

4:13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.

V.14 Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

V.15 For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.

V.16 Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may **receive** mercy and may **find** grace to help in time of need.

- 1) Without an **understanding** of these verses it is impossible to live the Christian Life
- 2) **V.16** sums it up – that w/ confidence we approach the “throne of grace”: to receive mercy – find His grace to help when we are in need
- 3) Then in **Chapter 5** we see how approaching the “throne of grace” / His grace is possible
 - a) It is **impossible** to **live successfully** as believers **“if”** we don’t understand **how** & **why** we can **appropriate** the grace of God
- 4) No one can just **saunter** up to God & begin a dialogue w/ Him – He is God – we are sinful creatures
- 5) The moment man fell (in the Garden) **parameters / boundaries** were formed around man:
 - a) To **protect** man from things he couldn’t deal with (spiritual realm)

Gen.3:22 Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil; and now, lest he stretch out his hand, and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever"--

23 **therefore** the LORD God **sent him out** from the garden of Eden, to cultivate the ground from which he was taken.

24 So He drove the man out; and at the east of the garden of Eden He stationed the cherubim, and the flaming sword which turned every direction, to guard the way to the tree of life.
 - b) God also **hemmed man in** – **so that** he might look to the Savior.

Rom.11:32 For God has shut up all in disobedience **that** He might show mercy to all.
- 6) To show man how **desperate** his **fallen state** is – God established **Judaism & the Law** – and made ways for man to come to God on a temporary basis

a) **Until** the nation of Israel came into existence – the **patriarch** of the family **functioned as** the **high priest** of that family

b) Example:

Job 1:4 And his sons used to go and hold a feast in the house of each one on his day,^(birthday) and they would send and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them.

V.5 And it came about, when the days of feasting had completed their cycle, that **Job** would send and consecrate them, rising up early in the morning and offering burnt offerings according to the number of them all; for Job said, "Perhaps my sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." Thus Job did continually.

7) When God established **Judaism** – the **Levitical system** – **Torah** / the **Law** these things were a shadow / picture of the **reality** found in Christ

8) God established the **Levites** as a **priestly tribe**

9) **Only** they could handle the things pertaining to the **Tabernacle / Temple**

Num.1:50 "But you shall appoint the Levites over the tabernacle of the testimony, and over **all** its furnishings and over **all** that belongs to it. They shall carry the tabernacle and **all** its furnishings, and they shall take care of it; they shall also camp around the tabernacle.

V.51 " So when the tabernacle is to set out, the **Levites** shall take it down; and when the tabernacle encamps, the **Levites** shall set it up. But the **layman** who comes near shall be **put to death**.

10) **W/ that in mind** we go to **V.1**

11) **V.1** is **going over** this **system of worship** that **points to Christ**

V.1 For every high priest taken from among men is appointed on behalf of men in things pertaining to God, in order to offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins;

1) "every high priest taken from among men"

a) The **High Priest must** be a **man** – **can't** be an angel or other being

i) Christ was **100% man** (and 100% God)

ii) **Out of** the tribe of Levi **God chose** the family line of **Aaron** to be the priest for the nation of Israel

(1) The **entire** tribe of **Levi** was the "priestly" tribe –

(2) But **only** Aaron's family would actually be the priest in that tribe

iii) Man **didn't** have a say in the matter – no campaigning for job

Ex.28:1 (NP)

Ex.28:1 (God speaking to Moses) "Then bring near to yourself Aaron your brother, and his sons with him, from among the sons of Israel, to minister as priest to Me-- Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar, Aaron's sons.

V.1 x For every high priest taken from among men is appointed on behalf of men in things pertaining to God, in order to offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins;

2) "is appointed on behalf of men in things pertaining to God"

a) The Priest is to represent mankind (Israel) **before God**

b) Dealing w/ God is **serious business** –

i) Unholy men doing business w/ a holy God is **not** easy vocation

ii) The **priest** must be **very careful**

c) If the priest **didn't** take his job seriously or **didn't** do it well– it could **cost him his life**

d) Listen to **some** of the **warnings**

Ex.28:31 " And you shall make the robe of the ephod all of blue.

V.34 a golden bell and a pomegranate, a golden bell and a pomegranate, all around on the hem of the robe.

35 "And it shall be on Aaron when he ministers; and its tinkling may be heard when he enters and leaves the holy place before the LORD, that he may not die.

