

Hebrews

Lesson 5

CHRIST, MELCHIZEDEK HIGH PRIEST 5:1-14

ADULT OR CHILD?

What an interesting question, especially when evaluating one's spiritual life.

In Hebrews 5:1-14, the writer presented teaching about the High Priest of the Jews. He begins by explaining how Israel's high priests were chosen and appointed, how they qualified for this office. In 5:5 he declared that Christ was also chosen by God to be High Priest. However, there was a problem. Jesus Christ was not born into the tribe of Levi where all other high priests came from! Christ was from the tribe of Judah which qualified Him to be King, not a priest.

How is it possible, then, that Christ was qualified to serve as High Priest when He hadn't come from the tribe of Levi? The writer clarified: In His office of High Priest, Jesus Christ originated from, and still serves, through another priesthood, that of the Melchizedek order, not of the Levitical order! In the commentary section of the attached study chart, you will find several Bible references outlining the characteristics and superiority of the Melchizedek priesthood.

It seems that in 5:11-14, the author is very disappointed with his readers! It was not possible to teach them about Melchizedek like he wanted to. They were no longer trying to understand deeper knowledge. Spiritually they were like infants, only drinking milk and not eating solid food. They were not capable of eating solid spiritual food including the important teaching about Melchizedek

I ask myself then, am I an infant or an adult? Slow or apt? Beginner or maturing in my understanding of the Word of God? By God's grace and constant use, may you and I train ourselves better to distinguish good and evil in our spiritual pilgrimage with Christ, our glorious High Priest (5:14).

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Crossworld: All Professions. One Mission.

Temple Bible Church: Surrender, Community, Mission



CHRIST, MELCHIZEDEK HIGH PRIEST

When:

You are my Son...I became your Father	5:1—Every HIGH PRIEST is SELECTED from among High Priest 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 HONOR 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." ⁶ And he SAYS in another place, "YOU are a PRIEST FOREVER in the ORDER of MELCHIZEDEK ."	The time of the Law and before
Son who learned Obedience	7—During the DAYS of JESUS' LIFE on EARTH, he Jesus 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 .	The days of Jesus
Solid food is for the Mature	11—We have MUCH to SAY about THIS, but it is HARD Infant to make it CLEAR to YOU because you NO LONGER TRY to UNDERSTAND. ¹² In fact, THOUGH by this time you OUGHT to BE TEACHERS, you NEED SOMEONE to TEACH you the ELEMENTARY TRUTHS of GOD'S WORD all over AGAIN. You need MILK, not SOLID FOOD! ¹³ Anyone who LIVES on MILK, being STILL an INFANT, is NOT ACQUAINTED with the TEACHING about RIGHTEOUSNESS. ¹⁴ But SOLID FOOD is for the MATURE, who by constant USE have TRAINED themselves to DISTINGUISH GOOD from EVIL. 14	The time of the Hebrews

GOD:
 >Matters related to God.
 >The Call of God.
 >The Son of God.
 >The High Priest of God.
 >Designations by God.
 >The Word of God.

Contrasts:
 -milk <> solid food.
 -infant <> mature.
 -evil <> good.
 -need teaching <> be teachers.
 -unclear <> clear.
 -elementary <> teaching about righteousness.

Jesus Christ:
 >No priest-glory for Himself.
 >Declared to be High Priest.
 >Offered up prayers & petitions.
 >Was heard by God.
 >Learned obedience through suffering.
 >Became the Source of eternal salvation.

Selected & Called by God

Heard by God & Obedient to Him

Is the Solid Food of God's Word

(1) Christ met all the requirements to serve as an Aaronic High Priest, but actually served through another priestly order, that of the superior order of Melchizedek. (2) Christ was born into the tribe of Judah, not Levi, yet was qualified to be God's eternal High Priest by divine appointment to the superior priestly order of Melchizedek. (3) Christ is both divine—you are my Son, and human—he learned obedience (5:8). (4) Christ is the fountain of eternal salvation because he met mankind's greatest need by dying as the Lamb of God, thus providing salvation from eternal death, the final penalty for sin. (5) The author of Hebrews wanted to explain more about the significance of Christ's priesthood according to the order of Melchizedek, but his readers could not understand this teaching because of gross spiritual immaturity. (6) Melchizedek is presented in Scripture as an historical person (Gen. 14:17-20), as a prophetic promise (Ps. 110:4-7), and as fulfilled prophecy in the Person of Christ (Heb. 5:5-10; 6:19-20; 7:1-22). (7) Eternal salvation provided by Christ's sacrifice of Himself indicates that a true believer is secure forever in his relationship with God (5:9). (8) Further study could be to identify the elementary truths of God's Word (5:12)...