

LESSON 5

CHRIST, OUR HIGH PRIEST (PART 2)

Today, it is difficult to imagine the full power, glory, pomp, splendor, and esteem that were attached to the high priesthood in ancient Judaism. Although the Jewish people generally despised Herod, they had grudgingly come to admire his work in reconstructing the temple. The honor attributed to the high priest was connected to the prestige of the temple.

THE SUPERIORITY OF CHRIST AS HIGH PRIEST OVER AARON (4:14—5:10) (CONTINUED)

The apostles' change of view regarding the high priest was brought about not only by their having been with Jesus, but also through an empowerment by the Spirit. Having received power from the Spirit, those twelve men of Galilee quickly grew bold enough to stand before the high priest and his court to defend their new faith—a faith which embraced the truth that the Law had passed away with the cross (Acts 1:6–8; 2:1–4; 4:13). They had come to a new viewpoint regarding the Mosaic system.

1. What made the role of high priest special?
2. How does Jesus meet the two most basic characteristics of a high priest?
3. List similarities and differences between Jesus and the previous high priests.
4. What is the significance of Jesus' being chosen to be High Priest, rather than campaigning for it Himself?
5. In what order of priests does the writer of Hebrews put Jesus?
6. How long will Christ's Priesthood last?

7. How can Jesus sympathize with us, even when we think our prayers go unanswered?
8. Explain how Jesus had to learn obedience (v. 8).
9. What did the author of Hebrews mean when he wrote that Jesus was “made perfect” (v. 9)?
10. How does verse 9 contradict the theory of universal salvation?
11. Which psalm might be called the central text of the sermon of Hebrews?

**WARNING AND EXHORTATION
TO GO ON TO MATURITY (5:11—6:20)**

We have come to another exhortation in Hebrews. Beginning with 5:11 and continuing through the sixth chapter, the writer gave a third detailed application of what he had been teaching. The first and second exhortations are found in 2:1–4 and 3:7—4:16.

Because of mental laziness, the Christians addressed were unable to understand the deep thoughts the author wanted to expound to them. Therefore, before tracing with them the deeper matters of his letter, he reminded them of the importance of developing spiritual maturity. He gave them this reminder negatively in 5:11–14, pointing to the signs of their immaturity.

12. What is one way to avoid spiritual dullness?
13. What do the metaphors of “milk” and “solid food” (v. 12b) represent?