## Hebrews 4:14 - 5:10

## Review...

- How Is Hebrews Divided...
  - o **Hebrews 1:1–10:18** The superiority of Jesus BETTER than EVERYTHING and EVERYONE!
  - o **Hebrews 10:19–13:25** The superiority of FAITH in Jesus!
- As the author continues to show Jesus is BETTER than EVERYONE and EVERYTHING...
  - o BETTER than the Prophets at giving us the Word of God...
  - o BETTER than the Angels He is the eternal creator who will rule over all...
  - o BETTER than the servant Moses as Jesus is the BUILDER and the Son...
  - o BETTER Rest because ONLY in Jesus can we have victory of sin!
- In **Hebrews 4:14 6:20** the Author will look at Jesus as a BETTER High Priest!

## A BETTER HIGH PRIEST... (3 POINTS)

- 1<sup>st</sup> Our GREAT HIGH PRIEST... vs. 14-16
  - o 1<sup>st</sup> Because Jesus is in HEAVEN... vs. 14
    - Seeing we have a GREAT High Priest...
      - The first HIGH PRIEST in the Bible was Aaron the brother of Moses...
      - Every first born son after him then inherited the position...
      - But only Jesus is given the title GREAT [megas] High Priest THREE reasons!
    - GREAT because our High Priest passed into the HEAVENS Jesus the SON of God...
      - The word HEAVENS is plural Jesus went through multiple HEAVENS...
      - Paul tells us in that there are THREE heavens 11 Corinthians 12:2
      - The FIRST heaven is the sky above us / the SECOND heaven is outer space...
      - The THIRD heaven is the dwelling place of God!
      - Jesus ascended up into the clouds into the THIRD Heaven Acts1:9
      - Where the SON now sits at the RIGHT HAND of the Father!
      - **Hebrew 12:2** "Looking unto Jesus... sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."
    - Let us HOLD FAST our PROFESSION [of faith] ...
      - HOLD FAST [subjunctive] *krateō* speaks of keeping something faithfully / carefully
      - Considering WHERE our GREAT High Priest is at the right hand of the FATHER...
      - It can be well said we have FRIENDS in HIGH PLACES...
      - Jesus is MORE than able to give us the ability to HOLD FAST to our FAITH!
  - o 2<sup>nd</sup> Because Jesus can SYMPATHIZE... vs. 15
    - For we do NOT have a High Priest who cannot SYMPATHIZE with out WEAKNESS...
      - SYMPATHIZE *sympatheō* [2x in NT] to feel what we feel...
      - WEAKNESS not having the strength to endure trials / overcome sin...
      - Jesus can RELATE to our WEAKNESS because...
    - He was in ALL points TEMPTED as we are yet without sin...
      - Name a sin any sin and Jesus was TEMPTED by it on His time on earth...
      - But He NEVER sinned meaning He has the answer to OVERCOMING every sin!
      - It is easy to think God can not RELATE to us but Jesus faced the same TEMPTATIONS...
      - As a RESULT FIRST He can UNDERSTAND the TEMPTATIONS we face...
      - He is NOT surprised when we stumble He does NOT get angry when we fail!
      - SECOND He has a the ABILITY to help us OVERCOME those TEMPTATIONS...
      - NEVER hesitate to come to Jesus He has the POWER to help us OVERCOME sin!
      - **Hebrews 2:18** "He is able to aid those who are tempted."

- o 3<sup>rd</sup> Because we can come BOLDLY... vs. 16
  - Let us therefore COME [subjunctive] ...
    - In light of having a High Priest who sits in HEAVEN at the right hand of the Father...
    - A High Priest who can SYMPATHIZE with our weakness help us OVERCOME sin...
    - We are told to COME but it is not a command the grammar makes it a question...
    - We do not have to COME because coming to the Throne of Grace is a CHOICE!
    - I suppose that raises the question why we would NOT come...
    - TWO reasons why someone would not want to COME to the Throne of God!
  - First because they think they will be judged....
    - We know in our hearts that we make mistakes a LOT of them EVERYDAY...
    - The thought of coming before a righteous Holy God can be terrifying...
    - But do NOT miss what comes next come BOLDLY to the Throne!
    - BOLDLY means having NO fear we have absolutely NO reason to be afraid...
    - It is NOT the Throne of judgement it is the Throne of GRACE!
    - Because of the forgiveness of Jesus on the cross there is NO judgement...
    - We can come BOLDLY into the presence of the creator of all heaven and earth ANYTIME!
  - Second we do not think we NEED Jesus...
    - The MAIN reason for coming to the Throne of Grace...
    - Is so that we MAY obtain MERCY and find Grace to help in times of NEED...
    - If we do not think we NEED help then we are not going to come to the Throne of Grace!
    - But the truth is we all NEED Jesus we NEED His Grace EVERYDAY...
    - The moment we think we are ok without Jesus is the moment we NEED Him the most...
    - So COME BOLDLY to the Throne of Grace today!
    - To find GRACE to help in every NEED that might present itself...
    - Because we have a High Priest who sits at the Right Hand of the Father...
    - Who can SYMPATHIZE and empower us in every challenge (big or small) life might offer!

