

Jesus Christ: The Great High Priest  
Building the Core  
Hebrews 4:14-16  
December 12-13, 2009  
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There were three major offices among the people of Israel in the Old Testament: prophet, priest, and the king. These three offices were distinct. The prophet spoke God's words to the people, the priest offered sacrifices, prayers, and praises to God on behalf of the people and the king ruled over the people as God's representative. These three offices foreshadowed Christ's own work in different ways. Therefore we can look again at Christ's work. Now think about the perspective of these three offices or categories. Christ fulfills these three offices in the following ways: as prophet he reveals God to us and speaks God's words to us, as priest he both offers a sacrifice that is offered and as king he rules over the church and the universe as well. Wayne Grudem p.624

**Big Idea:** Jesus Christ is the great High Priest because He is able to bring us to God and God to us, with all of His resources.

Hebrews 4:14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are-- yet was without sin. 16 Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Jesus Christ is the greatest High Priest because:

I. Jesus has unlimited \_\_\_\_\_ to the Father.

Hebrews 4:14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. (Acts 1:11)

Hebrews 3:1 Therefore, holy brothers, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, the apostle and high priest whom we confess.

Hebrews 7:26 Such a high priest meets our need-- one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens.

Hebrews 8:3 Every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices, and so it was necessary for this one also to have something to offer. 4 If he were on earth, he would not be a priest, for there are already men who offer the gifts prescribed by the law.

Hebrews 9:24 For Christ did not enter a man-made sanctuary that was only a copy of the true one; *he entered heaven itself*, now to appear for us in God's presence. 25 Nor did he enter heaven to offer himself again and again, the way the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood that is not his own. 26 Then Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But now he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself.

14 Now that we know what we have—Jesus, this great High Priest with ready access to God—let's not let it slip through our fingers. (Hebrews 4:14 The Message)

**Our Response:** Let's not let it slip through our fingers. No matter what trial we are facing, let's hold strong in our profession of faith in Jesus Christ. ***God is Able.***

II. Jesus has unlimited \_\_\_\_\_ for God's people.

15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are-- yet was without sin.

Hebrews 2:17 For this reason he had to be *made like his brothers* in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people.

- Jesus was \_\_\_\_\_ in every way, yet was without sin.

Hebrews 2:18 Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Hebrews 5:1 Every high priest is selected from among men and is appointed to represent them in matters related to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. 2 He is able to deal gently with those who are ignorant and are going astray, since he himself is subject to weakness. 3 This is why he has to offer sacrifices for his own sins, as well as for the sins of the people.

Hebrews 9:12 He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption.

- Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_ with those who are suffering.

Isaiah 53:3 He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and *familiar with suffering*. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

**Our Response:** *God is Able* to have compassion on our needs.

III. Jesus has unlimited \_\_\_\_\_ to help those in need.

Jesus can bring people to God and He can bring God to people and all that God has for them.

Hebrews 4:16 Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Ephesians 3:12 In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

Hebrews 2:14 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death-- that is, the devil—

Hebrews 7:25 Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

Hebrews 10:23 Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.

**Our Response:** Reach out to God and ask for His help this Christmas. Lord, teach us how to follow and experience Christ as our High Priest. *God is able* to help you through Jesus Christ. “May the God of peace equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.”

(Hebrews 13:20-21)