**SECTION FIVE**

**JESUS, SON OF GOD, THE PERFECT HIGH PRIEST, FIRST PART**

**1. TEXTS**

**a. Hebrews 4:14 – 5:10**

**b. Complementary relevant texts**

(1) **Exodus 32:26-29**—“… you have been set apart to the Lord today …”

(2) **Numbers 3**—“… the Levites are mine ...”

(3) **Numbers 18**—“I myself have selected your fellow Levites from among the Israelites ...”

(4) **Jeremiah 33:14-22**—“… nor will the Levitical priests ever fail to have a man to stand before me …”

**2. TRANSITION FROM PREVIOUS SECTION TO THIS SECTION**

**a. References already made**

(1) **Hebrews 2:17**—“… a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God …”

(2) **Hebrews 3:1**—“… Jesus, whom we acknowledge as our apostle and high priest …”

(3) **Hebrews 4:11**—“Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest …”

**b. Important points here about Jesus’ priesthood, which provide the transition to this section.**

(1) Because Jesus is human in every way, He is the perfect high priest.

(2) We must make every effort to enter into the rest of God.

**3. OUR HELPER TO ENTER GOD’S REST IS JESUS, THE GREAT HIGH PRIEST (4:14-16)**

**a. The greatness of our high priest (4:14)**

(1) He has ascended into heaven/passed through the heavens—He has gone as far “upward” as one can go.

(2) He is the Son of God.

**b. With His greatness in mind, we should hold firmly to our faith, not relapsing into unbelief (4:15-16)**

(1) He can sympathize with our weaknesses, because He has experienced temptation, without sin.

(2) Encouragement to “approach God’s throne” **(4:16)**

(a) With “confidence” (*parresia*)—boldness, without concealment of need, assured of a favorable outcome.

(b) In our approach, we are looking for mercy and grace in our time of need.

**4. JESUS CONTRASTED WITH OTHER HIGH PRIESTS**

**a. Characteristics of “every high priest” (5:1-4)**

(1) Selected/taken/taken hold of/taken as one’s rightful possession (*lambano*) from among the people.

(2) Appointed to represent the people in matters having to do with the people’s relationship to God …

(3) … and to offer gifts and sacrifices to re-establish the relationship to God which has been broken by the offenses of the people against God.

(4) He is able to sympathize/deal gently with the ignorant and misguided, to plead their case before God, because he knows how it is to find that one has acted ignorantly and misguidedly.

(5) Because he himself is a sinner, the high priest must make expiation for himself as well as for the people.

(6) No one takes this responsibility/honor on himself; rather, he is selected for it by God, as was Aaron.

**b. Characteristics of Jesus as a high priest (5:5-10)**

1. First, His superiority is established, as God announces Him to be the Son
2. **Psalm 2:7**—“I will proclaim the Lord’s decree: he said to me, ‘You are my son, today I have become your father …’”
3. **Psalm 2:12**—Messiah—the anointed one—is exalted by God as the chief above all the kings of the earth.
4. In addition to being declared to be the Son, He was chosen by God as a priest in the order of Melchizedek
5. **Psalm 110**—Messiah, exalted above all the other rulers of the earth, is designated as a priest.
6. His priestly order is not the Levitical order, but the order of Melchizedek.
7. While the emphasis of the psalmist is to the enemies of Messiah being humiliated (**Psalm 110:1**), the writer of this message emphasizes his selection as priest.
8. During his incarnation, because He submitted to the suffering of mortal weaknesses, he learned obedience.
9. Suffering, and the learning of obedience, perfected Him—that is allowed him to reach the goal (*teleos*) which made Him completely suited to His role as high priest for the people of the new covenant.
10. He became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey Him—to all who follow Him in obedience.
11. Being perfected, He earned the designation by God of eternal priest.