

# Christ and Aaron

## Hebrews Chapter 5

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## Summary of topic

- Christ Greater than Prophets (Heb 1) Gerges
- Christ Greater than Angels (Heb 2) Ebeid
- Christ Greater than Moses (Heb 3) Karam
- Christ Greater than Aaron (Heb 5) Nabil
- Christ Greater than Joshua (Heb 4) Peter A.

# Outline Of Chapter 5

- 1. Christ as the High Priest: Verses 1-5
- 2. High Priest for our sake: Verses 7-10
- 3. Need for the oracles of God: Verses 11-14

# The Priesthood of the Lord Jesus

- Not according to the order of Aaron, but according to the order of Melchisedek forever.
- St. Paul writes that Aaron was the first high priest called from God directly for this work, and that he surpassed all his predecessors, in order to present to us the One who surpasses him, our Lord Jesus



# 1. CHRIST AS THE HIGH PRIEST:

- St. Paul presents the traits and work of the high priest, so he may reveal to us how the Lord Jesus surpasses Aaron. And to clarify the work of priesthood of the Lord Christ in relation to us, in the New Testament.

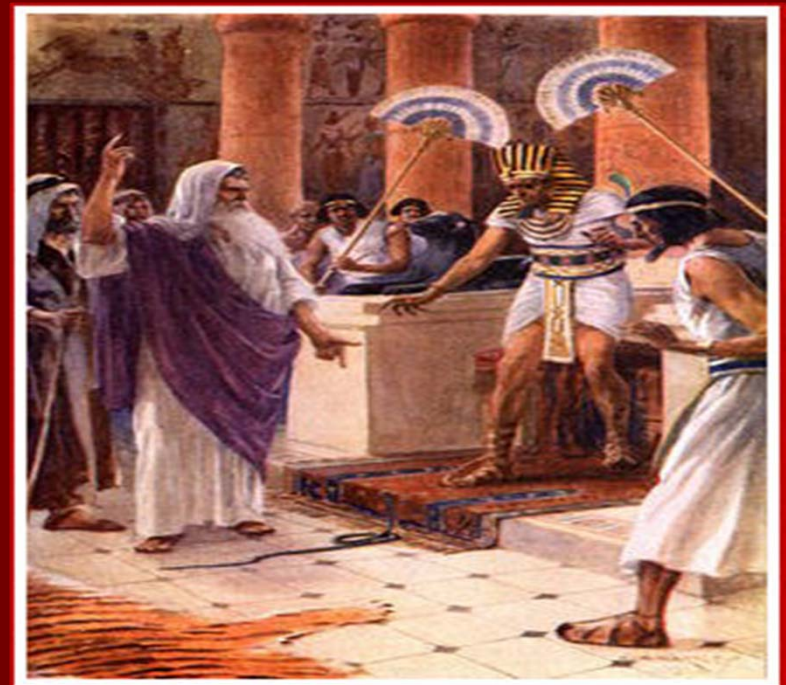
- Aaron: هارون sometimes called **Aaron the Levite** brother of Moses, (Exodus 6:16-20 )and a prophet of God.
- Various dates for his life have been proposed, ranging from approximately 1600 to 1200 B.C.
- He represented the priestly functions of his tribe, becoming the first High Priest of the Israelites.
- While Moses was receiving his education at the Egyptian royal court, and during his exile among the Midianites, Aaron and his sister Miriam remained in the eastern border-land of Egypt.

There, Aaron gained a name for eloquent and persuasive speech, so that when the time came for the demand upon the Pharaoh to release Israel from captivity, Aaron became his brother's *nabi*, or spokesman, to his own people (Exodus 7:1) and, after their unwillingness to hear, to the Pharaoh himself (Exodus 7:9).

At the command of Moses he stretched out his rod in order to bring on the first of three plagues (Exodus 7:19, 8:1,12).



The display of power from Aaron's rod demonstrated in the presence of Pharaoh's magicians; when Aaron's rod was thrown down to the ground it had turned into a snake, so Pharaoh's magicians performed the same act with their own rods. However, Aaron's snake ate up all the other snakes (Exodus 7:9) proving his rod was victorious



At the battle with Amalek, he is chosen with Hur to support the hand of Moses that held the “rod of God” (Exodus 17:9).



At the time when the tribe of Levi was set apart for the priestly service, Aaron was anointed and consecrated to the priesthood, arrayed in the robes of his office, and instructed in its manifold duties (Exodus 28, Exodus 29).



# Hebrews Verse 1-3

- <sup>1</sup> For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things *pertaining* to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins. <sup>2</sup> He can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness. <sup>3</sup> Because of this he is required as for the people, so also for himself, to offer *sacrifices* for sins.



- There are 3 conditions that must be met to be a high priest
  - taken from among men
  - Offer gift and sacrifices for Sins
  - He is called by God



- The First condition is that the high priest is "taken from among men."
- The high priest intercedes for his people, thus, he feels their weaknesses, and works for them.
- This condition was fulfilled in the Lord Jesus, for though He is the Only-Begotten Son of God, the Incarnate Son, He became like one of us, and not a stranger to us, to fulfill His role in priesthood on behalf of the people.

## **Comparison: Aaron as priest and the Lord Jesus**

- Aaron can “have compassion on the ignorant, and on them that are out of the way, for that he himself also is compassed with infirmity”
- The Lord Jesus has compassion on the ignorant and going astray, not because He is compassed with infirmity, but because He is the Creator who knows our inner secrets and weaknesses.
  - He endured suffering, and passed through pain, not due to His weakness, but to share with us our weariness, and to live with us in the midst of our agonies.

