

# Our High Priest's Qualifications

Text: Hebrews 5:6-10

Date: 5-26-24

## II. The impeccable qualifications of Jesus Christ (Heb. 5:5-10)

**\*\*His humility (Heb. 5:5a)**

**\*\*His honor (Heb. 5:5b)**

**\*\*His house (Heb. 5:6)**

Jesus was not of the tribe of Levi; rather, He was from the tribe of Judah. So was Jesus even qualified to be a priest – let alone a high priest – if He wasn't of the line of Levi and Aaron?

A second issue is if Jesus Christ is King, can He also be a High Priest? After all, the author has declared Jesus Christ to be both King and Son (Heb. 1:5; 8, 13).

God Himself not only called His Son to be King but also He has called Him to be a High Priest. We now see the joining of Psalm 2:6-7 (quoted in Heb. 1:5) with the quoting of Psalm 110:1-4. **Jesus Christ has been appointed as both a King and High Priest forever.**

This verse declares the master plan that Jesus Christ is a High Priest forever after a different line: the line of Melchisedec.

Melchisedec's house was both superior to Aaron's line but it was also chosen by the Father for the Son's work.

To the Jews then, their Messiah is both King and Priest.

**\*\*His humanity (Heb. 5:7)** – Jesus Christ is a real human priest.

His proof of humanity is that He physically offered up *prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears*.

Jesus was the most caring and compassionate human to ever live on this earth.

Note also that Jesus as High Priest gives offerings to God on behalf of others thus perfectly fulfilling the job of priest.

Jesus was not praying to the Father that the cup not happen for He desired His Father's will, even if it meant going through the suffering of the cross. Rather, this could mean that Jesus would be strengthened to go through the cross – or even more, that He would be saved from death through the triumph of His resurrection.

In Christ's humanity, He asked His Father to take the cup from Him all the while trusting steadfastly in His Father's plan. Knowing that that Father's will was to have Him suffer for the world's sin, He cried out asking God to bring Him through the suffering and death safely to the other side.

**Explanation/heard in that he feared:** The main idea is that Christ was devoutly submissive to His Father.

**\*\*His obedience (Heb. 5:8)**

Christ learned obedience by going through the process of obeying, specifically in obedience to the suffering He was called to. Jesus Christ always had obeyed but now we have the clear obedience in dying upon the cross wherewith He experienced the pain and agony of mankind's sinfulness and demonstrated that He had learned all there was to learn about obedience and submission.

He learned obedience by actually obeying. There is a certain quality involved when one has performed a required action – a quality that is lacking when there is only a readiness to act. Innocence differs from virtue” (Gaebelein 50).

Jesus Christ is qualified to be our High Priest because He understands from personal experience everything that we experience.

**\*\*His sacrifice (Heb. 5:9)**

But coming to the earth was never good enough. When He suffered for us He brought to completion the plan which He came to accomplish.

How do we know Jesus is qualified? God called Him, He is genuinely human, and here we find He is qualified because He suffered. In fact, He is our sacrifice. In being our sacrifice He completed the qualifications.

What was the result of *being made perfect*?

He became the *author* (Greek: *aitios*) of *eternal salvation*.

Jesus Christ, on the basis of His qualifications, has impacted mankind beyond what any other human has achieved. He is the Source of our *eternal salvation*.

Morris says “It is a nice touch that he who learned to obey brought salvation to those who obey” (Gaebelein 50).