

Hebrews

PART 3 – A PORTRAIT OF JESUS

Objectives

- ▶ Consider what Hebrews contributes to what we know about Jesus
- ▶ Explore how this knowledge may help us understand how we can better relate to him

Who Do You say that I am?

- ▶ What are the first words that come to mind when you hear the name Jesus?
- ▶ Teacher, Shepherd, Savior, Prophet, Messiah, Christ (Anointed One)

Jesus as the exalted Son

- ▶ “Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets but in these last days he has spoken to us by a **Son** whom he appointed **heir of all things**, through whom he also created the worlds. He is **a reflection of God’s glory** and **the exact imprint of God’s very being** and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much **superior to angels** as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.” (Hebrews 1:1-4)
- ▶ “Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels now crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.” (2:9)

Jesus as high priest

- ▶ Therefore he had become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. (2:17)
- ▶ Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession was faithful to the one who appointed him (3:1)
- ▶ Since, then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. (4:14)
- ▶ You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek. (5:7, 10)
- ▶ Jesus the mediator of the new covenant” (Hebrews 12:22–24)

Jesus as high priest

- ▶ What is high priest?
 - ▶ **A special sect of the Levitical priests**, coming from the line of Aaron. The high priests had a few special responsibilities that set them apart. They were held to a higher standard of holiness than the rest of the priests. (Exodus 28:1; Numbers 18:7)
 - ▶ The high priest had to be “whole” physically (without any physical defects) and holy in his conduct (Leviticus 21:6-8).
- ▶ Priests were mediators.

