

# **Hebrews 5**

## **Hebrews 5.1-6**

**V1 – What high priest was the writer referring to here?** High priest under the Old Testament

-**Were they appointed by men?** Yes, from the family of Aaron, tribe of Levi

-**What role did the high priests under the Old Testament perform?** Offering gifts and sacrifices for sins

**V2 – How did the Old Testament high priests deal with the people?** Very gently

-**Why?** Because he was a mere human also (subject to the same temptations, weaknesses, etc.)

-Interesting: the "*ignorant and misguided*" – in other words, some people are confused

-The motto of all congregations and Bible classes should be: The only bad question is the one that doesn't get asked (in other words, we are all learning, so we should ask questions about what we don't understand.)

-It was the same way under the Old Testament - they were all in the same boat

**V3 – For whom did the high priest offer sins?** For the people, but also for himself as a sinner

-**Why is the writer of *Hebrews* bringing this up?** To show that the high priest under the Old Testament was a sinner, just like everyone else

**V4 – Could a person make himself a high priest?** No, it was an honor that was bestowed upon a person by God

-**Who was the first high priest?** Aaron, the older brother of Moses

-For more information, see:

*Zondervan Bible Encyclopedia*, IV, 850 (picture of clothes of high priest)

DeWitt, *Teaching from the Tabernacle*, pp. 73ff

-God began the priesthood of Aaron, and only descendants of Aaron could be high priests

-See *Exodus 28:1, Numbers 16:39-40, 17:1-13, 18:1*

-Since God had the power to begin the priesthood of Aaron, he also had the power to begin priesthood of Jesus Christ

**V5 – Did Christ make himself the Son of God?** No, God the Father made him his Son (notice the quote from *Psalms 2:7*)

-**Why did the writer quote from Old Testament?** Because he was writing to Jewish Christians

-**Was the priesthood of Jesus Christ inferior to the priesthood of Aaron?** No - both began by God the Father

**V6 – Why didn't the writer name the exact place where he was quoting?** He didn't want to distract the listeners and readers

-**Who began the priesthood of Jesus Christ?** Melchizedek

**Read Genesis 14:17-24**

**Who came first: Melchizedek or Aaron?** Melchizedek (more than 400 years before the priesthood of Aaron)

## **Hebrews 5.7-10**

**V 7 – Do we have any record of Jesus praying?** He was almost constantly praying while on earth  
-**When did he offer up a prayer with loud crying and tears?** In the Garden of Gethsemane  
-**How did the Father answer the prayer of the Son?** He was raised from the dead, and he was also comforted by the angels during the whole ordeal

**V 8 – Had Jesus ever been disobedient to God the Father?** No  
-**Now what sense did he learn obedience?** From human point of view – he was willing even to die, if the father asked him to

**V 9 – Now what sense was Jesus perfect?** In all senses, including perfectly keeping the Old Testament  
-**Because of His perfect life, what did Jesus become?** The source of eternal salvation  
-**To what people?** Those who obey Him  
-**What terrible false doctrine is refuted by this verse?** Predestination

**V 10 – Who made Jesus a priest?** God the Father  
-**According to the order of Aaron?** No, according to the order of Melchizedek  
-**Was Christ from the tribe of Levi?** No, the tribe of Judah  
-**Why was the priesthood of Melchizedek superior to the priesthood of Aaron?** Older

## **Hebrews 5.11-14**

**V 11 – What can be said about the priesthood of Melchizedek?** It was superior in all ways to the priesthood of Levi  
-**Why couldn't the writer of *Hebrews* explain Melchizedek better?** The listeners had become dull of hearing  
-**Can that happen to people today?** Of course

**V 12 – Were those new Christians that he was writing to?** No, older members of the congregation  
-**What should they have been doing by this time?** Teaching classes  
-**But instead what was the situation?** They were having to be taught again  
-**What were they having to be taught?** The elementary principles  
-**What is the difference between mild and solid food?** One is for babies, and the other is for more mature people

**V 13 - What can be said about those who drink milk only?** They cannot understand righteousness

**V 14 – How do we grow more mature in the faith?** By practice  
-We have weak members of the congregation today because they don't practice the Christian faith  
-In any sport or academic enterprise (such as playing a musical instrument), there is only one secret: practice

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