Hebrews: The Supremacy of Jesus

Lesson 5
"Jesus: The Supreme High
Priest"

(Hebrews 5:1-14)

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Outline

Introduction:

Part One: The High Priest's Office (5:1-4).

Part Two: Christ's Priestly Qualifications (5:5-10).

Part Three: Hindrances to Christ's Priesthood (5:11-14).

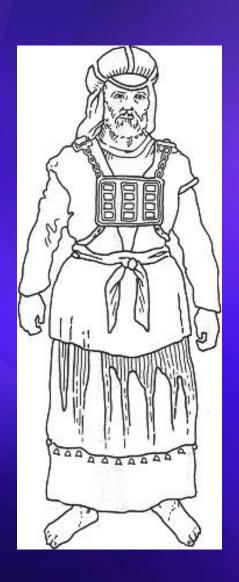
Discussion

Application

Introduction

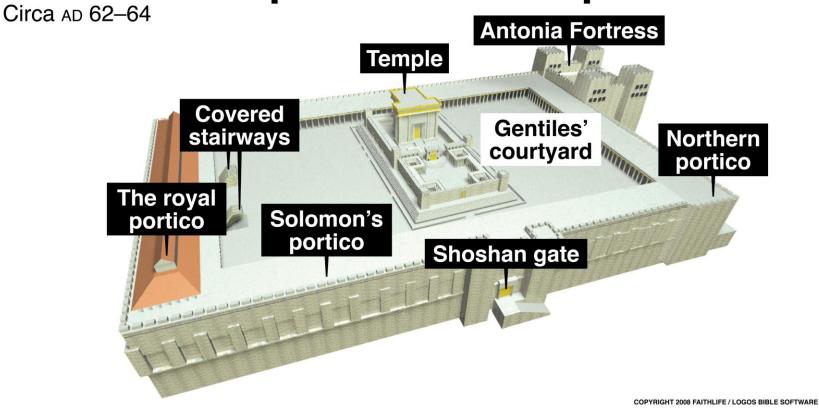
- Thesis: Christ's priesthood is greater than the priesthoods of old since God gave him his priesthood in the order of Melchizedek—by receiving Christ's priesthood into our lives, we are indebted to grow spiritually in our relationship with him.
- Priesthood, an important role in Israel.
- Christ the ultimate high priest.

