

## December 22 Answers

- 1) Having introduced the theme of Jesus as High Priest, the author continued by saying that Jesus was a priest after the order of **Melchizedek** (Heb 5:10). He was about to explain the significance of this truth, when he paused and rebuked his readers for their **sluggish** hearing (Heb 5:11). They knew the truth, but they were no longer responding in **obedience** to God's voice. This teaches us the importance of consistent obedience to God's Word, for if we become negligent and indifferent to the Spirit's guidance, we will regress into **immaturity**, **unfruitfulness**, and finally, **apostasy**. We must **submit** to God's will and **allow** the Spirit to carry us forward to maturity. We should be able to **teach** others the basics of the Christian faith, and we should be **training** our powers of discernment to distinguish good from evil (Heb 5:12–6:2). The author continued by showing the Jesus' priesthood, after the order of Melchizedek, is superior to the priesthood of **Levi** as given by the Law. Jesus took his office by God's **oath**—the Levitical priests did not. Jesus continues in his priestly role **forever**—the Levitical priests all died. Jesus lived a **sinless** life—the Levitical priests all sinned. Jesus offered himself **once** for **all**—the Levitical priests offered animals over and over. Not only that, but Jesus' **ministry** is better, his **covenant** is better, his **blood** is better, and his **sacrifice** is better.