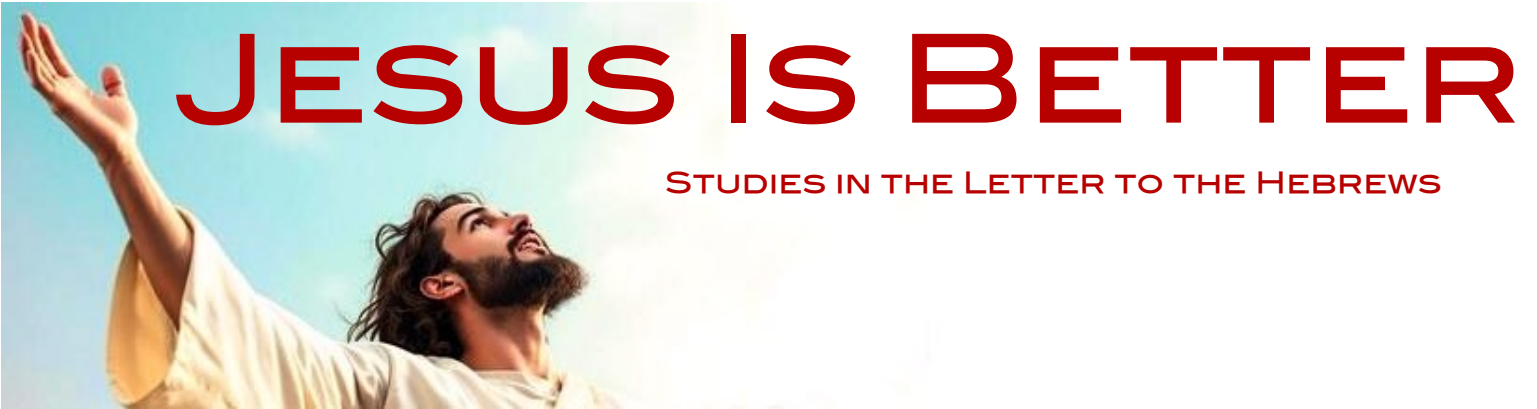




Hebrews
4:14–5:10

LESSON 5 *Our Great High Priest*

An earthly priesthood

- ▶ The writer of Hebrews begins a look at Jesus our great high priest, comparing and contrasting his priesthood with the Levitical priesthood.
- ▶ The Levitical high priesthood began with Moses' brother Aaron, who was appointed and anointed by God at Mount Sinai around 1438BC.
- ▶ The priesthood continued through the descendants of Aaron the Levite until the destruction of the Second Temple by the Romans in 70AD.
- ▶ The Levitical priesthood administered the Tabernacle and Temple, led the sacrificial and worship systems, and taught the Law of Moses.
- ▶ Many high priests are named throughout the Old Testament and throughout the New Testament Gospels and Book of Acts.
- ▶ In the New Testament narratives, we see the high priest primarily as leader of the Sanhedrin, the Jewish religious governing body.
- ▶ One High Priest, a descendant of Aaron, served during each generation as leader of the priesthood and oversaw the priests and Levites.

▲ *Those high priests are selected*

5:1 Every high priest is selected from among men — 4 No one takes this honor upon himself; he must be called by God, just as Aaron was.

▲ *Those high priests are servants*

5:1 Every high priest is selected from among men and is appointed to represent them in matters related to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins.

▲ *Those high priests are sympathetic*

5:2 He is able to deal gently with those who are ignorant and are going astray, since he himself is subject to weakness.

▲ *Those high priests are sinful*

5:3 This is why he has to offer sacrifices for his own sins, as well as for the sins of the people.

An eternal priesthood

▲ *Christ's assignment is ancient*

5:5 So Christ also did not take upon 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."

▲ *Christ's status is sovereign Son*

5:5 But God said to him, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father."

▲ *Christ's priesthood is permanent*

5:6 And he says in another place, "You are a priest forever,

▲ *Christ's ministry is messianic and mysterious*

5:6 And he says in another place, "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek."

The Story of Melchizedek

Genesis 14:17 After Abram returned from defeating Kedorlaomer and the kings allied with him, the king of Sodom came out to meet him in the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley). 18 Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High, 19 and he blessed Abram, saying, "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. 20 And blessed be God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand." Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

- ▶ The examination of Christ's priesthood in the order of Melchizedek will continue throughout Hebrews Chapters 5, 6, and 7.

An effective priesthood

▲ *Consider his passionate praying*

5:7 During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission.

▲ *Consider his painful perseverance*

5:8 Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered 9 and, once made perfect,

▲ *Consider the product of his priesthood*

5:9 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.

An embracing priesthood

▲ *We have a firm profession*

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

▲ *We have a faithful Priest*

4:15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin.

▲ *We have a fantastic privilege*

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

4:14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, 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 sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin. 16 Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

5:1 Every high priest is selected from among men and is appointed to represent them 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 No one takes this honor upon himself; he must be called by God, just as Aaron was. 5 So Christ also did not take upon himself the glory of becoming a high priest. But God said to him,

"You are my Son; today I have become your Father."

Psalm 2:7

6 And he says in another place,

"You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek."

Psalm 110:4

7 During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent sub-mission. 8 Although he was a son, 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.

PSALM 2

Though Psalm 2 does not name its author, the apostles ascribed Psalm 2 to David in Acts 4:25.