High Priest

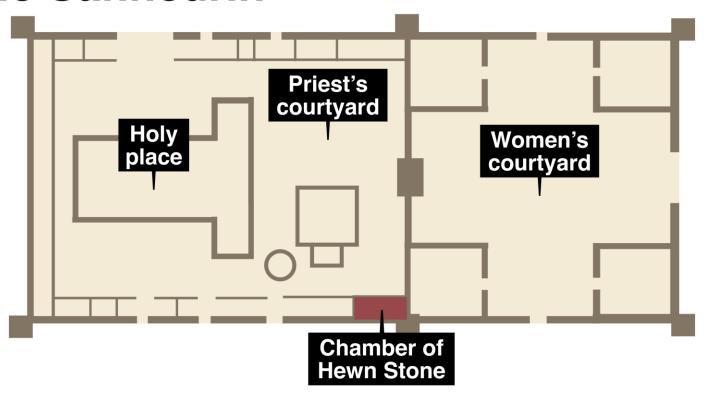




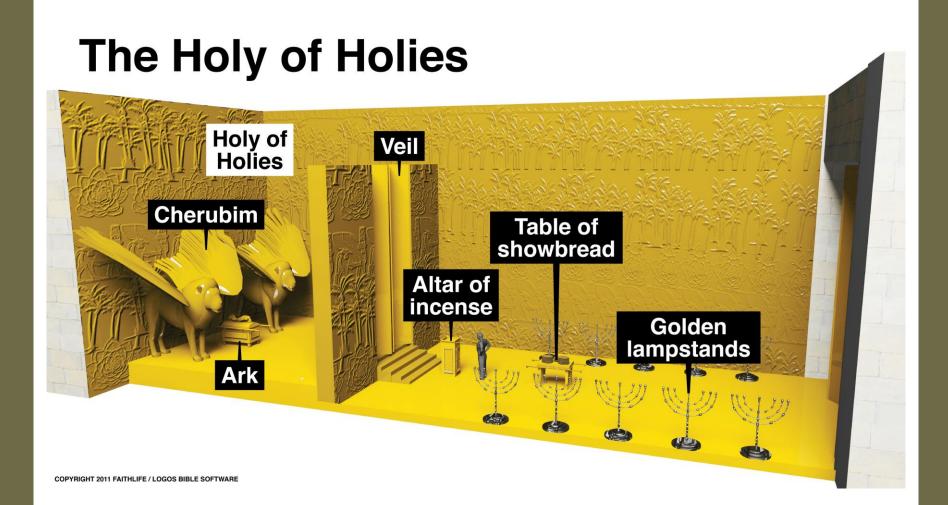
Herod's Temple on the Temple Mount



The Sanhedrin



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Things to Look For

- Descriptions of the high priest's role (part one).
- How Christ is the only one qualified to be the ultimate high priest (part two).
- Why spiritual development is so critical for one's usefulness to Christ (part three).

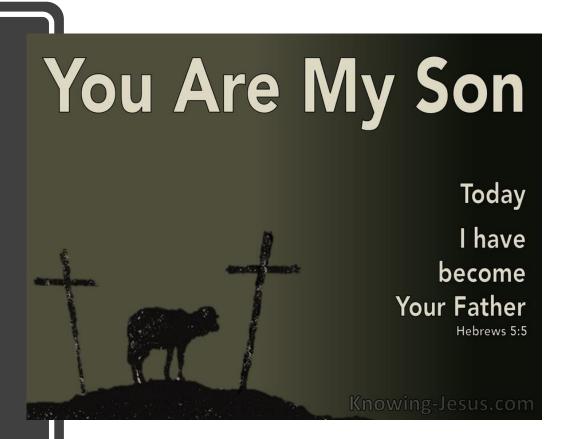
Applications

- God desires for people to enter his rest. No one can blame anyone else but oneself for rejecting Christ's message of salvation.
- While we get a foretaste of the rest we find in God, it does not come close to describing the rest we will find in God in eternity.

Final Applications

- God invites all to experience his rest, but some do not because of rebelling against God's word.
- Everyone will eventually stand before God.
- Jesus is able to diagnose our needs like no one else can because of the power of his word.
- Christians can experience God's rest both now and for all eternity.

PART ONE: THE HIGH PRIEST'S OFFICE (5:1-4).



Part One: The High Priest's Office (5:1)

- Christ's display of grace and mercy as found in 4:14-16.
- Four ways the priesthood functioned.
 - 1. Represented people before God.
 - 2. Was selected by God.
 - 3. Served in godly matters.
 - 4. Offered sacrifices for people's sins.

Part One: The High Priest's Office (5:2)

- High priest was not to be harsh, but deal gently with people.
- Must realize people's weaknesses.

Part One: The High Priest's Office (5:3)

- High priest was responsible for his sins as well as the people's.
- Illus: "Off-put by Arrogant Preachers"
- Example: "Preacher Who Did Cartwheels"



Part One: The High Priest's Office (5:4)

- A person does not call oneself to the priesthood, rather God calls a person to the priesthood.
- Likewise, God calls a person to preach, and not the other way around.
- Illus: "Man Who Did Not Have Calling"





Applications

- 1. Priesthood was a divine calling. We all have a calling.
- 2. Good high priests were humble. We too should be humble.
- "In your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, ready at any time to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you." But, we must not forget verse 16 which says, "Yet do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that when you are accused, those who disparage your good conduct in Christ will be put to shame" (1 Pet. 3:16).



PART TWO: CHRIST'S PRIESTLY QUALIFICATIONS (5:5-10).

QUALIFICATION OF CALLING (5:5-6).

- (5:5) God called Christ as the ultimate high priest.
 - Psalm 2 quoted which is also connected with Christ's coronation (Heb. 1:2) and resurrection (Ac. 3:3).
- (5:6) Contrasts Christ's priesthood with Aaron's.
 - 1. Prophetic formula.
 - 2. Eternal priesthood.
 - 3. Order of Melchizedek.

QUALIFICATION OF SYMPATHY (5:7).

- Jesus's use of prayer when facing death.
 - How did Father answer Jesus's prayer when facing death?
 - 1. Relieved him of fear?
 - 2. Rescued by resurrection?
 - 3. Combination of both?
 - Compare to the "Why me?" movement.

QUALIFICATION OF SYMPATHY (5:8).

