

Christ's Perfect Qualifications as High Priest

Sermon 13 in the Hebrews Series

Heb. 5:1-10

I. Qualifications for the High Priest 5:1-4

A. He must be a Man

An angel could not do the job.

It had to be a man – a priest must be one with those he represents.

That is why the incarnation was necessary.

B. He must have Compassionate Understanding 2-3

Who is it that is ignorant and in need?

The people for whom the High Priest intercedes – the people of God.

He can relate and intercede because he understands.

He himself is weak.

Lit. in the Greek – “*Clad with weakness*”.

He offers up the offerings for sin, for himself first, because he is a sinner and his very presence defiles the Most Holy place.

C. He must be Called by God -- 4

II. The Old Testament Day of Atonement – Leviticus 16

An Orthodox Rabbi David Rosen writes, “Judaism does not accept the idea of vicarious atonement. We can only atone for our own sins and are responsible for our own actions.”

Credit to Ligon Duncan and his outline of Leviticus 16.

A. Introduction 1-2

The text says “inside the veil, before the Mercy Seat” – this is the Holy of Holies. Aaron’s sons Nadab and Abihu – offered “unauthorized” fire in their censures – and fire came from God to consume them.

B. The Animals and the Clothing Specified 3-5

C. Atonement for Aaron Himself and the Scapegoat 6-10

More Detail is given in v. 11-22

D. The Cleansing Rituals for the Priest and the one leading the Scapegoat into the Wilderness 23-28.

F. A Perpetual Statute 29-34

The Day of Atonement was to remove guilt. But as we will see in Hebrews 9 and 10 – it was only temporary until the true atonement would be made.

When guilt has been removed, permanently, and fulfilled through Christ, there is no longer the need for the ritual to be observed once a year – on the Day of Atonement, or what is known as Yom Kippur.

III. Christ's Qualifications as High Priest 5-10

A. He was a Man v. 5

If He were not a real man, He could not be our great High Priest and He could not make atonement for our sins.

See 2:14-18

B. He was Appointed by God for this Office v. 6, 10

C. In the Days of His flesh v. 7-9

Calvin "*Scripture informs us that he began to be afraid and sore amazed.*"

It would be easy to think that Jesus – knowing the end from the beginning would not really fear, because He knew that He would ultimately prevail.

The trial was real , because He was the real sin-bearer.

Calvin, "*His soul was heavy and sorrowful unto death. He was in agony and afterwards cried out, "My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?" under a sense of divine desertion... whatever was due to us, from the justice of God and the sentence of the law, that He underwent and suffered.*"

1. To be "*heard*" in Scripture means God has taken note of our request.
2. He *learned obedience* does not mean He went from disobedience to obedience.
3. *Having been perfected* does not mean that he had any impurities that needed to be removed.

D. He can Identify with us and He has Compassionate Sympathy