

**I. Introduction and review. Do you fully appreciate the high priesthood of Christ?**

**II. The qualifications of the high priest: He is appointed by God from among men. v. 1-4**

**A. Every high priest is a man who sympathetically represents men to God. v. 1-3**

1. The priest serves as a mediator between God and man.
2. Why did God choose men, instead of angels, to serve as priests? v. 1
3. The Aaronic priests could humanely deal with those whom they represent. v. 2  
Some failed. I Sa. 1:12f 2:12f Eze. 34:1f
4. The kindness of the priests was extended to the ignorant and misguided, not to those who deliberately defied God. 10:26-29 6:4-6 Num. 15:27-31
5. The Aaronic priests were sinners who needed to offer sacrifices for themselves. v. 3  
3 7:27 Lev. 4:3-12 9:7 16:6,11,15

**B. Every high priest must be appointed by God. v. 1a,4**

1. Aaron and his descendants were chosen of God to be priests. Ex. 28:1f Lev. 8-9
2. God judged those who didn't respect the priesthood. 9:4 Nu. 16-17 II Chr. 26:16f

**C. The function of the high priest is to offer sacrifices for sins. v. 1b**

1. We need reconciliation to God.
2. God offers hope to sinners.
3. On the Day of Atonement the high priest would enter the most holy place with sacrificial blood to purge the sins of the people he represents. Lev. 16:6,11

**D. Our author implicitly compares Aaron's priesthood to Christ's. 7:23-25**

1. The Aaronic priesthood prepares and points to Christ's Priesthood.
2. The Aaronic priesthood had shortcomings which is why it needed to be replaced.
3. Christ is superior to Aaron. v. 3 4:15 7:28

**E. Application.**

1. While we no longer have priests and mediators, God does appoint leaders for the church. I Tim. 2:5 3:1-7 Acts 20:28 Mt. 23:9
2. Many aspiring religious leaders are not called by God. Js. 3:1f Mt. 23:1-12  
II Cor. 2:17 I Tim. 6:3-6
3. We should only employ the form of church government God has ordained.
4. We need leaders who treat the sheep gently. I Pe. 5:2-3 Ga. 6:1 I Ti. 1:15-16
5. Our leaders preach the full and sufficient sacrifice of Christ. I Cor. 2:2
6. God still has compassion on ignorant sinners. Acts 17:23 I Tim. 1:13
7. Those who deliberately defy God will be judged.

**III. Jesus is perfectly qualified to be the greatest and final High Priest. v. 5-10**

**A. He has been appointed by God. v. 5-6 Ps. 2:7 110:4**

1. He did not seize this honor for Himself. v. 5a John 8:54 7:18 8:42 10:18 Phil. 2:5f
2. The Psalms declare God's appointment of Christ to the high priesthood. v. 5b-6  
1:5,13 Psalm 2:7 110:4 Acts 13:33
3. The Son is fully qualified to serve as High Priest.
4. He is a Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek. v. 6 5:10 6:20 7:1-22  
Ps. 110:4 Gen. 14:18-20

- B. He is fully human and able to sympathize with our needs. v. 7-8 4:15 2:18**
1. When did He suffer in this way? Jo. 1:14,29 12:47 Ro. 8:3 Mark 1:35 6:46 14:32ff John 17:1ff *In the days of His flesh.*
  2. Why did He so agonize? Mk. 8:34 10:45 14:34 15:34 Ps. 22:1-2 38:8-10 Is. 53:6,10 II Co. 5:21 I Pe. 3:18 Cursed of God.
  3. For what did He *offer* prayers? Mt. 26:42
  4. In what sense did the Father hear Him? Ps. 22:24 116:1-4 Acts 2:24
  5. How could God the Son learn? v. 8 10:7 Luke 1:80 2:52 Phil. 2:8
  6. What did He learn? v. 8 Isa. 50:4f Rom. 5:19.
- C. Christ has offered the full and final sacrifice for His people's eternal salvation. v. 9**
1. In what sense was the Perfect One perfected? 2:10 7:28 Ex. 29:9,29,33 Jo. 19:30
  2. As the result of His perfect obedience, He is appointed high priest.
  3. He gives eternal salvation to all who obey Him.
  4. In what sense are we saved by obedience? II Th. 1:8 Rom. 1:5 16:26 John 6:29
- D. He is a greater high priest than Aaron. v. 10**
1. He is of a superior order (Melchizedek). A King and a Priest.
  2. His is an everlasting Priesthood. 7:22-25
  3. He offered a once and for all sacrifice. 9:12 6:19-20 Isa. 45:17
  4. He is more sympathetic and more able to help. 4:15 5:2
  5. Jesus renders Aaron's priesthood obsolete.
- E. Application.**
1. We, too, are engaged in warfare against sin. Be ready to follow in Jesus' steps, submitting to God's will even in hardship. 11:35 Mark 8:34f
  2. We too must learn obedience through suffering. 12:5f
  3. Remember you have a great High Priest Who represents you in heaven.

#### IV. Concluding applications.

#### Discussion questions

1. What is a high priest? v. 1
2. What were the basic qualifications to be high priest? v. 1-4
3. What was the most important function of the high priest? v. 1
4. How does the institution of the priesthood relate to leadership in the church today?
5. How does Jesus meet the qualifications for priesthood? v. 5-10
6. How does Jesus surpass the Aaronic high priests?
7. In what sense did Jesus learn obedience? v. 8
8. In what sense does salvation come to those who obey Him? v. 9
9. Who is Melchizedek? v. 10
10. What help should we expect from God when we suffer?