- What does it mean to say that Jesus learned obedience when he suffered?
- Jesus was the omniscient God, but he still had to learn and grow as a human (Lk. 2:52).
- Jesus emptied himself in the pre-NT hymn (Phil. 2:7).
- Jesus learned the value of obedience through suffering by his death on the cross.

Illustration: Jerry Bedsoe and the Suffering Church



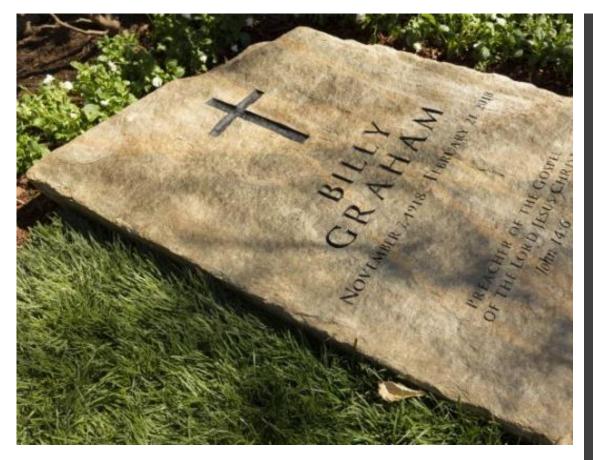
QUALIFICATION OF SYMPATHY (5:9).

- Christ was morally perfect.
- But, Christ was now qualified to assume the role of ultimate high priest after successfully obeying God through the torments on the cross, thus becoming the "source of eternal salvation."
- What is meant by "all who obey him"?
- Salvation brings forth the desire to obey Christ.



QUALIFICATION OF SYMPATHY (5:10).

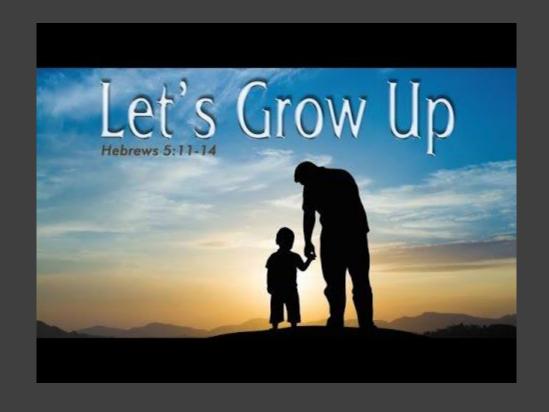
- Christ was given the title high priest by God.
- Title was that of a high priest.
- Priesthood in the order of Melchizedek and not from Levitical tribe.



Applications

- The need for divine obedience normally is learned best through the worst of sufferings.
- Since Christ was given the title of high priest by God, then no one else qualifies.
- If Jesus is whom he said he was, then there cannot be another pathway to salvation.
- Illus: "Billy Graham Tombstone Controversy Over John 14:6."

PART THREE: HINDRANCES TO CHRIST'S PRIESTHOOD (5:11-14).



- Admittedly, Melchizedek's relation to Christ is difficult to understand.
- But, the audience of Hebrews had become slow learners because of their laziness.

- The writer of Hebrews notes that he had given strong words, but was justified for two reasons.
- 1) The people had learned so much that they themselves were capable of being teachers. Illus: "Calculus Student Needing Multiplication Table"
- 2) Audience had reverted backwards to baby's milk.

- What is meant by milk?
- 1) Infants live on milk, not adults.
 - The audience should have progressed by now.
- 2) Spiritual infants are not acquainted with biblical righteousness.
 - This is why heresies are accepted.
 - This is also why the church loses its influence in society.

- How does a person grow spiritually?
- 1) By a steady diet of biblical theology.
- 2) By a steady diet in spiritual disciplines.

Applications

- Spiritual immaturity affects our usefulness.
- Spiritual immaturity affects our theological framework.
- Spiritual immaturity affects our moral reasoning.
- Spiritual maturity comes by regular study in God's word and by the regular practice of spiritual disciplines.

Discussion

- Why do you suppose that we learn the value of divine obedience through times of great suffering?
- Why is it so important to grow and mature in one's faith and knowledge of God's word?



Final Applications

- The high priest stood between the people and God. Find your calling.
- Christ is our ultimate high priest. As such, there is no other way to be saved.
- After we have been saved, we cannot remain as we are. We should be growing in the Lord. We cannot remain as spiritual infants. We must grow in spiritual maturity both theologically and relationally.

Next Study:

"Why You Should Endure with Jesus" (Hebrews 6:1-20)

