

Hebrews 5, 1-10, What Jesus Does for the Believer

2.10.19

Now as you are finding your way to Hebrews 5 I want to describe to you again the purpose of the book of Hebrews. The design of the book of Hebrews is very simple, it is to present the superiority of Christianity over Judaism. Hebrews was written to a group of Jewish believers outside the area of Jerusalem to show them that they had made the right choice in receiving Jesus Christ, for in fact Judaism was being replaced by Christianity. And thus, throughout the book of Hebrews, the Apostle Paul offers encouragement to believing Hebrews, formerly Jews...encouraging them to keep pressing on AND he offers warnings to unbelieving Jews who continue to reject Christ at their peril.

And here, church family, is the issue for those who were still on the fence...the issue for these fence-sitters was "if they went with Christianity...who was going to be their priest." Because you see, They had always had a priest to be their mediator. They wanted a High Priest... Like this guy...



Who was going to be their mediator? Who would go before God on their behalf? It seems many of these Hebrews were saying, "Hey...your religion is actually deficient in the most vital area. You don't have a High Priest. So how are the sins of the people going to be pardoned when there is no one to offer sacrifices and no one to intercede? You have NO HIGH PRIEST!!!"

And yet, we know who the High Priest is, don't we? We saw this last week...the One who sympathizes with our weaknesses and has been tempted in all ways like we have and is yet without sin? Who is our Faithful High Priest, who shed His own blood for us? This man...the GOD/MAN!



Jesus Christ, the One who came to earth from heaven to pay our sin debt so that we could come to God, the Father.

- **HE** is our GREAT high priest.

- **HE** is the only One who can go between God and humanity and bring us together. Why?
 - **Because HE** is the only One who did this



- :
 - Conquered death! He got up from the dead showing His power over Death, Hell and the Grave as the Great HIGH PRIEST!

And this brings us to chapter 5...which just happens to be the largest single theme of this fascinating book...that theme: that Jesus Christ is the greatest High Priest of any priest that has ever existed or ever will exist, because He is not only man...but God...and we'll see this theme all the way through chapter 10.

Hebrews 5:1-10

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.

Church Family, let me explain something once again that's critically vital and very important when it comes to God's plan to save us from our sin



When Adam and Eve blew it in the Garden of Eden and they chose to disobey God, they set in motion death and a curse on humanity that we all deal with...because we are all born as sinners...into this curse. Therefore, because of sin God **covered** the first sin by sacrificing an innocent animal's life to **cover** the nakedness of Adam and Eve, and thereby **covering** their sin.

This act of God...sacrificing that first animal is His design for dealing with sin... Remember...

Hebrews 9:22b

...without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

But, here's the problem, CHURCH family. The death of animals and their blood only "COVERS" sin! It can't "CLEANSE" it! Did you hear that? It's like this rug covering a place on the floor I've damaged. I've just covered it up. I've not fixed. You see, the death of animals only COVERED SIN...but, their blood could never fix sin...CLEANSE sin. So, what do we do? Are we left hopeless? No, not at all. It reminds me of the old song from yesteryear and the question it asks. See the screens:

***What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus***

***Oh, precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow
No other fount I know
Nothing but the blood of Jesus***

Only the blood of a human being could CLEANSE the sin of another human being! That's God's design. Listen carefully, this is critical...Jesus Christ in one act on Calvary 2,000 years ago...at that single point in history accomplished what thousands upon thousands of sacrifices into the millions of sacrifices by multitudes and multitudes of priests could never accomplish. What was that act...This was the sacrifice that would cleanse sin...



Jesus' death on the cross opened the way for us to be able to get to God PERMANENTLY so that any human, at any time, by faith in JESUS might enter into God's presence...coming boldly to HIS THRONE of grace. Remember this from last week...

Hebrews 4:16

¹⁶Let 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.

