



ROLE & APPOINTMENT OF THE HIGH PRIEST... AND JESUS

HEBREWS 5:1-6

TODAY!

I. The role of the high priest (1-3)

II. The appointing of the high priest (4)

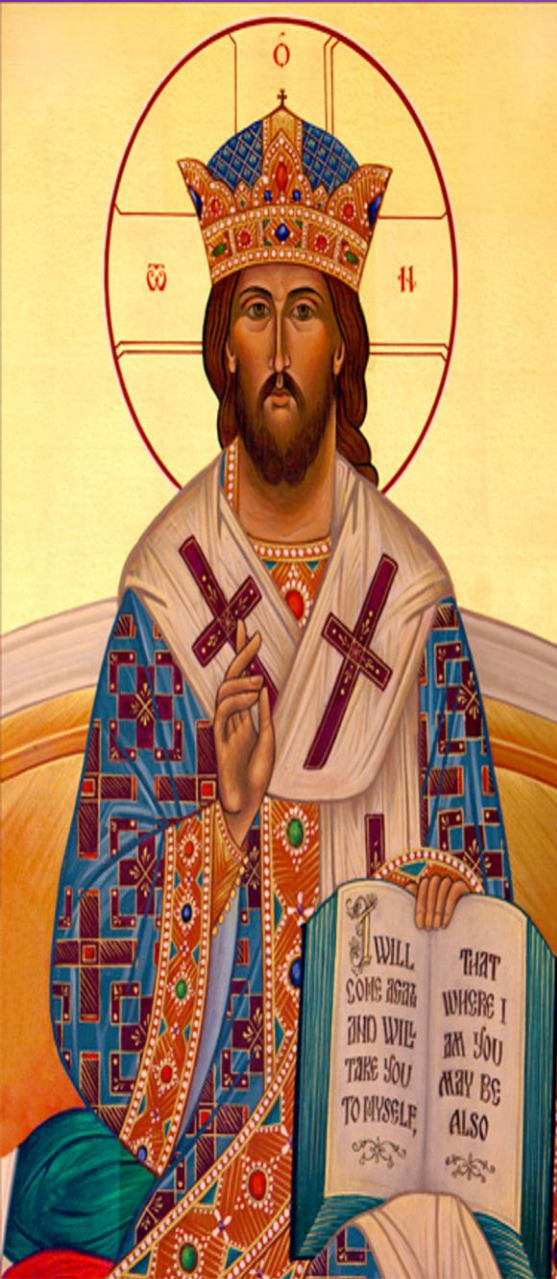


REFERENCES



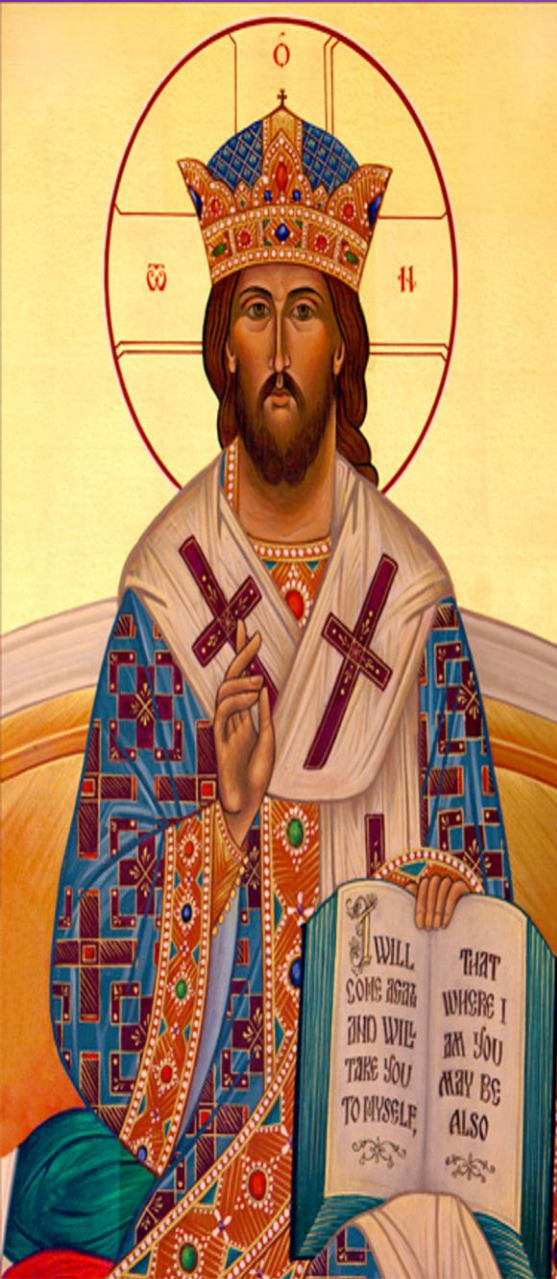
1. Exodus 29; Leviticus 8; Numbers 3:10 (appointment of Aaron and his progeny)
 - Consecration of Aaron and the priesthood.
2. Exodus 30:10; Leviticus 16
 - The High Priest offers atonement for the people's sins.