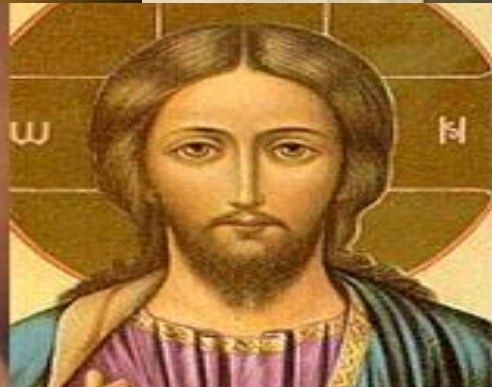
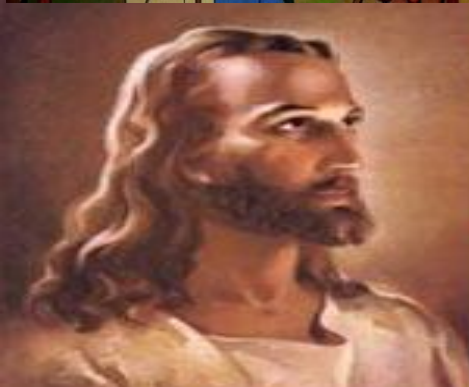
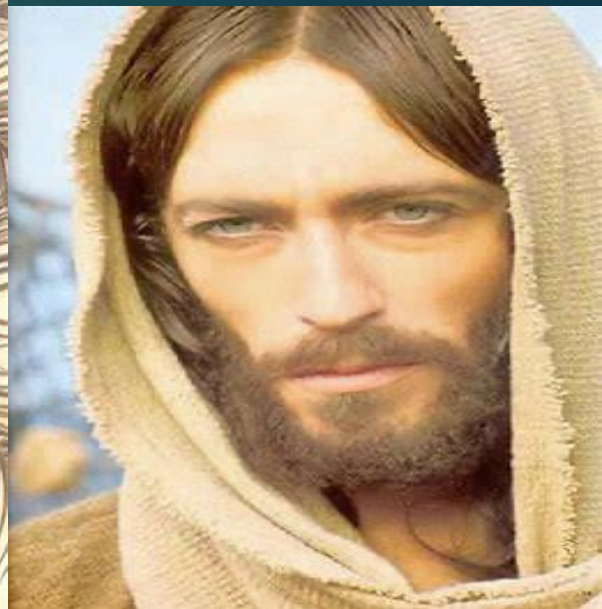
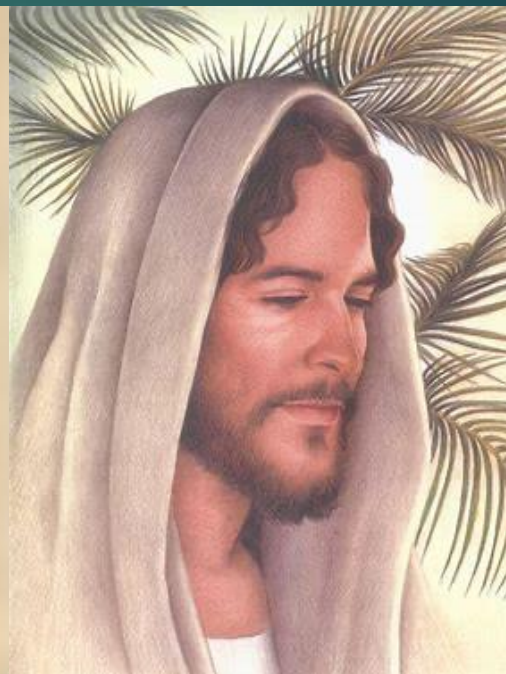
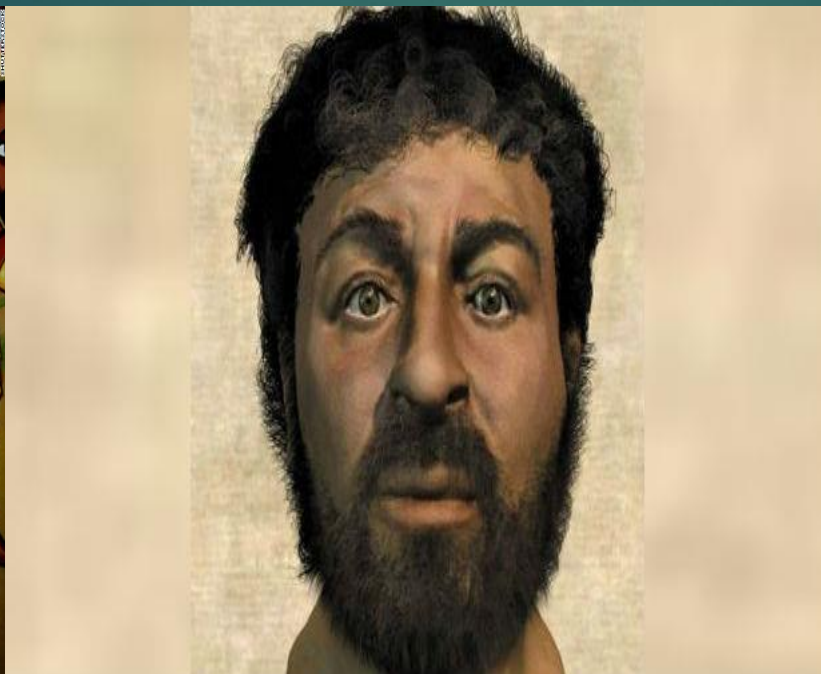
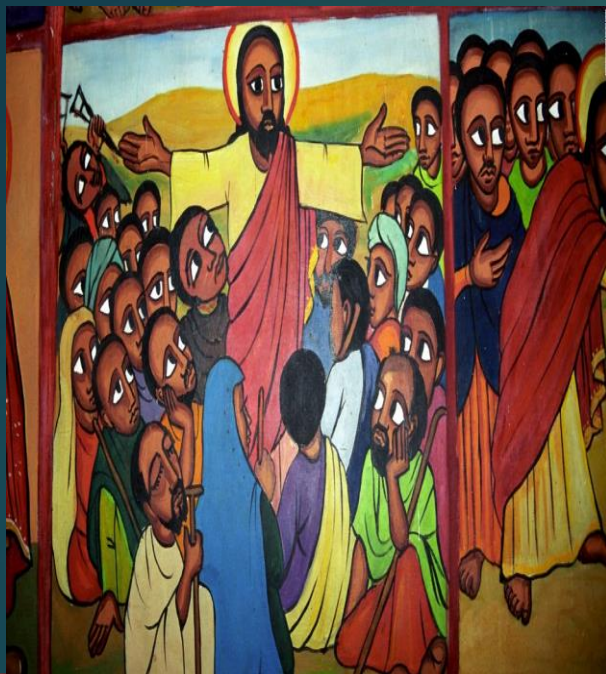
Jesus is our sure testament, our sacrifice

- ▶ Jesus has also become the guarantee of a better covenant (7:22)
- ▶ Unlike other high priests, he has not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for those of the people; this he did once for all when he offered himself. (7:27)

Jesus as pioneer, author and finisher of our faith

- ▶ “It was fitting for God for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make **the pioneer** of their salvation perfect through sufferings” (2:10)
- ▶ Where Jesus, a **forerunner** on our behalf, has entered, having become a high priest forever to the order of Melchizedek (6:20)
- ▶ We can “look to Jesus the **pioneer and perfecter** of our faith” (12:2).

Who Do You Say that I am?



Concluding Observations



- ▶ We made God into our own image; instead of being made into the image of God
- ▶ How we understand Jesus can influence how we worship Jesus
- ▶ The writer of Hebrews wanted the audience to know that they were not alone in their suffering