

Hebrews 5:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For every high priest taken from among men is ordained for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins:

Analysis

The high priest's humanity ('taken from among men') is essential to his representative function. He is appointed 'for men in things pertaining to God' - a mediator between holy God and sinful people. His function is offering 'gifts and sacrifices for sins.' This establishes the pattern Christ fulfills as the perfect High Priest. Reformed theology emphasizes Christ's genuine humanity as necessary for His mediatorial work.

Historical Context

The Aaronic priesthood, established in Exodus, provided the framework for understanding Christ's priesthood. The author will show how Christ's priesthood is superior (order of Melchizedek, not Aaron) while fulfilling the same mediatorial function.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. Why was it necessary for Christ to be fully human to serve as our High Priest?
2. How does Christ's priesthood provide access to God that the Levitical priesthood could not?

Interlinear Text

Πᾶς	γὰρ	ἀρχιερεὺς	ἐξ	ἀνθρώπων	λαμβάνομενος	
every	For	high priest	from among	men	taken	
G3956	G1063	G749	G1537	G444	G2983	
ὑπὲρ	ἀνθρώπων	καθίσταται	τὰ	πρὸς	τὸν	θεόν
for	men	is ordained	G3588	in things pertaining to	G3588	God
G5228	G444	G2525		G4314		G2316
ἵνα	προσφέρῃ	δῶρά	τε	καὶ	θυσίας	ὑπὲρ ἁμαρτιῶν
that	he may offer	gifts	both	and	sacrifices	for sins
G2443	G4374	G1435	G5037	G2532	G2378	G5228 G266

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 8:3 (Sacrifice): For every high priest is ordained to offer gifts and sacrifices: wherefore it is of necessity that this man have somewhat also to offer.

Hebrews 10:11 (Sin): And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins:

Hebrews 7:27 (Sin): Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself.

Hebrews 9:9 (Sacrifice): Which was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience;

Hebrews 11:4 (Sacrifice): By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.

Hebrews 2:17 (Sin): 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.

Leviticus 9:7 (Sin): And Moses said unto Aaron, Go unto the altar, and offer thy sin offering, and thy burnt offering, and make an atonement for thyself, and for the people: and offer the offering of the people, and make an atonement for them; as the LORD commanded.

Leviticus 8:2 (Sin): Take Aaron and his sons with him, and the garments, and the anointing oil, and a bullock for the sin offering, and two rams, and a basket of unleavened bread;