Wednesday Morning Senior Adults Bible Study
THE BOOK OF HEBREWS
August 5, 2026

HEBREWS 5

Review of Chapters 1-4

- Jesus is superior to the _____ (1:4) and worthy of greater honor than _____ (3:3).
- 3:12 — Warning: See to it that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving _____ that turns away from the living God.
- 4:14-15 — We have a great high priest who has ascended into _____ and who can empathize with our _____ because he has been _____ in every way, just as we are, yet did not _____.

5:1-10 — How Christ Became Our High Priest

Background — The High Priest of Israel

- Beginning in the time of Moses (between about 1450 and 1400 BC), Israel had priests descended from Moses' brother, Aaron, the first high priest. Whenever the high priest died, his oldest son was to become the new high priest (Exodus 29:29-30, Leviticus 16:32, Numbers 20:22-29. *During the New Testament period, this system had been corrupted, and the high priest was chosen by the Roman governor on the basis of loyalty to Rome and other Roman considerations.*
- The primary duties of the priests, and especially of the high priest, were to offer sacrifices to God for the people (including sacrifices in payment for sin), mediate between God and the people, take care of the holy things used in sacrifices and worship, and teach the people God's laws.
- Leviticus 16 describes the work of the high priest on the annual Day of Atonement (in late September/early October). On this day, the high priest offered a special sacrifice for the forgiveness of Israel's sins. It was on this day alone that the high priest was permitted to enter the Most Holy Place, the inner sanctuary behind the curtain in the tabernacle (later the temple).

5:1 — Every high priest is selected from among the people. What was the high priest appointed to do?

5:2 — What makes the high priest “able to deal gently with those who are ignorant and are going astray”?

5:3 — Why did the high priest have to offer sacrifices for his own sins (as in Leviticus 4:1-12)?

5:4 — How did a person take on the honor of becoming the high priest?

5:5 — Christ did not take on himself the glory of becoming a high priest, but God gave it to him. God said (in Psalm 2:7), "You are my _____; today I have become your _____."

5:6 — Jesus is a priest in the order of _____. He is a priest for how long? _____

Background — Melchizedek

Read Genesis 14:1-20. In this story, Abram (Abraham) defeats an alliance of 4 kings in order to rescue his nephew, Lot, and other war captives. Following the rescue, Abram is met by Melchizedek, king of Salem (Jerusalem) and priest of God.

- What did Melchizedek do for Abram?

- What did Abram give to Melchizedek?

More will be said about Melchizedek in Hebrews 7.

5:7-8 — During his life on earth, Jesus offered up _____ and _____ with fervent cries and _____ to the one who could save him from death. He was heard because of his reverent submission. *Yet he still suffered and died. Was he indeed heard by God? Did God save him from death? What do you think?*

5:8 — What did Jesus—though he was God's Son—learn from what he suffered?

5:8-9 — How was Jesus "made perfect" through what he suffered?

5:9 — Once made perfect, Jesus became the source of eternal _____ for all who _____ him.

5:10 — Jesus was designated by God to be _____ _____ in the order of Melchizedek.

Psalm 110 — What promises does God give to the king of Israel in verses 1-3, 5-7?

- In addition to this military and royal power, God promises a priesthood: this king will be "a priest _____, in the order of Melchizedek".

<u>5:11-14 — Rebuke for Immature Understanding</u>

5:11-13 — The writer is frustrated here and rebukes his readers because though by now they ought to be _____, they no longer try to _____. They need _____, not solid food. They are still infants in Christ.

5:14 — From the constant use of "solid food" for the mature comes their training of themselves to distinguish _____ from _____.