

Bible Study on Hebrews 4 of 8 – Leader Guide

Hebrews 4:14 – 7:28 (Superiority of Jesus' Priesthood: Jesus, the New Melchizedek)

Schedule:

1/19 – Hebrews Introduction & 1:1-2

1/26 – 1:3 - 2:18 (Jesus' Superiority over the Angels)

2/2 – 3:1 - 4:13 (Jesus' Superiority over Moses)

2/9 – 4:14 - 7:28 (Superiority of Jesus' Priesthood: Jesus, the New Melchizedek)

2/16 – 8:1 - 10:18 (Superiority of Jesus' Sacrifice)

2/23 – 10:19 - 11:40 (Exhortation to Faithfulness and OT Examples of Faith)

3/2 – 12:1-29 (Jesus the Ultimate Example of Faithfulness & warning against disobedience)

3/9 – 13:1-25 (Final Exhortations, Blessings and Greetings)

Hebrews Chapter 4

4:14-16

- A. This passage, paired with 5:7-9 is used every: Good Friday and in the one year lectionary, it is used at the beginning of Lent.
- a. Jesus was tempted and suffered on our behalf, “yet without sin” (v. 15), so “that we may receive mercy and find grace in time of need” (v. 16).
- B. After stating Jesus' superiority over Moses (the bringer of the Law), the author then goes after the next greatest role in the Jewish system, the High Priest.

Hebrews Chapter 5

5:1-10

- A. Here the author quotes Psalm 2 & 110 showing Jesus to be both Son of God and a high priest.
- a. This puts Jesus in the position of making sacrifices for salvation, while being fully sinless.
- b. Jesus is the greater high priest because He does not need to sacrifice for his own sins and because He was appointed by God not man.

B. Jesus is “the source of eternal salvation” (v. 9), but he is also the “perfect model for Christian piety.”¹ Jesus’ active (obedience to the Law) and passive obedience (obedience to the Father’s will).

a. We listen to God’s voice and follow Him while relying on Him for everything.

5:11-6:12

A. After introducing Jesus as the high priest in the order of Melchizedek, the author calls the listeners spiritual children. The congregation should be mature in the knowledge of all that is listed in 6:1-2, not spiritually lazy, but ready to hear this new teaching.

a. The congregation should be ready to hear God’s word and believe in deeper teachings, not needing to go over that which they have learned and confessed.

B. 6:4-6 - Luther uses this stern warning against apostasy as an explanation of why we pray the sixth petition of the Lord’s Prayer: “lead us not into temptation.”

a. The danger of falling away from faith – that sin and unbelief would lead to hardheartedness (re: Hebrews 3:16-19).

6:13-20

A. The author connects God’s faithfulness to His promises to this teaching that Jesus is the “high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek” (v. 20).

a. God fulfilled His oath to Abraham to have a son, and is fulfilling His second oath (Gen. 22:15-18) through Jesus, God’s Son who was the sacrifice.

b. Just as God provided the sacrifice of a ram instead of Isaac, so in Jesus (and through Jesus, the great high priest) He provided the sacrifice for sin.

B. The assurance of our salvation is not based on self-confidence, but God’s promise.

7:1-28

A. :1-10 – Jesus is a priest and a king, and in the same way that Abraham would give tithes to Melchizedek, so should all who followed Abraham give fealty to Jesus.

B. :11-19 Our proof text for the sermon Psalm 110 is quoted saying Jesus is a priest, not because of his earthly lineage (v.14), but because He is the eternal Son of God.

¹ Kleinig, *Hebrews*, 255.

- a. 7:19 – the Law and those who ministered under it could not make us perfect, but Jesus is our better hope that makes us righteous before God.
- C. :20-28 – Jesus is a permanent **priest** with a great **covenant**.
 - a. Christ serves as priest interceding for us with the Father and as He serves **us** in the Divine Service.

God Bless.
Pastor Brubaker, 2/9/25