

Jesus is best! (The Book of Hebrews)

Week 3: Jesus is the Great High Priest

WELCOME

Spend time relaxing and sharing together.

In the last session we were challenged to find ways of encouraging at least three people during the week that followed.

How did you get on? Share your experiences.

WORSHIP

Read Psalm 110. Encourage people to select a verse that they are drawn to and explain why this verse stood out. Use these insights to inform your group prayers and worship.

WORD

Read Hebrews 4.14-5.10

1. What commands are given (vv4.14 and 4.16)?

2. Do you ever find it difficult to keep these commands and if so in what ways?

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6. Who was Melchizedek (Hebrews 5.6 and Genesis 14:18-20) and why does the writer mention him?

WHAT NEXT?

What can we do?

1. Go through the Book of Hebrews looking at the “warning passages” (Hebrews 2.1-4; 3.1-19; 5.11-6-12; 12.14-17).

Is there anything you need to confess?

Is there anything you need to change in your life?

2. Reflect on Psalm 110 and compare with Matthew 22.42-45; Luke 20.42-44. When we read these two New Testament passages it is as if Jesus is doing the commentary for us and saying, read this it’s referring to me!

Jesus clearly saw this royal psalm of David as referring to himself. Commenting on Ps 110.1 Jesus says, “David calls him ‘Lord.’ How then can he be his son?”

The answer, of course, was that the Messiah would not only be a descendant of David but would also be the Son of God, making Him both David's son and Lord. The fact that Jesus is Messiah as well as the Son of God, making Him divine, is a truth the Pharisees and other religious leaders were blind to or chose to ignore.

Growth Group Notes

Summer 2024



Two lines of Old Testament prophecy come together in this psalm:

King of kings: Although it is about David, a human king, it points forward to a divine King who will be King over all kings (Psalm 110:5).

Great High Priest: The writer of Hebrews quotes this psalm as referring to Jesus (see Hebrews 7:17–22) as the one who is the priest for ever in the order of Melchizedek (Psalm 110:4). Neither Melchizedek nor Jesus were Levites. But both were priests – not on the basis of their ancestry, but on the basis of the power of an indestructible life (Hebrews 7:16).

Whereas the Old Testament priests were temporary, Jesus' priesthood is permanent: 'He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself (Hebrews 7.27). 'You are a priest forever' (Psalm 110:4).