

Greater Than: The High Priest

Hebrews 4:14-5:10 (Pg. 1,101)

To remain steadfast in their faith, they needed to understand that Jesus is

Greater Than... Angels (chapter 1).

Greater Than... Moses and Joshua (chapter 3).

A. Christ is a **Heavenly High Priest**

4:14

From the time of Mt. Sinai, God ordained that the Tribe of Levi had the privilege and responsibility of facilitating worship as priests.

The high priest had to abstain from ritual defilement.

-not permitted to come in contact with dead bodies

-required to immerse himself in the ritual bath before performing any sacred act

-wore very specific vestments detailed by God

Jesus passed through the **heavens** after He conquered death and the grave.

B. Christ is a High Priest who can Identify with **Humanity**

4:15

At His weakest moment, after He had fasted 40 days, Jesus was tempted by the Devil.

Matthew 4

1. The Devil appealed to the **flesh**, tempting the Lord to satisfy His physical desire for food by turning stones into bread (4:3).
2. The Devil appealed to **pride**, tempting the Lord to prove His deity by jumping from the Temple's pinnacle, whereupon His angels would swoop down and miraculously preserve Him from injury (4:5-6).

3. The Devil appealed to the eyes, tempting the Lord with power and dominion (4:8-9).

Jesus' victorious experience with temptation provides **empathy**, encouragement and victory for us in our temptation.

C. Christ Provides Access to the **Holy of Holies**

4:16

Under the Mosaic Covenant, Israelites were unable to go before God's throne. They obtained access through the High Priest who was only allowed into God's presence once a year, on the Day of Atonement.

Thanks to the finished work of Christ, true believers approach a throne of grace, not a throne of **judgment**.

?? What about the restriction that only those from the tribe of Levi could serve as priests? Jesus wasn't from the line of Levi; He was the Lion of Judah.

The Spirit explains that there was a second order of priests, outside of the Levitical line. This second order is acknowledged by God Himself, and actually predates the Levitical priesthood by over 5 centuries. Hebrews 5:9-10

Conclusion:

Hold **firmly** to the faith!

The Christian life involves divine cooperation:

Obedience to God & dependence on God (trust)
Make every effort & enter His rest

What a High Priest! God's throne of grace is open.
Have you availed yourself of it?