

# The Gospel of Zechariah

Hebrews 4:14-5:10





# Redemptive History





# Darius: Chronology of the Persian Period<sup>1</sup>

Persian King	Dates	Biblical Correlation	Context
Cyrus	539-530	<b>Declaration of Cyrus</b> (539) Return of Zerubbabel and Jeshua (Ezra 1-3)	Stirred up to rebuild the temple
Cambyses	530-522	Rebuilding at Jerusalem stopped (Ezra 4)	Discouraged and afraid to rebuild
<b>Darius I</b>	522-486	Haggai and Zechariah prophesy (520) Temple completed (516) (Ezra 5-6)	Rebuilding of the Temple begins again
Xerxes	486-464	Story of Esther (Esther 1-9)	
Artaxerxes I	464-423	Return of Ezra (458) (Ezra 7-10) Return of Nehemiah (445) (Nehemiah 1-2) Prophecy of Malachi (433)	



# Hebrews 4:14-5:10 (ESV)

**4:14** 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.

**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. **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”;

**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.



# great high priest

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. (Hebrews 4:14 ESV)

- high priest
  - reference to high priest previously in Hebrews
  - author now expounds about that doctrine
- great
  - not ordinary high priest
  - high priest in Zechariah 3 → the great priest ( לַדָּבָר )
  - chief priest in Hebrews 4
  - “great” chief priest
  - “great, great” priest - greater than the Aaronic priesthood
- how?
  - passed through the heavens
  - aaronic priesthood passed through the temple courts and to the earthly holy of holies
  - Jesus passed through the heavenly courts and to the throne of God, the Father
- hold fast our confession
  - reference to Hebrews 3 - not fail to believe as those who rebelled in the desert
  - trust in the work of the great high priest



# sympathize

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. (Hebrews 4:15 ESV)

- perfect high priest
  - incarnation - made human and is human
  - sympathize with human mortality and temptations of the world and the devil
  - experienced human suffering - the garden
- tempted
  - more than his time in the wilderness
  - tempted throughout his life
- without sin
  - critical difference
  - never sinned and perfect obedience to the father
  - glorified the Father and enjoyed him forever
  - unlike Joshua in Zechariah 3, Jesus did not need to be made holy
  - worthy to pass through the heavenly temple and make atonement
  - worthy to intercede on our behalf
  - Revelation 1 - among the lampstands - priestly office



# throne of grace

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. (Hebrews 4:16 ESV)

- throne of grace
  - heavenly - God's throne
  - earthly - the holy of holies
  - not worthy to approach
- draw near
  - with confidence - worthy through the great high priest
  - approach our Father in prayer and confession
  - receive mercy - forgiveness in repentance
  - find grace - forgiveness and blessing
- need
  - we can approach our Father at any time and be heard
  - receive what we need
  - veil torn in two
  - access granted



# among men

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.(Hebrews 5:1 ESV)

- from among men
  - ordinary human being
- chosen, appointed
  - godly role
- behalf of men
  - earthly mediator
  - rightfully appointed
- offer gifts and sacrifices
  - different types of sacrifices - whole range of priestly sacrifices
  - all because of sinful man's relationship with a holy God



# weakness

He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. (Hebrews 5:2 ESV)

- can deal gently
  - priesthood had faltered
  - but meant to deal gently with
    - ignorant - those who lack understanding
    - wayward - deviated from the righteous path
- beset with weakness
  - deal gently because he too is weak with sin
  - reflected in the NT of elder - deal with others as we have been dealt with by Christ



# own sins

- obligated
  - for his own sins - also requires redemption
- people
  - also on behalf of the people
  - rightful role but limited by his own sin
  - temporary

Because of this he is obligated to offer sacrifice for his own sins just as he does for those of the people. (Hebrews 5:3 ESV)

And no one takes this honor for himself,  
but only when called by God, just as  
Aaron was. (Hebrews 5:4 ESV)



## as Aaron was

- takes this honor for himself
  - it is a calling from God
- as Aaron was
  - points back to aaronic line
  - Aaron and his line called by God
- called by God
  - not focus on Aaronic line
  - but focus on the calling



# appointed

So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, (Hebrews 5:5a ESV)

- Christ
  - points to the messianic title - a unique office only fulfilled by one
- did not exalt
  - though Christ was worthy in his own righteousness ..
- appointed
  - by the Father
- addressing question
  - how was Christ a high priest if we wasn't a descendant of Aaron
- answer
  - there is a greater priesthood - he is the "Great High Priest"

“You are my Son, today I have begotten you”; (Hebrews 5:5b ESV)



# begotten

- from Psalm 2:7
- Psalm regarding the davidic line
  - unique relationship of Yahweh to the king
- points to the greater Son
  - Christ Jesus
- begotten
  - unique and eternal relationship between the father and the son
  - office of the great high priest tied to this relationship between the Father and the Son



# order of Melchizedek

as he says also in another place, “You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek.” (Hebrews 5:6 ESV)

- Psalm 110:4
  - kingly and priestly references
  - priest forever
    - high priest ended with death
- Melchizedek (Genesis 14)
  - king of Salem (future home of Jerusalem)
  - priest of the most high God
  - blessed Abraham
  - Abraham tithed to him
  - point to Christ (pre-incarnate Christ)
  - an order older than the priestly line through Aaron



# prayers and supplications

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. (Hebrews 5:7 ESV)

- offered up
  - prayers and supplications - through his ministry, the garden, on the cross
  - point to his priestly work in his life, death, resurrection, and ascension on behalf of his people
- loud cries and tears
  - with great compassion for his people
  - intercession of the most powerful kind
- save him from death
  - power of God to save from death
  - resurrection
  - point to our own salvation
- reverence
  - the true, worthy high priest
  - without sin

Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered.  
(Hebrews 5:8 ESV)



# learned obedience

- a son
  - he was and is the Son of God
  - eternal reality
- learned obedience
  - deep mystery
  - suffered in his human nature
  - fully obedient in his human nature
  - on our behalf

And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, (Hebrews 5:9 ESV)



# made perfect

- made perfect
  - context is his role as the great high priest
  - in his life, death, resurrection, and ascension - became the perfect high priest on our behalf
- eternal salvation
  - union with Christ
  - in him, we are made perfect and worthy before the Father
- all who obey him
  - his covenant people
  - identified by their obedience to him

being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek. (Hebrews 5:10 ESV)



# designated

- designated as high priest
  - appointed by the Father
  - rightfully, the great high priest
- order of Melchizedek
  - a greater priesthood than Aaron
  - priest and king
- more information
  - Hebrews 7
- no more fitting end to Zechariah
  - perfect priesthood of Christ continually interceding on our behalf (Romans 8:34)
    - Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. (Romans 8:34 ESV)