Aren't you glad Jesus paid your sin debt! I am! I'm so thankful-what Jesus did for me! So, you see...Church family, there is no longer a need for priests. And what is more...that's why the Roman Catholics have it wrong...you don't need a priest to go to God...you don't need a Pope...you don't need a little booth with a screen in between...you just need Jesus...because He is the final and ultimate High Priest. He is our living mediator and He is the only priest needed.

So how did we get to this point...the abolition of the priesthood? Well, that's Hebrews 5...It's an explanation of how we moved from an earthly High Priest, to a Heavenly One... So, (since we're not Jews)... we might...yet again...need to do a little work to make sure we understand the Priestly system God instituted in the Old Testament that was fulfilled by Jesus in the New Covenant...by His own blood.

Now...Do you know who the first priest was? You might say, Aaron, Moses' brother, but that wouldn't be true. It was a man named Melchizedek. And that's where Paul explains to these Hebrews how Jesus could be the ultimate High Priest.

You see according to the Mosaic law, you could only be High Priest, if you born into the family line of Aaron...and that line would ultimately run all the way back to the tribe of Levi, one of Jacob's sons. But, remember, Jesus wasn't from the tribe of Levi. He was from the tribe of Judah. Matthew 1 and Luke chapter 3 chronicle this fact. So, for the Hebrews...they were puzzled and had to have an explanation as to why Jesus could be considered the ultimate High Priest, and yet not be from the line of Aaron and tribe of Levi. **Look at verse 4.**

Hebrews 5:4-6

⁴And no one takes this honor for himself, but only when called by God, just as Aaron was. ⁵So 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"; ⁶as he says also in another place, "You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek."

Again, what we just read were direct quotes from Psalm 2:7 and 110:4. Both of which are Messianic Psalms, pointing to Jesus...the One who is the Messiah...the Promised One who would deliver us from our sin and they point back...not to Aaron but to a man named Melchizedek. See verse 10...

Hebrews 5:10

¹⁰being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.

Now, we'll go into great detail in Hebrews 7 about this man...but, for now...let me tell you who Melchizedek was. According to Genesis 14, (and you see how far back that goes...all the way back to Genesis 14)...he was a King AND a Priest who lived during the days of Abraham. **He was from the town of Salem.** What is Salem? It's current day Jerusalem. But, think with me...Melchizedek preceded (came before Aaron...before the Mosaic Law). **Take a look at this chart...** The Jews said that Jesus wasn't in the line of Aaron...that's right, He wasn't...

Melchizedek
(lived at the same time as Abraham)



- 1) Asher
- 2) Benjamin
- 3) Dan
- 4) Gad
- 5) Issachar
- 6) Joseph
Ephraim (son of Joseph)
Manasseh (son of Joseph)
- 7) Judah → David → Jesus
- 8) Levi → Aaron → Priests
- 9) Naphtali
- 10) Reuben
- 11) Simeon
- 12) Zebulun

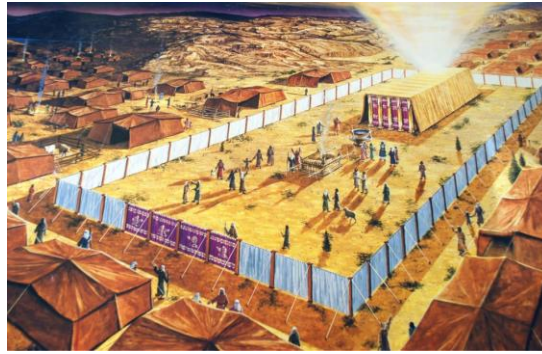
Yes, Aaron came from the line and tribe of Levi, while Jesus came from the line and tribe of Judah. So, how can this work? Jesus is in the wrong line, right? No! No, He's not. Jesus was more than JUST a priest...He was also the King of Kings... Melchizedek was the High Priest and the King of Salem.

