

Hebrews 4:14-16. The High priest was the one who represented (11) the people to God (and a prophet represented God to the people). But, the High priest of "old" had to keep going to God, every year and present sacrifices that did no more than cover (sweep under the carpet) sin. IT WAS NEVER TO SANCTIFY PEOPLE BEFORE GOD. Yes, people were counted as righteous for their obedience to the Law but that still did not allow them in God's presence.

But, God (someday we'll do a Bible study just on "But, God") in His forever wisdom said, "Enough, Now it's time for a once and for all High Priest Sacrifice". And that sacrifice was the High Priest Himself: Jesus Christ. Furthermore, this final Sacrifice was also without blemish even though it/He was tempted with all possible blemishes. Verse 16 says that we now need not come to the High priest yearly, nor fear that God will not accept his offering on our behalf. Why? Because "it is finished."

Hebrews 5:1-4: I believe every high priest was from the tribe of Levi. Every year the priest's would draw straws to see who would represent the people and since they also had the sin nature circulating in their bodies they too had to offer sacrifices for their own sins. Tradition has it that these priests would go behind the curtain/vail of the Holy of Holies with a rope around their waist and a bell on their bodies so that if God did not accept their sacrifice offered up, that the people could pull them out by the rope (if the bell stopped sounding). These High priests, just like prophets and Kings, were all anointed by God, and chosen by God (by use of casting lots, Ephod, presenting before God (like David), or because God directly said so in the next verse:

Hebrews 5:5 "You are My Son; today I have become your Father (begotten You)". And in the same manner:

Hebrews 5:6 "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek" - notice God is calling the priest of Melchizedek a forever priest.

How is someone a forever priest? That would mean that they have no beginning and no end. The only way that could be is if this Melchizedek were a Theophany, or preincarnate Jesus.

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Let's look at that event when Abram (not yet Abraham) encountered Melchizedek. Notice how this priest of "God Most ⁽¹²⁾

High": ① blessed. ② offered bread and wine ③ Abraham gave Him a tithe (which he did not do to the king of Sodom, Bera; nor did he accept anything from Bera). ④ This king of Melchizedek has no lineage. No beginning. (See print-out Genesis 14: 18-24) and then John 8: 48-58 (Jesus seeing Abraham/Abram?), and the statement that Jesus is the visible image of the invisible God (Colossians 1: 15), and Hebrews chapter 7: 1-28 which almost makes it sound like Melchizedek was a mortal man.

Hebrews 5: 7 We always have to go back and understand that Jesus did not have super powers that shielded Him from trials, tribulations, pain, suffering or even the death of the Cross. He could NOT be Stephanatized. Verse 7 says, He cried for relief (let this cup pass from Me) but still submitted (Not My will but Thine be done).

Hebrews 5: 8-9 God did not spare His One and only Son. But because He submitted, and was obedient, to God's plan "He became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey Him..."

Hebrews 5: 10 "... and was designated by God to be High Priest in the order of Melchizedek. ("In the order of" = like).

Hebrews 5: 11-12 Harsh words, but this is not a game! Life after salvation is all about growing in Christ. Sometimes we need to be slapped around (verbally) for becoming comfortable in what we know about God. Enjoying the basics and not growing. How can we be teachers of the word when we haven't gotten past potty training?

Hebrews 5: 13-14 Milk as an infant is life saving nourishment, but milk, only, as an adult leads to death, because one can not survive on just milk. As we grow we need to feed ourselves with the "meat" of the Word so that we can distinguish between right and wrong, righteous and unrighteousness and Godly and ungodly. How can we help someone else find salvation in Jesus Christ when we are still in the Jesus is Lord stage?