

A scenic landscape featuring a range of snow-capped mountains in the background, a dense forest of evergreen trees in the middle ground, and a calm lake in the foreground that perfectly reflects the mountains and trees. The sky is a clear, bright blue.

SERMON

The Letter to the

Hebrews



Hebrews 4:14 – 5:10

“Jesus – our great high priest”

Jesus, our high priest – Hebrews 2:17-18

For this reason [Jesus] had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people.

Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.



Jesus, our high priest – Hebrews 4:14 – 5:10

JESUS was tempted yet did not sin – so can help us

JESUS was called to an eternal priesthood – so is always there to intercede for us

JESUS learned obedience – so calls us and helps us to be obedient



Hebrews 4:14-16

¹⁴ Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess.

¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to feel sympathy for our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are – yet he did not sin.

¹⁶ Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Hebrews 5:1-5

¹ Every high priest is selected from among the people and is appointed to represent the people in matters related to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. ² He is able to deal gently with those who are ignorant and are going astray, since he himself is subject to weakness. ³ This is why he has to offer sacrifices for his own sins, as well as for the sins of the people.

⁴ And no one takes this honour on himself, but he receives it when called by God, just as Aaron was.

⁵ In the same way, Christ did not take on himself the glory of becoming a high priest. But God said to him, 'You are my Son; today I have become your Father.'

Hebrews 5:6-10

⁶ And he says in another place,

‘You are a priest for ever,
in the order of Melchizedek.’

⁷ During the days of Jesus’ life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission.

⁸ Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered ⁹ and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him ¹⁰ and was designated by God to be high priest in the order of Melchizedek.

4:14-16: Jesus - tempted yet without sin



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5:1-6: Jesus - called to eternal priesthood

¹ Every high priest is selected from among the people and is appointed to represent the people in matters related to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins.

² He is able to deal gently with those who are ignorant and are going astray, since he himself is subject to weakness.

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5:1-6: Jesus - called to eternal priesthood

"but because Jesus lives forever,
he has a permanent priesthood.

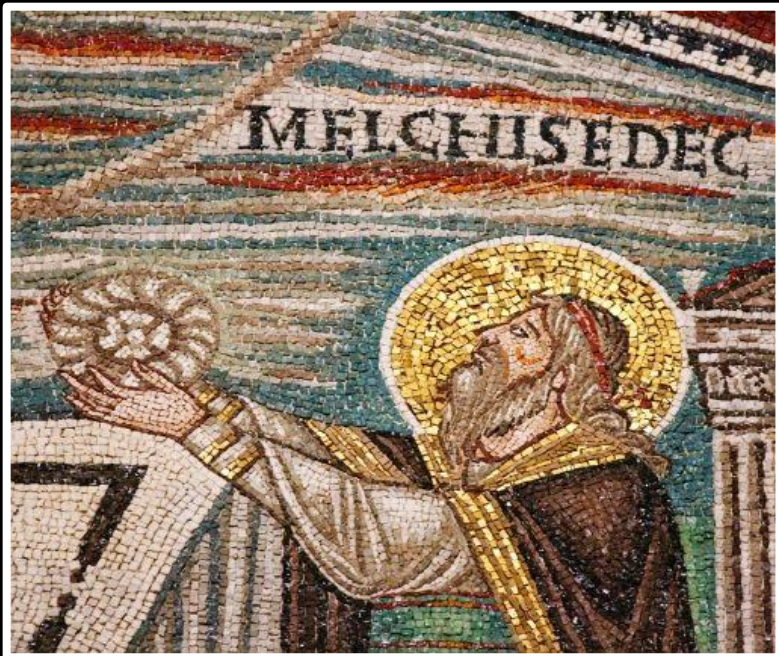
Therefore he is able to save
completely those who come to
God through him, because he
always lives to intercede for
them."

