

Study Guide to Hebrews

Keith Sharp

Hebrews 13:22

And I appeal to you, brethren, bear with the word of exhortation,
for I have written to you in few words.

Study Guide to Hebrews

To the Teacher

Study Guide to Hebrews is a Bible study guide for teenagers and adults to be used in Bible classes in local congregations. This workbook is not intended to replace the word of God as the class text. Nor is it a commentary. Rather, it consists of questions within the framework of an analytical outline designed to help the class study properly, so each can discover for himself what the Bible teaches.

My experience is that adult and teenage classes generally do not like graded lessons. Thus, this book has no grading system.

However, these same classes have a tendency to “bog down” or stray from the lesson unless some time goals are established and followed. Thus, this study guide is designed to lead the student through the book of Hebrews in sixteen lessons.

Each lesson starts with a memory verse. I believe committing the word of God to memory is an important, often neglected aspect of the lives of Christians.

The goals of this course are to lead the student to demonstrate a knowledge of (1) the background of the book, (2) its theme, and (3) a simple outline of its contents; to show understanding of (1) key words, (2) passages studied, and (3) great themes of the book; and to demonstrate the ability to apply the passages to their own lives and to refute false doctrines based on misunderstandings of passages.

To accomplish these goals, the workbook contains several types of questions: terms to define, discussion questions, special reports, panel discussion, and personal evaluation as well as reviews. Each question has a purpose. There are no pointless, filler questions, trick questions, or true-false questions.

Although a particular word may appear several times in this biblical book, it will be given as a term to define only once, unless it is later translated from a different Greek word, used in a different sense, or has a special importance in a later context. These questions are designed to help the student understand the language of the text.

There is a glossary in the back of the book which defines the terms.

Each class should end with a review orally in class of the theme of each chapter studied to that point. Beginning with lesson two, each class should start with quotation together of the memory verse and the oral review.

Because the lessons call for a fast overview of Hebrews, it is crucial that each student study his lesson and complete the questions outside class. It is best in class to concentrate on the

discussion questions and to only spend time on definitions with which some student might have trouble.

The student should first read the entire text covered by the lesson and then read each passage again separately as he comes to it in the analytical outline. Finally, in order to answer the discussion questions, every student must read the verse or verses that answer each question. If the student will follow the suggested steps in the lesson, he will read each verse of the lesson three times: beginning with the longest for overall grasp, then shorter reading for outline, and finally shortest reading for analysis.

The questions are based on the **New King James Version** of the Bible.

No work book can even begin to replace a competent teacher, with a good working knowledge of the Scriptures, an unswerving love of and loyalty to truth, a deep faith in God and His word, a pure life, an humble opinion of himself, an understanding of and love for his students, and the ability to communicate.

I hope and pray this volume is useful to you in learning and teaching more about the will of God and its application to us. May it deepen your faith and enliven your interest for deeper study and more diligent service to the Lord. - The Author

Course Plan

We will study the book of Hebrews in sixteen lessons.

Lesson One - Introduction to Hebrews

Lesson Two: The Son of God - Hebrews chapter one

Lesson Three: The Son of Man - Hebrews chapter two

Lesson Four: Do Not Harden Your Hearts - Hebrews chapter 3

Lesson Five: A Rest to the People of God - Hebrews 4:1-13

Lesson Six: Called by God as High Priest - Hebrews 4:14 - 5:11

Lesson Seven: Grow Up! - Hebrews 5:12 - 6:20

Lesson Eight: A Great High Priest - Hebrews chapter 7

Lesson Nine: The Main Point - Hebrews chapter 8

Lesson Ten: A Greater and More Perfect Tabernacle - Hebrews 9:1-14

Lesson Eleven: A Better Sacrifice - Hebrews 9:15 - 10:18

Lesson Twelve: Let Us - Hebrews 10:19-39

Lesson Thirteen: Now Faith Is - Hebrews chapter 11:1-19

Lesson Fourteen: So Great a Cloud of Witnesses - Hebrews 11:20-40

Lesson Fifteen: Exhortations - Hebrews chapter 12

Lesson Sixteen: The Sanctified Life - Hebrews chapter 13

(I'm deeply indebted to Lowell Blasingame for his Notes on Hebrews. I also studied **The New Testament Commentary: IX Epistle to the Hebrews**, Robert Milligan, **Jesus Christ Today: a commentary on the Book of Hebrews**, Neil R. Lightfoot, and **Truth Commentaries: The Book of Hebrews**, Daniel H. King, Sr.)

Introduction to Hebrews

Author

The author of the book of Hebrews chose not to identify himself. From the second century until the Protestant Reformation the overwhelming consensus of opinion was that Paul was its author. Since Martin Luther tentatively concluded that Apollos wrote Hebrews, scholars have increasingly agreed with his assessment. References to chains, Timothy, and prison seem to point to the apostle (10:34; 13:23). Also, this book closes with the very same words that conclude Paul's letter to Titus (Hebrews 13:25; Titus 3:15). But scholars appeal to the elegant, polished Greek of Hebrews in contrast with the rough Greek of Paul's known letters as evidence that the evangelist known for being "eloquent" and "mighty in the Scriptures" (Acts 18:24) penned Hebrews. Wayne Fancher, Jr. did a study of Greek words and phrases in the book and found 69 words and 60 phrases in Hebrews unique to the apostle Paul in the remainder of the New Testament. The evidence overwhelmingly points to the apostle Paul as the author.

Audience

The very earliest Greek manuscripts of Hebrews still in existence contain on the outside of the scroll "To Hebrews" (in Greek of course). This term can be used of Jews who spoke Aramaic, the language of Palestine in the first century, and followed Jewish customs (Acts 6:1), or it can be used of Jews in distinction to Gentiles (Philippians 3:5). Here it seems to be used in the latter sense.

It is apparent from the text of the book that it was written to a specific community of Jews who had been Christians for years. There is no mention in Hebrews of idolatry, eating things sacrificed to idols, or other Gentile issues Paul dealt with in First Corinthians. According to the author, Christ became a man in order to help "the seed of Abraham" (2:16). Hebrews is the sole New Testament book which designates Christ as our High Priest, doing so twelve times (2:17; 3:1; 4:14,15; 5:5,10; 6:20; 7:26; 8:1,3; 9:11; 10:21). In fact, the high priesthood of Christ is a dominant theme of Hebrews (4:14 - 5:10; 7:1 - 8:5). Extended and detailed argumentation is made concerning Moses (3:1-6), the history of national Israel (3:7 - 4:13), the Old Covenant (8:6-13), the tabernacle (9:1-5), the service of the Jewish priests (9:6-11), and the animal sacrifices of the Law (9:6 - 10:17). The writer exhorts them to leave the camp of Israel (13:12-13).

The audience had heard the testimony of those who were witnesses of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, i.e., apostles (2:3; cf. Acts 1:1-8; 10:39-41). They had been Christians for a lengthy time but had failed to grow (5:12-14). But they had been diligent in ministering to the saints (6:10). They had endured persecution (10:32-33), but none of them had died for their faith (12:4).

There were serious symptoms of their lack of spiritual growth. They were ignorant of the meat of the word (5:12-14) and some neglected the public assemblies of the church (Hebrews 10:24-25). Thus, they were in grave danger of being led astray by false teaching (13:9) and

falling away from Christ (3:12-15; 4:1,11,14; 6:4-8; 10:35). The consequences would be terrible indeed (10:26-31).

Thus, the letter was written to Jews who had been Christians for years, had failed to grow in knowledge as they should, and were in danger of leaving Christ and returning to Judaism.

Purpose

The letter is a “word of exhortation” (13:22), the Jewish phrase used to designate and describe the address a Jewish male could make before a synagogue audience (Acts 13:15). The inspired author wrote to believing Jews for the purpose of persuading them to remain faithful to Christ. His repeated plea is “Hold fast” (3:6,14; 4:14; 10:23).

Date

The recipients of the letter had been believers for a rather long time (5:12; 10:32), and the first generation of their leaders (apostles, evangelists, elders) had died (13:7; cf. **New American Standard Bible, English Standard Version**). The Temple in Jerusalem was still standing, and sacrifices were still being offered there (8:4; 10:11; 13:10-11), but soon were to cease (8:13), and the day of the destruction of the Temple was approaching (10:24-25,37). If Paul wrote the letter, it was shortly before his release from prison in Rome (13:23), which would make it about the same date as the apostle’s short letter to Philemon (Philemon 1:1,22). Hebrews was probably written about A.D. 63-64.

From Where Written

It seems to have been written from Rome (13:23-24).

Plan

The inspired writer’s plan is to first advance an argument proving the superiority of Christ over Judaism, then follow the argumentation with an exhortation to remain faithful to Christ. He uses the word “better” thirteen times, primarily to describe the relationship of Christ to the things of the Old Covenant (1:4; 6:9; 7:7,19,22; 8:6 [twice]; 9:23; 10:34; 11:16,35,40; 12:24) and describes Christ as “more excellent” twice (1:4; 8:6). Whereas the things pertaining to the Old Covenant were “ready to vanish away” (8:13), in regard to Christ there is “eternal salvation” (5:9), “eternal judgment” (6:2), “eternal redemption” (9:12), “the eternal Spirit” (9:14), and “the eternal inheritance” (9:15). Only through Christ can we “draw near to God” (7:18-19; 10:19-22). Christ “has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises” (8:6). He also employs the phrase “let us” thirteen times in exhortations following and based on the arguments (4:1,11,14,16; 6:1; 10:22, 23, 24; 12:1 [twice], 28; 13:13,15). Hebrews identifies Christ as our High Priest. Thus, its importance to our understanding of Christ Jesus in the divine plan of salvation is crucial. Jews charged Christianity had no priesthood, but we actually have a priesthood infinitely superior to Judaism (or Catholicism).

Outline

- I. The More Excellent Christ - 1:1 - 10:18
 - A. Better than Angels as Spokesman for God and Savior of Mankind - 1:1 - 2:18
 - B. Better than Moses as Builder of God's House - 3:1 - 4:13
 - C. Better than Aaron as High Priest - 4:14 - 8:5
 - D. Mediator of a Better Covenant - 8:6 - 10:18
- II. Therefore, Let Us Hold Fast - 10:19 - 13:17
- III. Conclusion - 13:18-25

Use

Hebrews has the most detailed study in Scripture of the divine and human natures of Jesus Christ (chapters 1 - 2). It is replete with warnings of the danger of falling away from Christ along with reasons to remain faithful and how to do so. It has the lengthiest discussion of the relationship of the Old Covenant to Christ. And it has the fullest and easiest to understand and apply discussion of the nature of saving faith. By studying diligently the book of Hebrews, we increase our understanding of and faith in Christ and the divine, eternal plan while strengthening our resolve to hold fast to Christ. "Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection."

Discussion Questions

1. What evidence is there to conclude who the author of Hebrews is?
2. What evidence is there to conclude who the specific audience is?
3. What was their spiritual state?
4. What is the purpose of the book?
5. What evidence is there for the date of the book?
6. From where does it seem to have been written?
7. What plan does the author use in accomplishing his purpose?
8. What is the key word of Hebrews?
9. What is the key phrase?
10. On the following page make a general outline of Hebrews.
11. How can we use Hebrews?

(Your Outline of Hebrews)

Lesson Two
The Son of God
Memory Verse: Hebrews 1:1-4

I. Reading Assignment: Hebrews chapter one

II. Review

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Who probably wrote Hebrews? | 6. From where does it seem to have been written? |
| 2. To whom did he write? | 7. What plan does the author use in accomplishing his purpose? |
| 3. What was their spiritual state? | 8. What is the key word of Hebrews? |
| 4. What is the purpose of the book? | 9. What is the key phrase? |
| 5. What evidence is there for the date of the book? | 10. How can we use Hebrews? |

III. Terms to Define

- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| 1. brightness | 6. angels |
| 2. glory | 7. inheritance |
| 3. express image | 8. ministers |
| 4. person | 9. scepter |
| 5. purged | 10. kingdom |

IV. The Son of God

Please read Hebrews 1:1-4.

