



Monday

Hebrews 7:20-22
Romans 11
1 Samuel 15:29

The purpose of this author's writing is to establish that Jesus is better than anything of religious significance to the Hebrews. Here, we see how Jesus is a better Priest than any priest in the history of man because Jesus fulfills God's oath to man in how God will reconcile mankind to Himself. No priest before Jesus was established with an oath from God as Jesus was. If God's oath regarding Jesus was real, then shouldn't all other claims Jesus makes throughout Scripture also be real? In what ways do you accept the words of God and in what ways do you struggle with them? For example, do you define yourself by how God defines you (His child, His treasure, a priest, a laborer, etc), or do you define yourself by how your culture defines you (your job title, your family role, etc)? How does defining yourself by how Christ defines you shape your response to how culture would define you?

Tuesday

Hebrews 7:23-25
Isaiah 9:1-7
Romans 5

Other elements of Jesus' unique position as our High Priest are the implications of His immortality due to His resurrection. While the deaths of former human priests prevented their influence and abilities beyond their lifespan, Jesus' resurrection ensured that His impact would be eternal. Therefore, He will forever be our only bridge to God our Father. The reality of Jesus' eternal presence to intercede invites us to have confidence that our salvation is never in question. While we know our salvation is secure in Christ, spend a moment asking yourself why you desire God. Is it for what He can provide you, or has the goodness of His truth that He loves you beyond your circumstance borne a desire simply for more of Him? Spend sometime deconstructing your understanding, because you may find that because of our modern Christian culture, you may, in fact, be desiring God for what He can provide and not for who He is.

Wednesday

Hebrews 7:26-28
Leviticus 9:7
2 Corinthians 5:21

Jesus' superiority as a High Priest further emphasized through His perfection. Jesus' sacrifice of Himself was greater than any animal that could have been sacrificed to God because of His perfection and status as God in flesh. This set Him as a sacrifice that could be complete in a way animal sacrifice never could be. As you consider His perfection, consider the tremendous amount of will God displayed at taking His perfection and subjecting it to hate and ultimately murder. This is His love that would subject Himself to that in order to reconcile us to Himself. Take some time to meditate on this and thank God for His willingness to be our perfect sacrifice.



Thursday

Hebrews 8:1-5
Colossians 3

In today's reading, the author describes how Jesus exercises His role as our High Priest. As the priests on Earth once served in the capacity to intercede on our behalf to God, Jesus now serves in that role in Heaven. Colossians 3 connects this concept through explaining that our life is fully hidden in Christ with God as He intercedes to God for us. This is such a complete reality that in Colossians 3 verse 4, Paul says Christ is our life! Think about the areas of your life that you struggle to interpret in light of Christ. For example, when you work or study, is that to just accomplish a task, or is it to the glory of God?

Friday

Hebrews 8:6-13
Jeremiah 31:31-37
Luke 22:14-23
2 Corinthians 5:17

One potential way to understand the author's writing today is to consider that in order for God to establish a new covenant with man, He had to carry out a plan that would completely fulfill the old covenant. This was accomplished by the perfect life, undeserving death, and miraculous resurrection of Christ that completed the requirements of the old covenant and establish a new covenant with man. And this covenant is incredible, for it is one based on faith and allows us to approach God in truth!

Saturday

Jeremiah 31

Jeremiah 31 is related to the author's writing in Hebrews by describing the experience mankind will have in God establishing the new covenant with man. This new covenant is God's promise to forgive our sin and put His truth directly onto our hearts. He does this through the work of Christ and He does this because 1) His love for us and 2) so we can be the conduit of His plan to spread His glory across the Earth. Therefore, if you are a believer, you can have confidence that you are eternally loved and you are grafted into His plan to reconcile others into this new covenant. What then, is your role in this plan?

Sunday

Hebrews 9:1-10
Ezekiel 36

The author is diving into more details about the tabernacle, the role of the priests, and process needed to offer the sacrifice. Think of how complicated this process was. Also, consider that unless someone was a high priest, he had no chance of even surviving being in the most holy place, the Holy of Holies. Another aspect of this activity was that animal sacrifices could not change one's desires or clear his conscience. Chances are, all of these details and opportunities would not have even been applicable to you unless you were a descendent of Israel. Spend the day giving thanks to Jesus for establishing a new covenant. Now that we no longer need a complicated process for sacrifice, and being a descendant of Israel is no longer a requirement, you can be in direct presence with God (and when you are saved, you are always in His presence). You can now have new desires and be free of condemnation because of the Spirit in you!