

Superior: Hebrews

High Priest

Craig Smith • September 29, 2019

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. **(Heb. 4:14)**

Qualifications of an Old Testament high priest...

- **Chosen by God** – “Every high priest is selected from among men and is appointed to represent them in matters related to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins...No one takes this honor upon himself; he must be called by God, just as Aaron was.” **(Heb. 5:1, 4)**

So Christ also did not take upon Himself the glory of becoming a high priest. But God said to Him, “You are my Son; today I have become your Father.” And He says in another place, “You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.” **(Heb. 5:5-6)**

- **Compassionate towards men** – “He is able to deal gently with those who are ignorant and are going astray, since he himself is subject to weakness. This is why he has to offer sacrifices for his own sins, as well as for the sins of the people.” **(Heb. 5:2-3)**

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are – yet was without sin. **(Heb. 4:15)**

Jesus is the superior High Priest who has...

- **Experienced the weight of “no” but still said “yes”** – “During the days of Jesus’ life on earth, He offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the One who could save Him from death, and He was heard because of His reverent submission.” **(Heb. 5:7)**

“Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.” **(Luke 22:42)**

- **Experienced the weight of pain but still embraced its purpose** – “Although He was a son, He learned obedience from what He suffered...” **(Heb. 5:8)**

🔑 **Obedience is less about “what should I do?” and more about “who do I love?”** – “Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him.” **(John 14:21)**

- **Experienced our punishment so that we might have His reward** – “...and, once made perfect, He became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey Him and was designated by God to be high priest in the order of Melchizedek.” **(Heb. 5:9-10)**