INTRODUCTION



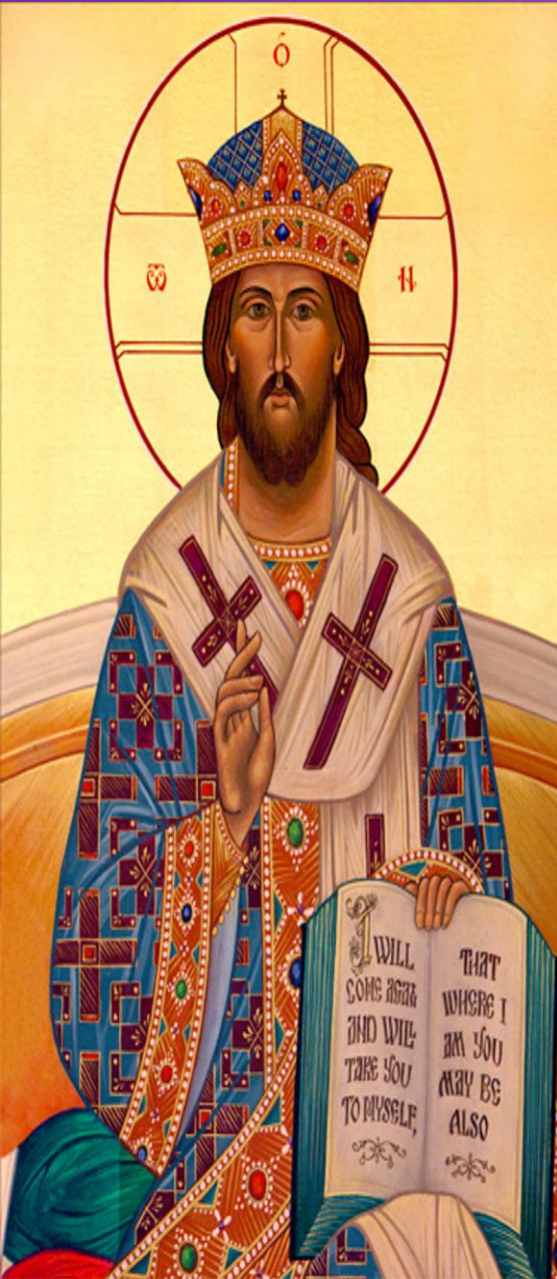
1. Verses 1-4 tell us about the role of high priest, with the point to later show that Jesus fulfilled these roles as our perfect High Priest. We are taught that the high priest fulfills his duties on behalf of men. His position of leadership is to be a servant to the people. His priesthood isn't to be used for his own benefit, career, or finances.

INTRODUCTION



His calling is truly *“for the people.”* Therefore, since Jesus is your High Priest, appointed by the Father, you are able to approach God’s Throne of Grace freely and boldly! Jesus is *“...the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him”* (v.9).

INTRODUCTION



Now there is a shift of focus from instruction and exhortation as seen in 3:1-4:16 to exposition in 5:1-10. In this exposition, the preacher appeals to the authority of Holy Scripture by his use of Psalms 2 (7) and 110 (4) to establish credibility.

INTRODUCTION



The congregation is to listen to what the Father says to His Son in order to strengthen their faith in Jesus as their Great High Priest and obedience to Him as their source of salvation. Jesus is also their example of prayerful obedience which He learned, in His humanity, via His suffering.

THE ROLE OF THE HIGH PRIEST (1-3)

The high priest was “*appointed*” by God via human agents. The high priest was “*taken from men*” by God to deal with the “*things for God [Divine Service].*”

Therefore, the high priest was to act vicariously “*on behalf of people*” by offering “*gifts and sacrifices on account of sins*”; he was the peoples representative before God Almighty!



THE ROLE OF THE HIGH PRIEST (1-3)



Not only did God appoint a man into the Office; He determined what he was to do in that office! Notice that he was *“to offer gifts and sacrifices on account of sins.”* This clause covers the entire ritual performance of the Divine Service that began with the giving of the gifts and sacrifices to God and ended in their incineration on the Altar for Burnt Offerings. These gifts and sacrifices refers to all the offerings that were presented each day.

THE ROLE OF THE HIGH PRIEST (1-3)



One of the high priest's main roles was to represent the people before God as a mediator to bridge the gap that separated sinful humans from a holy God by offering sacrifices for sins. The gift part could be interpreted as the grain offerings that the people freely offered before God to show their gratitude. In the OT, we see that sacrifice must be made for sins. We will soon learn from Heb 9:22 that without *"...the shedding of blood there is no remission."*

THE ROLE OF THE HIGH PRIEST (1-3)



V.2 – This is a reminder that the high priest was one of the people. He was not set apart as being above the people. He came from among them and he was like them. His own weaknesses and sins enabled him to treat others with mercy. A priest would often listen to people confess their sins. After all, they may say why they brought an animal and why they needed to offer a sacrifice.

