

“Jesus Savior of the World”

Hebrews 4.14 - 5.10

FOR US – Wonderful Time – Rejoice in the COMING of our God & Savior  
 “Emmanuel” – God with Us / WORD OF CHRISTMAS HOPE AND CHEER

WHAT IF JESUS NEVER CAME?

JUST IMAGINE WHAT IT WOULD BE LIKE TO 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 any NATIONS and ALSO TRUE for Many of Your NEIGHBORS

WORLD – 6 Billion + / half are not Christians / half of them NEVER HEARD

from Beginning in Hawaii > ADVENT Message IS MISSIONS Message  
 Missionaries first arrived in 1820 Kailua-Kona > Sermon Text on 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday:  
 Angels to Shepherds “Fear not, we bring good news of great joy for all people”

Hebrews > Unusual > Do NOT KNOW Author, Recipients, Reason Written

1 People Need a Priest/ 2 Jesus our Priest/ 3 Jesus Priestly Work / 4 Priest we Need

## 1. People Need a Priest

### a. Past Transgressions

EXISTENCE of PRIESTHOOD – demonstrates man is SEPARATED from God

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

BIBLE LISTS 3 GREAT OFFICES of our Lord / Define Purpose of His Coming

Because we are IGNORANT we need a PROPHET > Full and Final Word of God  
 Because we are SINFUL we need a PRIEST > is Once for all sacrifice for our sins  
 Because we are LOST we need a KING > Sovereign RULES and UPHOLDS world

**THEME – 8.1** “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, and who serves in the sanctuary, the true tabernacle set up by the Lord, not by man.”

**PRIEST > Person who REPRESENTS US before God**

## b. Present Troubles

**RECIPIENTS OF THIS LETTER WERE SUFFERING FOR THEIR FAITH**

10.32/34 “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, because you knew that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions.”

**WRITER PUTS OUR SUFFERING IN PERSPECTIVE OF THE CROSS**

12.4 “In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.”

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 Temptations

When persecution intensifies for Christians / **CALL** yourselves Jews  
6.4/6 “It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age, if they fall away, to be brought back to repentance”

That Time > Jews were **UNDER PROTECTION** of **ROMAN LAW**

## 2. Jesus our Priest

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 selected from among MEN”

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

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

b. God 4.14 “Jesus, the Son of God”

1.3 “The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word”

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

Isaac Watts got it right when he wrote -

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see...Hail the Incarnate Deity...  
Pleased with man as man to dwell...Jesus our Emmanuel

c. Priest > God Appointed, not Man or Self Appointed

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.”

PASTOR IN HAWAII – Register with State offices to perform Legal marriages  
SHOW ORDINATION CERTIF. – got it thru best toll-free telephone sales comp.  
RONCO RELIGIOUS RETAILERS in Sun City, Arizona

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

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

Appointed to Better Priestly Order than Aaron – Order of Melchizedek

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

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

3 Chptrs of Hebrews – Devoted to EXPLAIN how Melchizedek is LIKE CHRIST

Melchizedek – JUST A MAN – Obscure > Significance is as TYPE OF CHRIST

### 3. Jesus' Priestly Work

#### a. Timeless Priesthood

7.3 “Without father or mother, without genealogy, without beginning of days or end of life, like the Son of God he remains a priest forever.”

Does NOT MEAN HAD NO Parents > Bible SILENT about Ancestry & Destiny

6 X's in Hebrews – Priesthood of Christ is FOREVER, ETERNAL  
RONCO'S Religious Ordination > \$ 19.95 Every Year BUT Jesus Reigns Forever

#### b. Royal Priesthood

ISRAEL'S PAGAN NEIGHBOR NATIONS > merged office of King and Priest  
God FORBADE such a RELIGIOUS MERGER – Tilted the Balance of Power

CONTRA - King Saul who invaded the priesthood, and lost his kingship  
CONTRA – King Uzziah who offered incense on God's altar – and died a LEPPER  
ONLY SON OF GOD CAN BE PROPHET, PRIEST, AND KING

MELCHIZEDEK from a Different Order than Aaron – FORESHADOWED THIS  
7.1 “Melchizedek was king of Salem & priest of God Most High... First, his name means "king of righteousness"; then also, "king of Salem" means "king of peace.”

c. Changeless Priesthood AARON's Order 1000's of priests  
Endless of Rota Duties / DIED – Replaced

7.16 JESUS in order of Melchizedek “became a priest not on the basis of a regulation as to his ancestry but on the basis of the power of an indestructible life.”

PRIESTHOOD CONTINUES NOW - 7.25 “he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.”

MAN IN HEAVEN PRAYING FOR YOU - "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail.”

Luke 22.30,31

## 4. The Priest We Need

### a. Past Transgressions

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

ISRAELITE PRIEST > 2 Sacrifices = One for Self, One for the sins of the Nation  
5.3 “he has to offer sacrifices for his own sins & for the sins of the people.”

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

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

OFFERED SACRIFICE NO OT PRIEST WOULD HAVE EVEN IMAGINED  
7.27 “He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself.”

“you were redeemed... with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish  
or defect”  
1 Pet 1.18

9. 25 “Nor did he enter heaven to offer himself again & again, the way the high  
priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood that is not his own...But  
now he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the  
sacrifice of himself... X was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people”

DID SOMETHING ELSE NO OT PRIEST WOULD HAVE IMAGINED DOING

10.11 “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.”