Thought Questions:

1. How did God speak to man in ages past?
2. How does He speak to mankind today?
3. What is the relationship of the Son to God?
4. What is His relationship to the creation?
5. How does He compare to angels? (Note: Angels revealed the Law to Moses. - Galatians 3:19; Deuteronomy 33:2)

V. So Much Better Than the Angels

Please read Hebrews 1:4-14

A. Term to Define
salvation

B. Thought Question: How does the Son compare to angels as a spokesman for God? (The author quotes seven Old Testament passages to prove the Son's superiority to angels.)

1. Verse 5; Psalm 2:7; 2 Samuel 7:14-16

2. Verse 6; Psalm 97:7

3. Verse 7; Psalm 104:4

4. Verses 8-9; Psalm 45:6-7

5. Verses 10-12; Psalm 102:25-27

6. Verses 13-14; Psalm 110:1

**The Son of God
(God's Authorized Spokesman)
Hebrews 1:1-2**

- ❖ Better Than Angels - 1:4
- ❖ God - 1:2-3, 5, 8
- ❖ Essential Nature Unchanging - 1:10-12
- ❖ Hear Him! - 2:1-4

V. Special Report: Christ the Son of God

VI. Summary of Chapter One
The Son Of God

Lesson Three
The Son of Man
Memory Verse: Hebrews 2:17

I. Reading Assignment: Hebrews chapter 2.

II. Review

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|---|--|
| 1. Who probably wrote Hebrews? | 7. What plan does the author use in accomplishing his purpose? |
| 2. To whom did he write? | 8. What is the key word of Hebrews? |
| 3. What was their spiritual state? | 9. What is the key phrase? |
| 4. What is the purpose of the book? | 10. How can we use Hebrews? |
| 5. What evidence is there for the date of the book? | 11. Chapter One: The Son of God |
| 6. From where does it seem to have been written? | |

III. So Great a Salvation

Please read Hebrews 2:1-4.

A. Terms to Define

- | | |
|------------------|-------------|
| 1. steadfast | 4. wonders |
| 2. transgression | 5. miracles |
| 3. signs | |

B. Person to Identify
Holy Spirit

C. Discussion Questions

1. What was “the word spoken through angels”? (verse 2)
2. How sure was punishment of an offense under that covenant? (Verse 2)
3. How was the New Covenant delivered and confirmed? (Verses 3-4)

C. Thought Questions

1. Is it possible for a saved believer to leave Christ?
2. Why should we be careful to heed the message from Christ?

IV. Jesus the Son of Man

Please read Hebrews 2:5-18.

(If Jesus is greater than angels, why did He suffer and die a shameful death as a man?)

A. Terms to Define

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1. world to come | 7. merciful |
| 2. grace | 8. faithful |
| 3. taste | 9. high priest |
| 4. captain | 10. propitiation |
| 5. perfect | 11. tempted |
| 6. sanctifies | |

B. Thought Questions

1. What place did God intend man to be in His creation? (Verses 5-8; cf. Psalm 8:3-6)
2. What happened to that dominion? (Verse 8; cf. Genesis 3:16-19, 22-24)
3. Why did Jesus become a man? (Verses 9-18)
4. How complete was His humanity? (Verse 17)

V. Special Report: Christ the Son of Man

VI. Summary of Chapter Two

A. So Great a Salvation

B. Jesus the Son of Man

The Son Hebrews 1 - 2

Son of God (God's Authorized Spokesman) 1:1-2 (King, Prophet)	Son of Man (Man's Sympathetic Representative) 2:5-9 (Savior, High Priest)
✦ Better Than Angels - 1:4	✦ Lower than Angels - 2:9
✦ God - 1:2-3, 5, 8	✦ Man - 2:11, 14, 17-18
✦ Essential Nature Unchanging - 1:10-12	✦ Nature Same as Ours - 2:11, 14, 17-18

God as He Is
and
Man as He Ought to Be

☛ He might aid those who are tempted. - verse 18

Lesson Four

Do Not Harden Your Hearts

Memory Verse: Hebrews 3:12

I. Reading Assignment: Hebrews chapter 3.

II. Review

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Who probably wrote Hebrews? | 7. What plan does the author use in accomplishing his purpose? |
| 2. To whom did he write? | 8. What is the key word of Hebrews? |
| 3. What was their spiritual state? | 9. What is the key phrase? |
| 4. What is the purpose of the book? | 10. How can we use Hebrews? |
| 5. What evidence is there for the date of the book? | 11. Chapter One: The Son of God |
| 6. From where does it seem to have been written? | 12. Chapter Two |
| | a. So Great a Salvation |
| | b. The Son of Man |

III. Worthy of More Glory Than Moses

Please read Hebrews 3:1-6.

A. Terms to Define

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1. holy | 7. hope |
| 2. partakers | 8. house |
| 3. calling | 9. hold fast |
| 4. heavenly | 10. confidence |
| 5. apostle | 11. rejoicing |
| 6. confession | |

B. Discussion Questions

1. To whom does the inspired writer address himself? (Verse 1)
2. What does he call upon them to consider? (Verse 1)

C. Thought Question

How does Christ compare to Moses as a builder of the house of God? (Verses 1-6)

IV. Do Not Harden Your Hearts

Please read Hebrews 3:7-19 .

A. Discussion Questions

1. Whom does the writer warn? (Verses 1, 6, 12)
2. What is the source of the warning? (Verse 7; cf. Psalm 95:7-11; 2 Peter 1:19-21)
3. How urgent is the warning? (Verse 7; 2 Corinthians 6:2)
4. What danger do we face? (Verses 8, 13, 15)
5. What example of the danger does he give? (Verses 8-11; cf. Exodus 17:1-7; Numbers 20:1-13; 14:28-29; Deuteronomy 1:34-35)

B. Thought Questions

1. Can saved believers choose to become lost unbelievers? (Verse 12)
2. How can we prevent this? (Verse 13)
3. What causes a saved believer to become a lost unbeliever? (Verse 13)
4. Why should we be faithful? (Verse 14)
5. How can we know if we've lost our faith? (Verses 15-19)

Disobedience = Unbelief

Hebrews 3:18-19

(18) And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who did not obey?

(19) So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

The Saved Believer Is the Obedient Believer!

VI. Summary of Chapter Three

- A. Worthy of More Glory Than Moses
- B. Do Not Harden Your Hearts

Lesson Five
A Rest to the People of God
Memory Verse: Hebrews 4:11

I. Reading Assignment: Hebrews 4:1-13

II. Review

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|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Who probably wrote Hebrews? | 8. What is the key word of Hebrews? |
| 2. To whom did he write? | 9. What is the key phrase? |
| 3. What was their spiritual state? | 10. How can we use Hebrews? |
| 4. What is the purpose of the book? | 11. Chapter One: The Son of God |
| 5. What evidence is there for the date of the book? | 12. Chapter Two |
| 6. From where does it seem to have been written? | a. So Great a Salvation |
| 7. What plan does the author use in accomplishing his purpose? | b. The Son of Man |
| | 13. Chapter Three |
| | a. Worthy of More Glory Than Moses |
| | b. Do Not Harden Your Hearts |

III. Terms to Define

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. rest (verses 1, 3, 5, 10, 11) | 3. rest (Verse 9) |
| 2. faith | |

IV. Discussion Questions

1. What are we to fear? (Verse 1)
2. How did Israel fail to enter their rest? (Verses 2-3, 5; cf. Psalm 95:10-11; Numbers 14:28-29)
3. How did God enter His rest? (Verse 4; cf. Genesis 2:2)
4. Does a rest remain for us? (Verses 6-9)
5. What is our rest? (Verses 9-10)
6. How do we enter it? (Verse 11)

V. Thought Questions

1. How was the gospel preached to Israel? (Verse 2)
2. What is the Sabbath for Christians? Is it a day of the week? (Verses 1, 9; cf. Colossians 2:13-16)

3. Can a Christian fall short of heaven? (Verse 11)
4. How powerful is the Word of God? (Verse 12)
5. Can we deceive God? (Verse 13)

“The author is merely heaping up terms to show that the divine word cuts sharp through everything that is in man. No segment of the human personality can escape its keen edge.... It has, like God, the capacity to examine all that is laid up in the hidden chambers of man....” (Neil R. Lightfoot, **Jesus Christ Today**. 99).

VI. Summary of Chapter Four

A Rest to the People of God

Lesson Six
Called by God as High Priest

Memory Verse: Hebrews 4:14

I. Reading Assignment: Hebrews 4:14 - 5:10

II. Review

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|--|---|
| 1. Who probably wrote Hebrews? | 9. What is the key phrase? |
| 2. To whom did he write? | 10. How can we use Hebrews? |
| 3. What was their spiritual state? | 11. Chapter One: The Son of God |
| 4. What is the purpose of the book? | 12. Chapter Two |
| 5. What evidence is there for the date of the book? | a. So Great a Salvation |
| 6. From where does it seem to have been written? | b. The Son of Man |
| 7. What plan does the author use in accomplishing his purpose? | 13. Chapter Three |
| 8. What is the key word of Hebrews? | a. Worthy of More Glory Than Moses |
| | b. Do Not Harden Your Hearts |
| | 14. Chapter Four: A Rest to the People of God |

III. Terms to Define

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| 1. heavens | 7. compassion |
| 2. boldly | 8. vehement |
| 3. throne of grace | 9. godly fear |
| 4. mercy | 10. perfected |
| 5. gifts | 11. eternal |
| 6. sacrifices | |

IV. Person to Identify
Melchizedek

IV. Discussion Questions

1. How great is Jesus as High Priest? (4:14-15)
2. What should we therefore do? (4:14,16)
3. Why? (4:16)

4. What is the role of a high priest? (5:1-3)
5. How did one become high priest? (5:4)
6. How did Christ become our High Priest? (5:5-6; cf. Psalms 2:7; 110:4)
7. How was He perfected as High Priest? (5:5-10)

V. Special Report

Christ, our Great High Priest

VI. Summary of Chapter Five

Called by God as High Priest



Lesson Seven:

Grow Up!

Memory Verse: Hebrews 5:12

I. Reading Assignment: Hebrews 5:12 - 6:20

II. Review

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Who probably wrote Hebrews? | 10. How can we use Hebrews? |
| 2. To whom did he write? | 11. Chapter One: The Son of God |
| 3. What was their spiritual state? | 12. Chapter Two |
| 4. What is the purpose of the book? | a. So Great a Salvation |
| 5. What evidence is there for the date of the book? | b. The Son of Man |
| 6. From where does it seem to have been written? | 13. Chapter Three |
| 7. What plan does the author use in accomplishing his purpose? | a. Worthy of More Glory Than Moses |
| 8. What is the key word of Hebrews? | b. Do Not Harden Your Hearts |
| 9. What is the key phrase? | 14. Chapter Four: A Rest to the People of God |
| | 15. Chapter Five: Called by God as High Priest |

III. Let Us Go On to Perfection

Please read Hebrews 5:12-14

A. Term to Define

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| 1. first principles | 3. full grown |
| 2. oracles of God | 4. senses |

B. Discussion Questions

1. What was the spiritual condition of the recipients of the book of Hebrews? (Verses 12-13)
2. What should their spiritual condition have been? (Verse 12)
3. How can we tell if we are spiritually mature? (Verse 14)

C. Special Report

Perfection

IV. Leaving the Elementary Teaching about Christ

Please read Hebrews 6:1-3

A. Terms to Define

- | | |
|---------------|-------------|
| 1. repentance | 3. baptisms |
| 2. dead works | |

B. Special Report

The Elementary Teaching about Christ

V. Impossible to Renew

Please read Hebrews 6:4-8.

