

TEXT- Hebrews 5:1-14

INTRO- In the **first two chapters**, Christ is seen as greater than the **prophets and the angels**; in **chapters 3-4**, he has shown that Christ is even **greater than Moses**. Now he points to **Aaron, Israel's first high priest**, and proves that **Christ is a greater priest than Aaron**. To abandon Christ for Judaism, they would be exchanging a great High Priest for a lesser high priest.

- Overseeing the responsibilities of all the subordinate priests
- Only the high priest could wear the Urim and the Thummin - the Jews would go to him in order to know the will of God **Numbers 27:21**
- The high priest had to offer a sin offering not only for the sins of the whole congregation, but also for himself Leviticus 4:3-21.
- When a high priest died, those in the cities of refuge for accidentally were granted freedom **Numbers 35:28**.
- Conduct the service on the Day of Atonement

According to tradition, 18 high priests served in Solomon's Temple (c. 960–586 BC) and 60 in the Second Temple (516 BC–AD 70). Since that time, there has been no Jewish high priest, for national sacrifice was permanently interrupted with the destruction of the Second Temple. Christ is superior to Aaron in at least three ways.

I. Christ Has a Greater Ordination Heb. 5:1, Heb. 5:4-6

- Aaron was taken from among men and elevated to high priest.
- He passed this honor along to his eldest son, and thus the line continued.
- Aaron belonged to the tribe of Levi; this tribe was set aside to be the priestly tribe for the nation of Israel.

But Christ's ordination was greater.

- He is not merely man; He is God in the flesh, Son of God - Son of Man.
- He did not selfishly take this honor of the priesthood for Himself.

The sons of Korah tried to do this (Num_16:1-50) and died for their sin.

- God Himself ordained His Son.

Psa 110:4 *The LORD hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.*

Psa 2:7 *I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.*

Heb. 5:5 *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.*

Acts 13:33 *God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that he hath raised up Jesus again; as it is also written in the second psalm, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee.*

Christ will never die — His priesthood is forever. Aaron was priest over an earthly household, while Christ is Priest over a heavenly people.

4:14-16 ...He has a better position than Aaron

5:1-10 ...He has better qualifications than Aaron

7:1-28 ...He comes from a better order; not a Levite, but that of Melchizedek

8:1-13 ...He offers a better covenant

9:1-10 ...He offers from a better sanctuary

9:11-10:18 ...He offers a better sacrifice

II. Christ Has a Greater Compassion Heb. 5:2-3, Heb. 5:7-8

Not only must the high priest be chosen of God; he must also be sympathetic with the people and be able to help them.

- Christ is better able to enter into the needs of God's people.

Heb. 5:7-8 *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;*

As God, Christ needed nothing; but as the Man who would one day become High Priest, it was necessary for Him to experience trials and suffering.

God was preparing His Son to be the sympathetic High Priest of His people.

Heb. 5:7 *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;*

Refers to His prayers in Gethsemane **Mat 26:36-46**.

Christ was willing and ready to face the cross and to drink of the cup God had poured for Him **John 12:23-34**.

Christ was tested to the fullest, tasting every temptation men and Satan had to offer. This means that He went beyond anything any mortal man could endure.

A bridge that has endured fifty tons of weight has experienced more testing than one that has felt but two tons.

III. Christ Offered a Greater Sacrifice Heb. 5:3, Heb. 5:9-14

- **Aaron's main ministry was to offer sacrifices for the nation, especially on the Day of Atonement Lev. 16:1-34**
- The priests and Levites would minister to the people during the year, but everyone looked to the high priest on the Day of Atonement, for he alone could enter into the holiest with blood.
- Being the sinless Lamb of God, He needed no sacrifices for sin.
- He did not have to repeat this sacrifice; He needed to offer but once.

Heb. 5:9 *And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;*

The blood of bulls and goats only covered sins;

Christ's blood took away sin once and for all.

He wanted to go from milk (the basic things of the Christian life, listed in

Heb. 6:1-2 to meat (the heavenly priesthood of Christ);

Heb. 5:11-14 *Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing. 12 For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. 13 For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. 14 But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.*

These people had been saved long enough for them to be teaching others, yet they had lapsed into a spiritual "second childhood."

Heb. 5:13 *For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.*

Our relationship to the Word of God determines our spiritual maturity.

These people had drifted from the Word Heb. 2:1-3,

Doubted the Word chaps. 3-4,

Dull toward the Word.

They had not mixed the Word with faith Heb. 4:2

They had not "exercised their spiritual senses" **Heb. 5:14**

Therefore they were growing dull and ineffective in their spiritual lives.

Instead of going forward **Heb. 6:1**, they were going backward.

Growing in grace depends on growing in knowledge

2 Pet. 3:18 *But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.*

CONCL – The more we know about ourselves and Christ, the better we are able to move forward spiritually.

- **Where are you in your spiritual growth?**
- **Are you a babe, still living on milk, wandering in the wilderness of unbelief?**
- **Or are you maturing, feeding on the meat of the Word and making it a habit to practice the Word of God?**