

Hebrews 5:5-6

<https://thebiblesays.com/commentary/heb/heb-5/hebrews-55-6/>

The Pauline Author points out that Jesus was called by God to be a priest; therefore, His priesthood is legitimate.

The previous verse indicated that priests must be called by God to have a legitimate claim to priestly duties. The Pauline Author quotes from Psalm 2:7 and 110 to show that *Christ did not glorify Himself so as to become a high priest* (v 5), but that He was called by God to be a priest. *He who said to Him, “You are My Son, today I have begotten You* (v 5).” God made Jesus an heir who will one day rule over all, and also appointed Him as high priest. The Pauline Author points out that God says also in another passage, *“You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek”* (v 6). Jesus’s priestly appointment will never end. So Christ meets this qualification for priesthood since He did not appoint Himself but was appointed by God.

The title *Son* and the role of priest were bestowed upon Jesus after He finished serving His father faithfully and obediently to His death. Just as being human was a prerequisite to being appointed High Priest among men, although Jesus was already the Son of God from the beginning, He received the reward of the title *Son* for His faithfulness as a human.

The Pauline author will explain in Chapter 7 what he means by saying that Jesus is a priest *according to the order of Melchizedek*. He is quoting Psalm 110:4, where God is speaking to His Anointed One (Messiah). Drawing a comparison between Jesus and *Melchizedek* is meant to show that Jesus is a greater priest than the Levites (the Jewish priesthood), because *Melchizedek* was a greater priest than the Levites (Genesis 14:18-20). *Melchizedek* predated the Levites and was paid a tithe by Abraham, father of the nation of Israel. *Melchizedek*’s name means “king” and “righteousness.” He was the King of Salem, which means “peace,” so his name means “king of righteousness and king of peace,” representative of *Christ*.

The point is that *Melchizedek* is a representation of our high priest, *Christ*: a king-priest of righteousness and of peace. *Christ* remains our high priest forever.

Biblical Text

⁵ So also Christ did not glorify Himself so as to become a high priest, but He who said to Him,

“You are My Son,

Today I have begotten You”;

⁶ just as He says also in another passage,

“You are a priest forever

According to the order of Melchizedek.”