

October 30–November 5. Hebrews 1–6:
“Jesus Christ, ‘the Author of Eternal Salvation’”

The Atonement of Christ

Paul speaks of the majesty of Christ and His ability to purge us of our sins

Heb 1:1-3

1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

What do we learn from these verses about God the Father and His Son?

([God] hath... spoken unto us by his Son
whom he hath appointed heir of all things
by whom also he made the worlds
Who being the brightness of his glory
the express image of his person
he had by himself purged our sins)

Dallin H. Oaks

"What we know of the nature of God the Father is mostly what we can learn from the ministry and teachings of His Only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ. As Elder Jeffrey R. Holland has taught, one of the paramount purposes of Jesus's ministry was to reveal to mortals 'what God our Eternal Father is like,... to reveal and make personal to us the true nature of His Father, our Father in Heaven' (CR, Oct. 2003). The Bible contains an apostolic witness that Jesus was 'the express image' (Heb 1:3) of His Father's person which merely elaborates Jesus's own teaching that 'he that hath seen me hath seen the Father' (John 14:9)." (CR, April 2017)

We must take advantage of this great gift that has been offered to us

Heb 2:1-3

1 Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.

2 For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward;

3 How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;
Because Christ was also flesh and blood He can understand our suffering, weakness,

and temptation

What do we learn about the atonement of Christ from these verses?

(every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward
He can understand our suffering, weakness, and temptation
we ought to give the more earnest heed... lest at any time we should let them slip)

Heb 2:14-18

14 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

15 And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

16 For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham.

17 Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.

18 For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.

What do we learn about the atonement of Christ from these verses?

(through death he might destroy him that had the power of death... the devil
deliver them who through fear of death
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that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest
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he is able to succour them that are tempted)

Ulisses Soares

“In addition to providing the majestic gift of salvation, the Savior offers us relief and comfort as we face our afflictions, temptations, and weaknesses of mortal life, including the circumstances we have experienced recently in the current pandemic. I can assure you that Christ is ever aware of the adversities we experience in mortality. He understands all of the bitterness, agony, and physical pain as well as the emotional and spiritual challenges we face. The Savior’s bowels are filled with mercy, and He is always ready to succor us. This is possible because He personally experienced and took upon Himself in the flesh the pain of our weakness and infirmities.” (CR, April 2021)

Heb 4:11-16

11 Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same

example of unbelief.

14 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.

15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Why do we have a “high priest” that can “be touched with the feeling of our infirmities”?

(was in all points tempted like as we are)

Matthew S. Holland

“Regardless of the causes of our worst hurts and heartaches, the ultimate source of relief is the same: Jesus Christ. He alone holds the full power and healing balm to correct every mistake, right every wrong, adjust every imperfection, mend every wound, and deliver every delayed blessing. Like witnesses of old, I testify that ‘we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities’ (Heb 4:15) but rather a loving Redeemer who descended from His throne above and went forth ‘suffering pains and afflictions and temptations of every kind... that he may know... how to succor his people’ (Alma 7:11–12).” (CR, Oct. 2020)

Given that we can only be saved because of the merciful gift of the atonement- What do you think Paul means by “let us labour therefore to enter into that rest”? What work is expected of us?

The work that helps us progress along the straight and narrow path

Progressing Along the Path

Faith, repentance, baptism and Holy Ghost gets us on the path that leads to perfection

Heb 6:1-3

1 Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,

2 Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.

3 And this will we do, if God permit.

JST Heb 6:1

Therefore *not* leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ...

What is expected of us after we have been obedient to the first four principles of the gospel?

(let us go on unto perfection)

Hugh B. Brown

“What must one do to... be saved is an ancient and oft-repeated question which was answered by Peter,... 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost' (Acts 2:38)....

“But is one saved by merely meeting these preliminary requirements? The Apostle Paul, in one of his dynamic letters, said, speaking of these principles: 'let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God' (Heb 6:1)....

“Salvation is a continuing, on-going process. It is eternally improving, achieving, becoming—yes, and overcoming. In some ways it may be analogous to education, which is a continuous process of overcoming ignorance. When is a man educated? When is a man saved?...

“The highest reaches of life are but embryonic in the light of eternity, and man has every reason to hope that a future life will afford him full scope for larger and fuller achievement.” (CR, April 1962)

When we first get on the path we may need milk before you are strong enough for meat

Heb 5:12-14

12 For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.

13 For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.

14 But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

What must we do to progress to the point that we can be nourished by “strong meat”?

George A. Smith

“How often is it necessary, and has it been necessary, for those who are inspired of the Lord to complain of the brethren making such slow progress in the things of the kingdom of God? How often do we hear our Presidency lament the ignorance, folly and vanity that are exhibited by many of those who are called upon....

“It was remarked yesterday, that the progress of the people was so slow, that the Presidency could not develop those principles which were for the benefit of the people, for their glory and exaltation, only at a very slow rate, powerful as we may think the “Mormon” mill to be. The President tells us that he has to regulate the feed very moderately, or injure the weak minded.” (JD, 10:59)

We need to exercise our faith in order to enter into His rest

Heb 4:1-3

1 Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.

2 For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.

3 For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.

What principle must be part of our lives in order to accept the gospel and then progress in it?

(but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith)

Neal A. Maxwell

"Serving, studying, praying, and worshiping are four fundamentals in perfecting 'that which is lacking in [our] faith' (1 Thes 3:10). If we cease nurturing our faith in any of these four specific ways, we are vulnerable.

