

## **THE SUPERIORITY OF JESUS: A Better High Priest Hebrews 4:14-16**

### **Introduction**

In the first verse of Hebrews 3, the writer says to “consider Jesus...the high priest of our confession”. The original Greek word used for “consider” denotes the action of directing one's whole mind to an object or to immerse oneself in the study of it. This is not a quick fleeting momentary look at Jesus, but a careful continuous observation and consideration so one can understand fully. But what do we need to consider about Jesus? He specifically notes Jesus is the high priest of our confession.

The writer of Hebrews is progressively developing the doctrine of Christ as our high priest. The earthly high priests just didn't get the job done - but they pointed towards our Great High Priest, Jesus Christ. Our confession of Jesus as high priest is vital to us maintaining our faith when undergoing challenging times, especially when we are tempted to give up. There are four items the writer mentions in these verses that Jesus does as our Great High Priest:

### **I. SYMPATHIZES WITH OUR WEAKNESS (v. 15)**

Isaiah 53:3 *“He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised...”*

### **II. HAS BEEN TEMPTED AS WE ARE (v. 15)**

Mark 1:13 *“And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan.”*

### **III. IS PURE & PERFECT (without sin) (v. 15)**

2 Corinthians 5:21 *“For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”*

### **IV. BESTOWS MERCY & GRACE (v. 16)**

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Resources: *To The Hebrews*, George W. Buchanan; *Calvin's Commentaries XXII*, John Calvin; *Living & Loving Life Jesus*, Brandon Cook; *Evangelical dictionary of Theology*, Elwell; *Matthew Henry's Commentary (Vol. 6)*; *Hebrews*, Simon Kistemaker; *Hebrews For You*, Micahle Kruger