- The high priest of Aaron's predecessors offers sacrifices for his sins first, then he intercedes for the sins of his people by offering bloody sacrifices for them. Therefore, he intercedes by prayer relying on the bloody sacrifices.
- Therefore, St. Paul says, "*Because of this, he is required as for the people, so also for himself, to offer for sins*"

- But the New High Priest, our Lord Jesus Christ, did not need a propitiation for Himself, for He is sinless. He intercedes, not by mere prayers, but by carrying us in Him as members of His body through the sacrifice of Himself, which He offered in perfect love

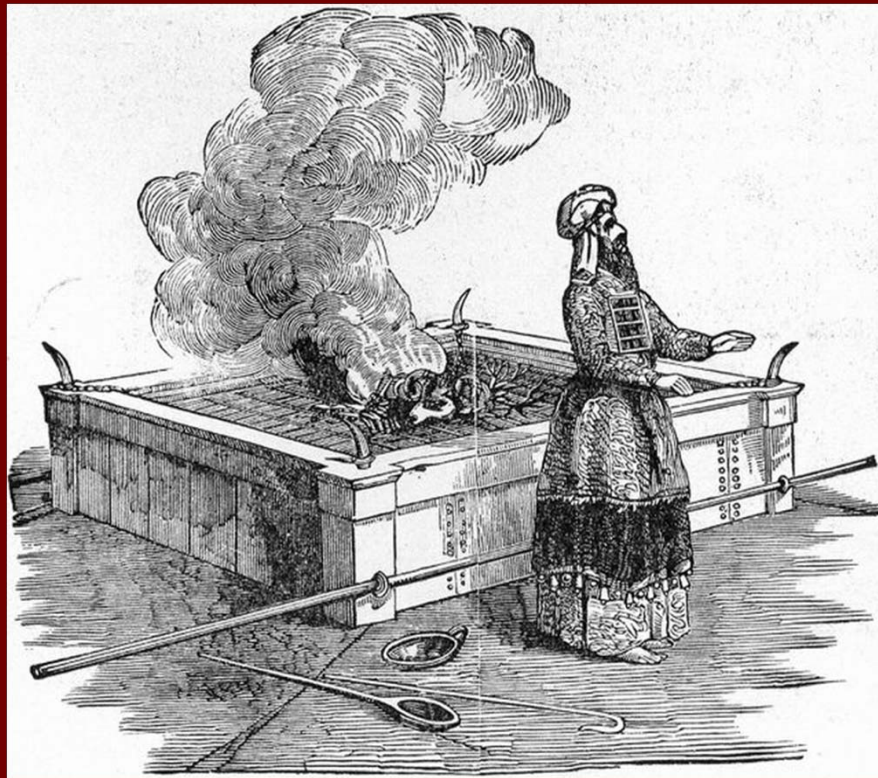


- The holiness of our High Priest has the more revealed the mysteries of His deep divine love for all human race, in spite of our indulgence in sin. He carves our names, not on precious stones, that He may present them in the Holy of Holies in front of the ark of the covenant, but He carves our names in His bowels, written by His precious blood that we may enter to His heavens through Him, for He presents us as children to His Heavenly Father!



- **The second condition in the high priest:**

"appointed for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins".



- The Aaronic high priest is appointed for men for the purpose of offering gifts and sacrifices for sins, which they have committed, so they may belong to God. He does not work for their economical, social nor political matters, but cares solely to present them to God, through the Spirit.
- The Only-Begotten Son became the Son of Man, who presented Himself to them as the High Priest from them and to them, offering Himself as the Sacrifice of love, to purify men from their sins

- **The third condition is that the high priest is called by God:**
- *"And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him: You are My Son, today I have begotten You.' As He also says in another place: 'You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek'"*

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- The high priest has to be called by God, so God may accept the oblations and sacrifices and answer his intercession for the people.
- This what made the Jews boast, that God has called Aaron by his
- name, and in a clear way as the first high priest for them.

- But our high Priest, the Lord Jesus Christ is the eternal Son called by the Father: "You are My Son, today I have begotten You." He was called by His Father, the One with Him in essence, not by an outside appointment as Aaron.
- it is the call of the Light to His unseparable Brightness. It is the specialization of the work of the Three Persons. The Father specialized in discretion, the Son in the work of salvation, and the Holy Spirit in the fellowship.

## ■ 2. HIGH PRIEST FOR OUR SAKE

- *"Who in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear. Though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him, called by God as High Priest according to the order of Melchizedek" [7-10].*

- He accepted our humanity and carried our bodies as the Bible says, "The Word became flesh" (John 1:14), to practice His Priesthood by offering His life as a ransom. The Apostle says, "in the days of His flesh" to proclaim that His suffering was in the flesh as St. Peter says, "Christ suffered for us in the flesh." (1Pet. 4:1)
- The Lord offered prayers and supplications with vehement cries and tears. St. Paul wanted to ascertain that the sufferings of the Lord Jesus were true and bitter. That is why they were accompanied by vehement cries and tears, with prayers and supplications, not as some of the *Gnostic* thought, that His sufferings were delusive, because His body was not except a shadow. He truly suffered and cried with tears, prayed and supplicated!

- He is not like Aaron who wears the priesthood clothes, and practices his rituals as priest with no sacrificing on His part, but rather he was oriented and dignified by people. On the contrary our Jesus; He was clothed with the garment of humility. He carried our body, but with no sin, and practiced His priesthood by prayers, supplications, cries, tears, and even death on the cross.
- He changed our concept of the work of priesthood; it is no more authority and honor in the eyes of the priest, but rather acceptance of death with the slain Christ, all day long, for the sake of the Beloved!