

Hebrews - Chapters Five & Six, Part I

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Hebrews 5:1-4: *1 For every high priest being taken from among men is appointed to act on their behalf in things relating to God, so that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins, 2 being gentle to those who lack understanding and are being led astray, since he himself is compassed with weakness. 3 Because of this, he is bound to offer sacrifice concerning his own sins as well as concerning those of the people. 4 And no one takes the honor himself, but the one who is called by God, just as was Aaron.* (Greek original)

God chose Aaron and his sons to minister in the office of priest (Ex 28:1). Therefore, it was necessary that a lineage be kept as proof that a person was eligible for the priest's office (cf Lk 1:5), so that, as a priest, he be able to enter the temple. While in the wilderness, Korah instigated a rebellion against Moses and Aaron (Num 16) saying that all the congregation was holy (ibid verse 3), implying anyone can be priest. Korah, Abiram & Dathan refused to cooperate with Moses for a test which God chose to identify the priests He called. This resulted in the three, and all who sided with them (Num 26:11) being swallowed up by the earth, and 250 others being consumed by fire for bringing their own fire and incense to the temple - *no one takes the honor himself, but the one who is called by God*. This event did not convince the rest of the people (Num 16:41-50), who also came against Moses and Aaron, and a plague killed 14,700 of the people before Moses' intercession stopped it.

Is this story, as a type, saying that only certain ones are called to be priests of God, and the rest are just followers? Notice **Ex 19:5-6:** *5. Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: 6. And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.* Every spiritual Jew is called to be a minister (priest) of God, but few are chosen (Mt 22:10-14) because they will not enter the rest (hear and do God's instruction). Here is how Paul applies this to spiritual leaders: **1 Cor 1:26-29:** *26 for see the calling of your's, brethren, that not many who are wise according to the flesh (carnal mind), not many mighty ones, not many noble ones are called; 27 but the foolish things of the world did God choose, that the wise He may put to shame; and the weak things of the world did God choose that He may put to shame the strong; 28 God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, so that the things are He may bring to nothing, 29 so that no flesh (carnal, worldly thinking) may glory before Him.* All who presume to make themselves holy by their own works are consumed by the earth (self), and others, because the truth is a plague to them, and die spiritually when they come against God's chosen. We would do well to give heed to this type so that we are careful to speak not against a messenger of God, but fall on our faces (die to self) before God, as did Moses and Aaron (Num 16:4, 44), to seek His admonition of how to deal with any situation.

Heb 5:5-6: *5 So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, "Thou art my Son, today I have begotten thee"; 6 as he says also in another place, "Thou art a priest for ever, after the order of Melchizedek."* (Revised Version) Christ also, was anointed our high priest by our heavenly Father. (The order of Melchizedek will be covered in chapter 7) **Ps 2:2, 6-7:** *2. The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers (of self) take counsel together, against [Yahweh], and against his anointed (the Son)... 6. Yet have I set ⁽⁵²⁵⁸⁾ (anointed) my king upon my holy hill of Zion. 7. I will (now and in the future) declare the decree: the Lord hath said unto me (in eternity), Thou art my son; this day have I [birthed] thee.* How can we know that the Father said this to the Son in eternity? **Pr 8:23-26:** *23. I was set up ⁽⁵²⁵⁸⁾ from everlasting (eternity), from the beginning, or [before] the earth was. 24. When there were no depths, I was brought forth (birthed); when there were no fountains abounding with water. 25. Before the mountains were settled, before the hills was I brought forth (birthed): 26. While as yet he had not made the earth, nor the fields, nor the highest part of the dust of the world.* [Hebrew] (explanation) The lamb slain from the foundation of the world, was also appointed high Priest.

Heb 5:7-9: 7. *Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared;* 8. *Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;* 9. *And being made perfect⁽⁵⁰⁴⁸⁾, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him...*

Who in the days...: **Lk 22:37:** *For I tell you that this scripture must be fulfilled in me, 'And he was reckoned with transgressors'; for what is written about me has its fulfilment⁽⁵⁰⁵⁶⁾."* (Revised Std) Christ was made to be sin that we might become the righteousness of God through him (2 Cor 5:21). He poured out his soul unto death (Isa 53:12), he was brought into the 'dust of death', (Ps 22:15) or the death a sinful human being deserves, and the climax of what he faced became a reality in the garden that final night: **Mt 26:38-39:** 38. *Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me.* 39. *And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou will.* The Greek word *telos*⁽⁵⁰⁵⁶⁾ is a neuter noun meaning 'termination, the end of a state or condition, or a completing.' This word is the root of 5046 (an adjective) & 5048 (a verb), along with other derivatives. These three, however, are used in the book of Hebrews 16 times.

