

“Confident Confession”

Hebrews 4.14 - 5.10

TAXI Driver in Kuala Lumpur – Indian Gentleman, Retired Driver of Corp Prez
Opened CAR Door – Very Polite – LOADED Trunk!!

CONVERSATION about Sticker on Windscreen/Shield

Bald Headed INDIAN Man Encircled by RAINBOW

“We PRAY TO him” – In INDIA, Met him? No, Been There?

No, Relatives in Big Mtng w/ him. Met him? No. Does he know your Name? No.

Are you SURE he hears your PRAYERS? No.

My Family been Fasting & Praying for 30 Days for God to Show us the Way!

1. People Need a Priest

a. Past Transgressions

World FILLED w/ RELIGIONS, RITUALS, People REACHING Out BEYOND
EXISTENCE of PRIESTHOOD – demonstrates man is SEPARATED from God
Priest STANDS btwn Far-Away God and HUMANITY Striving to FIND Him

TEXT flows from WARNING about SEARCHING GAZE of SOVEREIGN God

And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the
eyes of him to whom we must give account. Hebrews 4.13

REQUIREMENT of our HOLY GOD is that we be a RIGHTEOUS PEOPLE

And behold, a man came up to him, saying, “Teacher, what good deed must I do
to have eternal life?” And he said to him, “Why do you ask me about what is
good? There is only one who is good. If you would enter life, keep the
commandments.” Matthew 19.16,17

APOSTLE PETER teaches the DUTIES OF PROPHET MOSES...

as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is
written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.” 1 Peter 1.15,16

PROPHET of GOD DIAGNOSIS Global Problem with All People...

“your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear”
Isaiah 59.2

WORLD Approaching 7 Bill /More ½ Not Xtians / 1/2 NEVER HEARD Gospel

WHAT IF JESUS NEVER CAME? Bible says All People would Be...

“separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world” Ephesians 2.12

LIFE AND DEATH of > Weeping / Darkness / Gnashing of Teeth

TRUE for All NATIONS & ALSO TRUE for Many of Your NEIGHBORS

b. Present Trials

RECIPIENTS OF THIS LETTER WERE SUFFERING FOR THEIR FAITH

“you stood your ground in a great contest in the face of suffering. Sometimes you were publicly exposed to insult and persecution; at other times you stood side by side with those who were so treated. You sympathized with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property...” Hebrews 10.32-34

Faced FALSE TEACHINGS – Argument of Letter

1) You can approach God through various ANGELS > Heavenly Hierarchy

Angels WORSHIP JESUS 1.6 “Let all God’s angels worship him”

2) You can BEGIN with Christ > and FINISH with Moses

Moses a Builder of God’s House > Jesus is Son who is OVER God’s House

3) You can enter God’s Sabbath rest by Your OWN Efforts

Only those who trust in Christ’s perfect, saving work can truly REST

c. Future Troubles

That SEASON Rome: Jews were PROTECTED, Christians were PERSECUTED

Some HEBREW Xtians played JEWISH Card, Find SAFETY in their CULTURE

Later TROUBLE Coming to JEWS Too...

Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. Hebrews 12.3,4

UNCERTAINTY Much of WORLD Today – Korea, Venezuela, S.Sudan, Syria

Young Man INVITED to Party, Walked on DARK NIGHT Eager Anticipation
It had RAINED Earlier – Some Big PUDDLES in POT-HOLED STREETS
Wouldn't you Know It, Just when Across Big Muddy Puddle – Speeding Car
Car SPRAYED him with WATER – SOAKED – Kept Walking, Not Too Bad
Came to Next Street Light – Saw Clearly – Real Bad – Covered with MUD!
Turned Around to GO HOME & CHANGE > I have No Clean Clothes at Home!
WE ALL have been SPLASHED and COVERED by SIN > Need a PRIEST!

2. Jesus our Priest

Grand THEME of LETTER: “The point of what we are saying is this: We do have such a high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven” Hebrews 8.1

PRIEST > Person who REPRESENTS US before God

Just Seen Jesus BETTER than Moses > Now better Brother Aaron 1st H.P.

a. Man 4.14 NAME IS “Jesus” = SAVIOR / identifies Humanity and Mission

ANGEL TOLD JOSEPH “you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” Matthew 1.21

5.1 “Every high priest is chosen from among men”

NOT PHANTOM / GHOST / Smoke and Mirrors from Heaven > REAL MAN

“Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity” Hebrews 2.14

b. God 4.14 “Jesus, the Son of God”

5.5 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”

FULFILLMENT of Prophecy of PSALM 2

“about the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever” Hebrews 1.8

“Veiled in flesh the Godhead see...Hail the Incarnate Deity...

