

### **Jesus the Great High Priest**

<sup>14</sup> Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess.

<sup>15</sup> For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are - yet he did not sin. <sup>16</sup> Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. - Hebrews 4:14-16

#### Jesus, Our High Priest v. 14

The Priests (Levites) in Israel were accountable to God for the wellbeing of the people; not just their spiritual wellbeing, but also their health and general balance as individuals and as a nation. They also were responsible for providing an easily navigable pathway to God for the forgiveness of the people's sins (as individuals, families, tribes and as a nation). They had great love and concern for all of Israel. The High Priest was elected each year by the Levite priests. This Priest had the responsibility to enter the Holy of Holies, the most sacred part of the Temple, once a year to offer sacrifices for the sins of the entire nation, to make atonement for their sin. For us believers, Jesus Christ holds this office of High Priest in our lives, not just for a year, but for all eternity for us as his Church (all those who believe in Jesus); caring for our wellbeing, all the while showing the greatest love and concern for us and forgiving our sin. Jesus is our Intercessor, praying for us and forgiving us.

#### Jesus is More than Able v. 15

The Priests were chosen from among the most faithful of all the people in all of Israel, not to mention that they had to be from the priestly tribe of the Levites. These officials loved God's people and held their very best interest at heart. These priests were able to intercede for the needs of the people better than anyone else in all of Israel. God demanded that his priests had only the best interest of the people at heart. Jesus, our High Priest, is more than able to "empathize with our weaknesses". Jesus is 100% human and 100% God - he is totally able to feel our needs and understand our weaknesses - AND, ON TOP OF THAT - he never bows down to the temptation of sin, thereby making him our perfect Redeemer and perfect Savior.

#### Jesus makes us Able v. 16

Jesus has made us able to approach God face to face. We need not hide from God, because of our sin; Jesus, our High Priest, has utterly destroyed our sin. He has given us the opportunity to approach God boldly, without fear, without sin. Because of this effective work Jesus has done through Grace, Mercy and Peace in our lives we can now approach God with complete confidence, knowing that we are accepted.