

God Spoke - and God Speaks 
A Study Through The Epistle Called ebrews

7 Consider Our High Priest

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**7.1 Why A Baby In A Manger?
Because He Is Our High Priest!**



Hebrews 4:15-16 (KJV) "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. {16} Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."

The Word of God has - thus far through the Book of Hebrews - encouraged we who believe in two ways. First, we have been shown the *superiority of Jesus Christ* over the angels and the heads of all other earthly so called *religions*. Second, we have been encouraged to *be faithful in our relationship* to Him because of that very same superiority.

IF there is only one God, and IF the only means of salvation and eternal life is through faith in the sacrifice of Christ on the Cross, THEN we have been saved when we believe on Him. However, IF there are MANY ways to Heaven, IF you can accept anything at all and get to God, IF Buddha and Allah are no different from Jesus, THEN it really doesn't matter. But it DOES matter, and God can only be reached through a relationship *by faith in Jesus Christ*. Anything else is damning!



Hebrews 4:15 (KJV) "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without

sin.



Here is a fantastic statement: **we have not an High Priest that cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities.** Previously we were shown that Jesus Christ is *greater than the angels*. Just as angels carried the Word of God from the Infinite to humanity, Jesus Christ brought the Word to us. In fact, He is the *Word made*

flesh Who dwelt among us (John 1:14). But Jesus is superior to the angels, for the angels are mere *created beings* - Jesus is eternal and infinite God. So like an angel Jesus brought us a clear picture of God, but unlike the angels Jesus is far superior.

Now we look at the second office our Lord occupied, that of High Priest. In Israel the High Priest acted as *Israel's representative before God and God's representative before Israel*. **The High Priest entered the holy of holies, a special place where God dwelt, and offered sacrifice for Israel once a year on that day they called Yom Kippur or the day of atonement.** We read the following from the *Bible Knowledge Accelerator*:

1. The High Priest entered the _____, a special place where God dwelt, and offered sacrifice for Israel once a year on that day they called *Yom Kippur* or the _____.

"We now come to the Holy of Holies, a small room 10 cubits x 10 cubits (15' x 15') separated from the Holy Place by the veil. It housed one piece of redemptive furniture, the ark of the Covenant, with its mercy seat¹. There was no created light like the sun and no artificial light but Gods own "Shekinah" glory that lit up the Holiest Place.

There was no seat for man but here Jehovah sat alone on the throne of glory and righteousness. As the high priest entered once a year, he entered with bowed head, unsandalled feet, and bells. No human voice was heard, only the voice of God."²

The veil that cut off the common person from the presence of God, a veil some say was nearly a foot thick, could not be touched by any but the High Priest³. **The High Priest was a person descended from the lineage of Aaron, of the Tribe of Levi.**

2. The High Priest was a person descended from the lineage of Aaron, of the Tribe of _____.

Our High Priest, Jesus Christ, is superior to the high priest of the line of Aaron. First, as High Priest He is both *fully Man and fully God*. The Aaronic High Priest was, like us, a sinner:

- 1 Exod 25:17-22 "You shall make a mercy seat of pure gold; two and a half cubits shall be its length and a cubit and a half its width.
- 2 http://www.bible-history.com/tabernacle/TAB4The_Holy_of_Holies.htm
- 3 Lev 16:2 and the LORD said to Moses: "Tell **Aaron** your brother not to come at just any time into the Holy Place inside the veil, before the mercy seat which is on the ark, lest he die; for I will appear in the cloud above the mercy seat."

Romans 3:23 (KJV) "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"

so *before* the Aaronic High Priest made a sacrifice, he made sacrifice *for himself first*. Jesus Christ *did not offer sacrifice for Himself*, for He is without sin. Jesus was not a sinner who made sacrifice for sinners - He is the sinless Savior Who made sacrifice for sinners *of His own Blood*.



Hebrews 4:15-16 (KJV) "For we have⁴ not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. {16} Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."

The Aaronic Priesthood *came timidly into the holy of holies*, hoping that each High Priest was *clean enough* to escape death. Jesus Christ is **yet without sin**, thus He boldly comes into the presence of God. Further, the Aaronic High Priesthood passed from father to son on

3. The Aaronic Priesthood *came timidly into the holy of holies*, hoping that each High Priest was _____ to escape death. Jesus Christ is **yet** _____, thus He boldly comes into the presence of God.

4 echo {pronounced ekh'-o}, Present Active Indicative, keep on having and holding

the death of the parent. Each High Priest was *another person* who stood before God for Israel. But Jesus Christ as Eternal God *is undying* - and the relationship you entered into with Him at the point of your salvation is *unchanging and forever*.



Hebrews 5:1-4 (KJV) "For every high priest taken from among men is ordained⁵ for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins: {2} Who can have compassion on the ignorant, and on them that are out of the way; for that he himself also is compassed with infirmity⁶. {3} And by reason hereof he ought, as for the people, so also for himself, to offer for sins. {4} And no man taketh this honor unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron."

