

- I. Introduction: How has this study deepened your conception of Christ?
- II. Read 4:14-16: Continuing Christ as high priest
 - A. What is meant by Christ “passing through the heavens”? (4:14)
 - B. What did the high priest do on the Day of Atonement?
 - C. What is grammatically wrong with 4:15a? (4:15a)
 - D. How are we able to “approach the throne of grace”? (4:16)
- III. Read 5:1-10: Qualifications
 - A. What are the qualifications of a high priest? (5:1-4)
 - B. How does Christ exceed these qualifications? (5:5, 7)
 - C. What is “the order of Melchizedek”? (5:6)
- IV. Read 5:11-6:3: Reverse psychology
 - A. Why would the author say the readers are “sluggish in hearing”? (5:11)
 - B. For whom is “solid food”? (5:14)
 - C. What does the author mean by “perfection”? (6:1)
- V. Read 6:4-6: Stern warning
 - A. What is the warning saying on 6:4-6?
 - B. Why give a warning like this?
 - C. How should we interpret the agricultural metaphor of 6:7-8?
- VI. Read 6:9-12: Confident hope
 - A. Why would this section follow 6:4-8?
 - B. Why is the author confident? (6:9-10)
 - C. What is the encouragement of 6:11-12?
- VII. Lessons
 - A. There is more to Christ as “high priest” than was said before
 - B. Keep bearing the fruit of the Christian life
 - C. Be careful not to fall away
- VIII. Prayer

Hebrews 4:14-16

Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 5:1-6:12

5 Every high priest chosen from among mortals is put in charge of things pertaining to God on their behalf, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. ² He is able to deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is subject to weakness, ³ and because of this he must offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. ⁴ And one does not presume to take this honor but takes it only when called by God, just as Aaron was.

⁵ So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest but was appointed by^[f] the one who said to him, “You are my Son; today I have begotten you”; ⁶ as he says also in another place, “You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek.”

⁷ In the days of his flesh, Jesus^[g] offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸ Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered, ⁹ and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰ having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

¹¹ About this we have much to say that is hard to explain, since you have become sluggish in hearing. ¹² For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic elements of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, ¹³ for everyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is unskilled in the word of righteousness. ¹⁴ But solid food is for the mature, for those whose faculties have been trained by practice to distinguish good from evil.

6 Therefore let us go on toward perfection, leaving behind the basic teaching about Christ and not laying again the foundation: repentance from dead works and faith toward God, ² instruction about baptisms and laying on of hands, resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment. ³ And we will do this, if God permits.

⁴ For it is impossible to restore again to repentance those who have once been enlightened and have tasted the heavenly gift and have shared in the Holy Spirit ⁵ and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come ⁶ and then have fallen away, since they are crucifying again the Son of God to their own harm and are holding him up to contempt. ⁷ Ground that drinks up the rain falling on it repeatedly and that produces a crop useful to those for whom it is cultivated receives a blessing from God. ⁸ But if it produces thorns and thistles, it is worthless and on the verge of being cursed; its end is to be burned over.

⁹ Even though we speak in this way, beloved, we are confident of better things in your case, things that belong to salvation. ¹⁰ For God is not unjust; he will not overlook your work and the love that you showed for his sake in serving the saints, as you still do. ¹¹ And we want each one of you to show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope to the very end, ¹² so that you may not become sluggish but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.