Hebrews 5:7-14 (NASB) Notes

- Melchizedek had no successor. "Forever" ... unlike Aaronic priesthood. Since He is a High Priest forever, He saves His people forever, 7:23-28.
- ⇒ How and why is Jesus compared to Melchizedek? (vv. 6 & 10)
- ⁷ In the days of His flesh, He offered up both prayers and supplications with loud crying and tears to the One able **to save Him from death**, and **He was heard** because of His piety.
- *Mty.26:36-46 cf., Ps.16:9-10* *Jesus is not praying to be spared <u>from</u> death, but <u>out of</u> death.
- 8 Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered.
- ⇒ How is it possible that Jesus "learned obedience from the things which He suffered"? Why is this important?
- Lk.2:52 Phil.2:8 1Pe.3:18
- Not passing from disobedience to obedience, but He actually "learned" (experienced) obedience by obeying. We learn obedience via experiences of life. Jesus did not need to learn how to obey, because it is impossible for God to be disobedient; but He had to experience what was involved.
- ⇒ Read Lev.16:1-34 What five words would you use to describe the ancient Jewish sacrificial system? How did Jesus Christ render these practices obsolete?
- 9 And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation,
- "perfect" = made complete, cf., 2:10
- \Rightarrow How is true salvation evidenced in a life? (v. 9)
- "those who obey Him" = them that trust.
- 10 being designated by God as a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.
- While on earth, Jesus could not have served in the priesthood because He was not of the tribe of Levi, but of Judah.

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- \Rightarrow 5:11 6:20 seems to be parenthetical:
 - 5:11-14 Marks of Spiritual Immaturity
 - Dullness toward the Word, v.11
 - Inability to share, v.12a
 - A "baby food" diet, vv.12b-13
 - Unskilled in handling the Word, v.14
 - 6:1-12 Call to Spiritual Maturity
 - 6:13-20 Basis for Spiritual Security

- 11 Concerning him we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become **dull of hearing**.
- ⇒ What had happened to the members of the original audience for the book of Hebrews? (v. 11)
- \Rightarrow What does the phrase "dull of hearing" mean? What are symptoms of this condition? Hint: See Romans 1:18-32. Also Ps.95:76.
- The problem was not that of a dull teacher, but dull hearers!
- "dull of hearing" ($v\omega\theta\rho\delta\varsigma$) = slothful, slow, sluggish, indolent, dull, languid. Used only here and 6:12, but also in LXX in **Prov.22:13**; 26:13. It refers to a condition of spiritual apathy and laziness that prevents spiritual development. Unable to listen to the Word, receive it, then act on it.
- First, "drifting" [neglecting] (2:1-4); then "hardening" [doubting] (3:7-4:13); now "dullness." Opposite in 1Thess.2:13
- 12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the **elementary principles** of the oracles of God, and you have come to need **milk** and not **solid food**.
- ⇒ Define/describe the analogies of "milk" and "solid food." (vv. 12-14) Put into your own words, the difference between the "milk" and "solid food" ("meat") of God's Word.
- Milk is predigested food specially suited for babies.
- "Milk" of the Word refers to what Jesus Christ did on earth (e.g., birth, life, teaching, death, burial, resurrection).
- "Meat" of the Word refers to what Jesus Christ is now doing in heaven.
- ⇒ Are vv.12-14 contrasting spiritually immature Jews with mature followers of Jesus?
- "elementary principles" = ABC's
- We begin the Christian life on the basis of His finished work on earth. We grow in the Christian life on the basis of His unfinished work in heaven. Cf., *Heb.13:20-21*
- 13 For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant.
- 14 But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.
- A baby will put anything into its mouth ... an immature believer will listen to any preacher on the radio or TV and not be able to identify whether or not he is true to the Scripture. Cf., *Acts* 17:11
- 1 Timothy 4:6-9