Learned he obedience...: **Rev 3:21:** *To him that over comes will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.* What did Jesus overcome? The same nature that holds us in bondage - the sin nature of man. Jesus overcame the human nature he carried without sinning. Peter, writing about how Noah got into the ark and was saved, speaks of being immersed in the resurrection of Christ, i.e. come to thoroughly understand it: **1 Pet 3:21:** *The like figure whereunto even [immersion] doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:* Make a special note, that it is not our part to put away the filth of the flesh, but listen to God's instructions through the conscience. **1 Pet 4:1-2:** 1. *Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin;* 2. *That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.* Arm self with the same way of thinking as Christ and the flesh will be subdued!

Being made perfect⁽⁵⁰⁴⁸⁾...: The Father made complete⁽⁵⁰⁴⁸⁾ the captain of our salvation by means of suffering (Heb 2:10). How was Christ made complete by suffering in the flesh? It has to have something to do with his understanding. Why else would Peter say "arm yourselves with the same mind", or Paul in Phil 2:5 "let this mind be in you, which was ALSO in Christ Jesus?" Jesus became the 'author', 'captain', or 'source' of our salvation after the cross. Therefore, it had to have been his human experience that completed his understanding of humanity, which made him a faithful and compassionate high Priest, and a succor of those being tempted. This experience revealed more depth of the Father's love, as well as heighten his own love for humanity.

Heb 7:19: *For the law [completes⁽⁵⁰⁴⁸⁾] nothing, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by which we draw nigh unto God.* By his example, Christ shows us that reading and doing what the Bible says will not complete us spiritually, but that our hope of perfection is in him, and through him we draw nigh to the Father. The revelation of this is shown in Jesus' prayer - notice: **Jn 17:4, 23:** 4. *I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished⁽⁵⁰⁴⁸⁾ the work which you gave me to do...* 23. *I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect⁽⁵⁰⁴⁸⁾ in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.* We can conclude that it is by suffering that we will enter into a clearer understanding of the Father's love, not only for us, but the gentile also. I see the necessity of suffering in order to blast out of the way, our old way of thinking, and all the false ideas we hold about God and others.

Heb 5:11-14: *11 Concerning whom (Christ) we have much to say which is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. 12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need some one to teach you again the first principles of God's word. You need milk, not solid food; 13 for every one who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a child. 14 But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their faculties trained by practice to distinguish good from evil.* (Revised Version)

Dull of hearing...: When Jesus finished the parable of the sower (Mt 13), he said: *Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.* The disciples inquired as to the meaning of the parable - *10. And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speak thou unto them in parables? 11. He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given. 12. For whosoever hath (ears to hear), to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not (ears to hear), from him shall be taken away even that he hath (or knows).* Jesus explained, in verse 15, the ones that do not have ears to hear is because *their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed.* The things discussed in chapter 5 of Hebrews is not widely known, nor would it be accepted among the vast majority of professed Christians today. What is so amazing is that Paul had much more to say, but he thought the readers of the letter would not receive it. Today, there is nothing new under the sun.

Milk drinkers and children...: These terms relate to the spiritually immature (cf 1 Cor 3:2; 1 Pet 2:2), and also apply to the majority today, who are immature in their understanding because they choose to be. These would not agree with this assessment because they think they are walking in the truth, but will never advance, until they confess to God that they are spiritual babies. Notice Jesus' prayer after his disciples returned from preaching, healing and casting out demons: **Lk 10:21:** *In the same hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit and said, I praise thee, Father, possessor of the heavens and the earth, that you hid these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to babes: even so, Father, it seemed good in thy sight.* (Interlinear) The Pharisees considered themselves to be experts in understanding of law (Bible), who Jesus called snakes, liars - *But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites (pretender, interpreter)! Because you shut up the kingdom of the heavens (spiritual understanding) before men: for you do not enter, not even those that are entering do you suffer to enter.* (Mt 23:13 - Interlinear) Religious leaders today have a man's interpretation of the Bible which is keeping mankind from a true understanding of God, neither will they tolerate any who have a different view. Therefore, most remain spiritual children, wandering in a wilderness of confusion and darkness as pertaining to God, *for everyone partaking of milk is unskillful in the concept of righteousness - Heb 5:13.* (More on the milk in the part two)

Solid food...: The three major categories of Israel's experience apply to the Christian walk today: Egypt = worldly thinking - repent and become separate from the world by leaving Egypt; the wilderness = darkness, confusion, a dry land - represents the initial conversion, place of spiritual babies; promised land = enter an abiding relationship with Christ, so that he can defeat the enemies in the land (sin problems) - that is be born again (from above). The promised land (Canaan) is where the solid food is obtained by hearing and doing (Mt 7:24) the instructions directly from Christ (cf Heb 8:10-11). **1 Cor 13:11:** *When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became a man (spiritually mature), I gave up childish ways.* While some may be influenced by the Spirit, few are listening on a minute by minute basis. There are many things concerning the Father, Son and Holy Spirit that need to be understood. However, all have been so indoctrinated with false teachings (I was), until truth appears to be a lie.

Isa 28:9: *Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand [the hearing - KJ margin]? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts.* Move on to solid food, become a king & priest as promised by God.