The Bible now explains that the Aaronic high priesthood was a function *ordained of God* - it was not a *profession* that someone aspired to, but it was a position that God our Creator **ordained**⁵ or established, appointed by God.

4. The Bible now explains that the Aaronic high priesthood was a function _____ - it was not a *profession* that someone aspired to, but it was a position that God our Creator _____ or established, appointed by God.

The high priest himself was **compassed with infirmity**, or *surrounded with want of strength*⁶. The position the

5 Present Passive Indicative kathistemi {pronounced kath-is'-tay-mee}, to appoint or set over

6 astheneia {pronounced as-then'-i-ah}

high priest held was one of *grace*, not a position either earned nor deserved. He was **called of God** to this place of service, and remained in that place as long as God gracefully allowed him to remain.



Hebrews 5:5 (KJV) "So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, to day have I begotten thee."

Just as the high priest of Israel was chosen to his position by God, Jesus Christ also was chosen by the Godhead to be our High Priest. The *reluctance* that Jesus experienced in the Garden of Gethsemane was experienced to show us that God chose Him to be our High Priest. He was *sent* by the Father to do a job. *Thirty six times* in the Book of John we read that *the Father sent the Son*.

John 5:23 (KJV) "That all men should honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him."

John 5:30 (KJV) "I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me."

John 6:44 (KJV) "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day."

John 8:16 (KJV) "And yet if I judge, my judgment is true: for I am not alone, but I and the Father that sent me."

John 8:29 (KJV) "And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him."

John 8:42 (KJV) "Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me."

Jesus Christ *was sent* by God the Father to be our *propitiation*, our *sacrifice for sin*, and our *High Priest*. This is a comforting thought for He is the *only one sent of God*, and if sent of God *it is guaranteed that God will accept* what He has done!



Hebrews 5:6 (KJV) "As he saith also in another place, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec."

Here we see a reference to *another place* - the writer refers to

Psalms 110:4 (KJV) "The LORD hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek."

Jesus Christ is a High Priest *after the order of Melchizedek*, not after the line of Aaron. Why is this important, and who was Melchizedek? Let's answer these

questions in order.

7.2 Who Was Melchizedek?

Who was this mysterious person *Melchizedek* or *Melchizedec*? Though he is mentioned *nine times* in Hebrews (5:6; 5:10; 6:20; 7:1; 7:10-11; 7:15; 7:17; 7:21) he is only mentioned *only twice* in other Scripture: in Psalm 110:4 and in

Genesis 14:18-20 (KJV) "And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God. {19} And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: {20} And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all."

In the Hebrew Melchizedek⁷ means *my King is Sedek* or *My King is Righteousness*. **Easton's Bible Dictionary** makes the statement:

King of righteousness, the king of Salem (q.v.). All we know of him is recorded in [Gen 14:18-20](#). He is subsequently mentioned only once in the Old Testament, in [Psa 110:4](#). The typical significance of his history is set forth in detail in the Epistle to the Hebrews, Heb. 7. The apostle there points out the superiority of his priesthood to that of Aaron in these several respects,

- (1.) Even Abraham paid him tithes;**
- (2.) he blessed Abraham;**
- (3.) he is the type of a Priest who lives for ever;**
- (4.) Levi, yet unborn, paid him tithes in the person of Abraham;**

⁷ Malkiy-Tsedeq {pronounced mal-kee-tseh'-dek } in the Hebrew, or Melchisedek {pronounced mel-khis-ed-ek'} in the Greek

- (5.) the permanence of his priesthood in Christ implied the abrogation of the Levitical system;**
- (6.) he was made priest not without an oath; and**
- (7.) his priesthood can neither be transmitted nor interrupted by death: "this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood."**

The question as to who this mysterious personage was has given rise to a great deal of modern speculation. It is an old tradition among the Jews that he was Shem, the son of Noah, who may have survived to this time. Melchizedek was a Canaanitish prince, a worshipper of the true God, and in his peculiar history and character an instructive type of our Lord, the great High Priest ([Heb 5:6](#), [Heb 5:7](#); [Heb 6:20](#)). One of the Amarna tablets is from Ebed-Tob, king of Jerusalem, the successor of Melchizedek, in which he claims the very attributes and dignity given to Melchizedek in the Epistle to the Hebrews.

In the end, truthfully, we know little about this priesthood - however, we know that it was *important* that Jesus followed the *priesthood of Melchizedek* and not the *priesthood of Aaron*.

7.2 Why Is "After The Order of Melchizedek" Important?

If our Lord has descended from the Tribe of Levi *and not the Tribe of Judah* - King David's Tribe - then He *could not* be the fulfillment of the Davidic Covenant.

5. If our Lord has descended from the Tribe of _____ *and not the Tribe of Judah* - King David's Tribe - then He *could not* be the fulfillment of the _____.