You see, according to Genesis 14, Abraham brought tithes to Melchizedek...indicating that Melchizedek was the High Priest and could receive that offering to God from Abraham. And the Bible says Abraham literally bowed before this King/Priest and Melchizedek actually "blessed" Abraham. Again, we'll get into much more detail about this in a few weeks. **But, here's the point Paul is making**...Jesus is not from the line of Aaron...but, from the line of Melchizedek. Melchizedek was a king and a priest, and so was Jesus. See this chart...

Two Types of Priesthood	
Aaron	Melchizedek
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Temporary• Earthy• Sinful• Under Law	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eternal• Heavenly• Righteous• Not Under Law

This is why Jesus is a superior High Priest... He falls in the line of Melchizedek, NOT Aaron! But, you might still be scratching your head a bit and wondering, "Pastor Kevin...I'm not sure I'm clear on this...tell me again...exactly what did a High Priest do?" And that's a good question... Let's go back to the Old Testament for a bit...

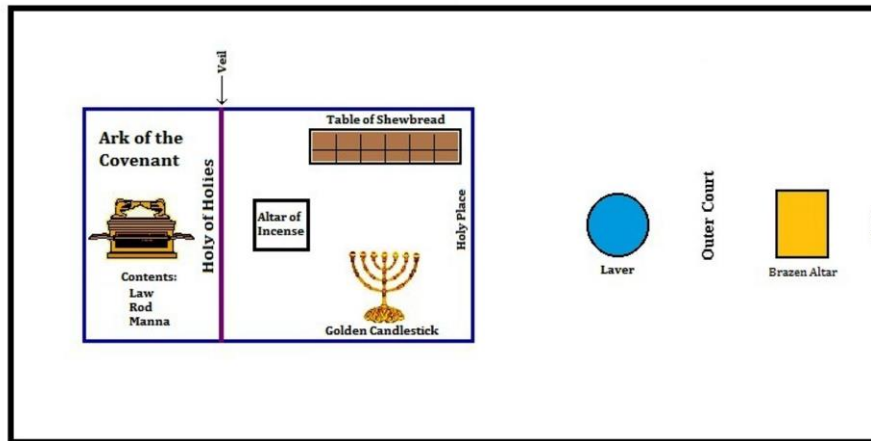
When the children of Israel (the people of God) ended up in slavery in Egypt for 400 years, they lost their ability to govern themselves and literally didn't know how to live among one another once Moses delivered them from the hands of Pharaoh. So, they ended up wandering around in the wilderness desert of Sinai for 40 years because they didn't trust God and they refused to go in and take back the Promised Land...the land of Israel. And thus, while they wandered in the desert, they lived in tents and this was true of the place where God met with the High Priest. It was in a tent...what scholars call the TABERNACLE. See this picture...



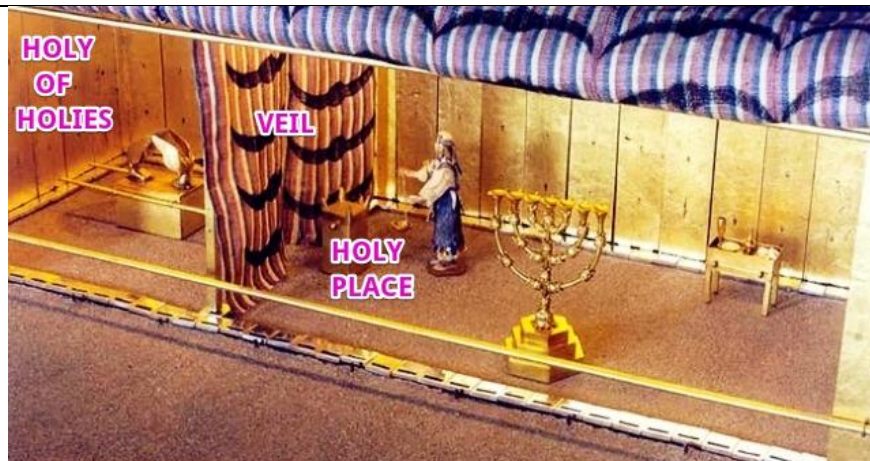
See the tents around the Tabernacle? God met with the High Priest in the Tabernacle in the Holy of Holies. Take a look at this chart of the Tabernacle area...from Exodus 25...

