### BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

**Hebrews 3:1-6**

1. Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;
2. Who was faithful to him that appointed him, as also Moses was faithful in all his house.
3. For this man was counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as he who hath builded the house hath more honour than the house.
4. For every house is builded by some man; but he that built all things is God.
5. And Moses verily was faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after;
6. But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.

**Hebrews 4:14-16**

14. Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.
15. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.
16. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

**Hebrews 5:1-10**

1. For every high priest taken from among men is ordained for men in things pertaining to God, that he might offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins:
2. And in this he hath had something in common with the Brethren.
3. For the law maketh men high priests which are limited by the finite number: for they die according to the flesh; but he remaineth ever, who maketh men high priests.
4. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering; for he who promised is faithful.
5. And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works;
6. Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another; and so much the more as ye see the Day approaching.
7. For if, after having试验, we suffer, we shall obt ain the setting forth of and the praise of God.
8. For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that he came as a servant to save the things pertaining to God.
9. But we are servants which have been justified; and if we be justified, we shall also reign with him; and if we be unfaithful, he shall smite us with a rod of sin; but if we be faithful, he shall crown us with glory and majesty.
10. For he saith, "I will put my Spirit upon thy seed, and will cause them to know me, even mine own self." (Deuteronomy 31:12)."
may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins:
2 Who can have compassion on the ignorant, and on them that are out of the way; for that he himself also is compassed with infirmity.
3 And by reason hereof he ought, as for the people, so also for himself, to offer for sins.
4 And no man taketh this honour unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron.
5 So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, to day have I begotten thee.
6 As he saith also in another place, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.
7 Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared;
8 Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;
9 And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;
10 Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec.

Peace and Joy receiving.
Jesus bears you on His heart.
Jesus is our High Priest, and He will forgive everything we confess to Him. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (I John 1:9). God's instructions on how to confess are given in Isaiah 55:7: "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon."

Jesus loves us and died for us, shedding His Blood to wash away our sins. When we suffer, He suffers with us. When we are sad, He understands and wants to comfort us. He lived on earth long enough to know our problems, and He understands and cares. We can come boldly to Him, asking for His help, and He will have mercy on each one who wants to be a true child of God.

Jesus, a Priest Forever
The high priest under the Law could not continue in the priesthood for a long period, because he would grow old and die. A younger man would take his place until he, too, would die. But all these priests must be of the tribe of Levi, and of the family of Aaron.

But there was a change in the line of priests when Jesus became our High Priest. He was of the tribe of Judah "of which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priesthood" (Hebrews 7:14). He did not become a priest merely because of his family; he was especially appointed of God.

God loved Jesus very much. Several times God said: "Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (Mark 1:11; Matthew 17:5). He was God's only Son, and when Jesus was born into the world, God said; "Thou art my Son, to day have I begotten thee," and all the hosts of Heaven gathered near and rejoiced that Jesus had come to earth to save sinners. They sang: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men" (Luke 2:14). Later God said: "Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec" (Hebrews 5:6), not the order of Aaron or the Levites. (We will hear more about Melchisedec in a later lesson.)

Prayers of Jesus
Jesus served as prophet; when He was on earth, yet sometimes He was already our Priest, too. Many nights He spent on the hillsides alone praying to God for the people, "with strong crying and tears," that they might be saved. Before He appointed His twelve Apostles, "he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God" (Luke 6:12). One time after He had fed the five thousand with five loaves and two small fish, the people wanted to make Him king. They thought it would give them an easy life if they had a king who could multiply food as He had done that day -- maybe they would not have to work any more. Jesus was grieved that they were only interested in things to eat, instead of the message He preached, so He left them and went into a mountain alone to pray (John 6:15). On the night before He was crucified He prayed a long prayer, which is recorded in John 17 and is called His Intercessory Prayer. He not only prayed for the people who were with Him that night, but for all who would believe their preaching and be saved. That can include each one of us, if we believe that Jesus died for our sins and will save us when we repent.

If you ever feel lonely and think that nobody wants you, remember that Jesus was praying for you, too, when He asked God: "Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou
The Priesthood of Christ

hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world,” (John 17:24). Jesus wants His holy children with Him in Heaven where they, too, can enjoy all the glory that He has with the Father and all the holy angels. No one who is not holy would enjoy that, so we must be sure that we are made ready for Heaven here. We must have all sin purged out of our lives, including hatred, envyings, wrath, strife and revellings (Galatians 5:20, 21), if we are to be holy enough to enter Heaven.

Christ’s Agony

After He had prayed that prayer He went into the Garden of Gethsemane and prayed His most earnest prayer. He sweat as it were great drops of blood in His agony. But He was willing to do the will of the Father. He said: "Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done" (Luke 22:42). All our prayers should have that phrase in them, Not my will, but Thine, be done." The true Christian wants the will of God done in his life, even though it might hurt his feelings, or force him to do things he would rather not do. The man, woman, boy or girl who wants to serve God with all his heart will have many trials to overcome in making himself pliable in the hands of God. Many times he may want to have his own way, and it will cut deep when he has to yield his will to the Lord; but that night in the Garden of Gethsemane Jesus learned a deeper hurt than we will ever feel, so He understands all our sufferings and tears and will help us if we will let Him. "Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered" (Hebrews 5:8). He did it all for us. He could have stayed in Heaven and never suffered at all. He could have come to earth, and when He began to suffer at the hands of man He could have decided mankind was not worth it and gone back to Heaven without paying the price for our redemption. But He chose to suffer in order that we might be saved. "He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5). "Wonder of wonders, can it be all for me?" How much He must have loved us in order to suffer so much that you and I might be saved! Each of us deserves to suffer for our sins. He committed no sin and had no reason to suffer except that He was willing to bear our punishment. How we should love Him! If we love Him we will keep His commandments.

Because Jesus obeyed God in all things He was worthy to redeem us and become the "author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him" (Hebrews 5:9).

QUESTIONS

1. Name the three offices of Jesus.
2. What is the duty of a priest?
3. What happened to the priests who offered "strange fire"?
4. Name the important way that Jesus, Priesthood was different from that of the other priests.
5. Name some of the recorded prayers of Jesus.
6. For whom did Jesus pray just before He was crucified? What did He ask for them?
7. Why did Jesus choose to die on the cross?
8. After what order was Jesus a Priest?