- 1 Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain?
- 2 The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the LORD and against his Anointed One.
- 3 "Let us break their chains," they say, "and throw off their fetters."
- 4 The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them.
- 5 Then he rebukes them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath, saying,
- 6 "I have installed my King on Zion, my holy hill."
- 7 I will proclaim the decree of the LORD: He said to me, "**You are my Son; today I have become your Father.**"
- 8 Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession.
- 9 You will rule them with an iron scepter; you will dash them to pieces like pottery."
- 10 Therefore, you kings, be wise; be warned, you rulers of the earth.
- 11 Serve the LORD with fear and rejoice with trembling.
- 12 Kiss the Son, lest he be angry and you be destroyed in your way, for his wrath can flare up in a moment. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

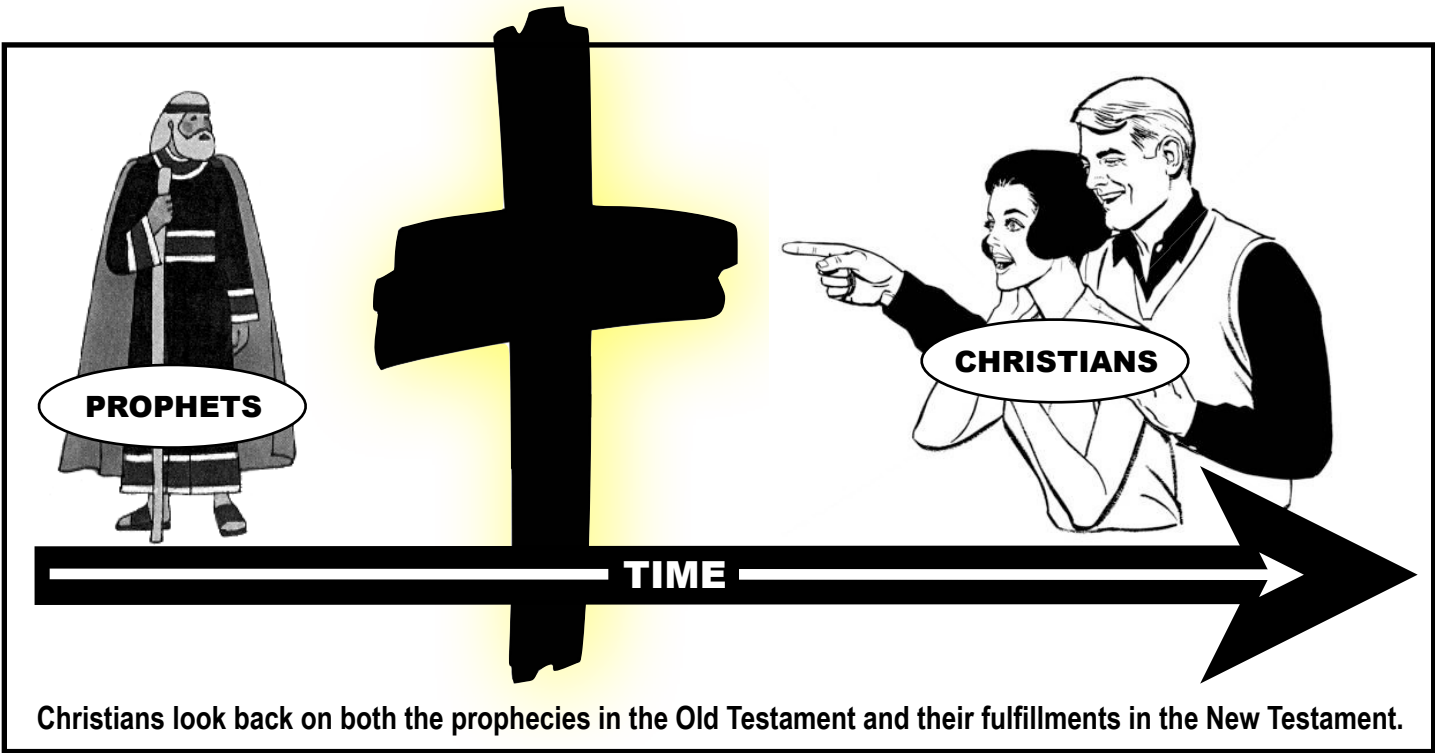
PSALM 110

Of David. A psalm.

- 1 The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet."
- 2 The LORD will extend your mighty scepter from Zion; you will rule in the midst of your enemies.
- 3 Your troops will be willing on your day of battle. Arrayed in holy majesty, from the womb of the dawn you will receive the dew of your youth.
- 4 The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind: "**You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.**"
- 5 The Lord is at your right hand; he will crush kings on the day of his wrath.
- 6 He will judge the nations, heaping up the dead and crushing the rulers of the whole earth.
- 7 He will drink from a brook beside the way; therefore he will lift up his head.

A NOTE ABOUT MESSIANIC PSALMS

- Many of the psalms are *Messianic* in that they looked, prophetically/predictively, toward the coming Messiah, Jesus.
- In his Pentecost sermon, Peter referred to David as a prophet (Acts 2:30) because of the many prophecies in his psalms.
- And though most of the psalms were written a thousand years before Christ, they are powerfully pointed and accurate.
- Some examples of psalms with strong Messianic themes are Psalms 2, 16, 45, 68, 69, 110, 118, 132.
- What a joy it is, then, as New Testament believers, to look back upon both the prophecy and the fulfillment.



- How clear and complete the plan of God becomes to us as we look back upon the prophets with New Testament light.
- What was a mystery to the Old Testament saints has been revealed to us – hear Paul in Colossians 1:25-26...
I have become the church's servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fulness--the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints.
- In fact, Peter says the prophets served us more than they served the people of their own day – listen to 1 Peter 1:12...
They were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you...
- Messianic psalms, then, are special friends to the Christian, because they speak of the One we know personally, Jesus the Messiah!