

“Jesus Is The G.R.E.A.T.E.S.T!”

Hebrews 5:1-10

September 16, 2018

VIDEO: *Victory In Jesus!*

INTRO: Amen & AMEN! That’s the story of today’s sermon

- Last week was a modern, musical parable... **Today:**
- **Eugene Bartlett Sr. 1939**, post stroke - died 1941
- Today we will be reminded of our victory in Jesus!
- *Today Church...we’ll be reminded of the celebration that is embedded in Hebrews’ **exhortation... Amen!***

CONTEXT: **“Hold On!”** – a study of the Book of Hebrews

- We’ll pick up where we left off... but first...
- **Let me remind you of Hebrews’ broader context**

VIDEO: *“Hebrews”* – per the Bible Project

- Last week, we closed out ch.4...
- **We capped the 2nd warning & prepped for #3...**
- Today we’re still resting in the space in-between...

BIG IDEA: BE eternally CONFIDENT in Christ!
Hold on! Draw near... & TRUST Him
FOREVER & ever!

PREVIEW: *Jesus is the* **G. R. E. A. T. E. S. T.**

*1*For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, **{See recent challenge & ILLUSTRATION}** to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. *2*He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. *3*Because of this he is obligated to offer sacrifice for his own sins just as he does for those of the people. *4*And no one takes this honor for himself, but only when called by God, just as Aaron was.

{See recent challenge & ILLUSTRATION}

*5*So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him,

“You are my Son,
today I have begotten you”;

*6*as he says also in another place, “You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek.”

*7*In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. *8*Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. *9*And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, *10*being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.

T/S: *Jesus is the G. R. E. A. T. E. S. T.*

I. G: Jesus is the Greatest G.O.D.-Man

Hebrews 4:14-16

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

The previous “Word of God” now gives way to the present WONDER of God. -JDP

- a. Jesus is **GREAT**... supernaturally
 - b. Jesus is **ONE**... in the Trinity & One with us!
 - c. Jesus is **DELIVERER** & Redeemer... our Defender
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- His vertical relationship is **worthy of our awe...**
 - His horizontal relationships are worthy of our **praise, worship, & love!** (cf. Rom. 5:8; John 3:16...)

T/S: Now let's jump into Hebrews 5:1-10

II. **R** Jesus is the Greatest RELATIONSHIP

¹ *For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins.*

- **All priests** were “appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God”

Too many men claiming to be “working on behalf of men in relation to God” are, IN REALITY, working on behalf of themselves... in relation to the world, the flesh, & the Devil. -JDP

- See the Perverted (Catholic) priests of our day...
- The Protestant Pulpit pimps
- The Passionately problematic pastors
 - The Hippies &/or The Hammers
 - **Neither is biblically-HOLY**
- The Poisonously-polished...
- The Programmatically-perplexing... (seemingly best)
- The Party-planners...
- The Pragmatically practical...
- The politically-correct, theological push-overs...
- The ever-Popular, playwrights (and players) ...
 - The “Showmen” – “Mavericks” – “Entertainers”
 - See **Titus 1:10-16** & again **Titus 2:1,14-15**

Friend... don't follow any 'good' priest who is not themselves following the GREATEST High Priest, as evidenced by their commitment & faithful obedience to God's Word, God's will, & God's way! -JDP

NOTE: Where human high priests **EMPATHIZED** with human weakness; Jesus, our GREATEST, High Priest **SYMPATHIZED...**

Don't miss the seemingly subtle but supernatural difference & distinction! - JDP

- **All priests** were “appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God” - Jesus did all that **PLUS John17**

*Jesus simultaneously served as **SACRIFICE... SHEPHERD... & SAVIOR** - JDP*

III. E Jesus is the Greatest EMPATHY-Provider

² He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness.

*Where the sin-filled high priests could deal gently with the ignorant & wayward **because of their own waywardness & weakness... Jesus brought sympathy & empathy out of His divine love, mercy, & grace.** – JDP*

IV. A - Greatest ANOMALY-Ever

³ Because of this he is obligated to offer sacrifice for his own sins just as he does for those of the people.

***Our Almighty is the greatest Anomaly!** – JDP*

***See the Greatest good & Greatest God that is found in the sinless One & Only!** – JDP*

***Jesus NEVER sinned!** You gotta get that!*

Sin-filled, human priests serve/served under “obligation,” as opposed to our GREATEST, SAVIOR & High Priest who served/serves out of overflowing love & JOY! (cf. Heb. 12:1-2)

***Christ’s perfect empathy empowers our passion for divine hope & help.** – JDP*

V. T the Greatest **TRUTH & TESTIMONY**

⁴ And no one takes this honor for himself, but only when called by God, just as Aaron was.

⁵ So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you";

God's perfect Psalms qualifies God's Perfect Priest:

- Psalm 2:7
- Psalm 110:4
- **BOTH = Messianic Priest & KING!!!**

God's perfect Word qualifies God's perfect Word!

John 8:54

"If I glorify Myself, My glory is nothing; it is My Father who glorifies Me, of whom you say, 'He is our God'"

Our Savior showed us that
serving leaders lead in serving! - JDP

Melchizedek will be discussed in some detail under Hebrews 7, but a brief word here is necessary. He was a king-priest who lived in the time of Abraham, and whose ancestry is completely unknown. He was king of Salem (the ancient

name for Jerusalem) and was a priest of the true God (Gen. 14:18). He lived many centuries before the Aaronic priesthood was established and his priesthood was unending (Heb. 7:3), unlike that of Aaron, which began in the time of Moses and ended in A.D. 70, when the Temple was destroyed. His priesthood, therefore, was superior to Aaron's in two ways. Melchizedek was a king, whereas Aaron was not, and his priesthood was perpetual, whereas Aaron's was temporary. Melchizedek's priesthood, therefore, is a better picture of Christ's than even that of Aaron. – **MacArthur**

E – ETERNAL High Priest

⁶ as he says also in another place, “You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek.”