Pleased with man as man to dwell...Jesus our Emmanuel” Isaac Watts

Jesus became ONE OF US to be ONE FOR US!

c. God Appointed Priest > Not Man or Self Appointed

Only in HEBREWS is Jesus CALLED a HIGH PRIEST

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.”

KEY Idea is Representation > SINNER who Represents NATION of SINNERS

Represents the UNRIGHTEOUS before RIGHTEOUS God > Reconciliation

5.4 “No one takes this honor upon himself; he must be called by God”

NONE COULD APPOINT SELF TO GOD’S PRIESTHOOD – esp. High Priest

Not serving for SELF-ADVANCEMENT > but for HONOR & GLORY of God

Jesus: “If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me”

John 8.54

Appointed to Better Priestly Order than Aaron – Order of Melchizedek

5.10 “designated by God to be high priest in the order of Melchizedek”

OT – Melchizedek NOT very significant > 2 BRIEF ref – Genesis & Psalms

9 X’s in Hebrews – 3 Chapters to EXPLAIN how Melchizedek is LIKE CHRIST

3. The Priest We Need

a. Past Transgressions

MANY WAYS > Jesus like High Priest of Israel // ALSO QUITE UNLIKE them
ONCE A YEAR > Day of Atonement – High Priest entered Most Holy Place

ISRAELITE PRIEST > 2 Sacrifices = One for Self, One for the sins of Nation

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

IN JERUSALEM > Fire on Temple's Altar of Sacrifice NEVER WENT OUT
ANIMAL SACRIFICES NUMBERED IN THE MILLIONS

OFFERED SACRIFICE NO OT PRIEST WOULD HAVE EVEN IMAGINED

“He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself.” Hebrews 7.27

“when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God... because by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.” Hebrews 10.11

4 X's Author of Hebrews – Describes CHRIST SACRIFICE “Once for All”

INCARNATION Stands Behind the ATONEMENT

Sinless > 4.15 OUR SYMPATHETIC HIGH PRIEST “, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet was without sin.”

JESUS MADE NO SACRIFICE FOR HIMSELF > NO Sin to Atone For

He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself. Hebrews 7.27

OT PRIEST > only APPROACH GOD wearing Holy Garments of their Office

JESUS APPROACHES GOD ON OUR BEHALF IN HIS OWN PURITY

OUR SINLESS PRIEST > fully GIVES himself to US

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5.21

4.16 “Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence”

ARK OF COVENANT – Hidden Behind Heavy Curtains in OT Tabernacle

NEVER CALLED Throne of Grace– Could Not See or Even Approach It

The basis of this confidence is that the throne of God is not marked by a naked majesty which overpowers us, but is adorned with a new name, that of grace. This is the name that we ought always to keep in mind when we avoid the sight of God... The glory of God cannot but fill us with despair, such is the awfulness of his throne. Therefore in order to help our lack of confidence, and to free our mind of all fears, the apostle clothes it with grace and gives it a name which will encourage us by its sweetness. It is as if he were saying, Since God has fixed it on His throne... a banner of grace and of fatherly love towards us, there is no reason why His majesty should ward us off from approaching Him. John Calvin

GREATEST TRAGEDY OF ISLAM – blatant denial that Jesus died on Cross

FIVE TIMES IN KORAN – categorical denial – that Jesus died upon the Cross

MUSLIM Man to Me – You are Not REAL MAN – You are a WOMAN!

“No one will pay for my sins, I will pay for them myself”

GOD WILL ALLOW HIM > it is called Hell > and it Lasts Forever and Ever

SAMUEL ZWEMER – served Jesus in Arabia, “Apostle to Islam” –

“The worker among Muslims...is driven daily to a deeper meditation on the mystery of redemption, and to a stronger conviction that the cross is the very heart of our message and our mission...If the cross of Christ is anything to the mind, it is surely everything – the most profound reality and the sublimest mystery. One comes to realize that literally all the wealth and glory of the gospel centers here. The Cross is the pivot as well as the center of New Testament thought. It is the exclusive mark of the Christian faith, the symbol of Christianity...although the offence of the Cross remains, its magnetic power is irresistible.” Samuel Zwemer

b. Present Trials > We have Priest who is Sympathetic

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

5.7,8 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. Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered.

