

WINTER QUARTER SUNDAY SCHOOL 2014-2015

THEME: COME LET US ADORE CHRIST THE KING IN WORSHIP, PRAYER, AND STEWARDSHIP

Unit II – Worshipping Christ Through the Model of Prayer

“CHRIST’S HEAVENLY POSITION AS GOD’S FAITHFUL HIGH PRIEST”

Sunday School Lesson No. VII – January 18, 2015

Presented by Rev. Frank A. Davis, III Pastor-Teacher

Lesson Text: Hebrews 4:14 – 5:10

Motto Text: Hebrews 4:14-15 (NLT), *“So then, since we have a great High Priest who has entered heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to what we believe. This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin.”*

Required Reading: Exodus 28; Leviticus 4:1-3; Leviticus 16

Reliable Resources: Word Search 10 Electronic Library; Life Application Bible (NIV); Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator; Logos Bible Software; Precepts for Living, UMI; Outline



Bible (H. L. Willmington); The Touch Bible; Commentary on Hebrews by John Phillips

LESSON INTRODUCTION

In the history of the nation of Israel, there was a great divinely ordained position created by God called the priesthood. This position was given to one specific tribe of the nation called the Levites. “But why were priests necessary?” you may ask. The position was necessary because of what a priest does. The priest was a person who would be an intercessor between the people and God. One commentator called them “go-betweeners.” In order for the Israelites to walk in a way that pleased God after they were delivered from Egypt, Jehovah set up the priesthood, which would teach the people how to walk circumspectly and represent the people with acts of worship and reconciliation when they had trespassed against God. A priesthood was necessary as long as man lived on earth because man always makes mistakes in his walk before God.

Now Jehovah not only set up the Levites as priests, but he also chose from among them a position called the High Priest. This position came from the family of Aaron. His position might have been called in Israel, the most important. According to Leviticus 16, once a year he offered a sacrifice for the Atonement of the nation. Only the High Priest could enter the Holy of Holies to intercede for sins for the people before Jehovah, after he first offered sacrifice for himself! Leviticus 16:6, *“And Aaron shall offer his bullock of the sin offering, which is for himself, and make an atonement for himself, and for his house.”*

Now we will speak concerning the early Jewish Christians and the letter to the Hebrews. They had been delivered from the bondage of sin as we today have been, but they were becoming tempted to go back into the tradition of their past religious practices because of persecutions. The Hebrews writer assures them of the importance of a High Priest, but one that is greater or more excellent than the Aaronic priesthood. The High Priest of the Church is Jesus Christ!

In Hebrews 4:5-13 we learned that Jesus Christ gives the believer true eternal rest. And this week we will discover that only through His mediatorial work as our High Priest seated in Heaven can He maintain for us that rest with God the Father.

Anticipated Power Points:

- **He is our High Priest Passed into Heaven. Hebrews 4:14-16**
- **He is our High Priest Parallel to History. Hebrews 5:1-6**
- **He is our High Priest Propagating Holiness. Hebrews 5:7-10**

“Christ’s Heavenly Position as God’s Faithful High Priest”

LESSON OUTLINE

I. He is our High Priest Passed into Heaven. Hebrews 4:14-16

A. He is Ceaseless. vs. 14

Our High Priest gives us confidence because, unlike the Aaronic priesthood, which was passed on from man to man, Jesus has passed on into Heaven and completed all the necessary work for our sin on earth, and He oversees our salvation

ceaselessly from Heaven. He maintains our rest with God, and never has to be sacrificed or offer sacrifices again (Heb. 9:28).

B. He is Compassionate. vs. 15

The High Priest needed to be a man of compassion because he was human, knowing the frailties of man. But he stood for God, knowing the expectation which He desired. Jesus is compassionate because He has the experience of men, in that He came as a man and was tempted in every area, yet without sin. Read Luke 4:1-13. He is also God who could not sin. Knowing our frailties and God's excellence, He stands for us with compassion.

C. He is Connectable. vs. 16

The writer now encourages the Jewish Christians as well as all believers to come unto Jesus Christ, our High Priest, because we can connect with Him. He is approachable and He represents the mercy seat of grace, and not judicial condemnation. Thank God that Jesus as our High Priest is connectable to His saints!

II. He is our High Priest Parallel to History. Hebrews 5:1-6

As I shared in the introduction, the early Jewish Christians were familiar with the office of a high priest. This office was ordained under the Aaronic priesthood. Jesus Christ, our High Priest, is the excellent, superior fulfillment of this historical office. Like the historic high priest, Jesus Christ is...

A. Anointed by God. vs. 1

Offering Himself as the acceptable sacrifice! Hebrews 2:9 tells us: *"But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man."*

B. Amidst His people. vs. 2-3

This is a great sacrifice on Jesus' part, in order for Him to feel the infirmities of His people. II Corinthians 5:21 says: *"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."*

C. Appointed by God. vs. 4-6

1. vs. 4. Like the high priest of history, Jesus did not appoint Himself but was appointed to the position of High Priest by Jehovah. Read Exodus 28:1 and Numbers 16: 39-40.
2. vs. 5. The Hebrews writer refers to Psalm 2:7 to declare that Jesus' position carries Divine fulfillment to the type demonstrated by Aaron and his descendants.
3. vs. 6. The introduction of the character of Melchizedek (Ps. 110:4) should have opened the memories of the early Jewish Christians to the fact that Jehovah had a greater priesthood. The priesthood of Melchizedek was a kingly priesthood of which there is little known, but that Abraham of old honored it by paying tithes before the giving of the law. (Read Genesis 14:18-21.)

III. He is our High Priest Propagating Holiness. Hebrews 5:7-10

A. He is the Almighty Surrendered Sacrifice. vs. 7-8

The writer takes us back to Jesus' willingness to offer Himself up to the cost to please the Father and save the sinner! Matthew 26 records His prayer and agony in Gethsemane. Jesus was willing to suffer and die and sought that after death the Father would raise Him from the dead. And He did. Also we reflect upon Jesus' surrender that led to His future exaltation when we read Phil. 2:8: *"And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."* In all things, Jesus is a holy, High Priest set apart to do the Father's will.

B. He is the Author of our salvation. vs. 9-10

Jesus Christ was not only obedient unto the Father's will as our sacrifice for the past, but He is the perpetual keeper of salvation for all who trust in Him. "He has brought it into being. It will last as long as He does." John Phillips

CLOSING

We close this lesson with the writer again exhorting the sinking saints of wavering doubts. Hold on because Jesus Christ is not some ritual priest, but as Phillips declares: "He is the real, royal, right Priest that should strike revolution to any other system or priest by any other name." We conclude with Hebrews 9:11-12: *"But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us."*

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Looking Ahead: January 25, 2015 James 5:13-18



You are invited to attend Noon Bible Study every Wednesday as Pastor Davis teaches the lesson at Bibleway.