



HEBREWS 4 PART 2

For over a millennium, the spiritual life of Israel revolved around the Levitical priesthood. From Aaron onward, thousands of priests labored in the tabernacle and later the temple, slaughtering countless animals to temporarily cover the sins of the people. They stood as imperfect mediators between a holy God and a sinful nation. But as the author of Hebrews transitions from the superiority of Christ's person to the superiority of His priesthood, he introduces a staggering new reality. Jesus is not just a priest; He is the Great High Priest. He did not come from the tribe of Levi, and He did not offer the blood of bulls or goats. Coming from the royal tribe of Judah, Jesus united the offices of Priest and King, offering Himself as the final, perfect sacrifice.

In this study, Pastor Steve walks us through Hebrews 4:14-16, exploring how Christ's finished work completely dismantled the old religious system. Because our Great High Priest has passed through the heavens and sat down at the right hand of God, the temple veil has been torn. We no longer need an earthly mediator. We are invited to confidently approach the very throne of grace, knowing that our King not only rules the universe, but intimately sympathizes with our deepest weaknesses.

Study Questions:

1. Old Testament priests offered physical sacrifices (animals, grain) on a physical altar. As a New Testament priest, what are the "spiritual sacrifices" God expects you to continually offer in your daily life? (OT: Psalm 51:16-17 | NT: Romans 12:1)
2. The church has a historical tendency to drift back toward an Old Covenant structure, creating a rigid divide between "clergy" and "laity." How does creating an unhealthy dependence on a human leader actually rob you of the direct relationship Christ died to give you? (OT: 1 Samuel 8:7 | NT: 1 Corinthians 3:4-5)
3. In the Old Testament, a king (from Judah) could not be a priest (from Levi). King Uzziah was struck with leprosy for trying to burn incense in the temple. Why is it significant that Jesus is the only one qualified to perfectly hold the dual offices of Priest and King? (OT: 2 Chronicles 26:16-19 | NT: Zechariah 6:12-13)
4. The author urges us to "hold fast our confession." Pastor Steve said, "Don't throw away what you know for what you don't understand." What is one unshakeable truth about God's character you must hold onto when your current circumstances make absolutely no sense? (OT: Job 13:15 | NT: Hebrews 10:23)
5. We are commanded to come boldly to the throne of grace. How does the knowledge of the "Great Exchange" (Christ taking our sin and giving us His righteousness) give you the confidence to approach a holy God without fear of condemnation? (OT: Esther 5:2 | NT: Ephesians 3:12)