Great PARADOX OF INCARNATION > Immortal God became Mortal man
 God we cannot Touch / WAS Touched by the PAIN OF US ALL

“How could the Son of God ‘learn obedience’? In the same way any son must learn obedience: *by the experiences of life...* As God, He needed to learn nothing. But as the Son of God come in human flesh, He had to experience that which His people would experience, so that He might be able to minister as their High Priest.”
 Warren Wiersbe

Several YOUNG MOTHERS are my INSTAGRAM Friends

Mother’s Day POSTS > Thank you MOM, Now that I have KIDS I Understand
 and APPRECIATE ALL you DID and ENDURED Raising ME & Siblings

he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest
 Hebrews 2.17

“I could never myself believe in God, if it were not for the cross... In the real world of pain, how could one worship a God who is immune to it? I have entered many Buddhist temples in different Asian countries and stood respectfully before the statue of Buddha, his legs crossed, arms folded, eyes closed, the ghost of a smile playing round his mouth, a remote look on his face, detached from the agonies of the world. But each time after a while I have had to turn away. And in imagination I have turned instead to that lonely, twisted, tortured, figure on the cross, nails through hands and feet, lacerated, limbs wrenched, brow bleeding from thorn-pricks, mouth dry and intolerably thirsty, plunged in God-forsaken darkness. That is the God for me! He laid aside his immunity to pain. He entered into our world of flesh and blood, tears and death. He suffered for us. Our sufferings become more manageable in the light of his.”
 John Stott

He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth...He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. 1 Peter 2.22,24

COMFORT TO COME TO SUCH A SYMPATHETIC, SINLESS PRIEST

MERCY – God does NOT GIVE us what we DO DESERVE

GRACE – God DOES give us what we DO NOT DESERVE

Come BOLDLY to SAVIOR AND SOVERIGN WITH CONFIDENCE

HOW COULD WE be BOLD if our ACCEPTANCE DEPENDED UPON US?

Our Obedience? Our Righteousness? Our Sacrifices? Or even our Prayers?

5. 9 “once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation”

BECAME the SOURCE > Salvation NOT from OURSELVES

Not from Church, our Connections, or our Conduct > ONLY from CHRIST

Jesus’ death on the cross counted for men because it was men who owed God the debt, and in Christ it was a man who paid it. It was his divine nature that made Christ’s blood infinitely valuable and able to propitiate God’s wrath, but it was his human nature that he offered it for us. Richard Phillips

c. Future Troubles - No reason to FORSAKE the FAITH we PROFESS

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.

1983 Th.M. ORAL Exam – Defend Thesis – Any Random Question in Field

Faculty of Practical Theology – Prof Ed Clowney, President of Seminary

Conclusion of World Council of Churches mtg Uppsala, Sweden, 1968

“I THINK” – Mentor Harvie Conn, Kicked me Under Table, “Don’t Think”!

5.6 “You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek.” > PSALM 110

God NOT GUESS – He THOUGHT – Determined before Foundation World

FOREVER – He will NOT Change His MIND > FUTURE Sure, Saved in PAST

“Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith” Hebrews 12.1

BELIEVERS HAD LOST SIGHT OF HIS GREATNESS

More Impressed with FAMILIAR, what they could SEE > OT and Lifestyle

SHALLOW APPRECIATION FOR THE MAJESTY OF GOD /

Lost in the Mundane of Life

The reason the saints will persevere is that Jesus has done everything necessary for their salvation. Since he has made a perfect atonement for their sin and since God has sworn to accept Jesus' work, the believer can be as certain that he or she will be in heaven as that Jesus himself will be there. James Boice

TAXI Driver Kuala Lumpur –Praying for 30 Days for God to Show us the Way!

HERE we ARE! ANSWER to your Prayers! READ Bible, MEET Jesus

MAN who Sympathizes, but GOD who is SOVEREIGN > Can HEAR You!

Not STRANGER in Another Land – God-man PRESENT with US

“Confident Confession” > Full Assurance > With Him NOW & FOREVER

Jesus: “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.”

John 14.1

Hebrews 4.¹⁴Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵For 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. ¹⁶Let 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. 5.¹For 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. ²He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. ³Because of this he is obligated to offer sacrifice for his own sins just as he does for those of the people. ⁴And no one takes this honor for himself, but only when called by God, just as Aaron was. ⁵So 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”; ⁶as he says also in another place, “You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek.” ⁷In 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. ⁸Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. ⁹And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, ¹⁰being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.