Hebrews 5:1- 10

**Digging Deeper in the Word**

Wyn Laidig & Andrew Warner

May 2019

***Hebrews 5:1–10*** (ESV)  
**1** For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. **2** He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. **3** Because of this he is obligated to offer sacrifice for his own sins just as he does for those of the people. **4** And no one takes this honor for himself, but only when called by God, just as Aaron was. **5** So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him 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, after the order of Melchizedek.” **7** In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. **8** Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. **9** And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, **10** being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.

1. Read and summarize Hebrews 4:14-16.

***Hebrews 4:14–16*** (ESV)  
**14** Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. **15** For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. **16** Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Yeshua entered the “rest” of YHWH. He lived a sinless life in perfect obedience to the Word of God, and received the promised “rest” of YHWH. So we should likewise persevere in our obedience to the Word of God received through Him. He has become our great high priest and also our “mercy seat”, the place of our forgiveness. He is both our mediator, leading us into the presence of God, and also our sacrifice, providing the means of atonement for all our sins.

1. In Heb 5:1, does “every high priest chosen from among men” include Yeshua? Or is the author talking about all the high priests except Yeshua?

He seems to talking primarily about all the other high priests, while at the same time pointing out similarities to Yeshua as our high priest. He described Yeshua as high priest in Heb 4:14-15. Now in these next verses he is comparing and contrasting Yeshua with the Aaronic high priests.

Cleary Yeshua is not “beset with weakness” nor is he “obligated to offer sacrifice for his own sins”. However Yeshua does act on behalf of man in relation to God, deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, and he does offer sacrifice for sin.

1. As we’ve discussed earlier in Hebrews, there were sacrifices and offerings for more than just sin. Why does the author emphasize sacrifice and offerings for *sin* in as opposed to other gifts and offerings mentioned in Leviticus 1-7?

Is it “gifts and sacrifices” for sin? Or is it “gifts” and “sacrifices for sin”? If the latter, then gifts could include all the various offerings, as opposed to specific sacrifices for sin.

For the past couple chapters, the author has been urging the reader to not disobey the Father by encouraging the believers to enter his rest. This was exemplified through the promised land, the Sabbath, and now Yeshua. When the Hebrews disobeyed, it was counted to them as sin. Entering rest (believing in Yeshua) is the way to righteousness and right-standing with God.

1. Why is it important that a high priest was taken from *men* (not an angel or greater spiritual being) to serve as high priest before God?

A high priest, although he held a revered position, was not to be exalted and boastful. The high priest position does not mean that he is immune from sin or even that he holds a position of power above his people Israel. The high priest is to be understanding, kind, and humble before the throne of God, acknowledging not only his weakness, but the weakness of his people as well.

1. A high priest is supposed to deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, according to Hebrews 1:2.  What are some examples of Yeshua dealing gently with the lost, and how does this contrast with how Jewish leadership acted in this time?

Yeshua cured the sick, wept with friends over the death of a friend, healed his enemies, offered forgiveness to those persecuting him, fed the hungry, spoke kindly to non-Jewish people, and cast demons out of the most terrifying men. It is clear that Yeshua was fulfilling his role as a sympathetic leader while on earth. While he was not technically a high priest while on earth, he was perfecting his progression to becoming one in heaven.

Jewish leadership, on the other hand, set extremely tight rulesets and interpretations of the Torah, accepted “blood money” to find Yeshua and have him killed, oppressed people who were not of their kind, and, in general, acted in pure hypocrisy in the name of honoring their own traditions.

1. The high priest is beset with weakness, such as stated in Heb 5:2.  What does the word weakness (GR *astheneia*) mean in this context?

The word *astheneia* can mean “a state of weakness or limitation; incapacity; illness or the state of sickness; timidity”.

Knowing the characteristics of Yeshua already, we can start to narrow down what the author meant by “weakness” in this passage. Clearly he was never sickly or unclean. His actions were never timid, the closest being his humility in prayer to the Father. He was, however, limited in his power as a human. Weakness in this example could mean that he experienced the struggle of human existence. He was beset with humanity and all of the internal and external struggles that we have to bear on a daily basis. Stepping down from eternal harmony with the father and entering the world with a human body shows the voluntary weakness that Yeshua experienced alongside us.

1. Revisiting Psalm 2, what is the context of God having “begotten” his Son?

Begotten, which means “to be created” or “to come into existence” does not mean that the writer of the Psalm (or Yeshua in this context as well) was created such as a newborn is created in the womb. Begotten in this passage refers to being made king. At that point in David’s life, God made him King. His kingship came into existence at a specific point in time, in YHWH’s good timing.

1. Why do you think the author emphasizes that Yeshua was appointed as high priest by God? He states this both in Heb 5:5 and Heb 5:10. How were earthly high priests appointed?

Although Aaron was appointed high priest by God, every high priest was appointed by man, even to the point of corruption. Judaism had great influence and high priests were sometimes inaugurated out of bribery, malice, and sometimes simply out of lineage. By claiming that Yeshua was appointed by God, there can be no greater being who can give authority, thus making Yeshua’s institution concrete, and spiritually everlasting.

1. In Heb. 5:6, a man named Melchizedek is mentioned and compared to Yeshua.  Who is he and what do we know about him from the Old Testament? See Gen 14 and Ps 110.

***Genesis 14:18–21*** (ESV)  
**18** And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. (He was priest of God Most High.) **19** And he blessed him and said, “Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; **20** and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand!” And Abram gave him a tenth of everything. **21** And the king of Sodom said to Abram, “Give me the persons, but take the goods for yourself.”

***Psalm 110:1–4*** (ESV)  
**1** YHWH says to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.” **2** YHWH sends forth from Zion your mighty scepter. Rule in the midst of your enemies! **3** Your people will offer themselves freely on the day of your power, in holy garments; from the womb of the morning, the dew of your youth will be yours. **4** YHWH has sworn and will not change his mind, “You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.”

From Melchizedek’s role in the Book of Genesis, six facts can be stated: First, Melchizedek was the king of Salem. Second, Melchizedek was the priest of God Most High. Third, Melchizedek brought out bread and wine for Abram. Fourth, Melchizedek blessed Abram on God’s behalf. Fifth, Melchizedek blessed God in Abram’s place. Sixth, Melchizedek received tithes from Abram.

1. In Heb 5:7, the author seems to be speaking of a very specific event in Yeshua’s life.  Although all of his life was dedicated to prayer and supplication, what event could the author be speaking of here?   See also Psalm 22.
2. What was it that Yeshua had to “learn” in Heb 5:8?  Does he learn in the same way we do?

This can also mean “to understand” or “to come to realize”. Yeshua truly understood the full weight of obedience though what he suffered. It wasn’t something taught that he had to learn. He came to know and understand what obedience really is through his experience of suffering.

1. Heb 5:9 reads that Yeshua was “made perfect”.  How can a perfect Messiah be made more perfect?  What is the Greek word here? What does it really mean?

GR *teleioo* “to bring to the goal, to bring to the end, to finish, to complete, to accomplish, to perfect”

1. To whom is Yeshua the “source of eternal salvation”? What is the author trying to emphasize?

Just was Yeshua “learned obedience” and therefore entered the presence of God, so too we must learn obedience to enter His presence. Yeshua is the source of eternal salvation ONLY for those who OBEY.