## • $2^{ND}$ - Qualifications for the High Priest... vs. 1-4

- o 1<sup>st</sup> APPOINTED for men... vs. 1
  - Having established Jesus is the GREAT High Priest...
    - The author continues to show Jesus is a BETTER High Priest through comparison...
    - He compares FIVE qualifications for the role of the High Priest!
  - EVERY High Priest is TAKEN from among men...
    - The position of the High Priest was ONLY for the sons of Aaron...
    - While it is true every Priest was a Levite not every Levite was a Priest!
    - When Israel rebelled Golden Calf all of Levi stood with the Lord Exodus 32:26
    - As a result God chose the Tribe of Levi to serve Him Numbers 18:2
    - But ONLY the sons of Aaron were to serve as Priest to the Lord **Numbers 18:1**
    - And ONLY the first born son in the line of Aaron was High Priest **Exodus 29:29**
  - APPOINTED for men in things pertaining to God...
    - A priest is a go between he represents God to the people / and the people to God...
    - The people are far from God could NOT approach God did NOT know God...
    - Without the priest there was no way for the people to hear from God!
    - The problem was the sons of Aaron all died and needed to be replaced...
    - They were also sinners making them an imperfect go between at best!
    - God gave us a BETTER high priest one who lives forever never sins!
    - Jesus is our BETTER mediator He is the one who draws us close to God I Timothy 2:5
- o 2<sup>nd</sup> OFFERS sacrifices... vs. 1
  - The High Priest offered [present] gift and sacrifices for sins...
    - The job of the regular priest was to offer DAILY sacrifices...

- These were a constant reminder of the consequence of sin death Romans 6:23
- ONLY the High Priest could come into the Holiest of All...
  - The priests of God could only come as far as the Holiest with the Menorah and Table...
  - Only the [הַכֹּהֵן הַגָּדוֹל] could go behind the VEIL before the Mercy Seat...
  - And only once a year on the Day of Atonement Yom Kippur Leviticus 16
  - He would pick TWO goats one goat would be a sin offering the other the scapegoat...
  - He would offer the goat for the sin offering on the alter for the sins of the people...
  - Sprinkling blood on the Mercy Seat SEVEN times and on the horns of the Bronze Altar...
  - He would lay his hands on the scapegoat transferring the sins of the people...
  - And let it go into the wilderness never to return...
  - Symbolically is showed that the sins of the people had been removed forgotten!
  - **Psalms 103:12** "As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us."
- But the High Priest had to offer this EVERY year...
  - It was an IMPERFECT sacrifice because it could NOT completely take away sin!
  - **Hebrews 10:4** "It is NOT possible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins."
- o 3<sup>rd</sup> Have COMPASSION... vs. 2
  - The High Priest had COMPASSION...
    - COMPASSION only here NT carries the idea of BALANCE...
    - He had COMPASSION on TWO groups of people...
    - IGNORANT  $agnoe\bar{o}$  it simply means to NOT know the TRUTH...
    - ASTRAY *planaō* [planet] to be led away from the TRUTH wander from God...
  - The High Priest did not OVER react BALANCE when someone made a mistake...
    - Whether they just did NOT know the TRUTH or wandered away from it...
    - He was COMPASSIONATE as He tried to bring them back to God...
    - Because the High Priest was also a MAN subject to WEAKNESS [sin]!
    - Matthew 7:1 "Judge not, and you shall not be judged..."
    - There is always a danger of forgetting we are no better than any other sinner...
    - Becoming judgmental of others HOLIER than others super spiritual...
    - Forgetting we were just as much a sinner who knows the answer is Jesus!
- o 4<sup>th</sup> SACRIFICE for sin... vs. 3
  - The High Priest is required as for the people so also himself to offer *sacrifices* for sins...
    - When Moses CONSECRATED Aaron to be the first High Priest...
    - He first had to offer a SIN offering for his own failures Exodus 29:14
    - Because the downfall of EVERY earthly High Priest they were STILL sinners!
  - People tend to put spiritual leaders / pastors up on a pedestal...
    - There is the impression they are somehow bigger / more holy than others...
    - The danger is every person / pastor is destined to fail we are ALL sinners...
    - And if we have put our faith in a FLAWED man rather than in a PERFECT Lord...
    - When that man stumbles makes a mistake we will fall with him!
- o 5<sup>th</sup> CALLED by God... vs. 4
  - No man takes this HONOR to himself he is CALLED by God just as Aaron was...
  - Aaron did not CHOSE to be the High Priest and men did not VOTE for him…
  - The HONOR of being used BY the Lord came FROM the Lord!
  - Being used by God is not something we CHOSE or can be GIVEN by men!
  - I know men who have the DEGREE who are not CALLED...
  - A piece of paper on a wall not matter how pretty is still just a piece of paper...
  - And I know a lot of men who have no DEGREE no diplomas who are CALLED!

