

Series Overview: The Book of Hebrews was written to people tempted to look backward, look away, or give up under the weight of cultural pressure and personal exhaustion. Maybe you have felt like that too? This series sets our hearts in a singular truth: Jesus is greater than any alternative, any anxiety, and any old way of trying to do things. By systematically exploring how Christ surpasses everything that came before Him, we discover a Savior who is our ultimate reality, our final sacrifice, and our unshakeable anchor.

JESUS IS THE GREATEST PRIEST

The Big Idea: Jesus is our greatest Priest – Earthly priests were temporary, flawed, and ultimately limited by death. Jesus is our eternal High Priest. He is the ultimate bridge between heaven and earth because He is fully God (perfectly representing God to us) and fully man (perfectly representing us to God), qualifying Him to be both deeply merciful and unchangingly faithful.

Hebrews 4:14–16 (NLT) — ¹⁴ So then, since we have a great High Priest who has entered heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to what we believe. ¹⁵ This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin. ¹⁶ So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.

- **The Limitation of the Religious System:** Why earthly systems and human leaders will always fall short, break down, or be cut short by the grave.

Hebrews 5:1–6 (NLT) — ¹ Every high priest is a man chosen to represent other people in their dealings with God. He presents their gifts to God and offers sacrifices for their sins. ² And he is able to deal gently with ignorant and wayward people because he himself is subject to the same weaknesses. ³ That is why he must offer sacrifices for his own sins as well as theirs. ⁴ And no one can become a high priest simply because he wants such an honor. He must be called by God for this work, just as Aaron was. ⁵ That is why Christ did not honor himself by assuming he could become High Priest. No, he was chosen by God, who said to him, "You are my Son. Today I have become your Father." ⁶ And in another passage, God said to him, "You are a priest forever in the order of Melchizedek."

- **Fully Qualified by Suffering:** Staring at the true humanity of Jesus. Because He walked through real human suffering and temptation, He doesn't look at our struggles with cold judgment, but with perfect empathy.

Hebrews 2:16–18 (NLT) — ¹⁶ We also know that the Son did not come to help angels; he came to help the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷ Therefore, it was necessary for him to be made in every respect like us, his brothers and sisters, so that he could be our merciful and faithful High Priest before God. Then he could offer a sacrifice that would take away the sins of the people. ¹⁸ Since he himself has gone through suffering and testing, he is able to help us when we are being tested.

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- **An Enduring Intercession:** The life-changing security of knowing that Jesus lives permanently to pray for, protect, and advocate for you right now.

- **Big Warning: Don't Reject Your Mediator/Intercessor** – To reject Jesus is to reject the Only Way to be reconciled to God. Don't do that. (Hebrews 6:1-8)

Hebrews 7:23–27 (NLT) — ²³ There were many priests under the old system, for death prevented them from remaining in office. ²⁴ But because Jesus lives forever, his priesthood lasts forever. ²⁵ Therefore he is able, once and forever, to save those who come to God through him. He lives forever to intercede with God on their behalf. ²⁶ He is the kind of high priest we need because he is holy and blameless, unstained by sin. He has been set apart from sinners and has been given the highest place of honor in heaven. ²⁷ Unlike those other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices every day. They did this for their own sins first and then for the sins of the people. But Jesus did this once for all when he offered himself as the sacrifice for the people's sins.

Nest Steps & Discussion Questions

1. In what ways does Jesus' sinless life qualify Him uniquely as our High Priest?
2. How does Jesus empathize with our weaknesses and temptations?
3. What is the risk we run when Jesus isn't acknowledged as our High Priest or reflected in our lives?
4. What does it mean to you that Jesus intercedes on our behalf to God the Father?



Group Questions



Overtime Podcast