"Failure to study, for instance, is to be intellectually and spiritually malnourished. Inspired words do matter, for 'when a man works by faith he works by... words' (Lectures on Faith, 7:3)... Hearing must be 'mixed with faith' (Heb 4:2) and with Christian service, as we have heard again and again in this conference....

"A lack of deep personal prayer and deep genuine worship also erodes our faith, and we may 'faint in the day of trouble' (D&C 109:38)." (CR, April 1991)

We should strive to increase the hope we have in Christ

Heb 6:18-20

18 That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:

19 Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which

entereth into that within the veil;
20 Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever
after the order of Melchisedec.

Why is strengthening our hope an essential part of our eternal progress?

(Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast)

Dieter F. Uchtdorf

“Hope is a gift of the Spirit. It is a hope that through the Atonement of Jesus Christ and the power of His Resurrection, we shall be raised unto life eternal and this because of our faith in the Savior. This kind of hope is both a principle of promise as well as a commandment, and, as with all commandments, we have the responsibility to make it an active part of our lives and overcome the temptation to lose hope. Hope in our Heavenly Father’s merciful plan of happiness leads to peace, mercy, rejoicing, and gladness. The hope of salvation is like a protective helmet; it is the foundation of our faith and an anchor to our souls.” (CR, Oct. 2008)

We learn and grow by enduring the difficulties of this life

Heb 5:8-9

8 Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;
9 And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;

Delbert L. Stapley

“Often we forget that obedience must be learned. Even Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, learned perfect obedience, which qualified Him to serve as our Lawgiver and Lord....

“We now tread in the same path that He trod. That path has been clearly marked out for each of us with signs and warnings to guide us along the way, preventing us from being diverted and lost. But, like Jesus, we must learn obedience. That is the purpose of our mortal life. If we fail in this experience, we will not find the true happiness that leads to exaltation.”
(CR, Oct. 1977)

Despite our fallen state God is mindful of us and strives to sanctify us

Here Paul quotes Psalm 8:4-6

Apollo 11 astronaut Buzz Aldrin read this passage from Psalms during a TV broadcast the night before splashdown

Heb 2:6-8

6 But one in a certain place testified, saying, What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man, that thou visitest him?

7 Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands:

8 Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him.

What do these verses teach us about our relationship with God?

(Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands)

Dieter F. Uchtdorf

“Just think of it: You are known and remembered by the most majestic, powerful, and glorious Being in the universe! You are loved by the King of infinite space and everlasting time!

“He who created and knows the stars knows you and your name—you are the daughters of His kingdom....

“God loves you because you are His child. He loves you even though at times you may feel lonely or make mistakes.

“The love of God and the power of the restored gospel are redemptive and saving. If you will only allow His divine love into your life, it can dress any wound, heal any hurt, and soften any sorrow.” (CR, Oct. 2011)

Priesthood

Ministering angels

Heb 1:13-14

13 But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool?

14 Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

What is the purpose of ministering angels?

Heber C. Kimball

“[God] is nearby, His angels are our associates, they are with us and round about us, and watch over us, and take care of us, and lead us, and guide us, and administer to our wants in their ministry and in their holy calling unto which they are appointed. We are told in the Bible that angels are ministering spirits to minister to those who shall become heirs of salvation.” (JD, 2:220)

Melchizedek Priesthood

Heb 5:1,4-10

1 For every high priest taken from among men is ordained for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins:

4 And no man taketh this honour unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron.

5 So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, to day have I begotten thee.

6 As he saith also in another place, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

7 Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared;

8 Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;

9 And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;

10 Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec.

What do we learn about the Melchizedek priesthood from these verses?

(no man taketh this honour unto himself
Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek
Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchizedek)

William J. Critchlow, Jr.

“This priesthood of the holy order, known later as the Melchizedek Priesthood, continued in patriarchal order without a break with Adam's worthy descendants until the day of Moses....

“Later he removed Moses, who held the Melchizedek Priesthood, thus leaving Israel with only a Lesser Priesthood.... From that time on until the Savior's ministry on earth, this was generally the prevailing authority of God on the earth.

“Jesus restored at his coming the Higher Priesthood, he being 'the Great High Priest, forever after the order of Melchizedek' (TPJS pg. 158), but after the passing of his apostles there was no one left holding the keys, to authorize the ordination of any mortal man to any office in either priesthood. The apostate world accordingly was left without priesthood for about sixteen long, dark centuries.” (CR, Oct. 1963)

The Abrahamic covenant includes the gift of the Melchizedek priesthood

Heb 6:14-17

13 For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he swore by himself,

14 Saying, Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee.

15 And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.

16 For men verily swear by the greater: and an oath for confirmation is to them an end of all strife.

17 Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath:

What did God Promise Abraham?

(Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee)

What was required of Abraham before he received this promise from God?

(after he had patiently endured)

John Taylor

“God tried and proved [Abraham], the same as He has tried many of us, and felt after his heartstrings, and twisted them round. When He had tried him to the utmost, He swore by Himself, because He could swear by no greater, saying, ‘That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed’ (Gen 22:17). ‘And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed’ (Gen 22:18). Abraham obtained his dominion by legitimate authority; his Priesthood was obtained from God; his authority was that which is associated with the everlasting Gospel, which was, and is, and is to come, that liveth and abideth forever. And the promises made to him will rest upon him and his posterity, through every subsequent period of time, until the final winding up scene of all things.” (JD, 1:221)