

Great High Priest

2-23-25

Hebrews 4:14 (ESV)

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

It is necessary to see Jesus as our Great High Priest who passed through the heavens, so that we can hold securely to our trust in Christ. First, this verse ties Jesus directly to the OT and the Jewish faith. The religious center of the OT was the Jewish temple and the High Priest. To understand Jesus' fulfillment as the Great High Priest we need to look at the OT High Priest. Visual of the OT High Priest.



There is a mind-boggling amount of typology surrounding the High Priest and the Temple worship which goes beyond anything we could cover in a Sunday morning service.

But as we look at this picture, there are three things I would like to point out. #1 On each shoulder of the High Priest was an onyx stone engraved with the names of the tribes of Israel, six on each stone, representing the people of God. (Exodus 28:11-12) #2 Over the heart of the High Priest was a breast piece with twelve precious stones each engraved with the name of a tribe of Israel, again representing the people of God. (Exodus 21, 29) #3 Only the High Priest could go behind the curtain and approach the ark of God to sprinkle blood for the forgiveness of the people of God. (Leviticus 16:14) **Jesus the Great High Priest fulfilled all this when HE went to the Cross.** Jesus goes into the presence of God carrying us on HIS shoulders and over HIS heart while presenting the blood of HIS death to God. Lesson: There is a deep relational human connection between believers and Jesus.

Hebrews 4:15 (ESV) NO/OH

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have Jesus who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Jesus our high priest is not passive, unable to share our feelings of weakness. He too lived as a human and thus as one who has been tempted in every way, just like us, and can sympathize with our weaknesses. *But why* did Jesus need to share our feelings and suffered like we have suffered?

Hebrews 5:8 (ESV)

Although he was a son, Jesus learned obedience through what he suffered.

Jesus learned obedience or Jesus experienced obedience from what HE suffered. Jesus willingly set aside HIS own volition and obeyed God as “demonstrated” at Gethsemane.

Matthew 26:39 (ESV) NO/OH

My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.

The Apostle Paul addresses Jesus experiencing or learning obedience.

Philippians 2:8 (ESV)

And being found in human form, Jesus humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Jesus became obedient to the point of death by going to the cross. This does not mean that Jesus passed from disobedience to obedience.

***Rather, HE learned and experienced obedience by actually obeying.* Now through “demonstrated” perfection, HE became the source of our salvation.**

Hebrews 5:9 (ESV)

And being made perfect, Jesus became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him.

This does not mean that Jesus was imperfect and became perfect. This means that Jesus fulfilled the behavior of man as God created man to be. Man in perfection. Thus, God completed salvation through Jesus who was fully man and fully God.

Thus, Jesus' last words on the cross were, "It is Finished!" Now the message specifically to the Jews was you now have the Great High Priest, Jesus, who has passed through the heavens. Therefore, to the Jews and Gentiles, all God's people, hold fast to your trust in Jesus. Lesson: We have a huge benefit by doing this:

Hebrews 4:16 (ESV)

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

**We find help from God in our time of need.
What a glorious position! *There are no barriers separating us from God because:***

2 Corinthians 5:21 (ESV)

For our sake God made Jesus, Our Great High Priest, to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Jesus, Our Great High Priest, we might become the righteousness of God.