A. Terms to Define

- | | |
|----------------|----------|
| 1. enlightened | 2. herbs |
|----------------|----------|

B. Special Report

Impossible to Renew

VI. The Anchor of the Soul

Please read Hebrews 6:9-20.

A. Terms to Define

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1. ministered | 5. oath |
| 2. diligence | 6. confirmation |
| 3. full assurance | 7. immutability |
| 4. patience | 8. consolation |

B. Discussion Questions

1. Why was the writer confident of their ultimate salvation? (Verses 9-10)
2. What did he desire of them? (Verses 11-12)
3. How is the divine promise to Abraham an example of our assurance of salvation? (Verses 13-18)

C. Thought Questions

1. How confident can we be of our ultimate salvation? (Verse 11)
2. What is the value of hope? (Verses 19-20; cf. Romans 8:24-25)

VII. Summary

A. Leave the Elementary Principles

B. Hope: the Anchor of the Soul

Lesson Eight
A Great High Priest
Memory Verse: Hebrews 7:25

I. Reading Assignment: Hebrews chapter 7

II. Review

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|--|--|
| 1. Who probably wrote Hebrews? | 11. Chapter One: The Son of God |
| 2. To whom did he write? | 12. Chapter Two |
| 3. What was their spiritual state? | a. So Great a Salvation |
| 4. What is the purpose of the book? | b. The Son of Man |
| 5. What evidence is there for the date of the book? | 13. Chapter Three |
| 6. From where does it seem to have been written? | a. Worthy of More Glory Than Moses |
| 7. What plan does the author use in accomplishing his purpose? | b. Do Not Harden Your Hearts |
| 8. What is the key word of Hebrews? | 14. Chapter Four: A Rest to the People of God |
| 9. What is the key phrase? | 15. Chapter Five: Called by God as High Priest |
| 10. How can we use Hebrews? | 16. Chapter Six |
| | a. Leave the Elementary Principles |
| | b. Hope: the Anchor of the Soul |

III. Christ is a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.

Please read Hebrews 6:20 - 7:3.

A. Terms to Define

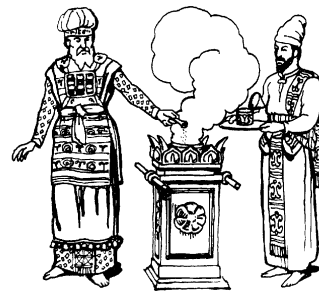
- | | |
|------------|----------|
| 1. priests | 3. Salem |
| 2. order | |

B. Person to Identify

Aaron

C. Discussion Question

What does it mean for Christ to be “high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek? (Hebrews 6:20 - 7:3)



IV. Christ is a better high priest.

Please read Hebrews 7:4-28.

A. Terms to Define

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. patriarch | 5. tribe |
| 2. tithes | 6. surety |
| 3. Levitical priesthood | 7. intercession |
| 4. Judah | |

B. Discussion Questions

1. How great was Melchidezek? (Verses 4-10)
2. Why was another priesthood essential? (Verse 11)
3. Why was a change of law essential? (Verses 12-14)
4. What is the basis of the high priesthood of Christ? (Verses 15-17)
5. Why was the law annulled? (Verses 18-19)
6. How does the matter of an oath demonstrate the superiority of the high priesthood of Christ? (Verses 20-21)
7. How does the everlasting life of Christ prove the superiority of His high priesthood? (Verses 22-24)
8. What is the result for our salvation? (Verse 25)
9. How great is our High Priest? (Verses 26-27)
10. How does His high priesthood compare to the high priests of the law? (Verse 28)

III. Special Report

A High Priest After the Order of Melchizedek

IV. Summary

- A. Christ a High Priest after the Order of Melchizedek
- B. A Better High Priest

Lesson Nine
The Main Point
Memory Verse: Hebrews 8:6

I. Reading Assignment: Hebrews chapter 8

II. Review

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Who probably wrote Hebrews? | 12. Chapter Two |
| 2. To whom did he write? | a. So Great a Salvation |
| 3. What was their spiritual state? | b. The Son of Man |
| 4. What is the purpose of the book? | 13. Chapter Three |
| 5. What evidence is there for the date of the book? | a. Worthy of More Glory Than Moses |
| 6. From where does it seem to have been written? | b. Do Not Harden Your Hearts |
| 7. What plan does the author use in accomplishing his purpose? | 14. Chapter Four: A Rest to the People of God |
| 8. What is the key word of Hebrews? | 15. Chapter Five: Called by God as High Priest |
| 9. What is the key phrase? | 16. Chapter Six: Leave the Elementary Principles |
| 10. How can we use Hebrews? | 17. Chapter Seven |
| 11. Chapter One: The Son of God | a. Christ a High Priest after the Order of Melchizedek |
| | b. A Better High Priest |

III. Christ, our high priest, having accomplished His sacrifice, is now seated next to God in heaven.

 Please read Hebrews 8:1.

A. Terms to Define

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 1. right hand | 2. throne of the majesty in the heavens |
|---------------|---|

B. Discussion Questions

1. Where is Christ now?
2. How much authority does He have? (cf. Matthew 28:18)

IV. The high priesthood of Aaron was but a figure of the high priesthood of Christ.

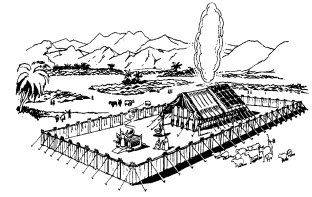
 Please read Hebrews 8:1-5.

A. Terms to Define

- | | |
|---------------|-----------|
| 1. sanctuary | 3. copy |
| 2. tabernacle | 4. shadow |

B. Thought Questions

1. How does the high priesthood of Aaron compare to that of Christ? (Verses 1-5)
2. Is there a divine pattern we must follow? (Verse 5)



V. A Better Covenant

Please read Hebrews 8:6-13

A. Terms to Define

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1. ministry | 5. Israel |
| 2. Mediator | 6. unrighteousness |
| 3. first covenant | 7. obsolete |
| 4. new covenant | |

B. Special Report

A Better Covenant

VI. Summary

- A. A Better High Priest
- B. A Better Covenant



Lesson Ten
A Greater and More Perfect Tabernacle
Memory Verse: Hebrews 9:13-14

I. Reading Assignment: Hebrews 9:1-14

II. Review

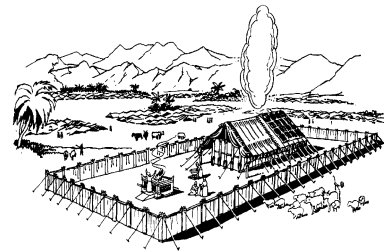
1. Who probably wrote Hebrews?
2. To whom did he write?
3. What was their spiritual state?
4. What is the purpose of the book?
5. What evidence is there for the date of the book?
6. From where does it seem to have been written?
7. What plan does the author use in accomplishing his purpose?
8. What is the key word of Hebrews?
9. What is the key phrase?
10. How can we use Hebrews?
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12. Chapter Two
 - a. So Great a Salvation
 - b. The Son of Man
13. Chapter Three
 - a. Worthy of More Glory Than Moses
 - b. Do Not Harden Your Hearts
14. Chapter Four: A Rest to the People of God
15. Chapter Five: Called by God as High Priest
16. Chapter Six: Leave the Elementary Principles
17. Chapter Seven
 - a. Christ a High Priest after the Order of Melchizedek
 - b. A Better High Priest
18. Chapter Eight
 - a. A Better High Priest
 - b. A Better Covenant

I. The Earthly Sanctuary

Please read Hebrews 9:1-10

A. Terms to Define

1. earthly sanctuary
2. showbread
3. Holiest of all
4. censer
5. ark
6. manna
7. cherubim
8. mercy seat
9. conscience

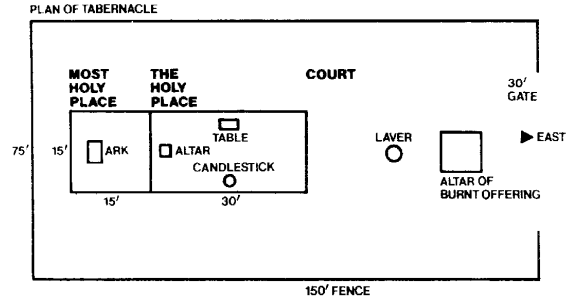


B. Discussion Questions

Describe the tabernacle built by Moses and the significance of each part, including the priestly service. (Verses 1-7)

C. Thought Questions

1. What did the service of the Day of Atonement signify? (Verses 7-9; cf. Leviticus chapter 16)
2. To what did it pertain? (Verses 9-10)



II. Eternal Redemption

Please read Hebrews 9:11-14.

A. Term to Define

redemption

B. Discussion Questions

1. What are “the good things to come” in Christ? (Verse 11)
2. What is the difference in sacrifice between the Old Covenant and the New? (Verses 12-14)

C. Thought Question

How important is Christ to our redemption?

III. Summary

- A. The Earthly Sanctuary
- B. Eternal Redemption

Lesson Eleven
A Better Sacrifice
Memory Verse: Hebrews 9:27-28

I. Reading Assignment: Hebrews 9:15 - 10:18

II. Review

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Who probably wrote Hebrews? | 13. Chapter Three |
| 2. To whom did he write? | a. Worthy of More Glory Than Moses |
| 3. What was their spiritual state? | b. Do Not Harden Your Hearts |
| 4. What is the purpose of the book? | 14. Chapter Four: A Rest to the People of God |
| 5. What evidence is there for the date of the book? | 15. Chapter Five: Called by God as High Priest |
| 6. From where does it seem to have been written? | 16. Chapter Six: Leave the Elementary Principles |
| 7. What plan does the author use in accomplishing his purpose? | 17. Chapter Seven |
| 8. What is the key word of Hebrews? | a. Christ a High Priest after the Order of Melchizedek |
| 9. What is the key phrase? | b. A Better High Priest |
| 10. How can we use Hebrews? | 18. Chapter Eight |
| 11. Chapter One: The Son of God | a. A Better High Priest |
| 12. Chapter Two | b. A Better Covenant |
| a. So Great a Salvation | 19. Chapter Nine |
| b. The Son of Man | a. The Earthly Sanctuary |
| | b. Eternal Redemption |

II. The Mediator of the New Covenant

Please read Hebrews 9:15-28.

A. Terms to Define

- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| 1. redemption | 5. hyssop |
| 2. inheritance | 6. remission |
| 3. testament | 7. heaven |
| 4. testator | 8. ages |

B. Discussion Questions

1. Why does the making of a covenant demand death? (Verse 15; cf. Genesis 15:18-21)
2. What did the death of Christ do for the sins committed under the Old Covenant? (Verse 15)

3. What reward did His death bring? (Verse 15)
4. Could the New Testament be in force without the death of Christ? (Verses 16-17)
5. How does this compare to the dedication of the Old Covenant? (Verses 18-21; cf. Exodus 24:1-8)
6. Can there be remission of sins without shedding of blood? (Verse 22; cf. Leviticus 17:11)
7. Why does the New Covenant demand better sacrifice than the Old? (Verses 23-24)
8. How many times must Christ be offered to effect eternal salvation? (Verses 25-26)
9. What is the purpose of His return? (Verses 27-28)

C. Thought Questions

1. Is the doctrine of reincarnation true?
2. Is Christ sacrificed again each time a Catholic priest says Mass?
“The Mass today is the same as the Last Supper. The priest at Mass brings down upon the altar, our Lord Jesus Christ, offers Him to God for our sins, and gives Him to the people in Holy Communion” (Instructions in the Catholic Faith. 7)

III. A Better Sacrifice

Please read Hebrews 10:1-18.

