

# Lesson 4

## The Great High Priest

Hebrews 4:14-5:10

As our Great High Priest, Jesus has opened the way for us into the Presence of the Lord. As you open the Word of God today, ask the Lord to usher you into His Presence and reveal Himself to you as High Priest.

Read Hebrews 4:14-5:10.

### The Levitical Priesthood

Remember, the author of Hebrews was writing to Jews, who would have already known all about Aaron and the priesthood. We may not have this knowledge, so we need to do some digging to better understand.

Skim Exodus 28-29 and Leviticus 8 to learn about the role of the high priest.

1. Who appointed Aaron as high priest (see Hebrews 5:4 and Exodus 28:1)?
  
2. See Numbers 3:9-13. From which of the twelve tribes of Israel were the priests required to come? Read Exodus 13:2 and Numbers 3:12-13. What did this tribe represent to God?

Hebrews 4:14-16 first introduces Jesus as our great high priest. We will return to these verses at the end of this lesson, but first we are going to look at Hebrews 5:1-10, which will give us more insight into Jesus' priesthood.

3. Focus on Hebrews 5:1-4.
  - ❖ On whose behalf was the high priest appointed? (v. 1)
  
  - ❖ What were the roles of the high priest? (v. 1)

*“Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”*

*Hebrews 4:16*

- ❖ What was the benefit of having a human priest? (v. 2)
- ❖ Who appointed the high priest? (v. 4)

Jesus perfectly satisfies all of the requirements to be appointed a high priest.

**Jesus is appointed by \_\_\_\_\_**

4. According to Hebrews 5:5-6, who appointed Jesus as a high priest? Fill in your answer in the blank of the above heading.
5. Read the genealogy of Jesus in Matthew 1, focusing especially on verses 2-3. From what tribe did Jesus come? (See also Revelation 5:5.)
6. Since Jesus was not of the tribe that the priests came from, according to what order was He appointed high priest (Hebrews 5:6)?
7. We will study Melchizedek in more detail in Lesson 6, but read about him now in Genesis 14:18-20. How is he described?

**Jesus is able to sympathize with men**

8. How do you see Jesus' humanity in Hebrews 5:7-8?
9. Look back at Hebrews 4:15, why else is Jesus able to sympathize with us?
10. Can you think of specific times in Jesus' life that His humanity was especially evident? Scan Matthew 26:36-46 for one example.

**Jesus offered the perfect sacrifice**

11. In Hebrews 5:9, what does Jesus become to all who obey Him? What is the relationship between love and obedience according to Jesus in John 14:15 and 23-24?

12. Read the definition in the margin of the Greek word that is translated “made perfect” in Hebrews 5:9. Also read Philippians 2:5-8. What do you think the author of Hebrews meant when he said that Jesus was “made perfect”?

*teleioō*

- ❖ to make perfect, complete
  - a. to carry through completely, to accomplish, finish, bring to an end
- ❖ to complete (perfect)
  - a. add what is yet wanting in order to render a thing full
  - b. to be found perfect
- ❖ to bring to the end (goal) proposed
- ❖ to accomplish
  - ❖ bring to a close or fulfillment by event

13. For whom did the human high priests have to offer sacrifices (Hebrews 5:2-3)? Did Jesus have to offer a sacrifice for His own sins (Hebrews 7:26-28)? Why not? See also 2 Corinthians 5:21.

14. According to Isaiah 53:10, what kind of offering did Jesus become?

15. In Leviticus 14:12, what does the Lord accept as a guilt offering (your translation may also read “sin offering” or “offering for sin”)?

(Blue Letter Bible. "Dictionary and Word Search for *teleioō* (Strong's 5048)".)

16. How is Jesus described in John 1:29? What does this teach you about Jesus' offering?

**Draw Near to God**

Under the Law, the Israelites needed a holy building for the priests to obediently carry out the rituals of worship and sacrifices. When He gave the Law, God also gave Moses the pattern for a portable Tabernacle that the Israelites could move with them as they lived in the Wilderness. During the reign of King Solomon (after the Israelites had conquered the Promised Land and dwelt there for many years), the Temple was built in Jerusalem according to the instructions God gave to David (1 Chronicles 28:11-19). The Temple was much more elaborate and was much larger than the Tabernacle, but it served the same purpose. The layout of the Holy Place and the

Holy of Holies in the Temple was very similar to their layout in the Tabernacle. You can find more information about the pattern of the Tabernacle in Appendix II.

17. Read Mark 15:37-38. What happened in the Temple when Jesus died?
  
18. Exodus 26:33-34 describes this veil or curtain (in the Tabernacle) that is mentioned after the crucifixion of Jesus.
  - ❖ What did the veil separate?
  
  - ❖ What was in the Holy of Holies (also called the “Most Holy Place”)?
  
19. What did God do from above the mercy seat (or *atonement cover* in some translations) according to Exodus 25:22?
  
20. Scan Leviticus 16, focusing especially on verses 1-2 and 29-34. Also see Hebrews 9:6-7.
  - ❖ How often could the high priest enter the Holy of Holies?
  
  - ❖ What did the priest accomplish in the Holy of Holies?
  
21. Reflect again on the torn veil that we see in Mark 15 after Jesus’ death. What do you think the significance of it is?

Now that we have a better understanding of all that it means that Jesus is our High Priest, return to Hebrews 4:14-16.

22. Why are we able to “draw near with confidence to the throne of grace” (Hebrews 4:16)?
  
23. What do we find when we approach God?

24. What does God promise in James 4:8a?

**Prepare for Life Question:**

Under the Old Testament Law, access to God's holy presence was limited. Only the high priest could enter the Holy of Holies, and even he could only enter once a year. Jesus, our High Priest, entered into the Holy of Holies as the perfect sacrifice – the Lamb of God, and He took away the sins of the world. The veil that barred access to the Holy of Holies was torn in two from top to bottom, and Jesus' torn flesh serves as an open invitation for all to enter into God's Presence through the perfect and atoning sacrifice of God's Son.

25. Spend some time now drawing near to the Lord. There is room to write a prayer below if you would like. You may also want to spend some time in silent prayer or listen to worship music or go sit outside enjoying His presence. Set aside at least five to ten minutes sometime this week and draw near to your God.

**Lecture Notes:**  
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