

Hebrews 5.1-4

From Man, For Man, Of God

In this passage, the writer of Hebrews begins to set the stage for the next major sweep of this letter.

Remember that he is displaying the superior nature of the God-Man, Jesus who is our final and only sufficient High Priest. He will spend the greater part of the next five chapters laying out the meat of the bones he plots here. He shows us four parallels and alludes to one glaring difference between the OT high priest and Jesus Christ, the NT High priest. He shows us the proto-evangelion... the broad strokes of the gospel which are laid out in these lines... we need someone who will stand between us and the Holy God whom we have offended. Our sin makes us incapable of choosing who this will be, or even how he will serve. God must fashion this intercessor for us, God must determine both what his work will be, and whether or not God will accept what is done by him. The priest of the OT rites showed us the heart of what God was going to do in the giving of His Son. But the Son surpassed the OT priest in every way.

I. TAKEN FROM MEN

- a. Had to be one of us - Jesus was born of woman and was fully man and yet remained fully God. The nature of the hypostatic union is one of the most difficult things in all scripture to wrap our tiny intellects around and yet it is clearly presented.

- b. Had to represent those who he stood in front of.
 - i. The office of priest had to be filled by someone who was OF those who he was representing. He had to have a stake in the problem and be able to represent the whole. To carry the offerings of the people before the God who had been offended by their sin and rebellion.

 - ii. But Jesus took it further by also representing God's part in the bargain. It was impossible for man to offer the sacrifice (or for the insufficient blood of animals to satisfy God's judgement) to God in a manner that was fully acceptable. His

heart would neither be pure enough nor would he rightly understand God's anger at sin, and the depth of the holy hatred that was being appeased.

- c. Had to be able to understand their plight, as well as being able to aim them at better things.
 - i. To exercise compassion towards men by experiencing the difficulty of life as a man
 - ii. To know the glory of God as worth the cost of following Him despite the fallen world in which we live. The job of the priest was to stand as the bridge between heaven and earth.

II. APPOINTED FOR MEN

- a. Had the main duty of representing others
 - i. The ephod had stones on the shoulder engraved with names of the tribes of Israel - he bore the names and families of Israel always over his heart while he represented them.

- ii. The breastplate of judgement was worn over the ephod - it had 12 stones set upon it - also engraved with the names of the tribes of Israel, carried in the breastplate were the Urim and the Thummim (articles of an unknown nature - whose names mean literally the lights and the perfections- these were used to help understand the will of God and carried by the priest.) - Jesus alone is the final revelation of God and His will.

Hebrews 1.1-4

- iii. A turban with the gold plate which reads "holiness to the Lord" - to be worn as a sign that the priest bore the iniquity of the people and their gifts when he went before the Lord. It was a reminder that both the gifts and the givers needed to be cleansed and were accepted not because they were worthy, but because God was gracious and willing to accept them. Jesus bore no such turban but is Himself, for He was born of the Holy Spirit and was holy to the Lord in all His person. –

Hebrews 7.26 – 27

- iv. Stood in the place first filled by Aaron and while the role of priest was a hereditary role, Jesus, who was not of the tribe of Levi, was accepted as the highest of priests. Thus becoming the final and ultimate priest. He was a priest of the order of Melchizedek (which we will get to in chapter 7) the argument being that Levi was still in the body of Abraham when Abraham paid homage to Melchizedek the King of Salem.
- b. Was set apart as a dedicated intercessor, interpreter, translator
 - i. His chief duty was to go before God on behalf of the people
 - ii. He was singularly set apart for his job, and it marked him out, it changed him in the marking.
 - iii. The priest had a duty to stand before God on behalf of the people. That was his life. His purpose, and all the rest of His world revolved around that, so much so that he lived on the offerings given, not being permitted to work

the ground or hold other jobs. He had one job, and was to be free to do it always. Jesus always lives to be our intercessor –

Hebrews 7:25 (NKJV)

25 Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

III. APPOINTED TO OFFER

a. Gifts and Offerings

i. Gifts of Thanksgiving –

1. Jesus is our source of all things and the reason for all our thanksgiving –

Philemon 4-7

2. The knowledge of His place as source makes us offer thanks in all things and for all things. –

Colossians 2.6-7

Ephesians 5:20 (NKJV)

20 giving thanks always for all things to God
the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus
Christ,

- ii. Offerings for First fruits - the priest offered the firstfruits of the people's harvest, sacrifices to redeem the firstborn of sons and animals. Jesus offers the people themselves as the firstfruit of His own harvest from mankind.

James 1:18 (NKJV)

18 Of His own will He brought us forth by the
word of truth, that we might be a kind of
firstfruits of His creatures.

- iii. Offerings for First born –
 - 1. God's only son

John 3.16

2. the firstborn from the dead

Revelation 1:5–6 (NKJV)

5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth.

To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, 6 and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

- iv. Offerings for Harvests - Jesus is the Lord of the harvest and He offers the harvest as an offering to God. –

Matthew 9.35-38

- v. Offerings from vows and oaths etc. The priest was to offer sacrifices in connection to vows made before God, Jesus paid the fullness of His own vow in dying to save His people. Ps. 22 is a messianic Psalm depicting the crucifixion of

Christ, but it concludes with this idea of a fulfilled vow and payment offered. Which in turn becomes a blessing to all.

Psalm 22.22 -31

b. Sacrifices

- i. Sin offerings, trespass offerings, guilt offerings
- ii. For the people
 1. Whatever they needed
 2. Whenever they needed
 3. Whether they fully understood it or not
 4. He was the one who stood between the people and God and made the anger of God turn aside.
- iii. Jesus Himself **became** the sin offering for the people.

Isaiah 53.10-11

Romans 3.21-26

1. His blood gains us access to God –

Hebrews 10.19-25

2. Calls us to continue in worship
3. Calls us to obey His commands to gather
4. Calls us to walk in holiness being cleansed and forgiven by the blood which He shed in our place
5. Calls us to be made cleansed in our minds, hearts and consciences by due contemplation of the price of our forgiveness
 - a. The OT worship was a very visceral thing
 - b. You lived by the death of another
 - c. So too do we, it is crucial that we give this truth its due in our lives, in our minds, in our hearts so that we might honor the One who bought us at such a terrible price.

iv. For himself

1. His own guilt must also be atoned for by the blood of another...
2. This is the glaring difference between the Lord Jesus Christ and the OT priests. –

Hebrews 7.26 - 28

Jesus Needed to offer nothing for Himself, being perfectly sinless.

- a. Jesus offered ONE sacrifice forever.
- b. He completed His work
- c. He offered His own blood as sacrifice
- d. He made a way by the pure blood of His own body
- e. He finished the work and sits now at the right hand of the Father and makes continual and eternal intercession for us.

c. Compassion

- i. He understands the plight of His people, and has compassion on them...

Hebrews 4.14-16

Matthew 9.36

Matthew 14.14

Matthew 15.32

Matthew 20.34

Mark 1.41

Mark 9.22

Luke 7.13

- ii. He has born our temptation, our weaknesses, our pain. But His victory over sin was total; there is nothing left for us to do.
- iii. His Compassion is poured out on us because God Himself has compassion on us...

Romans 9.14-18

IV. CALLED BY GOD –

- a. Understand that God Himself chose the priestly line –

Exodus 27. 21 - 28.1

- b. God chose Jesus to be the replacement of the old priesthood.

Hebrews 7.20-22

- c. He was to be a priest forever.

Hebrews 7.23-25

- d. He is unchanging in His person and in His determination to save a people for Himself –

Hebrews 13:8

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.