

1. As we come to the end of Hebrews 4, the writer presents Jesus to Jewish Christians of his day, as their great high priest!
Hebrews 4:14-16

- a. What is a high priest? The high priest was a man who would bring offerings into the presence of God for the sins of the people of Israel.
- b. The fact that the children of Israel needed a high priest to enter God's presence shows us that they were separated from God. Explain the high priest's ministry! The first priest: Genesis 14:18. From right here to (C10) the priesthood of Christ far superior to the OC Levitical high priests.
- c. You, dear Christian, have a "Great" High Priest, Jesus, the Son of God, who is (at this very time) appearing in the presence of God for you! He is your Advocate; He is able to sympathize with you in every way!
 - i. You've heard this, "You've never gone through what I am going through, how can you help me?"
- d. Dear Christian, EVERYTHING that you have or will face in your life, He faced it too, but He was victorious! Isn't that the kind of Friend and sympathetic ear that you want, from One who was victorious, and who did not fail or sin in His sufferings and troubles?
 - i. Your great high priest IS NOT a disconnected being, Jesus IS A Man, Who identifies with you in your humanity, He sympathizes with you in every way, He has the answers, the grace, and the help that you need in your life for you to be victorious!
- e. Because of the sacrifice of Jesus, your Great High Priest, you have continual access to God! There is HELP for you at the throne of grace, if you come in your time of need! But you must make use your access!
- f. Jesus, the Son of God "Our Great High Priest" has opened the way into the presence of God for you, dear Christian... You, unlike the OC children of Israel have continual access into God's presence!

2. Up to this point, the writer had only briefly touched on the priesthood of the Lord Jesus Christ: Hebrews 1:3, 2:17, 3:1.

- a. Every "devoted" Jewish believer knew the importance of the ministry of the high priest" in the old covenant system.
- b. If you remember from Leviticus 16, he was that "one man" who had the awful responsibility of appearing in the presence of God, once every year for the people, on the day of atonement, when he entered the holy place with blood of bulls and goats, which he first offered for his own sins, and then afterward, for the sins of the people. Hebrews 9:6-8
 - i. Get that, it was ONLY the high priest that had access into the presence of God!

- c. In contrast to the OC High Priests, who passed through the earthly tabernacle, and then through the veil into the holiest of all with the blood of bulls and goats, Jesus, is presented to the Jewish Christians as "Their (OUR) Great High Priest" Who passed (or traversed NOT into an earthly tabernacle), but into heaven itself!
- d. The fact that the writer strongly emphasized, "Seeing then that WE HAVE a great high priest," implies that there were Jewish unbelievers and naysayers telling Jewish Christians, you have no high priest, no temple, and no sacrifices!
- e. BUT WE DO, saith the writer, but He is not just "a high priest," He is "Our Great High Priest," (or as it means, the greatest), and He didn't "pass through an earthly" tabernacle or temple into a holy place on earth! He passed into the heavens! Hebrews 9:11-12, 24-28
- f. There are no longer any imperfect earthly high priests from the tribe of Levi offering animal sacrifices! The Levitical priesthood has been completely done away by the blood of Jesus Christ and His unchangeable priesthood!
Hebrews 7:11, 23-28
 - i. Just because you cannot see the Lord Jesus, that doesn't mean that He is aloof and out of touch, or that He does not sympathize with you in your troubles and difficulties! Read Hebrews 4:14

3. Hebrews 4:15: "For we have not a high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities, which means, (dear Christians), our great high priest can be touched, He does sympathize with you!"

- a. Jesus IS NOT disconnected and aloof from you and from your temptations and your troubles. And right here you should see the necessity of His humanity! Everything that you experience (or that you will experience) He experienced, YET WITHOUT SIN! Hebrews 2:14-18
- b. So, although Jesus (our Great High Priest) has literally passed into the heavens, and you cannot see Him, He STILL (at this very moment) identifies with you in your humanity and He is appearing in the presence of God for you, dear Christian!
- c. He is not an apparition or a spirit, He is your Victorious and Great High Priest, and He can be touched, He does sympathize with you!
 - i. Luke 24:36-43, John 20:27, Acts 1:1-3, 11, Psalm 24:7-10

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

- a. Finally, we learn the wonderful truth, that when Jesus offered up His own blood to God, for the sins of the world, He did what no earthly (Levitical) high priest could ever do; He "opened the way" into the presence of God for all of God's believing people! Mark 15:34-38, John 14:6

- b. The throne of the unapproachable God, which in OC times was greatly and dreadfully feared, IS NOW a throne of grace, because of the blood of Jesus Christ, and now God says YOU MAY APPROACH, if you believe in my Son Jesus, Who gave Himself for your sins! And yeah, I accepted His offering!
- c. The way into the presence of God, which was closed for thousands of years, (since the fall) IS now open because of the work of our Great High Priest, Jesus, the Son of God.
 - i. Hebrews 4:16, Romans 5:1-2, Ephesians 2:13-18, 3:12

5. **"Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, LET US HOLD FAST OUR PROFESSION."**

- a. This exhortation and warning to "HOLD FAST," to their profession of faith in Christ reveals to us the danger to many of that day of casting away their confidence and trust in Christ! The same danger that faces us as Christians today!
- b. To the lost, you need to trust in blood of Jesus, the Son of God for your sins!