

Passage: Hebrews 5:1-10

Title: Jesus Our Great High Priest (Easter Message 2022)

Summary: A component of all religions is the “priest.” He’s the “go-between” - an intermediary between God and man. We may not readily relate a priest to Easter, but in our passage today we will see that Easter needed a priest, and our passage tells us that Jesus was “The Great High Priest” who could bring us into the presence of the Holy God, fully accepted and received before the Father through His finished sacrifice there upon the cross. Join us as we study and celebrate this Easter, Jesus the Great High Priest, who is the go-between, between Man and God.

Hebrews 5:1–10 (NKJV) ¹ For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins. ² He can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness. ³ Because of this he is required as for the people, so also for himself, to offer sacrifices for sins. ⁴ And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron was. ⁵ So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him: “You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.” ⁶ As He also says in another place: “You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek”; ⁷ who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear, ⁸ though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. ⁹ And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him, ¹⁰ called by God as High Priest “according to the order of Melchizedek,”

The High Priest Spoken of in the Book of Hebrews

The overall theme and message of the Book of Hebrews is the “Superiority of Jesus” over all the religious systems. An often-missed theme and point that is made throughout the Book is that Jesus is our Great High Priest. When we step back and look at the Book from the 30,000-foot level, we see a direct referencing to Jesus being the High Priest in every chapter from chapters 2-10. A priest is a go-between, between man and God.

*Hebrews 2:17 (NKJV)*¹⁷ Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

*Hebrews 3:1 (NKJV)*¹ Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus,

*Hebrews 4:14 (NKJV)*¹⁴ Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

*Hebrews 4:15 (NKJV)*¹⁵ For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

*Hebrews 5:5 (NKJV)*⁵ So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him: “You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.”

*Hebrews 5:10 (NKJV)*¹⁰ called by God as High Priest “according to the order of Melchizedek,”

*Hebrews 6:20 (NKJV)*²⁰ where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

*Hebrews 7:1 (NKJV)*¹ For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him,

*Hebrews 7:26 (NKJV)*²⁶ For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens;

*Hebrews 8:1 (NKJV)*¹ Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens,

*Hebrews 9:11 (NKJV)*¹¹ But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation.

*Hebrews 10:21 (NKJV)*²¹ and having a High Priest over the house of God,

A priest is a go-between, between man and God. I was talking to someone this week and they asked what my Easter passage was, and I told them this passage, and the focused topic of the High Priest, to which the response was (and I am gladly they asked) why that passage and topic for an Easter message? Well the answer is, for every Feast and Holiday in Israel the priests and sacrifices were

involved, and the High Priest had the ultimate responsibility over the priesthood and the Temple that they were performed and displayed exactly as God prescribed them to be. The two very specific Holidays (called Feasts) are Passover and the Day of Atonement.

Did you know word “Easter” is only found in one verse (Acts 12:4) of only one of the most common translations (KJV). The places where the word Easter would be applicable (1 Cor 5:7, Hebrews 11:28), uses the word “Passover” (GK: pascha). Rightly so, as because of Jesus’ sacrifice upon the cross, trading places with us, taking our sin and the punishment due for breaking God’s Holy Law..... death passed-over us, and we are new creations in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Acts 12:4 (KJV 1900) ⁴ *And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people.*

Acts 12:4 (NKJV) ⁴ *So when he had arrested him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four squads of soldiers to keep him, intending to bring him before the people after Passover.*

1 Corinthians 5:7 (NKJV) ⁷ *Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.*

New creations, old things passed away, all things made new – Oh Praise the Lord for Jesus Christ:

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV) ¹⁷ *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*

But, back to our special Easter (should I say – Passover) celebration, the sacrifice had to be performed and displayed exactly as God prescribed it to be so, and the responsibility that it was done according, was the ultimate responsibility of the High Priest, and hence we see why Jesus our Great High Priest, is an ever-fitting Easter message.

Outline: Jesus Our Great High Priest (For Every Holiday, and on Every Day)

- The High Priest had to be Properly Trained to Offer Gifts and Sacrifices (5:1).
- The High Priest had to have Compassion for the People He Ministered To (5:2-3).
- The High Priest was Appointed by God Specifically (5:4-6).
- The High Priest had to be Obedient to the Will God (5:7-8).
- The High Priest was the Record Keeper for God (5:9-10)

We have many more great studies in the Book of Hebrews regarding Jesus being our Great High Priest, so for today may this passage draw our hearts to Him in a special intimate way, as we give thanks this Easter (2022), and these verses draw to Him and the celebration of Easter, and prepare our hearts for a special time of Communion with our Lord.

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² *For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ *Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

The High Priest had to be Properly Trained to Offer Gifts and Sacrifices (5:1).

(Hebrews 5:1 NKJV) For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins.

The High Priest was appointed, and he was trained accordingly, for all the sacrifices and offerings had to be in accordance with God's prescribed way.

What was the offense, would determine the sacrifice that was to be provided.

