

# The Book of Hebrews

## The Great High Priest

### Grace in the time of need...

How much trust can we put in God's voice? Total trust, for nothing in our lives is hidden from Him. According to Heb 4:12-13, His Word searches our whole being, not to condemn us, but to sense our deepest, most secret needs. With these laid bare, God's Spirit guides us to His rest. In the passage before us, the preacher reminds us of a wonderful

truth. Through Jesus our High Priest we have immediate access to God. If we need help to find our way, He will give it freely.

**Background:** Heb 4:14 to Heb 10:25 is called the "The Position of the Son." It is the main theological section of the book that establishes the work and ministry of Jesus. Heb 4:14-16 and 10:19-25 form the beginning, "We have a high priest who has gone to heaven" and the end, "We have a high priest who takes to heaven."

#### A. Our High Priest Heb 4:14-16

**1. Passed through:** The OT priest passed through the outer court, the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies to make atoning sacrifice. Jesus passed through atmospheric heaven, the stellar heaven and God's abode. (2 Cor 12:2-4)

**2. Hold fast:** We can hold fast because Jesus in His humanity experienced our weakness and temptations—and was victorious. Jesus was tired, hungry, thirsty, and perplexed (see John 11:33).

**3. Come boldly:** Unlike the world where we do not have access to kings, presidents and monarchs—we can come boldly into God's presence. Christ's High-Priestly ministry has achieved for believers what Israel never enjoyed—immediate access to God and freedom to draw near to Him continually.

#### B. God's High Priest Heb 5:1-10

**1. Earthly priesthood:** [1-4] The position of High-Priest in the Levitical system was by appointment only. The priest was called and appointed by God. However, he was reminded of his own sinful humanity every time he offered sacrifices for his own sins.

**2. Heavenly priesthood:** [5-10] The preacher quotes from Psalm 2:7 and 110:4 to demonstrate Christ's 'Sonship' and His priesthood. Psalm 2 recognizes the Son as both King and Messiah. Christ is the King-Priest.

**a. Melchizedek:** [Psa 110:4] As king of Salem (Jerusalem) and priest of the Most High God in the time of Abraham, he was also a king-priest (Gen. 14:18–20). We will study the Melchizedekan priesthood in Heb 7 (message 12).

**b. The author of salvation:** [7-10] As the incarnate Lord, He humbled Himself to learn obedience for the same reasons He bore temptation: to confirm His humanity and experience its sufferings to the fullest. Christ's obedience was also necessary so that He could fulfill all righteousness (Matt. 5:13) and thus prove to be the perfect sacrifice to take the place of sinners (1 Pet. 3:18). He was the perfectly righteous One, whose righteousness would be imputed to sinners (see Rom. 3:24–26).

#### Hebrews 4:14–16 (NKJV)

**14** Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. **15** For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. **16** Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

#### Hebrews 5:1–10 (NKJV)

**1** For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins. **2** He can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness. **3** Because of this he is required as for the people, so also for himself, to offer sacrifices for sins. **4** And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron was.

**5** So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him:

"You are My Son,  
Today I have begotten You."

**6** As He also says in another place: "You are a priest forever  
According to the order of  
Melchizedek";

**7** who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear, **8** though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. **9** And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him, **10** called by God as High Priest "according to the order of Melchizedek..."