Moses' Tabernacle

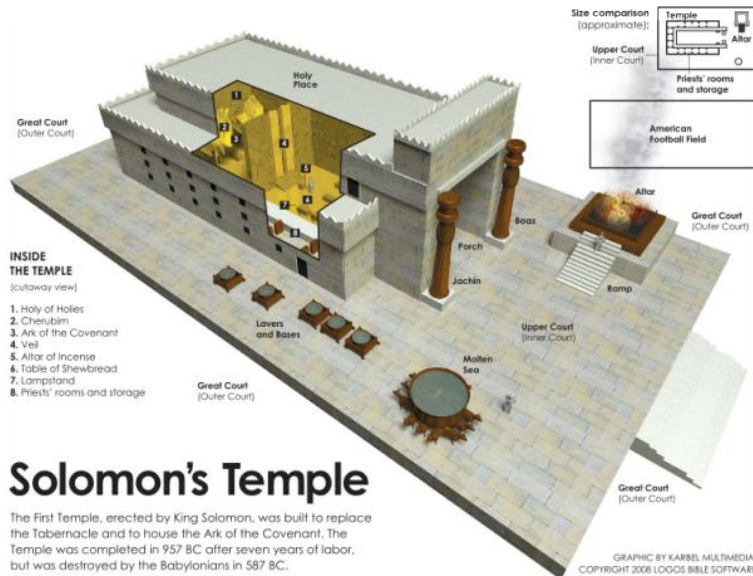
Exodus 25



You may remember how the Lord God told Moses to make a box, which is called the Ark of the Covenant and it, he was to place the 10 Commandments and it was this Ark that the blood was to be sprinkled inside of what is called the Holy of Holies, the inner room of the tent. See this picture...



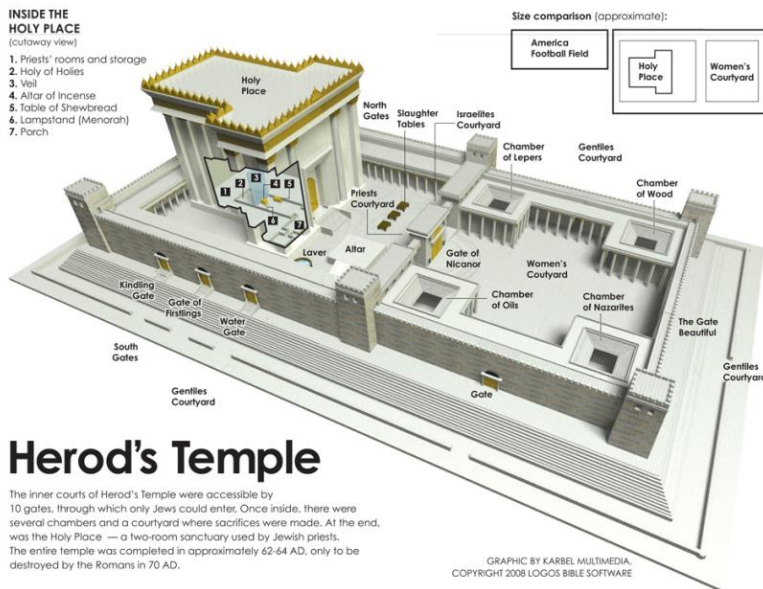
Once a year the High Priest would come inside that tent and offer sacrifices for himself and the people by pouring out the blood of the animal on the top of the Ark, which is called the "Mercy Seat." **And you see, over time...**the people eventually (under the leadership of Joshua) would finally make it back to the Promised Land/Israel and Solomon (King David's son) would build a permanent place for the Ark of the Covenant. See it...



