

# Hebrews 2:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.

## Analysis

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The necessity ('he ought') of incarnation flows from Christ's high priestly role. 'Made like unto his brethren' emphasizes full identification with humanity except for sin (4:15). The dual qualifications of a high priest are faithfulness toward God and mercy toward people. 'Propitiation' (Greek 'hilaskomai') means to satisfy God's wrath and reconcile sinners through sacrificial atonement.

## Historical Context

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Jewish high priests represented the people before God on the Day of Atonement. Christ fulfills and surpasses this role by being both the priest and the sacrifice, offering Himself to satisfy divine justice.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

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1. How does Christ's merciful nature as High Priest give you confidence to approach God?
2. What sins do you need to bring before your faithful and merciful High Priest today?

## Interlinear Text

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ὅθεν	ὥφειλεν	κατὰ	πάντα	τοῖς	ἀδελφοῖς	
Wherefore	it behoved him	in	all things	G3588	unto his brethren	
G3606	G3784	G2596	G3956		G80	
ὁμοιωθῆναι	ἵνα	ἐλεήμων	γένηται	καὶ	πιστὸς	ἀρχιερεὺς
to be made like	that	a merciful	he might be	and	faithful	high priest
G3666	G2443	G1655	G1096	G2532	G4103	G749
τὰ	πρὸς	τὸν	θεόν	εἰς	τὸ	ἰλάσκεσθαι
G3588	in things pertaining to	G3588	God	to	G3588	make reconciliation for
	G4314		G2316	G1519		G2433
τὰς	ἁμαρτίας	τοῦ	λαοῦ			
G3588	the sins	G3588	of the people			
	G266		G2992			

## Additional Cross-References

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**Hebrews 2:14** (Parallel theme): Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

**Hebrews 7:26** (Creation): For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;

**Romans 5:10** (References God): For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

**Daniel 9:24** (Sin): Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.

**Hebrews 3:5** (Faith): And Moses verily was faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after;

**Hebrews 2:11** (Parallel theme): For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren,

**Hebrews 7:28** (Sin): For the law maketh men high priests which have infirmity; but the word of the oath, which was since the law, maketh the Son, who is consecrated for evermore.

**Colossians 1:21** (Parallel theme): And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled

**Romans 15:17** (References God): I have therefore whereof I may glory through Jesus Christ in those things which pertain to God.

**Leviticus 8:15** (Parallel theme): And he slew it; and Moses took the blood, and put it upon the horns of the altar round about with his finger, and purified the altar, and poured the blood at the bottom of the altar, and sanctified it, to make reconciliation upon it.