Ex.28:43 "And they ^(different clothing) shall be on Aaron and on his sons when they enter the tent of meeting, or when they approach the altar to minister in the holy place, **so that they do not incur guilt and die**. It *shall be* a statute forever to him and to his descendants after him.

Ex.30:21 ^(preparing to enter tabernacle) "So they shall wash their hands and their feet, that they may not die; and it shall be a perpetual statute for them, for Aaron and his descendants throughout their generations."

Lev.8:35 ^(when ordained had to stay in Tabernacle 7days) "At the doorway of the tent of meeting, moreover, you shall remain day and night for seven days, and keep the charge of the LORD, that you may not die, for so **I** ^(Moses) have been commanded."

e) Two of Aaron's sons used the **wrong fire** on their **1st day** on the job & were killed

Lev.10:1 (NP)

Lev.10:1 Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took their respective firepans, and after putting fire in them, placed incense on it and offered strange fire before the LORD, which He had not commanded them.

2 And fire came out from the presence of the LORD and consumed them, and **they died** before the LORD.

- f) **Aaron** & his other **sons** were **not** allowed to **mourn** over their **death** – b/c God had killed them for **taking their responsibility lightly**

Lev.10:6 Then Moses said to Aaron and to his sons Eleazar and Ithamar, " Do not uncover your heads nor tear your clothes, so that you may not die, and that He may not become wrathful against all the congregation. But your kinsmen, the whole house of Israel, shall bewail the burning which the LORD has brought about.

V.1 x For every high priest taken from among men is appointed on behalf of men in things pertaining to God, in order to offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins;

3) "in order to offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins"

- a) The offerings weren't **just** about sin – **some** offerings **gifts** to God also
- b) Fellowship offerings – gifts of thanksgiving
- c) God made a way to have a relationship w/ man
 - i) It was just really hard b/c of man's sin

V.1 x For every high priest taken from among men is appointed on behalf of men in things pertaining to God, in order to offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins;

V.2 he can deal gently with the ignorant and misguided, since he himself also is beset with weakness;

1) "he...deal gently with...ignorant & misguided since he...is beset w/ weakness"

- a) The high Priest was a fallible man himself
- b) **Because** he too **sinned** – he was **sympathetic** to other sinners
- c) **But** he wasn't **allowed** to be **soft** on sin
- d) The High Priest had to have a **balance** of **sympathy** & **sobriety** about sin

e) **WE all** come from Father Adam – but **God** still can't tolerant sin

f) "deal gently" – means to be able to moderate feelings /emotions

g) Sympathy w/ sobriety – a **hard to balance**

i) The **High Priest job** was **dangerous** in part as **reminder**

ii) It showed the **holiness of God** could **not** be **compromised**

iii) If he messed up while performing his job – he died

h) That helped him keep in perspective that God wasn't light on sin even after offerings were made for forgiveness

- i) We have tendency to be soft on **sins** that **plague us** – we say well it is wrong – but God understands
 - i) Well – God **doesn't wink** at **sin** – even our sins He doesn't wink at

V.3 and because of **it** he is obligated to offer sacrifices for sins, as for the people, so also for himself.

1) "because of **it** he is obligated to offer sacrifices for sins"

a) **B/c the high Priest is a sinner**

b) He had to make offerings **sins** of **others** & for **his own sins too**

V.4 And no one takes the honor to himself, but receives it when he is called by God, even as Aaron was.

1) "no one takes...honor to himself...receives it when...called by God"

a) **Some** actually **tried to usurp Moses & Aaron's** authority

i) Abbreviated version:

Num.16:1 Now Korah the son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, with Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab, and On the son of Peleth, sons of Reuben, **took action**,

V.3 And they assembled together against Moses and Aaron, and said to them, " You have gone far enough, for all the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the LORD is in their midst; so why do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of the LORD?"

V.31 Then it came about as he^(Moses) finished speaking all these words, that the ground that was under them^(usurpers) split open;

32 and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, and their households, and all the men who belonged to Korah, with *their* possessions.

33 So they and all that belonged to them went down alive to Sheol; and the earth closed over them, and they perished from the midst of the assembly.

