

“So Great a Salvation”

Lesson 5, for Sunday March 18, 2001

“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. For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as *we are*, yet without sin. Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need.” Hebrews 4:14-16, NAS

“Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered. And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation, being designated by God as a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.” Hebrews 5:8-10, NAS

“This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a *hope* both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil, where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.” Hebrews 6:19-20, NAS

The Outline

C. The High Priesthood of Christ (4:14-6:20)

1. Christ’s High Priesthood an encouragement to His people (4:14-16).
2. Qualifications for High Priesthood (5:1-4).
3. Christ’s qualifications for High Priesthood (5:5-10).
4. Third Admonition: Spiritual Immaturity (5:11-14).
5. No second beginning possible (6:1-8).
6. Encouragement to persevere (6:9-12).
7. The steadfastness of God’s promise (6:13-20).

The Argument

As has already been said, Jesus is our great high priest, able to sympathize with His people and help them. We may safely look for understanding and delivering grace to the one who endured the agony of Gethsemane. He has been called to His high-priestly office by God Himself, as an inspired oracle makes clear: “The Lord has sworn and will not change His mind, Thou art a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.”

I should like to enlarge upon this subject, but really I do not know if I can; you are so spiritually immature. I must warn you solemnly that those who have once been baptized and tasted the blessings of the new age can never repeat the experience of repentance and conversion if they commit apostasy. Not that I think you actually mean to be apostates; I have better hopes of you than that. I want you rather to press on from the point you have reached, so as to attain full maturity, instead of sticking there, or slipping back.

The Key Words

Μελχισέδεκ -- A proper name translated as “Melchizedek,” it comes from the Hebrew, where it means “king of righteousness.” For his story we must look at Genesis 14:17-20.

The Quotations

Hebrews 5:5b “Thou art my Son, today I have begotten Thee.” Psalm 2:7 This is the greatest of the Messianic Psalms

Hebrews 5:6b “Thou art a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.” Psalm 110:4

Hebrews 6:14 “I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply you.” Genesis 22:17 This phrase is from the last and greatest of God’s promises to Abraham.