- The CALLING of God is SEEN through the WORK of God in their life!
- Luke 6:44 "Every tree is known by its own fruit."
- 3<sup>RD</sup> THE BETTER HIGH PRIEST... vs. 5-10
  - o 1<sup>st</sup> APPOINTED by God... vs. 5-6
    - So also Christ...
      - Having given us the FIVE qualifications for the High Priest...
      - The author shows us how Jesus fulfilled all of them in a BETTER way...
      - Proving our GREAT High Priest is a BETTER High Priest!
    - Did not GLORIFY Himself to become High Priest...
      - He who said to Him You are My Son today have I begotten You **Psalms 2:7**
      - Speaking of the incarnation God becoming a man Isaias 7:14
      - Because EVERY High Priest MUST come from Men!
    - Said in another place You are a Priest forever after the order of Melchizedek Psalms 110:4
      - Melchizedek who came to meet with Abraham after rescuing Lot Genesis 14
      - King of Righteousness / who was the King of Salem King of Peace!
      - Priest of the God Most High He was BOTH King and Priest (*only time this happens in OT*)!
      - The priesthood of Aaron ended with the destruction of the Temple 70 A.D.
      - The priesthood of Melchizedek is FOREVER it has NO end!
      - No one likes change if we are being honest we HATE change...
      - But people come and go in our lives the only constant seems to be CHANGE...
      - The good news is our High Priest will NEVER change!
      - Jesus is a BETTER High Priest because He is our FOREVER High Priest!
  - o 2<sup>nd</sup> OFFERED Himself as a sacrifice... vs. 7
    - In the days of His flesh...
      - When Jesus offered up PRAYERS deēsis to ask God for a NEED...
      - SUPPLICATIONS only here NT to lift up an olive branch SURRENDER...
      - With strong CRYING and TEARS to Him who was able to rescue Him from DEATH!
      - The author take us back to the Garden of Gethsemane Lucas 22:44
      - When Jesus prayed THREE times for God to take this CUP away from Him...
      - So crushed by the weight of what was asked He sweat drops of blood!
    - He was HEARD because of His Godly FEAR...
      - FEAR only 2x in NT to RESPECT the purpose and plans of God...
      - Jesus did NOT want to suffer and die but there was NO other way to take away sin!
      - In contrast to other High Priest Jesus did not have to OFFER sacrifices EVERY year...
      - Jesus is a BETTER High Priest because He came to TAKE away our sin once and for all!
      - **Hebrews 9:26** "Once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself."
  - o 3<sup>rd</sup> LEARNED to have COMPASSION... vs. 8
    - Though He was a Son yet He LEARNED obedience by the things which He suffered...
      - God KNOWS everything therefore since Jesus is God what could He LEARN...
      - Going back to the Garden of Gethsemane Jesus learned OBEDIENCE!
      - Luke 22:42 -"Nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done."
      - God called for Him to suffer and die for the sins of others...
      - Jesus learned to OBEY the WILL of God even if it meant DEATH Filipos 2:8
    - Why did Jesus need to LEARN...
      - Because He was being TEMPTED in all ways as we are...
      - How often do we KNOW what God wants us to do but are TEMPTED not to OBEY...
      - God calls us to DIE to ourselves Luke 9:23 and we cry out and argue...

- Jesus can RELATE He did not want to go to the cross but NOT my will but YOURS God...
- He has COMPASSION as He leads us to the place where we SURRENDER to the Lord!
- o 4<sup>th</sup> Perfect SACRIFICE... vs. 9
  - Having been PERFECTED He became the author of ETERNAL salvation...
  - PERFECTED from the root word telos to CONCLUDE or END...
  - Comes from the same root word Jesus uttered on the cross just before His death...
  - John 19:30 "He said It is finished [same root]!"
  - In contrast to the High Priest whose sacrifices had NO end…
  - The work of salvation was PERFECTED at the cross nothing else needed to be done...
  - When Jesus said it is finished He meant it!
  - He became the AUTHOR to one who creates ETERNAL salvation to all who OBEY Him!
- o 5<sup>th</sup> CALLED by God... vs. 10
  - CALLED by God as High Priest according to the order of Melchizedek...
    - We will talk much more about Melchizedek Hebrews7
    - Like Aaron before Him Jesus was CALLED by God to be High Priest...
    - But because the order of Melchizedek is ETERNAL it is a BETTER order...
    - Making Jesus a BETTER High Priest!
  - No matter where we are or what we are facing today Jesus is our answer…
    - He was APPOINTED by God to be our mediator our advocate with the Father...
    - He offered Himself as a PERFECT sacrifice taking away ALL of our sin I John 1:9
    - And He is ALWAYS there to encourage us not matter what the challenge...
    - We have a BETTER High Priest a GREAT High Priest...
    - The question is will we come BOLDLY before His Throne of Grace today!