A. Terms to Define

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| 1. image | 3. offering |
| 2. consciousness | 4. burnt offerings |

B. Discussion Questions

1. Could the law bring perfection? (Verse 1)
2. How do we know? (Verse 2)
3. What did the sacrifices of the law do? (Verse 3)
4. Why could these sacrifices not perfect the worshipers? (Verse 4)
5. How does the law testify to this? (Verses 5-9)
6. What did the sacrifice of Christ accomplish? (Verse 10)

7. How does the sacrificial work of Christ contrast with that of the Old Testament priests? (Verses 11-14)

8. How does the Holy Spirit testify to this? (Verses 15-17)

9. What is the result? (Verse 18)

C. Thought Question

What does the sacrifice of Christ accomplish for the obedient believer? (Verse 14).

IV. Summary

A. The Mediator of the New Covenant

B. A Better Sacrifice

† The one offering of Jesus Christ need never be repeated and can never be replaced.



Lesson Twelve

Let Us

Memory Verse: Hebrews 10:24-25

I. Reading Assignment: Hebrews 10:19-39

II. Review

1. Who probably wrote Hebrews?
2. To whom did he write?
3. What was their spiritual state?
4. What is the purpose of the book?
5. What evidence is there for the date of the book?
6. From where does it seem to have been written?
7. What plan does the author use in accomplishing his purpose?
8. What is the key word of Hebrews?
9. What is the key phrase?
10. How can we use Hebrews?
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12. Chapter Two
 - a. So Great a Salvation
 - b. The Son of Man
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 - a. Worthy of More Glory Than Moses
 - b. Do Not Harden Your Hearts
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15. Chapter Five: Called by God as High Priest
16. Chapter Six: Leave the Elementary Principles
17. Chapter Seven
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 - b. A Better High Priest
18. Chapter Eight
 - a. A Better High Priest
 - b. A Better Covenant
19. Chapter Nine
 - a. The Earthly Sanctuary
 - b. Eternal Redemption
 - c. The Mediator of the New Covenant
20. Chapter Ten: A Better Sacrifice

III. Let Us

Please read Hebrews 10:19-31.

A. Term to Define indignation

B. Discussion Questions

1. What do we have through Christ to provide salvation? (Verses 19-21)

C. Thought Questions

1. How do we “draw near to God”? (Verse 22)
2. What are the prerequisites for acceptable prayer? (Verse 22)
3. What does it mean to have “our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water”? (verse 22)
4. What is the purpose of water baptism? Is it essential to salvation? Does this mean water saves us? (Verse 22)

5. How do we “hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering”? (verse 23)
6. Why should we do so? (Verse 23)
7. How do we “consider one another in order to stir up love and good works”? (verses 24-25)
8. What is the “the Day” of this passage? (Verse 25)
9. Should we be faithful in assembling with the church? (Verses 24-25)
10. What does it mean to “sin willfully”? (verse 26; cf. “go on sinning willfully” [**New American Standard Bible**], “go on sinning deliberately” [**English Standard Version**]; cf. Numbers 15:30-31)?
11. What is the punishment for doing so? (Verse 27)
12. Why is the punishment so severe? (Verses 28-29)
13. Should we fear falling away from the Lord? (Verses 30-31)

IV. Do Not Cast Away Your Confidence

Please read Hebrews 10:32-39.

A. Terms to Define

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| 1. illuminated | 4. endurance |
| 2. reproaches | 5. draw back |
| 3. tribulations | 6. perdition |

B. Discussion Questions

1. What memories did the Hebrew Christians have to encourage them to endure? (Verses 32-34)
2. What present exhortations to steadfastness did the writer give? (Verses 35-38)
3. What future promise? (Verse 36)

C. Thought Questions

1. What does it mean to be justified by faith? (Habakkuk 2:4; Romans 1:16-17; Galatians 3:11; Hebrews 10:38)
2. What coming is the writer promising? (Verse 37; cf. Habakkuk 2:3; Hebrews 10:25; Luke 21:28,32)

Special Report
Let Us

Lesson Thirteen

Now Faith Is

Memory Verse: Hebrews 11:1

I. Reading Assignment: Hebrews 11:1-19

II. Review

1. Who probably wrote Hebrews?
2. To whom did he write?
3. What was their spiritual state?
4. What is the purpose of the book?
5. What evidence is there for the date of the book?
6. From where does it seem to have been written?
7. What plan does the author use in accomplishing his purpose?
8. What is the key word of Hebrews?
9. What is the key phrase?
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15. Chapter Five: Called by God as High Priest
16. Chapter Six: Leave the Elementary Principles
17. Chapter Seven
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18. Chapter Eight
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 - b. A Better Covenant
19. Chapter Nine
 - a. The Earthly Sanctuary
 - b. Eternal Redemption
 - c. The Mediator of the New Covenant
20. Chapter Ten
 - a. A Better Sacrifice
 - b. Let Us
 - c. Do Not Cast Away Your Confidence

III. Special Reports

1. Now Faith Is
2. By Faith Sarah

IV. Terms to Define

1. substance
2. evidence
3. elders
4. worlds
5. righteousness
6. pilgrims

V. Thought Questions

1. How does Abel exemplify faith? (Verse 4; cf. Genesis 4:3-5)
2. How does Enoch? (Verse 5; cf. Genesis 5:22, 24)

3. What about Noah? (Verse 7; cf. Genesis 6:12-22; 7:1)
4. How did Abraham show his faith? (Verses 8-10; Genesis 11:31 - 12:7; Acts 7:2-5)
5. What motivated Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob? (Verses 9-10; cf. Genesis 12:8; Genesis 23:1-4; 28:4; 47:9)
6. What was the hope of the ancient people of faith? (Verses 13-16)
7. What is their reward? (Verse 16)
8. What was the ultimate demonstration of Abraham's faith? (Verses 17-19; Genesis 22:1-18)

VI. Summary

Faith

Lesson Fourteen
So Great a Cloud of Witnesses
Memory Verse: Hebrews 11:39-40

I. Reading Assignment: Hebrews 11:20-40

II. Review

1. Who probably wrote Hebrews?
2. To whom did he write?
3. What was their spiritual state?
4. What is the purpose of the book?
5. What evidence is there for the date of the book?
6. From where does it seem to have been written?
7. What plan does the author use in accomplishing his purpose?
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 - b. A Better Covenant
19. Chapter Nine
 - a. The Earthly Sanctuary
 - b. Eternal Redemption
 - c. The Mediator of the New Covenant
20. Chapter Ten
 - a. A Better Sacrifice
 - b. Let Us
 - c. Do Not Cast Away Your Confidence
21. Chapter Eleven: Faith

III. Special Report
Salvation by Faith

IV. Terms to Define

1. affliction
2. Passover

V. Discussion Questions

1. How did Isaac blessing Jacob and Esau demonstrate faith? (Verse 20; cf. Genesis 25:20-28; chapter 27; 28:1-4)
2. How did Jacob blessing Joseph's sons show faith? (Verse 21; cf. Genesis 48:1-20; 47:29-31)
3. How did Joseph show faith as he was dying? (Verse 22; Genesis 50:24-26; Exodus 13:19; Joshua 24:32)

4. How did Moses' parents show their faith? (Verse 23; cf. Exodus 1:6 - 2:9; Acts 7:17-20)
5. How was Moses' faith expressed when he was forty? (Verses 24-26; cf. Exodus 2:10-15; Acts 7:22-25)
6. What about when he was eighty? (Verses 27-29; cf. Exodus chapters 3-12)
7. How did Israel show faith at Jericho? (Verse 30; Joshua chapter 6)
8. How did Rahab demonstrate faith? (Verse 31; Joshua chapter 2; 6:22-25)
9. Tell of the faith of
 - a. Gideon (verse 32; Judges 6:11 - 7:23)
 - b. Barak (verse 32; Judges chapter 4)
 - c. Samson (verse 32; Judges 15:9-17; 16:21-30)
 - d. Jephthah (verse 32; Judges chapter 1)
 - e. David (verse 32; 1 Samuel chapter 17; Acts 13:22)
 - f. Samuel (verse 32; 1 Samuel 3:1-10, 19-20; 15:22-23)
10. What of the great cloud of witnesses? (Verses 33-38)

VI. Thought Questions

1. Did God approve Rahab's lie? (Verse 31)
2. How was Samson an example of saving faith? (Verse 32)
3. How could the not be made perfect apart from us? (Verses 39-40)

VII. Summary

Salvation by Faith

Lesson Fifteen

Exhortations

Memory Verse: Hebrews 12:28-29

I. Reading Assignment: Hebrews chapter 12

II. Review

1. Who probably wrote Hebrews?
2. To whom did he write?
3. What was their spiritual state?
4. What is the purpose of the book?
5. What evidence is there for the date of the book?
6. From where does it seem to have been written?
7. What plan does the author use in accomplishing his purpose?
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 - b. A Better Covenant
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 - b. Eternal Redemption
 - c. The Mediator of the New Covenant
20. Chapter Ten
 - a. A Better Sacrifice
 - b. Let Us
 - c. Do Not Cast Away Your Confidence
21. Chapter Eleven: Faith

III. Let Us Run with Endurance

Please read Hebrews 12:1-3.

A. Terms to Define

1. cloud of witnesses
2. author
3. finisher
4. despising

B. Discussion Questions

1. To what is the life of the Christian compared? (Verse 1)
2. How do we prepare to live this life? (Verse 1)
3. To what examples do we look for encouragement? (Verses 1-2)
4. How is Jesus our greatest example? (Verses 2-3)

IV. Divine Discipline

Please read Hebrews 12:4 - 11.

A. Terms to Define

- | | |
|---------------|-------------|
| 1. striving | 3. scourges |
| 2. despise | 4. holiness |
| 3. chastening | |

B. Discussion Questions

1. How do our struggles against sin compare with those of the “great cloud of witnesses” of chapter eleven and of the Lord?
2. What should our attitude be concerning suffering for our faith? (Verse 5; cf. Proverbs 3:11-12)
3. Why? (Verses 6-8)
4. How does divine discipline compare to parental discipline? (Verses 9-10)
5. What are the benefits of discipline? (Verse 11)

C. Thought Question

Should parents discipline their children?

D. Special Report

Divine Discipline

V. Make Straight Paths

Hebrews 12:12-17

A. Terms to Define

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| 1. peace | 5. fornicator |
| 2. holiness | 6. profane |
| 3. root of bitterness | 7. repentance |
| 4. defiled | |

B. Discussion Questions

1. How can we be successful in our journey to heaven? (Verses 12-14; cf. Isaiah 35:3; Proverbs 4:26; Psalm 34:14)
2. Of what dangers must we be aware? (Verses 15-16; cf. Deuteronomy 29:18)

C. Thought Question

Was Esau unable to repent of ungodliness or unable to get his father to change his mind about the promise? (Verse 17; cf. Genesis 25:29-34; 27:1-40)

VI. Earthly Sinai and Heavenly Zion

Please read Hebrews 12:18-24.

A. Terms to Define

- | | |
|-----------|--------------|
| 1. church | 2. firstborn |
|-----------|--------------|

B. Discussion Question

What was the chief characteristic of the Old Covenant? (Verses 18-21; cf. Exodus 19:9-24; 20:18-21; Deuteronomy 5:22-25)

C. Thought Questions

1. In coming to Christ, to what have we come? (Verses 22-24)
2. How does the blood of Christ speak better things than the blood of Abel? (Verse 24; cf. Genesis 4:8-10)

VII. Listen to the Voice of God!

Please read Hebrews 12:25-29.