10 Commandments

- #1. "You shall have no other gods before Me... (Exodus 20:3).
- #2. "You shall not make for yourself a carved image... (Exodus 20:4-6).
- #3. "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain... (Exodus 20:7)
- #4. "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy...(Exodus 20:8-11)
- #5. "Honor your father and your mother... (Exodus 20:12)
- #6. "You shall not murder. (Exodus 20:13)
- #7. "You shall not commit adultery. (Exodus 20:14)
- #8. "You shall not steal. (Exodus 20:15)
- #9. "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. (Exodus 20:16)
- #10. "You shall not covet your neighbor's goods; (Exodus 20:17)

To which we here are all guilty,

Romans 3:23 (NKJV) ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

James 2:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.

These were the handwritings of guilt written against us, and the High Priest would ensure all the priests performing the sacrifices and all the sacrifices were exactly as prescribed by God for the covering of those sins. The Passover sacrifice, was a lamb, the final Passover sacrifice was a Lamb (capital L), Jesus Himself.

Exodus 12:3-5 (NKJV) ³ Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying: 'On the tenth of this month every man shall take for himself a lamb, according to the house of his father, a lamb for a household. ⁴ And if the household is too small for the lamb, let him and his neighbor next to his house take it according to the number of the persons; according to each man's need you shall make your count for the lamb. ⁵ Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats.

John 1:29 (NKJV) ²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

1 Corinthians 5:7 (NKJV) ⁷ Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.

And we see such a heart of God as we look at the word "offer" here in verse 1:

Offer: to bring to, lead to a person who can heal him or is ready to show him some kindness,

Oh the kindness of God, of the go-between (Holy God and Sinful Man), I give thanks for our Great High Priest that turns this day into a celebration! Who can lead me before the Father, to a loving God, who not only shows me kindness, but heals my heart, breaths His sweet love and grace upon me.

The High Priest had to have Compassion for the People He Ministered To (5:2-3).

(Hebrews 5:2 NKJV) He can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness.

(Hebrews 5:3 NKJV) Because of this he is required as for the people, so also for himself, to offer sacrifices for sins.

The High Priest was to have compassion and understanding for the weakness and failings of man, so he could minister with a heart, the heart of God, for the people.

Once again a word that unlocks the heart of God, Jesus our High Priest who became man so He may sympathize and relate to us; the word is "compassion" and it means:

Compassion: one who is not unduly disturbed by the errors, faults, sins of others, but bears them gently.

The High Priest was Appointed by God Specifically (5:4-6).

(Hebrews 5:4 NKJV) **And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron was.**

(Hebrews 5:5 NKJV) **So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him:**

*"You are My Son,
Today I have begotten You."*

(Hebrews 5:6 NKJV) **As He also says in another place:**

*"You are a priest forever
According to the order of Melchizedek";*

The High Priest was appointed by God specifically. For the priesthood of Israel it was through the line of Aaron; but for Jesus we see His was superior and greater than that lineage as it was through the order of Melchizedek which we will be studying more of in the weeks to come as this is a reference back to Genesis 14.

But as we are seeing the offerings could be just be any way, it had order, the sacrifice had to be specific to the sin, and the High Priest could not just from any lineage of choice, but specific to the order prescribed by God.

For us today, the receivers of so great a salvation, the appointed, was appointed with power. The word back there in verse 2 for "He can", is the word for power (GK: dunamai).

[He Can](#): to be able to do something, to be capable, strong and powerful.

God gives the High Priest He appoints, chooses, to have the power to bear the burden of the priesthood, so that He can:

[Offer](#): to bring to, lead to a person who can heal him or is ready to show him some kindness,

[Compassion](#): one who is not unduly disturbed by the errors, faults, sins of others, but bears them gently.

The High Priest had to be Obedient to the Will God (5:7-8).

(Hebrews 5:7 NKJV) **who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear,**

(Hebrews 5:8 NKJV) **though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.**

The High Priest was called to be obedient to the will of God, and the Word of God. He was to be unwavering, unmoved, unchanging as the High Priest was in accordance to the will and the way and the word of God.

And we see Jesus have the ultimate fulfillment in the garden on the night of the crucifixion:

[Luke 22:41-44 \(NKJV\)](#) ⁴¹ *And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and prayed, ⁴² saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done."* ⁴³ *Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him. ⁴⁴ And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.*

Before those words in the garden, there were words at the table that expounded His great desire – With Fervently Desire – His obedience was fueled by passion! Passion to do the will of the Father, and Passion for us, to be His! Beloved you are treasured

[Luke 22:15 \(NKJV\)](#) ¹⁵ *Then He said to them, "With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer;*

So:

[The Power](#) - [He Can](#): to be able to do something, to be capable, strong and powerful.

The Compassion - one who is not unduly disturbed by the errors, faults, sins of others, but bears them gently.

To Offer - to bring to, lead to a person who can heal him or is ready to show him some kindness,

The High Priest was the Record Keeper for God (5:9-10)

(Hebrews 5:9 NKJV) And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,

(Hebrews 5:10 NKJV) called by God as High Priest "according to the order of Melchizedek,"

Jesus the author (writer) of eternal salvation, our Great High Priest.

