



Hebrews

The Supremacy of Christ


Jesus: The Great High Priest

Class #6

Pastor Verlin D. Williams

Union Baptist Church

Wednesday, October 12, 2022



Entering God's Rest

Hebrews 4:11 “Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience.”

God's rest is available, but God does not force anyone into it. God's rest must be entered by faith and it takes diligence. Faith is not passive, it takes diligence to trust in, rely on and cling to Jesus and His work for us.

Old Testament symbol for Israel's rest – Canaan (*The Promised Land*).

New Testament – Faith in The Lord Jesus to experience rest. (*The Kingdom of God/Heaven*).

Be Diligent to Enter

If we are not diligent to enter, the results can be disastrous. We will fall short of God's promise of experiencing "rest" even as the people of Israel did who died in the wilderness. They had been set free from bondage, were the chosen people, had been provided for as they wandered in the wilderness, but because of their unbelief they died in the wilderness.

Transition

For followers of Jesus, God's promised rest is realized by faith (being in Christ). This new reality ends the need for the Levitical priesthood and the High Priest.

The Levitical priesthood began with Aaron, the older brother of Moses (Exodus 28:1-3). Priests served by ministering in the tabernacle and temple, primarily as mediators between man and God.

- *They were appointed from the tribe of Levi. Only a Levite could serve as priest.*
- *They offered sacrifices on behalf of the people, including sacrifices for themselves as required by the Mosaic Law.*
- *They received the tithe from the people.*
- *They maintained the temple and temple grounds.*
- *They were held to stringent standards of behavior and ritual purity.*
- *They all ended their priesthood when they died.*

The Levitical priesthood was a temporary arrangement until the death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus.

The Role and Responsibilities of the *High Priest* under the Levitical Priesthood

- *The high priest was the supreme religious leader of the Israelites.*
- *He was responsible for overseeing the responsibilities of all the subordinate priests.*
- *Only the high priest could wear the Urim and the Thummim.*
- *He had to offer a sin offering for the sins of the whole congregation and for himself.*

The Day of Atonement

The most important duty was on the Day of Atonement, the tenth day of the seventh month of every year. Only he could enter the Most Holy Place behind the veil to stand before God. He then brought the blood of the sacrifice into the Holy of Holies and sprinkled it on the mercy seat, God's "throne", to make atonement for all the sins committed during the year just ended.

The Day of Atonement is no longer necessary. Why? Because the Day of Atonement in the Old Testament was a temporary solution which pointed toward the permanent solution – Jesus' death on the Cross.

Therefore, Jesus is introduced as our Compassionate High Priest

Hebrews 4:14, "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."

Great High Priest

Position in Heaven (Hebrews 8:1-2)

Impact on earth (Hebrews 9:11-15)

Jesus

Messiah

Lived among men (the incarnation (Hebrews 4:14-16))

Son of God

Appointed by God (Hebrews 5:1-6)

Divine

Eternal (Hebrews 7:23-28)

Hebrews 4:15, “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.”

He can sympathize with our weaknesses (propensity to sin and the power of temptation) because He lived as a human being.

Tempted in all points:

- *The lust of the flesh — to satisfy the appetites of the flesh (Matthew 4:3-4).*
- *The lust of the eye — the desire to be recognized, to be exalted in the eyes of the world (Matthew 4:5-7).*
- *The pride of life — fame and wealth that is given in exchange for the soul. (Matthew 4:8-10).*

Jesus was tempted in all points throughout His ministry.

Hebrews 4:16, "Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

Benefits because of the sacrifice that Jesus has made for sins:

We are justified in the presence of God the Father, therefore we come (how?) boldly
(Where?) – to the throne of grace

- It is a throne
- It is a throne of grace
- It is where we obtain mercy (the difference between obtaining and receiving)
- It is where we find grace to help in time of need

Spiritual Immaturity

Hebrews 5:11-14

And you have come to need milk and not solid food. Milk corresponds to the first principles (***Hebrews 6:12***). Solid food is the “meatier” material such as understanding the connection between Jesus and Melchizedek. Milk is not bad; but these believers should have added solid food to their spiritual diet.

Babies are delightful, but a person who should have matured who is still a baby is different.

Spiritual babies are:

- *Tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine (Ephesians 4:14-16).*
- *Divisive in the body of Christ by being self-centered, possessive, uncooperative.*
- *Focused on one particular person (their mother), and spiritual babes glory in men (I am of Paul, I am of Apollos, as in 1 Corinthians 1:12).*

The Essential Nature of Maturity

Hebrews 6:1-6

Going beyond the basics.

Therefore, leaving the discussion of elementary principles of Christ

Some basics:

Elementary principles are given in three pairs:

Repentance and faith go together.

Baptisms and laying on of hands go together.

Resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment are paired together.

Dependence on God (**verse 3**)

If God permits, expresses the believers' complete dependence on God. If we do press on to maturity, we realize that it only happens at God's pleasure.

The danger of falling away