

Sept 16, 2016



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks
Baptist Church**
Grand Prairie, Texas

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

A summary of what the ascension means to believers is that it speaks of an accomplished redemption (Heb. 8:1), the Savior's high-priestly work (Heb. 4:14), His lordship over the church (Eph. 1:22), His intercession for us with His heavenly Father (1 Tim. 2:5), the Lord's presence with us today (Matt. 28:20), and the expectation of His return to this earth (1 Thess. 4:16).

POEM FOR THE WEEK:

One day the grave could conceal Him no longer,
One day the stone rolled away from the door;
Then He arose,
over death He had conquered;
Now is ascended,
my Lord evermore.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:

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.

(Heb 4:14 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", June 29, 2016)

Series: The Sovereignty of God

UNIT: The Sovereignty of Jesus

NEXT WEEK

The High Priest Forever

(Heb 7:1-3, 18-28)

The Great High Priest Heb 4:14-5:10

Aim and Application of the Lesson

The lesson proclaims how Jesus is **The Great High Priest**. The **study's aim** is to recognize how Jesus as the Great High Priest is superior to human high priests and to understand Jesus' role as the Great High Priest who can help all believers. The **study's application** is to come to Jesus Christ, the Great High Priest, in times of difficulty.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

Lesson Introduction and Background

As the letter to the Hebrews urges readers to continue in their faith in Jesus, it focuses heavily on the concept of the high priesthood. This ancient office plays a crucial role in today's lesson and in the letter as a whole. The Law of Moses decreed that a high priest preside over worship, both in the tabernacle and in the temple that superseded it. Aaron was the first high priest, and all members of Israel's priesthood were required to be descended from him (Exodus 28:1; 29:9; 40:12-15). Israel's high priest was one of many priests who offered sacrifices of various kinds on the sacred altar. But once a year, on the Day of Atonement, only the high priest officiated at the special sacrifices. Atonement translates a word meaning "covering over"; sacrifices were made on the Day of Atonement to cover over the sins of all Israel. On that occasion the high priest first offered the sacrifice of a bullock. That animal's life was offered as a substitute, taking the punishment in place of the lives of the high priest and his household for their sins (Leviticus 16:6). The high priest also cast lots to determine which of two goats would be sacrificed and which would be sent away (alive) as a scapegoat (16:7-10). The high priest sprinkled blood of the sacrificed bull and goat on "the atonement cover," which was the top of the Ark of the Covenant (16:2, 14, 15). This was located in the inner room, called "the Most Holy Place," of the tabernacle or temple (Exodus 26:34). Only on this one day of the year did anyone enter that room. The essence of the Day of Atonement therefore was that of substitutionary sacrifice: the lives of animals were given in place of the lives of human sinners. But equally important was God's ordaining the high priest to this ministry. Only the one who occupied the office that God created could preside over this sacred rite. As do other New Testament writers, the author of Hebrews explains Jesus' death as the fulfillment of Israel's system of sacrifices.

(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

Recognizing the importance of the office of high priest to those who had converted from Judaism to Christianity, the writer of Hebrews stressed the role of Jesus Christ as the great High Priest, who fulfills all that had been prefigured in that Aaronic high priestly office. Our Saviour, the Son of man, being from the tribe of Judah, would not have been allowed to enter the earthly holy of holies. But He entered into one that was infinitely superior. Jesus has entered heaven itself bearing an infinitely better sacrifice, His own precious blood. He is now "even at the right hand of God" and "maketh intercession for us" (Rom. 8:34). As the high priest of old made a sacrifice of blood at the altar and then passed through the holy place into the holy of holies, so Jesus, having shed His blood on the cross, passed through the created heavens into the very dwelling place of God. Having such a High Priest as Him, surely we can "hold fast our profession."

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

A Sympathetic High Priest (Heb 4:14-5:3)

A priest who deserves our confidence (14)

Deserves our confidence because He is faithful (Heb 3:6)

Deserves our confidence because we are partakers in Him (Heb 3:14)

Deserves our confidence because God is faithful (Heb 10:23)

Deserves our confidence because He has armor that will help us stand against Satan (Eph 6:10-13)

A priest who understands us (15-16)

Understands because He was tempted (Luke 4:2)

Understands because He was made like us (Heb 2:17-18)

Understands because we are His sheep (John 10:14-15)

Understands because He knows His own (2 Tim 2:19)

Understands because of love (1 Cor 8:3)

Understands because He humbled Himself and was obedient (Phil 2:6-8)

A priest who is qualified (5:1-3)

Qualified because He was appointed

Appointed as Christ (Acts 3:19-20)

Appointed as judge (Acts 10:42)

Appointed as head of everything for the Church (Eph 1:22)

Appointed as heir of all things (Heb 1:2)

Appointed because of His faithfulness (Heb 3:1-2)

Appointed by the oath of God (Heb 7:28)

Qualified because He offered Himself as the ultimate sacrifice

Offered Himself because of the love of God (John 3:16)

Offered Himself as a sacrifice of atonement (Rom 3:25)

Offered Himself once for all (Heb 9:26)

Offered Himself to make us holy (Heb 10:10)

Offered Himself for the sins of the whole world (1 John 2:2)

A Specially Anointed High Priest (Heb 5:4-6)

The need for an anointed calling (4)

A calling because the Law required it (Num 18:5-7)

A calling that God provided to Jesus (John 8:54)

A calling to be like Melchizedek (Heb 7:14-16)

A calling that came from heaven (John 3:27)

The evidence of Jesus' anointed calling (5-6)

Evidenced by being God's Son

As acknowledged by God (Matt 3:16-17)

As proclaimed in the Psalms (Ps 2:7)

As proclaimed in the gospel (Acts 13:32-33)

A Son sent by God (Rom 8:3)

A Son superior to angels (Heb 1:3-5)

A Son, who if acknowledged, brings the indwelling Holy Spirit (1 John 4:15)

A Son who provides the overcoming of the world (1 John 5:5)

As acknowledged by Peter (Matt 16:16)

Evidenced by being a priest in the order of Melchizedek

A priest of God Most High (Gen 14:18-20)

A priest forever (Ps 110:4)

A priest designated by God (Heb 5:10)

A priest who enters on our behalf (Heb 6:20)

A Sacrificing High Priest (Heb 5:7-10)

Sacrificial suffering (7-8)

Suffering prophesied in Scripture (Luke 24:45-46)

Suffering foretold by the prophets (Acts 3:18)

Suffering by the author of our faith (Heb 12:2)

Suffering that make Jesus perfect (Heb 2:10)

Suffering that was predicted (1 Peter 1:10-11)

Suffering that Jesus gave as an example for us (1 Peter 2:20-21)

Suffering in His body (1 Peter 4:1)

Sacrificial saving work (9-10)

A salvation that God appointed through Jesus (1 Thess 5:9)

A salvation Jesus will bring with Him at His second coming (Heb 9:28)

A salvation through justification by Jesus' blood (Rom 5:9)

A salvation that is gained through belief in Jesus (John 6:40)

A salvation that brings eternal life (John 11:25)

A salvation that is hidden in Jesus (Col 3:3-4)