In the Talmud (a collection of Jewish text that record the Jewish history – specifically regarding Judaism), records that the High Priest was responsible for accurate keeping of records (administration) of what went on in the Temple during his appointment. And here is what is recorded for us, the account of our sin has been wiped out (Col 2:14), because Jesus said His final words on the cross “It is Done”, which was an accounting term that meant “paid in full”, and He records that our names are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life (Rev 20:15).

Colossians 2:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ *having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.*

John 19:30 (NKJV) ³⁰ *So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “It is finished!” And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.*

Revelation 20:15 (NKJV) ¹⁵ *And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.*

One of the hidden messages, that we find when we seek Him, is that there were those in Israel who were looking forward to the death of the High Priest, what you may say? Yes, for ancient Israel, cities of refuge were critically linked to God’s command not to defile the land, which was His dwelling place (Num 35:33–34). Any bloodshed—even unintentional—polluted the land. The only provisions for keeping the land pure after a person was killed were the judicial execution of a willful murderer (Num 35:30–2) or the removal of the unintentional killer to a city of refuge (Num 35:25, 28). Numbers 35 provides the most detailed description of the cities of refuge—their establishment, form, operation, and purpose. When a person was killed accidentally, the victim’s family members could legitimately avenge this shedding of innocent blood (Num 35:19). However, the killer could flee to a city of refuge, and the family members were forbidden from exacting vengeance when the killer was within the boundaries of one of those cities (Num 35:26). The only time the killer could safely leave the city of refuge was upon the death of the high priest (Num 35:28). At that point, the killer could return to his hometown, and the avenger could no longer legitimately take his life.

Numbers 35:26–28 (NKJV) ²⁶ *But if the manslayer at any time goes outside the limits of the city of refuge where he fled, ²⁷ and the avenger of blood finds him outside the limits of his city of refuge, and the avenger of blood kills the manslayer, he shall not be guilty of blood, ²⁸ because he should have remained in his city of refuge until the death of the high priest. But after the death of the high priest the manslayer may return to the land of his possession.*

What a picture and foreshadow of Jesus and the death of our Great High Priest, setting us free.

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As we enter into communion, I would like to celebrate one more beautiful word of promise in our passage, and that is back in verse 1, that says both gifts and sacrifices for sin:

Hebrews 5:1 (NKJV) ¹ *For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins.*

We know what sacrifices for sin means, but what are gifts for sin? The word gifts means:

Gift: for mutual celebration of an occasion

So the celebration we celebrate today is not just our celebration, but His too, as He celebrates you, that you are His (Is 43:1), and that it was a joy for Him to go to the cross to have you (Hebrews 12:1-2)

Hebrews 12:1-2 (NKJV) ¹ Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Isaiah 43:1 (NKJV) ¹ But now, thus says the LORD, who created you, O Jacob, And He who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; You are Mine.

The wages of sin is death (Rom 6:23), but the gift of God is eternal life:

Romans 6:23 (NKJV) ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

We have come here today for a special, mutual celebration, of new life, eternal life, we have been set free, we have been delivered from sin and death, and we have been made new..... all because of Great High Priest, who made sure the price for sin was paid in full..... so we can be His!

And what is the proof, the Resurrection..... if Jesus the Great High Priest had failed in any of these points, He did not prepare (be the perfect sacrifice), a sacrifice that met the prescription for the punishment, *Romans 10:9 (NKJV)* ⁹ that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

Luke 24:1-12 (NKJV) ¹ Now on the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they, and certain other women with them, came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared. ² But they found the stone rolled away from the tomb. ³ Then they went in and did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴ And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this, that behold, two men stood by them in shining garments. ⁵ Then, as they were afraid and bowed their faces to the earth, they said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? ⁶ He is not here, but is risen! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, ⁷ saying, 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.' " ⁸ And they remembered His words. ⁹ Then they returned from the tomb and told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. ¹⁰ It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them, who told these things to the apostles. ¹¹ And their words seemed to them like idle tales, and they did not believe them. ¹² But Peter arose and ran to the tomb; and stooping down, he saw the linen cloths lying by themselves; and he departed, marveling to himself at what had happened.

Last words and first words are so telling; His last words before His last breath (It is Finished", and His first words of the resurrection recorded for us "woman why do you weep, whom do you seek". His first words Were not doctrinal north, the logical, but they were personal. So he would say To Mary Woman, why do you weep As he speaks the intimate message I am alive. I've overcome the world. I'm no longer in the grave. And now for you, for me, the words are from here..... Everything Changes, because we have a risen Savior Who lives for us, A high priest that lives to make intercession for us. This is amazing resurrection grace and life!

John 20:14-16 (NKJV) ¹⁴ Now when she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" She, supposing Him to be the gardener, said to Him, "Sir, if You have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him, and I will take Him away." ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to Him, "Rabboni!" (which is to say, Teacher).

Communion

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 (NKJV) ²³ For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; ²⁴ and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." ²⁵ In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

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