

So Great a High Priest

Hebrews 4:10-16

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- “For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His. 11 Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience. 12 For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. 13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account. 14 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

Our High Priest Is Superior

- He is superior in His Person
 - He is the Son of God.
 - He is sinless.
 - He does not need forgiveness, for He is perfect.

Our High Priest Is Superior

- He is superior in His Performance
- He had no sins when making atonement for our sins
 - 1Peter 2:22-24 - “Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth; 23 who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously; 24 who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness--by whose stripes you were healed”

Our High Priest Is Superior

- He did not offer the blood of an animal; He offered His own
 - Heb. 13:12 - “Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate.”
- He does not have to repeat His sacrifice
 - Heb. 10:11-12 - “And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.12 But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God”

Our High Priest Is Superior

- He offered His blood as eternal payment for our sin debt
 - Heb. 9:24-26 - “For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; 25 not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another-- 26 He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.”

Our High Priest Is Superior

- He is superior in His People
- Jesus is superior to an earthly high priest because His true followers are committed to Him and to His will
 - 2Cor. 5:17 - “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”
 - 1John 2:1-2 - “My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. 2 And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world”

Our High Priest Is Sympathetic

- Because of His Human Identity
- Jesus is “touched with the feelings of our infirmities.”
 - “Touched with the feeling” is *sumpatheo* - “to feel sympathy with, to commiserate, to have compassion, be touched with a feeling of, coupled with a desire to help.” (*Strongs*)
 - It is a form of caring heart that reaches out to help the hurting.

Our High Priest Is Sympathetic

- How did Jesus prove to us this kind of heart? By coming here and living as a man
 - John 1:1, 14 - “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... 14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...”
 - Phil. 2:5-8 - “Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.”

Our High Priest Is Sympathetic

- In so doing, Jesus accomplished two things:
 - By living it literally, God the Son experienced something He could not do in heaven, qualifying Him to be High Priest - Heb. 5:1-9
 - And He gave us the means by which we can be confident in Him as a sympathetic High Priest - Heb. 4:15

Our High Priest Is Sympathetic

- Hunger - Matt. 4:2; 21:18
- Thirst - John 4:7; 19:28
- Fear - Luke 22:41-42
- Weariness - Mark 4:38; John 4:6
- Poverty - Matt. 8:20
- Grief - John 11:33-35; Luke 19:41
- Abandonment - Mark 14:50
- Death - John 19:30
- Pain - Isa. 52:14; 53:4-6
- Anger - Mark 3:5

Our High Priest Is Sympathetic

- Hatred - Mark 11:18
- Indignation - John 2:13-17; Mark 11:15-17
- Need - Luke 8:3
- Submission - Luke 2:52
- Disappointment - Luke 22:61; Matt. 23:37
- Misunderstanding - Mark 3:21; Matt. 11:18
- Sadness - Isa. 53:3; Matt. 26:37-38
- Betrayal - Mark 14:11
- He Had Questions - Luke 2:46
- He Grew In Wisdom - Luke 2:40

Our High Priest Is Sympathetic

- He Learned Obedience - Heb. 5:8
- He Socialized - John 2:1-2
- He Prayed - Mark 1:35; 6:46
- He Was Tempted - Matt. 4:1-11; Heb. 4:15
- Love - Mark 10:21; John 11:5
- Friendship - Matt. 11:19; John 11:11; 15:13-15
- Compassion - Matt. 9:36; 14:14; 15:32
- Joy - Heb. 12:2
- Wonder - Matt. 8:10; Mark 6:6
- Family - Mark 3:31-32; Matt. 13:56; John 19:25-27

Our High Priest Is Sympathetic

- Because of His Heavenly Integrity
- Jesus was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.
 - Gen. 3:6 - “So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate...”
 - Matt. 4:1-11
 - 1John 2:16 - “For all that is in the world--the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life--is not of the Father but is of the world.”

Our High Priest Is Sympathetic

- He proved that we can have confidence in Him as our High Priest
 - 2Cor. 5:21 - “For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”
 - 1John 3:5 - “And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin.”

Our High Priest Is Our Sanctuary

- His Petition

- Heb. 4:16 - “Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace...”
- Esther 4:11 - “All the king's servants and the people of the king's provinces know that any man or woman who goes into the inner court to the king, who has not been called, he has but one law: put all to death, except the one to whom the king holds out the golden scepter, that he may live...”

Our High Priest Is Our Sanctuary

- His Promise

- Heb. 4:16 - "...obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need"
- Psalm 46:1 - "God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble."
- Psalm 63:7 - "Because You have been my help, Therefore in the shadow of Your wings I will rejoice."
- Psalm 55:22 - "Cast your burden on the LORD, And He shall sustain you; He shall never permit the righteous to be moved."

Our High Priest Is Our Sanctuary

- Matt. 11:28 - “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”
- 1Peter 5:7 - “Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.”
- Phil. 4:6-7 - “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”