

Hebrews 4:14 – 5:10

REVIEW...

- How Is Hebrews Divided...
 - **Hebrews 1:1–10:18** - The superiority of Jesus – BETTER than EVERYTHING and EVERYONE!
 - **Hebrews 10:19–13:25** - The superiority of FAITH – in Jesus!
- As the author continues to show Jesus is BETTER than EVERYONE and EVERYTHING...
 - BETTER than the Prophets – at giving us the Word of God...
 - BETTER than the Angels – He is the eternal creator who will rule over all...
 - BETTER than the servant Moses – as Jesus is the BUILDER and the Son...
 - 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)

- **1st – OUR GREAT HIGH PRIEST... vs. 14-16**
 - 1st – 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 – **Acts 1:9**
 - 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!
 - 2nd – Because Jesus can SYMPATHIZE... vs. 15
 - For we do NOT have a High Priest who cannot SYMPATHIZE with our 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 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 3rd – 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!
- 2ND – QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE HIGH PRIEST... vs. 1-4
 - o 1st – 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 2nd – 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 altar 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 3rd – 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 – *agnoeō* - 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 4th – 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 5th – 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.”
- 3RD – THE BETTER HIGH PRIEST... vs. 5-10
 - 1ST – 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 – **Isaiah 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!
 - 2ND – 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.”
 - 3RD – 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 4th – 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 5th – CALLED by God... vs. 10
- CALLED by God – as High Priest according to the order of Melchizedek...
 - We will talk much more about Melchizedek – **Hebrews 7**
 - 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!