A. Term to Define

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| 1. grace | 3. godly fear |
| 2. reverence | |

B. Discussion Questions

1. What should the foregoing observations cause us to do? (Verse 25)
2. Why? (Ibid)
3. When God speaks again, what will be the result? (Verses 26-27)
4. What will then remain? (Verses 27-28)
5. How should we then serve God? (Verse 28)
6. Why? (Verse 29)

VIII. Summary

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| A. Let Us Run with Endurance | D. Earthly Sinai and Heavenly Zion |
| B. Divine Discipline | E. Listen to the Voice of God! |
| C. Make Straight Paths | |

Lesson Sixteen
The Sanctified Life
Memory Verse: Hebrews 13:8

I. Reading Assignment: Hebrews chapter 13

II. Review

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Who probably wrote Hebrews? | 16. Chapter Six: Leave the Elementary Principles |
| 2. To whom did he write? | 17. Chapter Seven |
| 3. What was their spiritual state? | a. Christ a High Priest after the Order of Melchizedek |
| 4. What is the purpose of the book? | b. A Better High Priest |
| 5. What evidence is there for the date of the book? | 18. Chapter Eight |
| 6. From where does it seem to have been written? | a. A Better High Priest |
| 7. What plan does the author use in accomplishing his purpose? | b. A Better Covenant |
| 8. What is the key word of Hebrews? | 19. Chapter Nine |
| 9. What is the key phrase? | a. The Earthly Sanctuary |
| 10. How can we use Hebrews? | b. Eternal Redemption |
| 11. Chapter One: The Son of God | c. The Mediator of the New Covenant |
| 12. Chapter Two | 20. Chapter Ten |
| a. So Great a Salvation | a. A Better Sacrifice |
| b. The Son of Man | b. Let Us |
| 13. Chapter Three | c. Do Not Cast Away Your Confidence |
| a. Worthy of More Glory Than Moses | 21. Chapter Eleven: Faith |
| b. Do Not Harden Your Hearts | 22. Chapter 12 |
| 14. Chapter Four: A Rest to the People of God | a. Let Us Run with Endurance |
| 15. Chapter Five: Called by God as High Priest | b. Divine Discipline |
| | c. Make Straight Paths |
| | d. Earthly Sinai and Heavenly Zion |
| | e. Listen to the Voice of God! |

III. Terms to Define

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| 1. brotherly love | 4. doctrines |
| 2. adulterers | 5. altar |
| 3. covetousness | 6. word of exhortation |

IV. Special Reports

- | | |
|------------------------|------------|
| A. The Sanctified Life | B. Leaders |
|------------------------|------------|

V. Summary

The Sanctified Life

Glossary

A

Aaron - elder brother of Moses, first high priest of Israel, from whom all priests of the law of Moses descended
adulterers - one who has intercourse with the spouse of another
affliction - ill treatment, torment
ages - periods marked by spiritual or moral characteristics
altar - metonymy for the sacrifice of Christ
angels - ones sent, created spirit beings who act as messengers of God
apostle - delegate, messenger, one sent forth with orders
ark - the chest which contained the tables of stone upon which were written the Ten Commandments, a golden bowl of manna, and Aaron's rod that budded
author - same Greek word as "captain" (2:10)

B

baptisms - washings, both those of the Law and New Testament baptism
boldly - with free and fearless confidence, cheerful courage, assurance
brightness - radiance, reflected brightness
brotherly love - the love which Christians cherish for each other as brethren
burnt offerings - a sacrificial a victim, the whole (and not like other victims only a part) of which was burned

C

calling - means properly a call, a summons, an invitation; and hence by metonymy it means also the state or condition into which anyone is called
captain - originator, prime author, one who takes the lead in or provides the first occasion of anything
censer - a container to hold burning coals and incense
chastening - discipline, the whole training and education of children (which relates to the cultivation of mind and morals, and employs for this purpose now commands and admonitions, now reproof and punishment); also includes the training and care of the body 2) whatever in adults also cultivates the soul, especially by correcting mistakes and curbing passions.
cherubim - winged figures representing heavenly beings around the throne of God
church - spiritual, figurative assembly of those who have been called out of the sinful world into fellowship with God through Christ
cloud of witnesses - great audience of those who chose to die rather than renounce their faith (witnesses, *martyrs*)
compassion - be gentle
confession - avowal of faith before men
confidence - cheerful courage, boldness, assurance
confirmation - establishment, making secure
conscience - a consciousness of guilt or innocence
consciousness - conscience

consolation - encouragement
copy - representation, figure
covenant - agreement, compact
covetousness - greed

D

dead works - works that lead to death, i.e., sins (cf. Hebrews 9:14)
defiled - polluted, contaminated with sin
despise - care little for, regard lightly, make small account (different Greek word than "despising")
despising - thinking little of, disregarding
diligence - earnestness, enthusiasm
doctrines - things taught
draw back - the timidity of one stealthily retreating

E

earthly sanctuary - a holy place of this present, physical world
elders - forefathers, people of ancient times
endurance - steadfastness, constancy, the characteristic of a man who is not swerved from his deliberate purpose and his loyalty to faith and piety by even the greatest trials and suffering
enlightened - given saving knowledge
eternal - without end, never to cease, everlasting
evidence - conviction based on proof
express image - exact representation

F

faith - conviction, trust, belief
faithful - reliable, trustworthy
finisher - perfecter, completer
firstborn - those who receive the preeminent place in the household
first covenant - law given through Moses at Mt. Sinai to fleshly nation of Israel
first principles - rudiments, primary and fundamental principles
fornicator - one who has sexual relations outside a divinely approved marriage
full assurance - entire confidence
full grown - mature

G

gifts - meal offerings
glory - splendor
godly fear - reverence to God, seeking His favor
grace
2:9 - undeserved favor
12:28 - gratitude

H

heavenly - what pertains to, or is in, heaven
heaven - the abode of God
heavens - the abode of God in the spiritual realm
herbs - vegetation
high priest - chief of priests, who alone can enter the holy of holies to offer the blood of atonement for the people of God
hold fast - hold in a firm grasp, to have in full and secure possession
holiness - separateness from sin, sanctification of heart and life
Holiest of all - Most Holy Place of the tabernacle, where only the high priest could go and only on the Day of Atonement to offer the blood sacrifices for his own sins and for those of the people, figure of heaven as dwelling place of God
holy - separate from common condition and use; dedicated
Holy Spirit - divine Person other than the Father and the Son
hope - expectant desire
house - the members of a household or family
hyssop - low, shrubby plant used by Jews in ritual sprinklings

I

illuminated - same as enlightened
image - likeness
immutability - unchangableness, fixed, unalterable
indignation - fury, zeal for punishment
inheritance
 1:4 - by virtue of His name or who He is
 9:15 - the portion or heritage which one receives by virtue of birth or by special gift
intercession - pleading the cause of
Israel - the family or descendants of Israel (Jacob), the nation of Israel

J - K - L

Judah - tribe from which King David and Christ Jesus his heir descended
kingdom - royal power, kingship, dominion, rule, reign
Levitical priesthood - priesthood of the tribe of Levi, consisting of the male descendants of Aaron, the brother of Moses, of the tribe of Levi

M

manna - "What is this?", food the Lord miraculously supplied Israelite while in the desert
Mediator - a go between, one who intervenes between two, either in order to make or restore peace and friendship, or form a compact, or for ratifying a covenant
Melchizedek - King of Salem, and priest of the most high God, who met Abram in the valley of Shaveh, which is the king's valley, brought out bread and wine, blessed him, and received tithes from him (Genesis 14:18-20). He had no revealed precursor or successors.
merciful - the outward manifestation of pity; it assumes need on the part of him who receives it, and resources adequate to meet the need on the part of him who shows it

mercy - love that helps the wretched, the outward manifestation of pity; it assumes need on the part of him who receives it, and resources adequate to meet the need on the part of him who shows it
mercy seat - lid or cover of the ark of the covenant, signifies the Propitiatory, so called on account of the expiation made once a year on the great Day of Atonement
ministered - served
ministers - public servants
ministry - sacred service of the priests relative to the prayers and sacrifices offered to God
miracles - acts demonstrating the direct power of God

N - O

new covenant - law given through Christ for all mankind that replaced the old covenant
oath - in swearing to call a person or thing as witness
obsolete - old, worn out
offering - the sacrificial victims as something offered to God
oracles of God - divine word revealed in Scripture
order - regular arrangement, distinctive class, fixed succession

P

partakers - sharing or participating in
Passover - the last meal of Israel in Egypt, eaten in preparation for the journey, while the Lord, passing over the houses of the Hebrews, was slaying the firstborn of Egypt; the annual festival being in memory of that event
patience - endurance, perseverance, constancy, steadfastness, fortitude
patriarch - father of a clan, tribe, or nation
peace - harmony, concord, tranquility, absence of turmoil
perdition - complete destruction
perfect - complete
perfected - made complete
person - nature, substantial quality, essence, real nature
pilgrims - foreigners, aliens
priests - those who are chosen by God to act as mediators between God and men, who offer sacrifices to God for the sins of the people and teach the people the law of God
profane - godless, one who turns his back on holy things to focus on fleshly gratification
propitiation - appeasement, conciliation
purged - made purification for, cleansed

Q-R

redemption - release, deliverance on receipt of ransom
rejoicing - that of which one glories or can glory, matter or ground of glorying
remission - dismissal, release, forgiveness or pardon, of sins (letting them go as if they had never been committed)
repentance (Hebrews 6:1) - a change of will, preceded by godly sorrow and leading to a changed life
repentance (Hebrews 12:17) - a change of mind

reproaches - insults

rest (*katapausis*; Hebrews 4:1, 3, 5, 10, 11) - a state of settled or final rest

rest (*sabbatismos*; Hebrews 4:9) - keeping sabbath, entering the rest of God in heaven

reverence - respect for the divine

righteousness - the character or quality of being right or just

right hand - place of highest honor

root of bitterness - from Deuteronomy 29:18, false hearted person who professes faith but does not really believe

S

Sabbath - rest

sacrifices - slain beasts, blood sacrifices

salvation - deliverance, preservation

Salem - means "peace," city of which Melchizedek was king, apparently city later called Jerusalem (Psalm 76:2)

sanctifies - separates from common or profane things and consecrates to God

sanctuary - literally, "holies," plural form of the most holy place, where God met with the high priest on the Day of Atonement (Leviticus chapter 16), a figure of heaven as the abode of God

scepter- king's staff

scourges - punishes, whips, chastises

senses - powers of discernment

shadow - insubstantial, dim outline

showbread - bread of the face, or presence, because it was always before the presence of the Lord

signs - miracles from viewpoint of purpose

steadfast - firm, stable, reliable, unalterable

striving - struggling

substance - lit. a standing under, support, assurance

surety - guarantee

T

tabernacle - literally, a tent or booth, tent in which the priests ministered to God, a figure of heaven

taste - figuratively, experience

tempted - tried, made test of, enticed

testament - disposition which one makes of his earthly possessions after his death, will

testator - the one who made the will

tithes - a tenth

transgression - a stepping by the side, violation of law

tribe - descendants of one of the twelve sons of Jacob (Israel) or of his grandsons, Ephraim or Manasseh

throne of grace - designed to represent a sovereign seated to dispense mercy and pardon

throne of the majesty in the heavens - Jewish indirect reference to God out of reverence

tribulations - pressure, affliction, distressing circumstances, trials, suffering

U - V

unrighteousness - a deed or deeds violating law and justice

vehement - strong, mighty, loud

W-X-Y-Z

wonders - miracles from viewpoint of effect on beholders

word of exhortation - the address a Jewish male could make to the synagogue audience (cf. Acts 13:15)

“world to come” - the kingdom of Christ, now a reality on earth but completed in the future in heaven (Hebrews 2:5; 6:4-5)

worlds - universe

Special Reports

I. Christ, the Son of God

Introduction

Text: Hebrews 1:1-4

Introduction:

A. We need two things to be right with God.

1. Knowledge of His will - Psalm 119:33

2. Redemption from sin - Isaiah 6:5

B. We should hear Christ.- Hebrews 2:1

C. We should hear Him because He is:

I. God's Authorized Spokesman - verses 1-2

A. God spoke in times past by the prophets. - 2 Peter 1:20-21

B. These are the last days. - Isaiah 2:2; Acts 2:16-17

C. He now speaks by his Son. - Matthew 17:1-5; 11:27-30; John 12:48-49

II. Appointed Heir - verse 2

A. By right of inheritance He rules all things. - Psalm 2:7-8

B. Our hope of inheritance is in Him. - Romans 8:16-17

III. Executive Creator - verse 2

A. He was with the Father in the beginning. - John 1:1-2,14

B. Through him the worlds were made. - Hebrews 11:3; John 1:3; Colossians 1:16

IV. Express Image - verse 3

A. He is the "brightness" of the Father's "glory." - John 14:7-9; "... as the radiance of the Sun is to the Sun itself, so is Christ, the Son of God, to the Father" (Milligan. 53) .