- Hebrews 7:24-25; NIV

5:1-6: Jesus - called to eternal priesthood

Melchizedek in Hebrews 7:1-3

This Melchizedek was king of Salem and priest of God Most High. He met Abraham returning from the defeat of the kings and blessed him, and Abraham gave him a tenth of everything. First, the name Melchizedek means 'king of righteousness'; then also, 'king of Salem' means 'king of peace'.

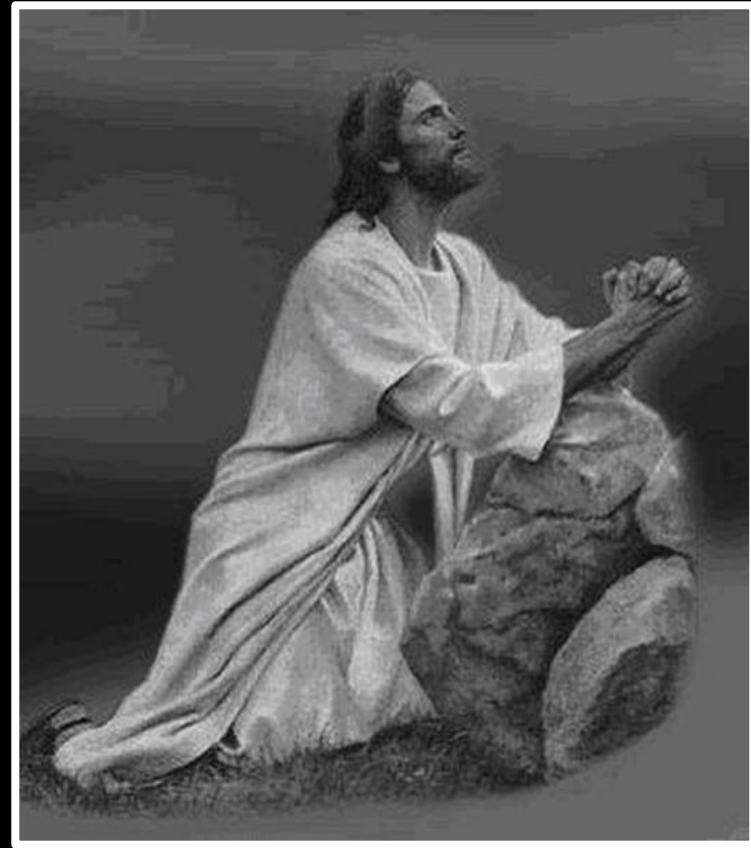


Without father or mother, without genealogy, without beginning of days or end of life, resembling the Son of God, he remains a priest for ever.

5:7-10: Jesus - learned obedience

⁷ During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission.

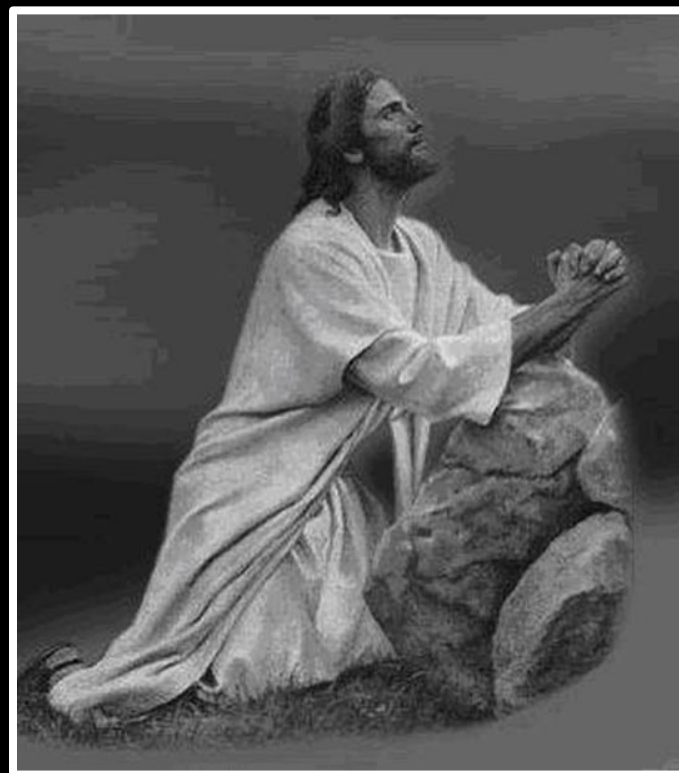
⁸ Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered
⁹ and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him
¹⁰ and was designated by God to be high priest in the order of Melchizedek.