34 And all Israel who *were* around them fled at their outcry, for they said, " The earth may swallow us up!"

35 Fire also came forth from the LORD and consumed the two hundred and fifty men who were offering the incense.

b) Anyone who **claims to be a priest today** has made himself a priest –

i) Christ already has that office filled – no room for another

c) WE are called a nation of priest – isn't the same as here

V.5 (NP)

V.5 *So also Christ did not glorify Himself* so as to become a high priest, but He who said to Him, "THOU ART MY SON, TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN THEE";

- 1) "So also Christ did not glorify Himself"
 - d) Aaron didn't ask to be the High Priest – Moses didn't ask for his job either
 - e) Christ didn't ask to be a High Priest either – **God appointed Him**
- 2) " THOU ART MY SON, TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN THEE"
 - a) He quotes **Ps.2:7**
Ps.2:7 "I will surely tell of the decree of the LORD: He said to Me, 'Thou art My Son, Today I have begotten Thee.
 - b) This speaks of His resurrection
 - c) Christ became the High Priest – at His resurrection
 - d) This does **not** speak of His birth
 - e) He was **not** a priest **until** His resurrection
 - f) HE could **not** have **gone into the Temple** proper
 - g) He was**n't** even a **Levite** – He is **from** the tribe of **Judah**
 - h) HE **isn't** in the lineage of **Aaron**
 - i) So **Aaron's** priesthood was **imperfect picture** Christ's Priesthood
 - j) Another picture is better **V.6**

V.6 just as He says also in another *passage*, "THOU ART A PRIEST FOREVER ACCORDING TO THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK."

- 1) "THOU ART A PRIEST FOREVER ACCORDING TO THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK"
 - a) This is a quote from **Ps.110:4**
Ps.110:4 The LORD has sworn and will not change His mind, "Thou art a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek."
 - b) He couldn't be a priest after the **order of Aaron** – didn't qualify
 - c) Aaron's priesthood fell short of being best example
 - d) There are **2 things** that make **Melchizedek's priesthood better**
 - i) **#1) Melchizedek has no beginning & no ending**
 - (1) It doesn't mean he really had no beginning or ending
 - (2) It **means** there is **no record of** a beginning or ending
 - ii) **#2) Melchizedek** was also **a King**
 - iii) **Kings were not allowed to be priest** – weren't qualified
 - e) A couple of kings **tried** to fulfill that office & paid a very high price for trying
2 Chron.26:16 (NP)

2 Chron.26:16 But when he became strong, his heart was so proud that he acted corruptly, and he was unfaithful to the LORD his God, for he entered the temple of the LORD to burn incense on the altar of incense.

V.18 And they^(priest) opposed Uzziah the king and said to him, " It is not for you, Uzziah, to burn incense to the LORD, but for the priests, the sons of Aaron who are consecrated to burn incense. Get out of the sanctuary, for you have been unfaithful, and will have no honor from the LORD God."

19 But Uzziah, with a censer in his hand for burning incense, was enraged; and while he was enraged with the priests, the leprosy broke out on his forehead before the priests in the house of the LORD, beside the altar of incense.

20 And Azariah the chief priest and all the priests looked at him, and behold, he *was* leprous on his forehead; and they hurried him out of there, and he himself also hastened to get out because the LORD had smitten him.

f) Christ is both High Priest & HE is King

V.7 In the days of His flesh, He offered up both prayers and supplications with loud crying and tears to the One able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His piety.

V.8 Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered.

1) "He learned obedience from the things which He suffered"

- a) It is **hard for us to grasp** – but the Son of God became a man
- b) But He did much more than that – He went thru all the pain of being a man**
- c) Do you know why?
- d) So **He could be your perfect High Priest V.9**

V.9 And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation,

1) "having been made perfect"

- a) I thought He was already perfect
 - i) He was –
 - ii) But HE **wasn't** a perfect High Priest – until He could relate to the sins & imperfections of man
- b) Remember what V.2 says?

V.2 he can **deal gently** with the ignorant and misguided, since he himself also is beset with weakness;

- c) **He learned** what it **meant** to be **bombarded by sin**
- d) He **knows** what it means to be **plagued w/ weaknesses** of man

- e) He never gave in to sin or weakness – but HE sure knows what they are
- 2) “He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation”
 - a) And b/c He never gave in to sin – He is our perfect High Priest
 - b) The Hebrew Christians were about to **give in b/c the going was hard**
 - c) Some of you are about to give in b/c the going is tough
 - d) **HE is worth it! Our Salvation is a Person – not a system**
 - e) He loves us enough to pay the price He paid for you & me
 - f) Now is not the time to give in – It is the time to turn to Him **for grace to carry on!**

Jn.1:16 For of His fulness we have all received, and **grace upon grace.**

17 For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized **through** Jesus Christ.

He loves you w/ a love that is greater than life itself! Don't live life in such a way that you will have wished you had contemplated His love more.