B. He is the "express image" ("exact representation" - Arndt & Gingrich. 884, **NASB**); "exact expression" - Mounce. 1309), "exact imprint" (**ESV**) of the Father's "person" ("nature" - **NASB, ESV**).

1. He has the same nature as the Father. - Philippians 2:5-6; Colossians 2:9

2. He was God in human flesh. - 1 Timothy 3:16

V. Powerful Sustainer - verse 3; Colossians 1:17

VI. Effective Redeemer - verse 3

A. Because of our sins we need purification.- Romans 3:23; 6:23

B. What countless thousands of continuing animal sacrifices could not do, Christ, in the one offering of Himself, has accomplished forever.- Hebrews 10:4,14

VII. Exalted Monarch - verse 3; cf. Psalm 110:1; Acts 2:29-36

Conclusion:

- A. Indeed, Christ is the “more excellent” spokesman for God. - Hebrews 1:4
- B. Therefore, we should hear him.- Hebrews 2:1-4

II. Christ, the Son of Man

Text: Hebrews 2:5-18

Introduction:

- A. The greatest stumbling block of the gospel to a Jew was and is the suffering Messiah. - 1 Corinthians 1:23; cf. Pi
- B. In Hebrews one the writer presents Christ as the Son of God. - divine, the Prophet of God, our King, greater than angels who ministered the Old Covenant
- C. If Jesus is greater than angels, why did He suffer and die a shameful death as a man?

I. The Importance of the Question

- A. The writer had just exhorted the Hebrews to follow Christ rather than angels. - Hebrews 2:1
- B. He had done this on the basis that Christ is greater than angels. - Hebrews 1:4
- C. But angels are greater than men. - Psalm 8:4-5
- D. And Christ suffered and died as a man. - Mark 8:31

II. The Answer

- A. Jesus’ suffering as a man restores man’s lost dominion. - Hebrews 2:5-9
 - 1. The “world to come” is the kingdom of Christ, now a reality on earth but completed in the future in heaven. - Hebrews 2:5; 6:4-5; Colossians 1:13; Acts 14:21-22; Romans 4:13
 - 2. Man rather than angels was given rule over all. - Hebrews 2:6-8a; Psalm 8:3-6; Genesis 1:26-28
 - 3. Man lost this dominion through sin. - Hebrews 2:8; Genesis 3:16-19,22-24
 - 4. Through Jesus’ suffering as a man, our lost dominion is restored. - Hebrews 2:9
- B. Jesus had to become a man in order that (7 reasons)
 - 1. He could die for us.- Hebrews 2:9b
 - 2. He might be perfected as Savior. - Hebrews 2:10
 - a. “captain”: “founder” (ESV), “author” (NASB), “someone who begins something in order that others may enter into it” (King. 96; quoting Barclay. 18), cf. Acts 3:14-15; 5:31
 - b. “perfect”: “*advance... to final completeness* of character” (Mounce. 289).
 - 3. the sanctified and the Sanctifier might be one (“He sanctified His people by becoming one with them in their humanity” - King. 97). - Hebrews 2:11-13; Psalm 22:22; Isaiah 8:17-18
 - 4. Through death He might destroy him who had the power of death. - Hebrews 2:14-15
 - a. “flesh and blood” - Matthew 16:17
 - b. “him who had the power of death”- Matthew 12:29
 - c. “fear of death ... subject to bondage” - 1 Corinthians 15:55; Philippians 1:21
 - 5. He might give aid to the seed of Abraham. - verse 16; Galatians 3:28-29
 - 6. He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest (first mention of the High Priesthood of Christ in the New Testament) - verse 17
 - 7. He might aid those who are tempted. - verse 18

Conclusion:

- A. Indeed Jesus is the Son of God, divine, better than angels, God's Prophet and our King.
- B. But He is also the Son of man, human; He became a little lower than the angels so He could be our Savior and High Priest.
- C. We should both hear Him and come to Him for salvation.

III. Christ Our Great High Priest

Text: Hebrews 4:14-16

Introduction:

- A. To come into the presence of God is a terrifying thought. - cf. Exodus 19:10-19; 20:18-19
- B. The priesthood arose out of man's needs.
 - 1. We have sin. - Romans 3:23
 - 2. We need one to intercede for us in the presence of God. - Isaiah 59:1-2
- C. What does the high priesthood of Christ mean for us?

I. the High Priest

- A. Melchizedek is the first to be designated a priest.- Genesis 14:18
- B. When Israel became a nation, the priesthood was conferred upon Aaron and his sons.- Exodus 28:1; 29:9
- C. Aaron and his selected heirs were the high priests.- Leviticus 8:12; 21:10; Exodus 29:29-30
- D. The chief function of the high priest was to make atonement for the sins of the people. - Leviticus 16:15-19
- E. Christ alone is our high priest now.- Hebrews 4:14
- F. Every Christian is a priest.- 1 Peter 2:9-10

II. Our High Priest

- A. Great (proven in chapter one) - Hebrews 4:14; 1:1-4; Acts 1:9-11; Hebrews 8:1
- B. Sympathetic (proven in chapter two) - Hebrews 4:15; 2:17-18

III. Let us therefore:

- A. hold fast our confession.- Hebrews 4:14; cf. 3:6,14; 1 John 4:2-3,15
- B. come boldly ("boldly": "*courage, confidence, boldness, fearlessness*" - Arndt & Gingrich. 636) to the throne of grace.- Hebrews 4:16; cf. Exodus 25:17-22; Leviticus 16:1-2; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Conclusion:

- A. We have a great and sympathetic High Priest. - Hebrews 4:14-15
- B. Let us therefore:
 - 1. Hold fast our confession. - Hebrews 4:14
 - 2. Come boldly to the throne of grace. - Hebrews 4:16

IV. Perfection

Text: Hebrews 5:1 - 6:3

Introduction:

- A. Often, when confronted with a sin, one whines, “Well, no one’s perfect.”
- B. To the contrary, we all have the obligation to become perfect. - Hebrews 6:1
- C. How can we “go on to perfection”?

I. Perfection is an attainable goal.

- A. Patriarchal Age
 - 1. Noah - Genesis 6:9
 - 2. Job - Job 1:1,8; 2:3
- B. Mosaic Age
 - 1. Asa - 1 Kings 15:14
 - 2. rich young ruler - Matthew 19:16-21
- C. New Testament Age - 1 Peter 5:10

II. How may we be perfect?

- A. Not by Sinless Lives - Romans 3:23; 1 John 1:8-10; cf. Genesis 9:20-21
- B. But by:
 - 1. sincere, undivided loyalty - 1 Chronicles 29:9
 - 2. all our sins being forgiven - Hebrews 10:14
 - a. by the sacrifice of Christ - Ibid
 - b. by baptism - Ephesians 5:25-27
 - c. by repentance, confession, and prayer - Acts 8:22; 1 John 1:9
 - 3. spiritual maturity - Hebrews 6:1
 - a. able to discern good and evil - Hebrews 5:14
 - b. complete, God-like character - Matthew 5:48; Luke 6:40; Ephesians 4:13
 - (1) study - Hebrews 5:12 - 6:3; Colossians 1:28; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 1 Corinthians 15:34
 - (2) love - Colossians 3:14; 1 John 4:17
 - (3) obedience - Hebrews 13:20-21; James 2: 22
 - (4) striving for heaven - Philippians 3:12-16 (“The perfect Christian realizes he is not perfect” (Robert Welch, **The Christian and Sin**, 125).
 - (5) being conformed to the will of God - Colossians 4:12
 - (6) suffering - 1 Peter 5:10
 - (7) patience - James 1:2-4

Conclusion:

- A. Are you perfect? - 2 Corinthians 13:11
- B. Let us “go on to perfection.” - Hebrews 6:1

V. The Elementary Teaching about Christ

Text: Hebrews 6:1-3

Introduction:

- A. Children must learn the alphabet, but, once they do so, they should go on to higher learning.
- B. So it is with “the elementary principles of Christ.” - Hebrews 6:1; 5:12
- C. What are “the elementary principles of Christ”?

I. The elementary principles the author enumerates

- A. Are things shared by Jews and Christians, so a Jewish Christian relapsing into Judaism might still hold to a Jewish form of these.
- B. Are divided into three pairs:
 - 1. Relationship to God: repentance and faith
 - 2. Relationship to the church: baptisms and laying on of hands
 - 3. Relationship to our hope: resurrection from the dead and eternal judgment

II. The elementary principles

A. Repentance and Faith

1. repentance from dead works

a. Does repentance come before faith?

- (1) Jews had to repent toward God to believe the gospel. - Mark 1:14-15
- (2) Gentiles had to repent toward God to believe in Christ. - Acts 20:21
- (3) What is mentioned first does not necessarily come first in time. - Acts 5:30
- (4) How can one repent toward God if he does not believe in God? - Romans 2:4
- (5) What is the gospel order? - Acts 2:36-38

b. What is “repentance”?

- (1) not sorrow - 2 Corinthians 7:10
- (2) not reformation of life - Luke 3:8-14
- (3) a change of will - Matthew 21:28-29

c. From dead works - verse 1; cf. 9:14; Romans 6:23

d. Is repentance essential? - Acts 3:19; 8:22

2. faith toward God - Habakkuk 2:4

a. What is faith? - Hebrews 11:1,6

b. Is faith essential? - Hebrews 11:6

c. Does faith toward God include faith in Christ? - Hebrews 1:1-2; John 5:22-23; 12:44; 14:1

d. Will faith only save? - James 2:24

B. Baptisms and Laying on of Hands

1. baptisms (“washings” - **NASB, ESV**) - Mark 7:4; Leviticus 15:27; Hebrews 9:10

a. There are several Bible baptisms.

