

Hebrews 5:1-7

The Better Melchisedec

vs.1- "high priest"- or known as the "chief priest" was to be of the lineage of Aaron (Ex.29:9) and was a position held for life

*in the time of the Romans, the Mosaic regulations had been disregarded and the position could be obtained by bribery and were no longer lifelong positions

-Even the Romans or Roman procurators could appoint high priests for political reasons or reasons that could benefit themselves- Ex. Annas and Caiaphas (Luke 3:2, John 18:13, 24) (Annas was Caiaphas' father-in-law and both served as high priest together for a while)

- Caiaphas was appointed by Roman procurator Valerius Gratus (AD 18-36)

- "ordained for men"- even with the departure from Mosaic commands, the writer reminds his readers of the original reason for a high priest

(The idea is that they were chosen for the task of interceding on man's behalf)

vs.2- "compassion"- (metriopatheo) to preserve the passion such as anger or grief

(This word is used of one who is not unduly disturbed by the errors, faults, or sins of others)

- "ignorant"- (agnoeo) to not know or understand, to sin through mistake or unconsciously

*this means that the high priest was one who had a gentle attitude toward those who were spiritually ignorant

- "compassed with infirmity"- this goes along with 7:28

*since the high priest was a man, he was subject to temptation and error which means that he could relate to those he was ministering to

vs.3- "by reason hereof"- meaning because he himself is also a sinner and needed atonement too

Truth- this goes for New Testament pastors as well- all are in need of the redemption and of God's daily grace and provisions that they preach of

vs.4- this verse claims that no man has the right to enter this office unless he is called of God and possesses the qualifications of Scripture

(This was to remind the readers that these commands and qualifications had been dismissed)

*unqualified high priests are one of the main instruments in why Israel strayed so far

Truth- uncalled and unqualified pastors have the same detrimental affects on churches

- "Aaron"- Aaron was designated by name to this position as were his descendants

*those who tried to assume the role of the high priest suffered severely

Ex.- Korah (Num.16) led a revolt against Moses and Aaron and was swallowed up by the earth

- Saul (I Sam.13:9-11) made a burnt offering because Samuel was late and God ended his lineage

- Uzziah (II Chr.26:16-23) burned incense because he got mad at the priests and got leprosy

vs.5- the latter part of this verse is a quote from Ps.2:7 to show that His Sonship and His Priesthood were both by divine appointment

*Interesting- Psalm 2 recognizes the Son as both King and Messiah

(The writer here uses it to show the designation to the priestly office where Ps.2 uses it in regards to the anointing of a King)

vs.6- here, the writer quotes from Ps.110:4

- "Melchisedec"- was the king of Salem and a priest in Abraham's day (Gen.14:18-20)

(Abraham first meets him after he defeats Chedorlaomer, king of Elam- Melchisedec gives bread and wine to Abraham and his weary men after the battle, then Abraham gives him a tithe)

- "after the order"- meaning in a like manner (priest and king)

vs.7- "days of His flesh"- when Christ was upon the earth

- "strong crying and tears"- the writer is referring to Christ's agony in Gethsemane

*even in His agony, He committed Himself to the Father's Will and stepped in our place

- "saved him from death"- meaning to resurrect (Ps.16:9-10)

Truth- Jesus is the Great High Priest that suffered on our behalf and took upon Himself the burden of sin that we could not bear