THE ROLE OF THE HIGH PRIEST (1-3)



He surely would hear about many terrible things that people had done. One part of him would be tempted, from pride, to look down on the people he was serving. He may be tempted to harshly rebuke the people for their sins. Yet a high priest should remember that he, too, is a sinner.

THE ROLE OF THE HIGH PRIEST (1-3)



Remembering that would help him to show mercy and forgiveness to others who had erred. The principle is found in the *Parable of the Unmerciful Servant* who was forgiven a huge debt by the king and then refused to forgive a fellow servant a tiny debt. Thus, we are to remember that we, too, are sinners! And we, too, have been called to be merciful and forgiving!

THE ROLE OF THE HIGH PRIEST (1-3)



Next time you are tempted to stand on your self-righteous pedestal and judge others take a moment and look in the mirror of the Law!

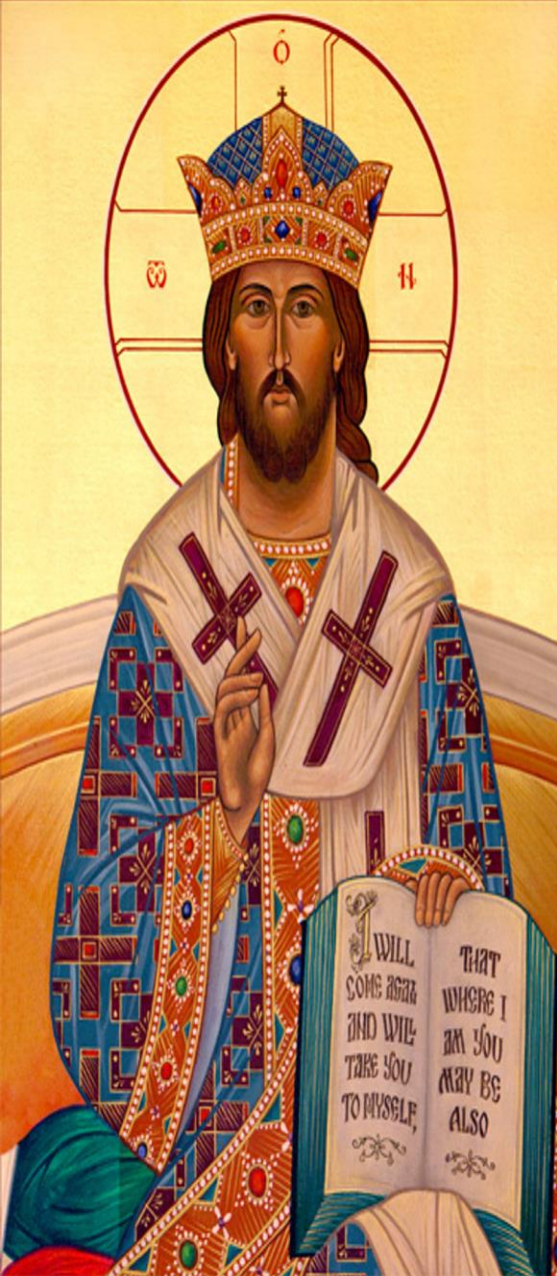
Seeing and understanding your sin will help you be more patient, kind, and forgiving when others sin against you.

THE ROLE OF THE HIGH PRIEST (1-3)



At the same time this is a reminder that we have no excuse for not obeying God and serving Him in the vocation(s) He has called us. We might be tempted to make the excuse that we are sinful and, therefore, not fit to serve God. But even the high priests were sinful and they were still appointed.

THE ROLE OF THE HIGH PRIEST (1-3)



Verse 3 – The high priest was obligated to offer sacrifices not only for others, but also for himself.

APPOINTING OF THE HIGH PRIEST (V.4)



The high priest is appointed by God! This principle is seen in verse 4 and in verse 1. This is an honor; it's not a burden to serve others, but a privilege. We also see that a high priest could not enter this vocation of his own volition. It is not just another career path like becoming a butcher, baker, or candlestick maker!



APPOINTING OF THE HIGH PRIEST (V.4)

A person cannot “*decide*” to be a pastor or a “*clergy-person.*” You can only be chosen, just as God chose Aaron as the first high priest and then chose his progeny to be the high priest; and the Levites, to carry on the priestly duties.

APPOINTING OF THE HIGH PRIEST (V.4)



What's the application for you today? A man must never consider going into the ministry like any other career path. For much of church history it was just a “career” and the result was disastrous to the Church. It's very difficult to explain the call, but a man will certainly know in heart and conscience that he has been called into the Office of the Holy Ministry (AC. Art XIV).

NEXT WEEK!

III. Jesus appointed High Priest by God (5-6)

Note: Please consider reading Genesis 14:1-20; Psalm 2; and Psalm 110