5:7-10: Jesus - learned obedience

Hebrews 2:10: In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered.

5:8-9: Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him...



5:7-10: Jesus - learned obedience

Matthew 26:36-44: Jesus praying in Gethsemane

³⁶ Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, 'Sit here while I go over there and pray.' ...

³⁹ Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed,

'My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.'

...⁴² He went away a second time and prayed,

'My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done.'

...⁴⁴ So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing.

5:7-10: Jesus - learned obedience

5:8-9: Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him...

Philippians 2:12-13

Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed – not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence – continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfil his good purpose.



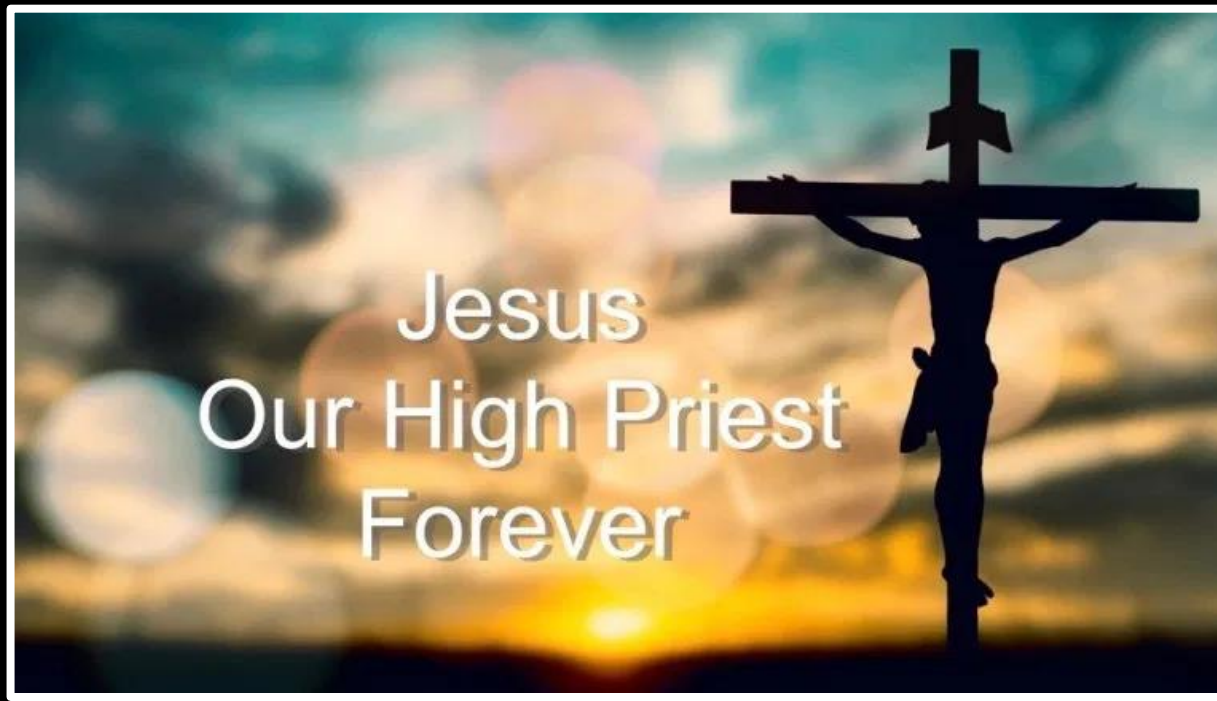
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4:14: Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess.

4:16: Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.



To
God
be the Glory!