- (1) unto Moses - 1 Corinthians 10:2
- (2) washings of the law - Leviticus 15:27
- (3) John’s baptism - Mark 1:4
- (4) baptism of Jesus’ suffering - Matthew 20:20-23
- (5) baptism with the Holy Spirit - Matthew 3:11; Acts 1:1-5; 2:1-4

- (6) baptism of fire - Matthew 3:11-12
- b. There is but one baptism now.- Ephesians 4:5
 - (1) It is by the authority of Jesus Christ. - Acts 2:38
 - (2) It is in water. - Acts 10:44-48
 - (3) It is a burial. - Romans 6:3,4
 - (4) It is for penitent believers. - Acts 2:36-38
 - (5) It is for the remission of sins. - Acts 2:38
- 2. laying on of hands
 - a. impart spiritual gifts (work of Holy Spirit) - Acts 8:17
 - (1) This power was limited to the apostles. - Acts 8:14-17
 - (2) The spiritual gifts ceased when the New Testament was completed. - 1 Corinthians 13:8-13
 - b. heal the sick, as a spiritual gift - Acts 28:8
 - c. appoint men to serve (offices of church) - Acts 6:3-6
 - d. show fellowship and approval - Acts 13:2-3
- C. Resurrection of the Dead and Eternal Judgment
 - 1. resurrection of the dead - Job 19:26-27; 1 Corinthians 15:20-22; John 5:28-29
 - a. denied by Sadducees - Matthew 22:23
 - b. denied by pagan philosophers - Acts 17:32
 - 2. eternal judgment - Daniel 12:2; Matthew 25:46
 - a. All shall be judged. - Matthew 25:31-32; 2 Corinthians 5:10
 - b. Christ will be the judge. - John 5:22
 - c. His word will be the standard. - John 12:48

III. And this we will do if God permits. - Hebrews 6:3; James 4:13-15; John 15:5

Conclusion:

- A. To be saved, we must believe and follow these principles. - 1 Corinthians 15:1-2
- B. To be mature, we must build on this foundation. - Hebrews 6:1

VI. Impossible to Renew

Introduction:

- A. What a tragic plight when the doctors say, “We can do no more; death is inevitable.”
- B. The Great Physician warns that some patients are terminal. - Hebrews 6:4-8
- C. What is the plight of one who falls away from Christ?

I. Past Condition - Hebrews 6:4-5

- A. “were once enlightened”: said only of true followers of Christ - cf. John 8:12; Hebrews 10:32 (**NASB**)
- B. “have tasted the heavenly gift”
 - 1. tasted - Hebrews 2:9
 - 2. heavenly gift - John 6:33; Romans 6:23
- C. “have become partakers of the Holy Spirit” - Acts 5:32
- D. “have tasted the good word of God” - James 1:21
- E. “the powers of the age to come”
 - 1. powers - Hebrews 2:2-4
 - 2. age to come - Hebrews 2:5-9

II. Present Condition - Hebrews 6:6

- A. “If they fall away” (“and then fell away” - **ASV**; “and then have fallen away” - **NASB**)
 - 1. lose one’s faith - Hebrews 3:12; cf. verse 1
 - 2. become unfaithful - Hebrews 10:26-27 (“if we go on sinning willfully” - **NASB**)
 - 3. leave the faith - Hebrews 10:28-31
- B. “they crucify again for themselves the Son of God” - cf. Matthew 27:15-26
- C. “put Him to an open shame” - cf. Matthew 27:27-31,39-44

III. Plight: Impossible to Renew - Hebrews 6:4-6

- A. This does not mean a fallen sinner cannot return to the Lord. - Acts 8:22; 1 John 1:9
- B. But one can become so hardened of heart it is impossible to reach him. - cf. Acts 28:24-27; e.g. difference between stumbling and falling
- C. Such an apostate is “near to being cursed.” - Hebrews 6:7-8

Conclusion:

- A. What a dreadful plight - beyond the hope of salvation!
- B. Christian, do not slip away from Christ. - Hebrews 3:12
- C. Sinner, repent before your heart becomes too hardened to respond.

VII. A High Priest After the Order of Melchizedek

Hebrews 7:1 - 28

Introduction:

- A. Everyone wants to be a part of the best. - Bryan Vinson said, if he could be anyone else, it would be Harold Sharp. He had the best of everything.
- B. The high priesthood of Christ is the central theme of the book of Hebrews. - 2:17; 3:1; 4:14-15; 5:9-11; 8:1-2
- C. Hebrews seven is the heart of Hebrews, in that its theme is that Christ is better than Aaron as High Priest.

I. Christ is a high priest after the order of Melchizedek. - 6:20 - 7:3

- A. Melchizedek was both king and priest.- verses 1-2; Genesis 14:17-20
 - 1. Melchizedek is the first priest mentioned in the Bible.
 - 2. Melchizedek (“king of righteousness”) - cf. Jeremiah 23:5
 - 3. King of Salem (“king of peace”) - cf. Isaiah 9:6-7
 - 4. Salem = Jerusalem - Psalm 76:2; Judges 1:21; 19:10; 2 Samuel 5:6-9
- B. Melchizedek stands alone in his office, without ancestor or successor in the office.- verse 3

II. Christ is a better High Priest because:

- A. Abraham paid tithes to Melchizedek, thus making Melchizedek superior to Abraham, the father of the Jewish people. - verses 4-6; cf. Matthew 22:41-46
- B. Melchizedek blessed Abraham, again, making him greater than Abraham. - verses 6-7
- C. Levi paid tithes to Melchizedek in Abraham, making Melchizedek greater than Levi.- verses 9-10; Genesis 12:2; Numbers 18:21-28
- D. Perfection is through the priesthood of Christ. - verses 11-19
 - 1. If God’s purpose could have been accomplished by the law, it would have remained. - verse 11; cf. Galatians 2:21; 3:21
 - a. “perfection”- “*completeness* of operation and effect” (Mounce. 1289)
 - b. The purpose of the Law for Israel was to make Israel holy to the Lord. - Exodus 19:6; Leviticus 19:2
 - c. This was accomplished through atonement of blood by the high priest. - Leviticus 16:30-34; 17:11
 - d. But the sacrifices of the law could not cleanse the conscience of sin. - Hebrews 9:9; 10:1,4
 - e. The high priesthood belonged to Aaron and his descendants. - Exodus 28:1; 29:9; Numbers 3:10; Ezra 2:62
 - f. Thus, the Aaronic priesthood is the foundation of the law of Moses - No priesthood of the lineage of Aaron, no law of Moses.
 - 2. But, since Jesus is a priest of the tribe of Judah, there had to be a change of the law.- verses 12-14
 - 3. But, Christ is a priest by divine decree.- verses 15-17; cf. Psalm 110:4 (This passage is the basis of the argument of Hebrews chapter 7.)
 - 4. Therefore, the law was annulled. - verses 18-19
 - a. “weakness”

- b. “unprofitableness” - “uselessness” (NASB, ESV)
- E. Christ was made high priest by an oath. - verse 20-22; cf. Exodus 28:1; 29:1-37; Psalm 110:4; Hebrews 6:17-18
- F. The high priesthood of Christ is unchangeable. - Hebrews 7:23-25
 - 1. “Josephus provides us with the detail that eighty-three high priests served ... from the time of Aaron to the destruction of the Temple in A.D. 70 (*Antiquities of the Jews* 20.227 [x.1])” (Daniel H. King, **The Book of Hebrews**. 231). - cf. verse 23; Exodus 29:29-30; Numbers 20:23-28
 - 2. The perpetual high priesthood of Christ is the ground of our hope. - verses 24-25
 - a. So long as Christ intercedes for us, we can never be lost.- verse 25; cf. John 17:24; Romans 8:34
 - b. But his intercession is conditional. - 1 John 1:7 - 2:2
- G. Christ is the perfect high priest. - Hebrews 7:26-28
 - 1. They had sins, but he has none. - verse 26; cf. Leviticus 16:11; Hebrews 9:7; 4:15
 - 2. They offered daily, but his one offering is good for ever.- verse 27; cf. Leviticus 4:3-21; Hebrews 8:3; 9:12
 - 3. Thus, He is a perfect high priest. - Hebrews 7:28
 - a. by suffering - 2:10
 - b. by obedience - 5:8-9

VIII. A Better Covenant

Hebrews 8:6-13

Introduction:

- A. If a man can prove to me he has a superior product, I am interested.
 - B. The New Covenant is better than the Old. - text
 - 1. The Old Covenant was God’s agreement with fleshly Israel at Sinai.- Deuteronomy 5:1-3
 - 2. The New Covenant is God’s agreement with all men through Christ.- Mark 16:15-16
 - C. How is the New Covenant better than the Old?
- I. Better Promises.- verse 6; cf. Hebrews 6:12; Deuteronomy 5:16; 2 Peter 1:4; 1 John 2:25
- II. Better Adapted to Our Needs - verses 7-9; cf. Jeremiah 31:31-34
- A. The fault of the Old was that it failed to provide for man’s faults. - Romans 3:20
 - B. National Israel’s covenant with God was broken.- verses 8-9; cf. Matthew 21:33-46
 - C. The New Covenant is with the Israel of God.
 - 1. Israel and Judah were one after the captivity.- Ezra 1:5; 2:70; Ezekiel 37:15-28
 - 2. A remnant was to be saved. - Joel 2:32; Romans 11:5
 - 3. Not all Israel is of Israel.- Romans 2:28-29
 - 4. The Israel of God is the church.- Galatians 6:15-16; Philippians 3:3
- III. Better Basis of Citizenship - verses 10-11
- A. Old Covenant: born, then taught- Genesis 17:9-14; Deuteronomy 6:6-7
 - B. New Covenant: taught, then born- John 6:44-45; 1 Peter 1:22-23

IV. Better Forgiveness - verse 12; cf. Hebrews 9:13-14

Conclusion:

- A. The Old has vanished away. - verse 13
- B. Let us serve God under the better.

IX. Let Us

Introduction:

- A. We all face the danger of apostasy.
- C. How can we remain faithful to Christ? - Hebrews 10:19-31

I. "Let us draw near" - Hebrews 10:22

- A. What does it mean to "draw near"? - Hebrews 4:14-16 (**Prayer** the response of **Faith**)
- B. How should we draw near?
 - 1. "true heart"
 - 2. "full assurance of faith" - James 1:6-7
- C. Upon what basis should we draw near?
 - 1. "hearts sprinkled" - Hebrews 9:13-14
 - 2. "bodies washed"

II. "Let us hold fast" - Hebrews 10:23

- A. Hold what? - "the confession of our hope" (**NKJV**) - Hebrews 3:5-6 (**Steadfastness** the response of **Hope**)
- B. Why hold fast? - "for he is faithful that promised"

III. Let us consider one another" - Hebrews 10:24

- A. How do we do this? - Hebrews 10:25 (**Attendance** the response of **Love**)
- B. Why should we do this?
 - a. We show our love for each other. - verse 24
 - b. We are edified. - verse 24
 - c. It is commanded. - verses 24-25

Conclusion:

- A. The way to the holiest is clear for those who heed. - Hebrews 10:19
- B. But terrible punishment awaits backsliders. - Hebrews 10:26-31
- C. Are you doing all you can to remain faithful?

X. Now Faith Is

Hebrews 11:1-3

Introduction:

A. “What the mind of man can conceive and believe, it can achieve” (Napoleon Hill(1937).

Think and Grow Rich).

B. This false statement is simply faith in faith itself.

C. But faith is absolutely essential to salvation. - Hebrews 11:6

D. What is faith?

I. definitions - Hebrews 11:1

A. “substance”

1. “lit. a standing under, support” (W.E. Vine, **An Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words**. 1:85)

2. “assurance” (NASB, ESV)

B. “evidence”

1. “proof, proving ... a proving of (or conviction about) unseen things” (W.F. Arndt & F.W. Gingrich, **A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament**. 248)

2. “conviction” (NASB, ESV)

C. two elements of saving faith - Hebrews 11:6

1. conviction (Thus, we accept what God reveals.)

2. trust (Thus, we obey what God commands in trust He will faithfully reward us.)

