BRIDGING THE GULF

The gulf that existed between God and us was caused by sin. The problem is by sin corrupting the natural world. God is holy, and sin cannot exist in His presence; so, our sin has separated us from God, just as two magnets in the wrong orientation repel each other. In addition, our sinful nature made it impossible for human beings to obey God’s law. Sin also involves misunderstanding. Human beings lost sight of the love and mercy of God and came to see Him as wrathful and demanding.

This week, we are going to study the amazing things the Father and the Son did to bridge that gulf. Hebrews 5–7 provides a careful analysis of Jesus’ priesthood. The author explains its origin and purpose (Heb. 5:1–10) and then exhorts readers not to disregard it (Heb. 5:11–6:8) but rather to hold fast to the assurance of hope it provides (Heb. 6:9–20). He also explains the characteristics of Jesus’ priesthood (Heb. 7:1–10) and its implications for God’s relationship to believers (Heb. 7:11–28). This week we will focus specifically on Hebrews 5:1–10 and Hebrews 7:1–28.
Write out Hebrews 5:1–10; 7:1–28 from the Bible translation of your choice. If you’re pressed for time, write out Hebrews 7:21–28. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, or outline or mind-map the chapter.
Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

**Circle** repeated words/ phrases/ideas

**Underline** words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you

Draw **Arrows** to connect words/ phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?


What does the revelation about Melchizedek teach us about how God works among those who have never had human missionaries preach to them?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/heb06-3
After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks overall seem to point to?

What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

Think about the endless number of animal sacrifices offered through antiquity, all pointing to Jesus, and yet not one of them—or all of them—could truly pay for our sins. Why could only the death of Jesus pay for them?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/heb06-4
What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

Hebrews 3:1
Hebrews 4:14–16
Romans 8:34
Genesis 14:18–20
Psalm 110
1 Peter 2:21–25
Hebrews 8:1–3

What other verses/promises come to mind with the priesthood?

Where do you see Jesus in Hebrews 5:1–10; 7:1–28?

How is Jesus as your perfect priest a new, strange, or familiar relationship?

What is He saying to you through these texts?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

Prayer: How do you respond to seeing Jesus in this way?

Read more at
www.inversebible.org/heb06-6
Review the memory verse.
How does it apply to your life this week?

After this week’s study of the passage, how is Jesus your personal high priest?

What are the practical applications of having the most perfect high priest in your life?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/heb06-7
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Share insights from this week’s memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.

What have been your interactions with priesthoods in the past?

How do you explain priesthoods to those who never had any experiences with it?

Why do we need someone interceding in our behalf?

How does a perfect priesthood unite humanity “more closely . . . to God than if [it] had never fallen”? (White, The Desire of Ages, 25.)

How can we really experience that closeness?

What does this closeness mean on a daily level?

What comfort can we draw from this experience?

How do His “arguments in our behalf” help us have this experience?

How is the order of Melchizedek relevant today?

Jesus, the Faithful Priest