⁷ In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence.

Jesus Christ was sympathetic with men—He was identified with them, understood them, felt with them. He *was* Himself a man, just as surely as any high priest that served in the Tabernacle or Temple. "The days of His flesh" were an interlude in the life of Jesus Christ, who existed before and after His earthly life. But they were an extremely important and necessary interlude. Among other things, "He offered up both prayers and

supplications," because of the anguish He faced in becoming sin for those who believed in Him. In the Garden of Gethsemane on the night before He went to the cross, Jesus prayed and agonized so intensely that He sweat great drops of blood. His heart was broken at the prospect of bearing sin. He felt the power of sin and He felt temptation. He cried. He shed tears. He hurt. He grieved. What He had always known in His omniscience, He learned in a new way on earth by experience. He could not have been a fully sympathetic high priest had He not experienced what we experience and felt what we feel.

- MacArthur

VI. **S** – Sufferer, Source, Savior

⁸ Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered.

Often the best, and sometimes the only, way to learn sympathy is by suffering ourselves what another is suffering. Suffering is a very skilled teacher. We can read about and hear about the pain of being burned..... That is the kind of high priest we need—one who knows and understands what we are going through. When we go to the Lord in prayer and fall on our knees before Him and say, "God, this problem, this loss, this pain is breaking my heart," how wonderful to feel His arms around us and to sense in our hearts that He is saying, "I know. I know." - MacArthur

⁹ *And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him,*

He became perfect in the sense that He completed His qualification course for becoming the eternal High Priest.... In offering His sacrifice, however, Jesus differed in two very important ways from other high priests. First, He did not have to make a sacrifice for Himself before He could offer it for others. Second, His sacrifice was once-and-for-all. It did not have to be repeated every day, or even every year or every century.

By His death, Jesus opened the way of **eternal salvation**.

By one act, one offering, one sacrifice, Jesus Christ perfected forever those who are His. The perfect High Priest makes perfect **those who obey Him** & accept His perfect sacrifice.

The **obedience** mentioned here of **those who obey Him** is not that regarding... obedience to the law. It is *"the obedience of faith"* (Rom. 1:5). God wants us to obey Him by believing in Christ. True obedience, just as true works, is first of all true believing. *"This is the work of God,"* Jesus said, *"that you believe in Him whom He has sent"* (John 6:29).

Trusting in Jesus is the work of faith & the obedience of faith.

Sadly, and tragically, all people do not believe. And whoever does not believe does not truly obey, no matter how moral, well-meaning, religious & sincere (their actions may be). - **MacArthur**

VII. T Timeless-Truth/Treasure

¹⁰ being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.

NOTE: *The test of God's calling & communication is NOT whether or not it sounds crazy (see Philip, see Paul to Macedonia, see the inmates in the Philippian jail, or Peter to Cornelius or Ananias to pre-transformed Saul...). No. The test is not whether we find the reported message to be believable, the only real question is, do we find the so-called calling to be biblical & consistent with the Word, Will, & Ways of God. No more, no less, no matter what! Amen! - JDP*

- A unique Priest-King... like G.O.D.-Man...
- Unique without biblically recorded lineage...
- Unique without beginning or end... eternal!

REVIEW: *Jesus is the* **G. R. E. A. T. E. S. T.**

- G.O.D.-Man
- Relationship-Healer
- Empathy-Provider
- Anomaly-ever
- Test & Testimony
- Eternal High Priest
- Sufferer, Source, & Savior
- Timeless-Truth & Treasure!

CLOSE:

I want to leave you with another inspirational song that reflects the timeless Truth & Treasure that IS our Great High Priest... JESUS...

- The presentation is old - looks like 80's but it's the 90's
- Lyrics are nearly 500 years old...
- Both the writer & the singer may seem "over the top"
- No! Both men beautifully reflect Hebrews 4:14 -5:10!

VIDEO: *A Mighty Fortress*

Because JESUS is The GREATEST High Priest:

Hold fast!

Draw near!

Trust Him!

T/S: Let me close our time where we began...

I pray this Informs, Inspects, & INSPIRES you to turn from sin & self... to turn-to & TRUST our Timeless Treasure! THE GREATEST Power, Promise & Priest... now and forevermore!

Victory in Jesus

I heard an old, old story,
how a Savior came from glory,
How He gave His life on Calvary,
to save a wretch like me;

I heard about His groaning,
of His precious blood's atoning,
Then I repented of my sins
and won the victory.

Oh, victory in Jesus, my Savior, forever!
He sought me and bought me
with His redeeming blood;
He loved me ere I knew Him,
and all my love is due Him-
He plunged me to victory
beneath the cleansing flood.

I heard about His healing,
of His cleansing pow'r revealing,
How He made the lame
to walk again and caused the blind to see;
And then I cried, "Dear Jesus,
come and heal my broken spirit,"
And somehow Jesus came
and brought to me the victory.

Oh, victory in Jesus, my Savior, forever!
He sought me and bought me
with His redeeming blood;
He loved me ere I knew Him,
and all my love is due Him-
He plunged me to victory
beneath the cleansing flood.

I heard about a mansion
He has built for me in glory,
And I heard about the streets of gold
beyond the crystal sea;
About the angels singing
and the old redemption story-
And some sweet day I'll sing up there
the song of victory.

Oh, victory in Jesus, my Savior, forever!
He sought me and bought me
with His redeeming blood;
He loved me ere I knew Him,
and all my love is due Him-
He plunged me to victory
beneath the cleansing flood.

Amen & AMEN!

Let's PRAY