.

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- **5:1-4 Additional Notes**

- High priest was chosen from among men (5:1)
- No individual could claim this position (5:4)
- Priest's functions related to God (5:1)
- Priest's function to offer gifts and sacrifices for sin (5:1)
 - Gifts showed devotion of Israel toward God
 - Sacrifices offered as atonement for sins.
- Ignorant and wayward
 - Ignorant did not know the Law, but was no excuse.
 - Wayward were deliberately sinning.

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- 5:5 So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”;
 - Psalm 2:7
 - Hebrews 1:5 --- used to show superiority of Christ to angels; used again here as an appointment by God.
 - John 8:54 --- it is my Father who glorifies me
- **Just as Israelites could not claim the position of high priest, Jesus was appointed.**

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- 5:6 as he says also in another place, “You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek.”
 - Psalm 110:4
 - Genesis 14:17-24
 - Hebrews 7:3 --- without father or mother or genealogy
 - Melchizedek was not a Levite; Aaron had not been born yet.
 - Jesus was not a Levite; he was of the tribe of Judah.
 - John 1:1-2 --- Jesus was in the beginning with God.
 - He has a genealogy of earthly lineage, but he has no beginning or end.
 - Melchizedek was a priest before the law was given.
 - Jesus is priest of a new covenant which supersedes the law.

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- 5:7 In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence.
 - Matthew 26:36-46 --- prayed three times “let this cup pass from me”
 - Luke 22:41-44 --- sweat was like great drops of blood
 - See notes on hematidrosis in outline

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- **5:7 Additional Notes**

- Prayers, petitions, and supplications sometimes used interchangeably in scripture
- When used together:
 - Prayers indicate requests growing from a deep sense of need
 - Petitions and supplications indicate requests growing from a deep sense of helplessness.
- In Gethsemane, perhaps Jesus was asking “if there is any other way, do it that way”.
 - He was heard, but there was no other way.

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- 5:8 Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered.
 - Hebrews 2:10 --- made perfect through suffering
 - Philippians 2:8 --- he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death
 - Matthew 26:39 --- “My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.”

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- 5:9 And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him
 - Acts 4:12 --- there is salvation in no one else
 - Unlike the Levitical priests who had to atone for sin continually, Jesus salvation is eternal.
 - Notice the condition “to all who obey him”.
 - 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 ---
 - 1 Peter 4:17-18 ---
 - Romans 1:5, 16:25-26 ---
- 5:10 being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek
 - See verse 6.

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- **Warning Against Apostasy (11-14)**
- **5:11** About this we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.
 - Hard to explain probably due to the condition of the hearers, but it could be due to the profundity of the subject.
 - Next verse points toward a problem of maturity.
 - May be a temporary digression because much more is explained about Jesus as our High Priest in the next several chapters.
 - Matthew 13:15 --- barely hear (due to heart condition)
 - John 16:12 --- you cannot bear them now
 - 2 Peter 3:15-16 --- hard to understand
 - 2 Timothy 4:3-4 --- will not endure sound teaching

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- **5:11 Additional Notes**

- “dull of hearing” might also be translated as “slow to learn”.
 - Reluctant to give up attachment to Judaism?
 - Necessary to give up the Law of Moses to understand the New Covenant brought in by Christ.

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- 5:12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food,
 - Hebrews 6:1-3 --- leave the elementary doctrines
 - Repentance
 - Faith
 - Baptism
 - Laying on of hands
 - Resurrection of the dead
 - Eternal judgment
 - **Oracles of God usually refers to Old Testament writings.**
 - **Prophecies of the Messiah**
 - **Moses was told of one to whom they should listen (Deut. 18:18)**
 - 1 Corinthians 3:1-3 --- I fed you with milk, not solid food
 - Should be teaching the basic principles to others, but need to be taught again.
 - **Failure to understand the gospel message, so cannot take solid food.**

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- 5:13 for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child.
 - 1 Peter 2:2 --- long for the pure spiritual milk, but grow up into salvation
 - Ephesians 4:11-14 --- no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.
 - 1 Corinthians 14:20 --- Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature.

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- 5:14 But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.
 - ***Practice*** to distinguish good from evil.
 - 2 Peter 3:18 --- grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

Hebrews Chapter 5 (Additional Notes)

Contrasts

Ought to be teachers	Need someone to teach you
Elementary truths	Teaching about righteousness
Milk	Solid food
Infants	Mature
Not acquainted with the teaching	Distinguish good from evil