OT TABERNACLE PIECES OF FURNITURE – altars, tables, lampstand  
BUT WAS NO CHAIR – Work Never Finished – Sin Never Fully Forgiven

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

DONALD GUTHRIE “Of paramount importance to the writer (of Hebrews) is the  
effectiveness of the sacrificial death of Christ. He several times emphasizes that it  
was ‘once of all’. There was never any question of a repetition. It was totally

inconceivable that such an offering could ever be inadequate, nor would the re-offering of such a sacrifice be intelligible. The writer is convinced that the uniqueness of Christianity rests in the central act of Christ giving himself as an offering on the cross for the sins of his people.”

4.14 we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God

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– None could see it – Certainly not approach it

JESUS OFFERED HIMSELF AS THE HIGHEST OFFERING FOR SIN  
CROSS: “Jesus cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.” Mt 27.51

EVERY PERSON GREAT & SMALL – SINNER & SAINT – Invited to COME

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 told me – “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.”

b. Present Troubles > We have Priest who is Sympathetic

4.15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses

5.2,7 “He is able to deal gently with those who are ignorant and are going astray, since he himself is subject to weakness. 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. Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered”

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

STARK CONTRAST - “Great high priest who has gone through the heavens...  
...offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears during the days of his life on earth”

WIERSBE “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. He did not need to learn *how* to obey because it would be impossible for God to be disobedient. Rather, as the God man in human flesh, He had to learn *what was involved in* obedience. In this way, He identified with us.”

2.17,18 For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God...

JOHN STOTT “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. There is still a question mark against human suffering, but over it we boldly stamp another mark, the cross which symbolizes divine suffering.”

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  
7.27. Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people.

OT PRIEST > only APPROACH GOD wearing Holy Garments of their Office  
JESUS APPROACHES GOD ON OUR BEHALF IN HIS OWN PURITY

Sin Distorts Perspective > He KNOWS US BETTER than we know OURSELVES  
3.13 “so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness”

HIGH PRIEST ELI watched wrenching prayer of heartbroken Hannah > DRUNK!

Sin is SELFISHNESS > think more of OURSELVES than we do of OTHERS

KING DAVID – showed no concern for his faithful soldier Uriah, or Bathsheba  
PRIMARY CONCERN WAS SATISFYING HIS OWN SEXUAL APPETITES

OUR SINLESS PRIEST > fully GIVES himself to US  
“the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me” Galatians 2.20

COMFORT TO COME TO SUCH A SYMPATHETIC, SINLESS PRIEST  
4.16 we may receive mercy & find grace to help us in our time of need

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 for all who obey him



c. Future Temptations 4.14 No reason to FORSAKE the FAITH we PROFESS

Hebrews Format – CYCLICAL “Jesus is Better” – word “better” 13 X’s - than Angels, than Moses, than Joshua, better Sabbath rest, better priest than Aaron, better Covenant than Old, better sacrifice than blood of bulls & goats, serves in better Tabernacle, better man of faith – Author & Finisher

MUCH INFORMATION book of Hebrews > but Information not MAIN INTENT

13.22 “Brothers, I urge you to bear with my word of exhortation”

WHY EXHORTATION? Even though Jesus is BETTER in EVERY WAY

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.

2.3 “how shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation?”

3.12. See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God.

12.1 “Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith”

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

CHRISTMAS – and all of Life – IS FIRST AND FOREMOST ABOUT JESUS

5.5 QUOTES > Psalms 2. 7,8. I will proclaim the decree of the LORD: He said to me, "You are my Son ; today I have become your Father. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession.

BEEN TO Tribal Villages Celebrated Christmas for First Time > NE Cambodia  
No Fir Trees, Shopping Malls or Santa Claus> Just SHEER JOY of Knowing Jesus

PLAY “The Long Silence” – At the end of time, billions of people were scattered on a great plain before God’s throne. Most shrank back from the brilliant light before them. But some groups near the front talked heatedly – not with cringing shame, but with belligerence. ‘Can God judge us? How can he know about suffering?’ snapped a pert young brunette. She ripped open a sleeve to reveal a tattooed number from a Nazi concentration camp. ‘We endured terror...beatings...torture...death!’ In another group a Negro man lowered his collar. ‘What about this?’ he demanded, showing an ugly rope burn. ‘Lynched...for no crime but being black!’ In another crowd, a pregnant schoolgirl with sullen eyes. ‘Why should I suffer’ she murmured, ‘It wasn’t my fault.’ Far out across the plain there were hundreds of such groups. Each had a complaint against God for the evil suffering he permitted in his world. How lucky God was to live in heaven where all was sweetness and light, where there was no weeping or fear, or hunger or hatred. What did God know of all that man had been forced to endure in this world? For God leads a pretty sheltered life, they said. So each of these groups sent forth their leader, chosen because he had suffered the most. A Jew, a Negro, a person from Hiroshima, a horribly deformed arthritic, a child born with deformity. In the center of the plain they consulted each other. At last they were ready to present their case. It was rather clever. Before God could be qualified to judge, he must endure what they had endured. Their decision was that God should be sentenced to live on earth – as a man! ‘Let him be born a Jew. Let the legitimacy of his birth be doubted. Give him work so difficult that even his family will think him out of his mind when he tries to do it. Let him be betrayed by his closest friends. Let him face false charges, be tried by a prejudiced jury and convicted by a cowardly judge. Let him be tortured. ‘At the last, let him see what it means to be terribly alone. Then let him die. Let him die to that there can be no doubt that he died. Let there be a great host of witnesses to verify it.’ As each leader announced his portion of the sentence, loud murmurs of approval went up from the throng of people assembled. And when the last had finished pronouncing the sentence, there was a long silence. No one uttered another word. No one moved. For suddenly all knew that God had already served his sentence.”