

The Superior High Priest

Hebrews 4:14 – 7:28

by Don Falkos

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We have always had High Priests – men just like us, subject to the same weaknesses. The High Priest always offers sacrifices for his own sins before offering sacrifices for ours.

But now we have a superior High Priest who has entered heaven itself – Jesus the Son of God. He understands our weaknesses. He was tempted in the same ways we are, except he never sinned. So now we can boldly approach the throne of God, receiving mercy for our failures and grace to help us in our time of need.

While Jesus was here on earth, he prayed desperately to the one who could rescue him from death. God heard his prayers. He was freed – no longer shrinking from death. Yet, even though Jesus was God's Son, in obedience he suffered horribly. As a result, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, and God recognized him as a High Priest in the order of Melchizedek.

You remember Melchizedek. He was the king of Salem, which has since become known as Jerusalem. He was also a priest. When Abraham was returning from a military victory, Melchizedek blessed him, and Abraham gave him a tenth of all the spoils of battle.

Jesus lives forever to intercede with God on our behalf. Holy and blameless, unstained by sin, he does not need to offer sacrifices repeatedly. He made one sacrifice, once for all, when he offered up himself. God has made Jesus the perfect High Priest forever.