Solomon's Temple

The First Temple, erected by King Solomon, was built to replace the Tabernacle and to house the Ark of the Covenant. The Temple was completed in 957 BC after seven years of labor, but was destroyed by the Babylonians in 587 BC.

Eventually, however, that Temple would be destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonians in 586 BC, but King Herod would come along in the first century BC and rebuild it...refurbish it...and this would be the Temple that Jesus came to when He was on earth...



Herod's Temple

The inner courts of Herod's Temple were accessible by 10 gates, through which only Jews could enter. Once inside, there were several chambers and a courtyard where sacrifices were made. At the end, was the Holy Place — a two-room sanctuary used by Jewish priests. The entire temple was completed in approximately 62-64 AD, only to be destroyed by the Romans in 70 AD.

And it was while Jesus was on this earth that Paul describes what He did as our Faithful High Priest...not in that Temple...but in Garden...see it...verse 7...

Hebrews 5:7

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.

Where was this that Jesus suffered with “loud cries and tears?”



Gethsemane... It was there that He suffered and was in anguish unlike anything anyone had every experienced or ever will experience. Remember, Jesus sweat drops of blood when He thought about the fact that He was going to be separated from His Father in death. And church family, that's the thing that we have to remember when we read this passage. Jesus suffered in ways that we'll never be able to understand. He literally took upon His own body all of the sins of every human being that would ever live...including mine and yours...and this single act qualified Him to become our High Priest... **Watch verses 8 and 9...this is so powerful!**

Hebrews 5:8-9

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.

How did Jesus "learn obedience"... how was He "made perfect (Greek word: complete/qualified)?" Through suffering! You may say, "Wait a minute...Jesus was God...how could He learn anything?" Are you listening...God HAD NEVER BEEN ONE OF US! So, Jesus, came to be one of us! Even though He was God, He became one of us so He could know how it feels to be us...as a HUMAN... And it was this experience AS ONE OF US that made Him PERFECT...or COMPLETE in His experience in that He say, "I know how they feel...I've been there."

And I don't know about you...but, that's comforting to me... He knows our pain...our anguish...He learned it by experience! And that's the kind of high priest I want. I don't want a Savior who's out there in the boondocks of eternity somewhere sitting in a little ivory tower ruling the universe detached from us... No! I'm so thankful that Jesus came to us... **Emmanuel...God with us**...and He knows what I'm going through.

Hebrews 7:26-27

²⁶ For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. ²⁷ He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself.

Church, we've been seeking to climb mountains around here... are you?



We've been seeking to grow closer to Jesus and experience His power and presence more and more in our lives... And we've talked about the fact that He's the one we have to clip to...to get up the mountain...we have to look to Him...the author and finisher of our faith. It's a mindset...it's thinking about Him...forcing our minds to think about Him. It's then and then only that we'll grow in Him. We have to be intentional and we have to be focused or even the good things of this world will draw us away.

What did Jesus do for us on the cross... I want to show you... **I need three (3) people to help me.** One to be God...one to be Jesus and one to be you/me. (Call up three people). God will be up here on the top step...Jesus will bridge the gap...and you/I will be down here...

When Jesus came to this earth to be one of us...He took upon Himself flesh and blood so that He could be like us... And yet He never sinned... That would make Him the perfect sacrifice...so that when He went to Calvary and stretched out His hands...He reached from the Father to us to connect us...to reconcile us...to bring us together.

I found this picture and it impacted me greatly. And I close with it...



That cross looks like it's filling up with water and Jesus is reaching down to pull me out...you out...and get you to the Father...to safety...but, He will drown as He pushes you out. That's what He did... His life for mine... so that you and I might have life and be able to be able to approach the Father. **Will you call on Him today...**his altar is open today-you come...tell Him you need Him!
