

# Hebrews

4:14-16

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Those who believed God's word enter into His rest, those who did not believe His word received His wrath.

Hebrews

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God sees you for exactly who you are.

While there is an element of this that is horrifying, it is that same horror that should cause us to abandon earning salvation and see that salvation is only by the grace of God.

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The author of Hebrews has presented Jesus as greater than the angels, Moses, Joshua, and all of the prophets.

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Hebrews 1:3

Hebrews

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Hebrews 2:17

Hebrews

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Hebrews 3:1

Hebrews

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What is a priest?

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**Priest**

one who is appointed by God to represent man to God

Hebrews

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A prophet represents God to man, but a priest represents man to God.

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Are there modern-day priests?

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1 Timothy 2:5-7

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Matthew 27:51

And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split.

Hebrews

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The priesthood of the Old Covenant is no longer required, because now we can go directly to God through the Great High Priest.

Hebrews

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What is a *high* priest?

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Leviticus 16:1-5

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Leviticus 16:11-16

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Exodus 28:15-21

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The High Priest represented the twelve tribes of Israel as he went into the presence of God to atone for the people's sins, and so it is with our High Priest in the New Covenant.

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Jesus did not bring his sacrifice into the earthly temple He went directly to the heaven with His sacrifice.

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Hebrews 9:24

For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf.

Hebrews

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Once Jesus had fulfilled the Old Covenant,  
the temple was useless.

Its priests were useless, and its High Priest  
was useless as well.

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Once the Messiah had fulfilled his New  
Covenant by His sacrifice, the temple was  
nothing but a pile of fancy rocks.

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What makes this high priest better than all  
others, is that He is the Son of God, who  
has direct access to take His sacrifice to  
God the Father.

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Acknowledging the Person and work of Jesus Christ was, and is, essential for salvation.

Persevering in that confession is also essential to salvation.

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Under the Old Covenant there was no "us" drawing near to the throne of grace or the mercy seat on top of the Ark of The Covenant.

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If Jesus is your High Priest, you have full access to mercy and grace because He has atoned for your sin.

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If Jesus is not your High Priest, you will receive no mercy and grace.

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Do you want to represent yourself to God? Or do you want the Great High Priest to represent you to God?

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The New Covenant is better than the Old Covenant because:

1. The Priest is better.
2. The Priest brings a better sacrifice.
3. The Priest brings His sacrifice to a better place.
4. The Priest has perfectly represented us to God.

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- 1 How does understanding the role of the High Priest in the Old Testament help you to better understand what Jesus Christ has accomplished?
- 2 How should knowing that Christ's priestly work on your behalf gives you direct access to God, affect your prayer life?
- 3 Read Hebrews 4:16. Though not elaborated on, the "time of need" could very well be a time when one has sinned. This would correspond to when people needed the priest to intercede for them under the Old Covenant. It is certainly a time of great need in the life of a believer when we know that we have sinned against God. How would this passage help you personally as you go to God in need of forgiveness?
- 4 There was a pressure for the people to whom Hebrews was written, to turn back to the earthly priest, temple, and sacrifices. If you lived during that time, what would be your response to such pressure from friends and family?
- 5 What about in our time do you find that the Roman Catholic church has undermined the direct access that all believers have to God through Jesus? Example: Praying to saints, praying to Mary, confessing sins to a priest, etc.
- 6 Have you ever witnessed to a Jew? Well, imagine that a person who is ethnically and religiously a Jew, just came in and sat at your table. How would you witness to him?