

“OUR HEAVENLY HIGH PRIEST”

Hebrews 5:5-10

Message 1599

The Bible is the record of God planning for our fellowship with Him. In our natural state we cannot enter into that fellowship and we cannot construct our own way. Many people have tried, but they have not been successful.

The Bible is the record of God’s planning for us. God saw our need and the impossibility of ever being able to bridge that broken fellowship and He has prepared the way. He has done so by sending His Son into the world to become **OUR HEAVENLY HIGH PRIEST**.

To understand more fully how Jesus is our heavenly High Priest, we shall look into Hebrews 5:5-10.

5. So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, to-day have I begotten thee.

6. As he saith also in another place, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedec.

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, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;

10. Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchizedec.

Here we observe the distinguishing **MARKS**, which qualify Jesus Christ to be our heavenly High Priest.

HE IS THE BEGOTTEN SON. The office of high priest was not a position that He sought for Himself. It was not for self-glory, but rather there was a humbling of Himself in order to become that High Priest. Notice the words of the Apostle Paul in Philippians 2:5-8.

“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”

He humbled Himself. He did not take on this particular role for self-glory.

But our writer in the book of Hebrews quotes from Psalm 2:7, “Thou art my Son, today have I begotten thee.” This is an important verse, and while we may not be able to understand it perfectly, we ought to accept this truth: God was speaking about Jesus, “Today I have begotten thee, Thou art my Son.”

Theologians and sages have wrestled with this very thought. There are, I should say, certain ideas our minds are too small to comprehend. Someone said this Scripture was referring to His eternal generation as God, His wonderful conception as man, and His perfect qualification as mediator. But still the distinguishing mark of our heavenly High Priest is that He is the begotten Son.

HE IS THE APPOINTED PRIEST. This is by divine appointment. The writer of Hebrews is referring to Psalm 110:1-4. He quotes it.

“The **LORD** said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool. The LORD shall send the rod of thy strength out of Zion: rule thou in the midst of thine enemies. Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power, in the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning: thou hast the dew of thy youth. The LORD has sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.”

In order for Him to become a priest at all, He needed to become human. Our text refers to the days of His flesh. But Jesus in the days of His flesh endured trials like ours. He was human by becoming flesh. In order to sympathize and understand the trials and troubles we go through, He became human and thus, He could be appointed a high priest.

He also learned how to pray. He offered up prayers and supplications with strong cryings and tears, we are informed. I am thinking right now of the record in the Gospels when He went to the Garden of Gethsemane and prayed so intently that He sweat, as it were, drops of blood, Luke’s Gospel tells us. He asked God if it were possible to let the cup of death pass from Him. “Nevertheless,” He said, “not my will but thine be done.”

That’s how He learned obedience, by the things that He suffered. In the eternal counsels of God, He saw our need and filled that need in Jesus Christ by appointing Him to be our heavenly High Priest after the order of Melchizedek.

HE IS THE PERFECTED AUTHOR. There came a time of probation and testing. He suffered. And His obedience was a necessity. You see, the Bible tells us that Jesus Christ started where Adam started—perfect human being. Not imperfect like us, but perfect like Adam, when Adam was created by the hand of God.

So His perfection was confirmed. Adam failed because He did not obey. But Jesus Christ succeeded because He obeyed everything that the Father had said. One time Jesus said, “I do always those things that please the Father.”

By this testing and by this confirmation, His perfection is absolutely assured. So now He can be a High Priest for us, because He is the perfected author of our salvation. The confirmation of His perfection makes it possible for Him to be the grand cause of eternal salvation for those who obey Him.

But, you see, that requires submission like His. He is the author of eternal salvation to those of us who obey Him. Here then is the grand cause of our salvation. It marks Him out, the perfected author of our salvation. But to reap the benefit of this mark of our heavenly High Priest, we must obey Him. We must obey Him like He obeyed the Father.

Thus, our heavenly High Priest has these distinguishing marks: He is the divinely begotten Son, He is the appointed priest, and He is the perfected Author of our salvation.

My friend, these are marks that nobody else can possibly measure up to. Only Jesus Christ. And the salvation that He has offered comes only to those who obey Him, like He obeyed the Father.