God promised King David:

2 Samuel 7:12-13, 16 (KJV) "And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. {13} He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever. ... {16} "And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever."

With this promise - this gracious covenant - God established the Throne of David as an *eternal kingship* forever. **No mortal man could set on an eternal throne - so how would God fulfill this promise? God Himself would have to sit on this eternal Throne.** Jesus Christ came, taking on humanity, so He could be that eternal King that God promised David. His coming was *prophesied* in Isaiah:

6. No mortal man could set on an eternal throne - so how would God fulfill this promise? _____
would have to sit on this eternal Throne.

Isaiah 9:6-7 (KJV) "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. {7} Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD

of hosts will perform this."

Luke 1:30-33 (KJV) "And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favor with God. {31} And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. {32} He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: {33} And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end."

Luke 2:10-11 (KJV) "And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. {11} For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

Jesus Christ was born of a Virgin, but His lineage is traced through both Joseph as well as Mary all the way back to King David. So in His deity Jesus Christ is fully God, but in His humanity He is of the Tribe of Judah - the line of David (see **Matthew 1:5-16; Luke 3:23-32**).

If Jesus Christ *were of the line of Aaron, of the Levites*, then He would not have fulfilled the Davidic Covenant. Jesus Christ is a High Priest *after the order of Melchizedek* - a priesthood that *predated* the priesthood of Aaron and *predated* the system of the Mosaic Law. The priesthood under Melchizedek was a priesthood of *Grace not of Law!*

7.3 The Doctrine Of The Impeccability of Christ



Hebrews 5:7-10 (KJV) "Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared; {8} Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things

which he suffered; {9} And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him; {10} Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec."

1 Jesus Christ has been and will always be Eternal God. He came and *took on* flesh, becoming fully but *sinless* Man Who lived among us and then died to pay the penalty for our sins.

Philippians 2:5-8 (KJV) "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: {6} Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: {7} But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: {8} And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."

2 Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ suffered as we do and was tempted as we are - yet at no point did He ever succumb to sin. He remained sinless so He could be offered to God on the Cross, making payment for our

sins:

2 Corinthians 5:20-21 (KJV) "Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. {21} For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."

Hebrews 4:15 (KJV) "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin."

3 Jesus Christ is both *fully God* as well as *fully Man*. He has *always* been fully God, and exists co-equal and co-eternal with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ *became* Man when He was born of a Virgin.

John 1:1 (KJV) "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

Romans 1:2-5 (KJV) "(Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,) {3} Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; {4} And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead: {5} By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name:"

Romans 9:5 (KJV) "Whose are the fathers, and of

whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen."

1 Timothy 3:16 (KJV) "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory."

4 Jesus Christ must be *fully God and fully Man* for our sakes:

4a To be our Savior:

Philippians 2:7-8 (KJV) "But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: {8} And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."

Hebrews 2:14-16 (KJV) "Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; {15} And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. {16} For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham."

4b To be our Mediator before God:

Job 9:32-33 (KJV) "For he is not a man, as I am, that I should answer him, and we should come together in judgment. {33} Neither is there any daysman betwixt us, that might lay his hand upon us both."

1 Timothy 2:5-6 (KJV) "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; {6} Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time."

4c To be our High Priest:

Hebrews 10:5-10 (KJV) "Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me: {6} In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure. {7} Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God. {8} Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law; {9} Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second. {10} By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."

4d To be both our and Israel's Eternal King:

Psalms 89:29 (KJV) "His seed also will I make to endure for ever, and his throne as the days of heaven."

5 In His humanity Jesus Christ was tempted in all points as we are tempted, but without sin. He did not sin - nor could He - for He is perfect, born without Old Sin Nature.

1 John 3:5 (KJV) "And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin."

6 Jesus Christ, the Sinless God/ Man, is the Author of our Salvation, the Finisher of our Salvation, the Sacrifice for our Salvation, the High Priest and Advocate of our Salvation. Because He lives, we live - if we believe in Him!

7 Every Church Age believer is a priest before God, because Christ is both our High Priest as well as our Sacrifice for sin:

Revelation 1:5-6 (KJV) "And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, {6} And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen."

1 Peter 2:9-10 (KJV) "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a

peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light: {10} Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy."

Rock Hill Baptist Church is located between Parsons and Lexington, Tennessee, on Highway 412. Look for our sign! We have services on Wednesdays (Adult, Youth,

and children's Bible studies) at 7:00 PM, Sundays at 10:00 AM and 6:00 PM. Rock Hill is a family oriented Bible believing Church - Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever! Our Pastor, Brother David Buffaloe, will

answer any questions you have about our Church if you contact him at 731-845-6104, or through his website at bibleteacher.org; or e-mail him by writing webmaster@bibleteacher.org. Rock Hill is an independent Church affiliated with the Tennessee Baptist Convention, the Southern Baptist Convention, and is a regular contributor to missions through the Cooperative Program.

