

A hand is shown from the bottom, holding a crown of thorns. In the center of the crown is a bright, glowing blue cross. The entire scene is set against a dark blue background with several bright, jagged lightning bolts radiating outwards from the central cross.

Jesus
Is Supreme

Source of Salvation

Hebrews 4:14 – 5:10

Knowing ...

- ★ Seventh Sunday of Lockdown
 - ◆ Scientists have been learning
 - ◆ Knowledge is key
- ★ Hebrews: Key Info about Salvation
 - ◆ Answers questions we aren't asking
 - ◆ e.g. Do we need a High Priest?

1. A Great High Priest

- ★ Do we need a High Priest? YES!
 - ◆ We are sinners and need atonement
 - ◆ Our High Priest: “Jesus, the son of God” (4:14)
- ★ He is unique (Heb 2:14-17)
 - ◆ He had to be like us
 - ◇ “Life for life, eye for eye” (Ex 21:23-25)
 - ◇ Jesus had to be like us to make propitiation

1. A Great High Priest . . .

- ◆ Through death he defeated death
 - ◆ How is a human life atoned for? (Ps 49:7-9)
 - ◆ One human life is worth one human life
 - ◆ Human High priests make offerings for their own sins
 - ◆ A promise: “God will ransom my soul” (Ps 49:15)
- ◆ He was like us to make propitiation for our sins
 - ◆ One person to die for another
 - ◆ He must have no sin of his own (4:15)

2. Appointed by God

- ★ Two Messianic Psalms – 2 & 110
- ★ Jesus is God's son (Ps 2:7)
 - ◆ He is the anointed one as promised
- ★ Jesus a Priest: order of Melchizedek (Ps 110:4)

2. Appointed by God . . .

- ✦ Jesus a Priest, order of Melchizedek (Ps 110:4)
 - ◆ Priesthood from the sons of Levi (Dt 21:5)
 - ◆ High Priest from descendants of Aaron (Lev 6:13ff)
 - ◆ Only other priest in OT is Melchizedek (Gen 14)
 - ◆ Order that pre-dates the Levitical priesthood
 - ◆ High priest of the father of the Nation – Abraham
 - ◆ David calls him “Lord” (Ps 110:1)
 - ◆ He is also God’s son.

2. Appointed by God . . .

- ★ Jesus: High Priest by descent & appointment
- ★ What qualifies him for the job?
 - ◆ He was appointed (Heb 5:5)
 - ◆ No-one can take this honor for himself (v 4)

3. Tempted as We Are

- ✦ Jesus identifies with us; He is able to help (4:15)
- ✦ What was Jesus' greatest temptation?
 - ◆ Story of temptation in Matthew 4
 - ◆ He was hungry, tempted to make stones bread (v 3)
 - ◆ He may have doubts, throw himself off the temple (v 6)
 - ◆ Came to be king, tempted to avoid the suffering (v 9)
 - ◆ Which was the greatest? None of these.

3. Tempted as We Are

- ★ Greatest temptation: Garden of Gethsemane
 - ◆ “My soul is sorrowful even to death” (Mt 26:38)
 - ◆ He prays, “let this cup pass from me” (Mt 26:39)
 - ◆ He offered prayers with cries and tears (Heb 5:7)
 - ◆ He was still obedient – “Your will be done” (Mt 26:42)
 - ◆ He learned obedience through his suffering (Heb 5:8)
- ★ “He is not unable to sympathize with our weakness” (Heb 4:15)

Living It – Hold Fast, Have Confidence

★ Growing understanding of Coronavirus.

- ◆ Only if we behave accordingly

★ Two Exhortations:

- ◆ Let us hold fast our confession (v 14)

 - ◆ Temptation to fit into Judaism

 - ◆ Not possible or desirable

 - ◆ Jesus had to choose obedience

 - ◆ We must hold fast to Jesus

Living It – Hold Fast, Have Confidence . . .

- ◆ With confidence draw near the throne of grace
 - ◆ Through Jesus' High Priestly ministry
 - ◆ The wonder of salvation: Not we “get into Heaven”
We get to draw near to God!

★ Jesus is not asking us for more than he gave

Hold fast & Draw near – the privilege of our salvation