

Commentary on Hebrews CH 5

Review

Hebrews Chapter 3

1. Parallels between Jesus and Moses
2. Second admonishment against apostasy
 - a. Don't harden your heart
 - b. Hear his voice today!

Hebrews Chapter 4

1. The promise of entering God's Rest Still stands
2. Make every effort to enter that rest!
3. Our Great High Priest leads you onward – be confident!

Hebrews Chapter 5

1. Introduction to Jesus' priesthood
2. Qualifications of high priest met in Christ
3. Superior priesthood to Aaron
4. Third admonishment begins

Continuation

Hebrews Chapter 5 – Jesus – Our Great High Priest (5:1-10)

- I. **Prologue: Qualifications for high priests (5:1-4)**
 - A. General requirements (1)
 - B. Moral/emotional requirements (2)
 1. Limitations of human priests (3)
 2. The calling of a high priest (4)
- II. **Jesus' Priesthood (5:5-10)**
 - A. Intentional by God Himself (5)
 - B. Reveal of a different priesthood in Christ (6)
 - C. Characterization of Jesus' priesthood (5:7-10)
 1. Transparent and submissive (7)
 2. Obedient (8)
 3. Perfected through suffering (9)
 4. Designated High Priest by God in a new order (10)
- III. **Third Great Exhortation (5:11-6:20)**
 - A. For failing to understand (11)
 - B. For not being able teachers of the rudiments of the Gospel (12)
 - C. For not being acquainted with righteousness (13)
 - D. For not enduring the training to distinguish good from evil (14)

Verse 12 extra notes

Phrase “Elementary truths of God’s Word” in the Greek:

Stoixeia Arxes Logion tou Theou

1. **Stoixeia** (*elementary*) — generally this relates to the ABCs of any topic under discussion. It relates to the building blocks of faith in the coming Messiah through the Law of Moses and the prophets.
2. **Arxes** (*beginning*) — though this word is apparently ignored by the translators of this version, the word is definitely in the text and deserves explanation. It has to do with the initial or first foundation notions contained in the Old Testament about the future arrival of Christ. His roots are contained in Old Testament prophecy.
3. **Logion tou theou** (*God’s word*) — when appearing in this form in the New Testament this phrase generally refers to the Old Testament writings.

Contrasts made from verse 12 to verse 14

1. “Ought to be teachers” versus “need someone to teach you” (5:12).
2. “Elementary truths” versus “teaching about righteousness” (5:12-13).
3. “Milk” versus “solid food” (5:13).
4. “Infants” versus “mature” (5:13-14).
5. “Not acquainted with the teaching” versus “distinguish good from evil” (5:13-14).

Sources

The Word of God, Sunset in-depth commentary on Hebrews, James Burton Coffman Commentary on Hebrews, Wayne Jackson’s “Notes from the Margin of my Bible”, World Video Bible School Commentary, Halley’s Bible Handbook and Pedro Gelabert’s Commentary on Hebrews.