



HEBREWS 5 PART 1

The End of the Middleman

For centuries, the spiritual life of Israel was defined by a strict, unyielding system of mediation. If you wanted to connect with God, you couldn't do it directly; you needed a middleman. You needed a Levitical priest to take your sacrifice, walk into the temple, and mediate on your behalf. But as Pastor Steve highlights in Hebrews 5, that entire system was fundamentally flawed because the middlemen were just as broken and sinful as the people they were representing. They had to offer sacrifices for their own sins before they could even attempt to help anyone else.

In this study, we explore the staggering reality that the old earthly priesthood has been entirely abolished and replaced by a superior, heavenly priesthood. Jesus Christ is not just another priest in the line of Aaron; He is the Great High Priest in the order of Melchizedek. He is the sinless, eternal Son of God who passed through the heavens and sat down at the right hand of the Father. Because of His finished work, the "middleman" has been eliminated. The veil is torn. As you work through this study, you will be challenged to embrace your new identity as part of a "royal priesthood," boldly accessing the throne of grace and demonstrating the compassion of Christ to a broken world.

Study Questions:

1. Hebrews 5:1 states that every high priest must be "taken from among men." Why was it a theological necessity for the Son of God to put on human flesh in order to effectively mediate for humanity? (OT: Job 9:32-33 | NT: 1 Timothy 2:5)
2. Because Christ took on human flesh, He experienced hunger, exhaustion, rejection, and physical pain. How does knowing that the Creator of the universe has personally experienced your specific type of suffering change the way you pray to Him? (OT: Psalm 103:13-14 | NT: Hebrews 4:15)
3. The earthly Levitical priests could see the pain of the people but lacked the divine power to actually remove their sin. How does the Hypostatic Union guarantee that Jesus not only understands your pain (as man) but also has the supreme authority to permanently heal it (as God)? (OT: Isaiah 43:25 | NT: Mark 2:10-11)
4. No man takes the honor of the priesthood to himself; he must be called by God. In your current season of life, are you striving to build your own platform for your own honor, or are you faithfully serving where God has appointed you? (OT: 1 Samuel 16:7 | NT: John 8:54)
5. First Peter 2:9 declares that all believers are a "royal priesthood." Since the veil has been torn, what are some practical ways you can exercise your direct access to God today without relying on a pastor or human mediator? (OT: Exodus 19:6 | NT: Ephesians 3:12)