II. Faith accepts the unseen as if seen by accepting testimony.

A. Faith begins and ends in the realm of the unseen. - Hebrews 11:3; 2 Corinthians 4:18

B. Because what we believe cannot be scientifically demonstrated doesn’t make our faith unreasonable. - e.g., How do you know Columbus discovered America in 1492?

C. Faith is not a blind leap but the honest acceptance of credible evidence.

III. The evidence is especially strong because it is of divine origin. - Romans 3:3-4

A. We know God is from His first and general revelation, the world. - Romans 1:20

B. We know God’s will through His second and special revelation, the Bible. - Romans 10:17

IV. Faith is the essential means of our salvation. - Hebrews 11:2,6

V. Faith is the guiding principle of the Christian’s life. - 2 Corinthians 5:7

Conclusion:

A. Saving faith will lead you to accept God’s word and obey His commands. - Hebrews 11:7

B. Do you have saving faith? - Acts 8:36-39

XI. By Faith Sarah

Hebrews 11:11-12

Introduction:

- A. "I know the Bible says..., but I think...."
- B. Sarah knew what the Lord had said, but she thought.
- C. How is Sarah an example of saving faith?

I. Sarah's Example

- A. The promise to Abraham did not originally mention Sarah. - Genesis 12:2, 7; 15:1-6
- B. Sarah presumed to help God fulfill the promise. - Genesis chapter 16
- C. Even Abraham did not at first believe he and Sarah would have a son. - Genesis chapter 17
 - 1. Abraham laughed in unbelief. - Genesis 17:17-18
 - 2. The child's name would be "Laughter." - Genesis 17:19
- D. Sarah still did not believe (She laughed in unbelief). - Genesis 18:1-12
- E. But Sarah learned to believe. - Genesis 18:13-15; Hebrews 11:11-12
- F. Then she laughed for joy. - Genesis 21:1-6

II. Lessons

- A. Faith takes God at His Word regardless of human experience. - Genesis 18:14; 1:1; Exodus 20:11; Genesis 1:27
- B. Faith does not presume to help God. - Genesis 16:1-2; 1 Corinthians 1:2; Philippians 1:1; 1 Peter 5:1-2
 - "There is now heard from the East and from the West, from the North and from the South, one general, if not universal, call for a more efficient organization of our churches" (Alexander Campbell, calling for a missionary society, "Millennial Harbinger," February, 1849, as quoted by Earl I. West, **The Search for the Ancient Order**. 1:167).

Conclusion:

- A. Sarah had to learn to take God at His word. - Genesis 18:14
- B. We too must learn to take God at His word.

XII. Salvation By Faith

Text: Hebrews 11:7

Introduction:

- A. It is certainly true faith saves. - text
- B. But to understand salvation by faith we must answer four questions.

I. What kind of faith saves?

- A. "little" or "great"? - Matthew 14:22-32; 8:5-13
- B. "dead" or "live"? - James 2:17,20,26
- C. imperfect or "perfect"? - James 2:22
- D. disobedient or obedient? - John 8:30-31,41,44; Hebrews 11:8
- E. "faith only" or faith plus works? - James 2:24; Galatians 5:6

II. How does faith save? - Hebrews 11:7; Genesis 6:13-17,22; 7:1

Principle of Salvation by Faith

God Speaks	Man Believes	Man Obeys	God Saves
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III. Whom does faith save?

- A. disobedient or obedient? - Matthew 7:21; Hebrews 5:8-9
- B. impenitent or penitent? - Romans 2:5; Acts 3:19
- C. one who denies or one who confesses? - John 12:42-43; Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10
- D. unbaptized or baptized? - John 3:5; Acts 16:31-34

IV. When does faith save? - Galatians 3:26-27

Salvation by Faith

Galatians 3:26-27

Who?	all
What?	children of God
How?	by faith
Where?	in Christ Jesus
When?	baptized into Christ

Conclusion:

- A. Salvation is **not only** by **anything**.

Things to Which Salvation Is Attributed

- (1) God - 2 Timothy 1:8-9; Revelation 7:10; Revelation 19:1
- (2) Grace of God - Ephesians 2:5, 8; Titus 2:11
- (3) Mercy of God - Titus 3:5
- (4) Power of God - 1 Peter 1:5
- (5) The Longsuffering of Our Lord - 2 Peter 3:15
- (6) Christ - Matthew 1:21; 18:11; Luke 9:56; 19:10; John 3:17; 10:9; 12:47; 1 Thessalonians 5:9; 1 Timothy 1:15; 2 Timothy 2:10; Hebrews 7:25; James 4:12
- (7) Holy Spirit - Titus 3:5
- (8) Death, Burial, and Resurrection of Christ - Romans 5:9-10
- (9) Name of Christ - Acts 4:12
- (10) Grace of Christ - Acts 15:11
- (11) The Gospel - Romans 1:16
- (12) the Word - James 1:21
- (13) Words - Acts 11:14
- (14) Preaching - 1 Corinthians 1:21; 1 Thessalonians 2:16
- (15) Preachers - 1 Timothy 4:16
- (16) The Scriptures - 2 Timothy 3:15

- (17) The Love of the Truth - 2 Thessalonians 2:10
- (18) Calling on the Name of the Lord - Acts 2:21; Romans 10:13
- (19) Belief - Luke 8:12; Acts 16:31; Romans 10:8-9; Ephesians 2:8
- (20) Repentance - 2 Corinthians 7:10
- (21) Confession - Romans 10:10
- (22) Baptism - Mark 16:16; Titus 3:5; 1 Peter 3:21
- (23) Work - Philippians 2:12
- (24) Obedience - Hebrews 5:9
- (25) Church Discipline - 1 Corinthians 5:5
- (26) Losing Our Life for Christ - Mark 8:35; Luke 9:24; 17:33
- (27) Hope - Romans 8:24
- (28) Endurance - Matthew 10:22; 24:13; Mark 13:13; 1 Corinthians 15:2
- (29) One Who Converts a Sinner - James 5:20

B. Do you have enough faith to be saved? - Acts 8:35-39

XIII. Divine Discipline

Text: Hebrews 12:4 - 11

Introduction:

- A. All Christians must suffer for righteousness' sake. - 2 Timothy 3:12
- B. This is the chastening of our text. - Hebrews 12:3-4; cf. 10:32-34
- C. What should be our attitude toward suffering for Christ?

I. We must learn how to use chastening. - Hebrews 12:5; cf. Proverbs 3:11-12

II. We must realize the value of chastening.

- A. It is evidence of God's love. - Hebrews 12:6-8; cf. Proverbs 13:24
 - 1. Did God ever love anyone more than he did Jesus? - John 3:35
 - 2. Was ever one the Son of God in a more exalted sense? - John 1:14
 - 3. Did ever one suffer more for righteousness than he? - Hebrews 5:8; 12:3
- B. It is administered wisely. - Hebrews 12:9-10; cf. 1 Corinthians 10:13
- C. It is for our good. - Hebrews 12:10-11; cf. Proverbs 22:15; James 1:2-4; 1 Peter 4:1-2

Conclusion:

- A. If we would be God's children, we must suffer. - Hebrews 12:6
- B. We should rejoice in our sufferings. - 1 Peter 4:12-16

XIV. The Sanctified Life

Text: Hebrews 13

Introduction:

- A. The apostle Paul characteristically closes his letters with practical exhortations.
- B. Having developed the great theme of Hebrews, Christ is better, to encourage them to hold fast, the inspired writer now gives specific instructions on how to live steadfastly. - Hebrews 12:25; 13:20-21
- C. To be steadfast to Christ is to live the sanctified life. - Hebrews 13:12
- D. What are the characteristics of the sanctified life?

I. Brotherly Love- verses 1, 23-25; John 13:35; Hebrews 6:10

- A. Hospitality- verse 2; cf. Genesis 18:1-8; 19:1-3
- B. Compassion for Those Who Suffer for Christ - verse 3; cf. Matthew 25:39-40

II. Sexual Purity- verse 4; cf. 1 Corinthians 6:9-10

III. Being Content With What We Have - verses 5-6; Joshua 1:5; Psalm 118:6; 23:4

IV. Following the Leaders Example of Life - verse 7

- A. “those who rule over you” (“your leaders” - **ESV**) - cf. Acts 15:22; Hebrews 13:17, 24; Matthew 19:28; 1 Timothy 5:17
- B. “whose faith follow” - Philippians 3:17

V. Loyalty to Christ- verses 8 - 16

- A. As Christ is unchangeable, we should remain firm. - verses 8 - 9; cf. Hebrews 1:10-12; 12:1-2; Ephesians 4:13-15
- B. It is by grace, not meat, that we are strengthened.- verse 9; Acts 20:32; 1 Corinthians 8:8; Romans 14:17
- C. Those who keep the Law cannot eat of our altar. - verses 10-12; cf. Leviticus 16:27; 1 Corinthians 10:18
- D. Let us go forth without the camp. - verse 13; Hebrews 12:2; 11:26
- E. Seek the city to come. - verse 14; 11:13-16
- F. Offer sacrifices:
 - 1. Praise - verse 15; cf. 1 Peter 2:5
 - 2. Thanksgiving (“acknowledge” - **ESV**) - verse 15; cf. Hosea 14:2; Psalm 50:12-15
 - 3. To do good - verse 16; cf. Isaiah 1:12-17
 - 4. To share - verse 16

VI. Obeying the Elders - verse 17; cf. Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1-4; 1 Timothy 5:17

VII. Praying for Preachers - verses 18-19; cf. Colossians 4:2-4; Philemon verse 22; 1 John 5:14

VIII. Perfection in Work - verses 20-21

- A. "God of peace" - Isaiah 9:6-7; cf. Romans 15:33; 16:20; Philippians 4:9; 1 Thessalonians 5:23
- B. "brought up our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead" - Romans 1:4
- C. "Great Shepherd" - cf. John 10:11; 1 Peter 5:4
- D. "blood" - Matthew 26:28; Hebrews 8:13
- E. "make you complete in every good work" - cf. Philippians 2:13; Ephesians 4:13-16

IX. Receiving the Word - verse 22; cf. Acts 13:15; 1 Thessalonians 2:13

Conclusion:

- A. The sanctified life is the result and proof of loyalty to Christ. - Hebrews 13:12-13
- B. Are our lives so sanctified? - Hebrews 13:20-21

XV. Leaders

A group of men in the Unilag Church of Christ in Lagos, Nigeria, men who are not elders and do not claim to be qualified to be elders, call themselves "leaders" of that congregation and make all decisions for the church. Likewise, I corresponded with a preacher friend in America who was kind enough to confirm that he advocates that more spiritually mature men not qualified to be elders should serve as "leaders" and, as a group, should make decisions for the congregation. This position is based on the **New International Version** translation of Acts 15:22; Hebrews 13:7,17,24. The translation is accurate in these verses. The question is the application.

In Acts 15:22 Luke describes "Judas (called Barsabbas) and Silas" as "leaders among the brothers" (**NIV**). But this was in the church in Jerusalem, where there were both apostles and elders (Acts 15:2,4,5,22-23). That hardly leaves room for mature men who were unqualified to be elders to make decisions for the church. But Judas and Silas (verse 22), though not elders or apostles, were indeed leaders in the church; they were prophets (Acts 15:33). Their leadership role was in proclaiming by inspiration the word of God, not in making decisions for the congregation (e.g., Acts 11:27-28).

The overwhelming evidence and the universal conviction of Christians from the very beginning is that the Hebrew letter was written to Jewish Christians in Palestine not very long before the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70 (cf. Hebrews 10:24-34). These brethren had had apostles among them from the very beginning (Acts 2:41-42) and elders from very early (Acts 11:29-30). This simply leaves no room for men who are spiritually mature but unqualified to be elders to make decisions for the church.

Thus, the evidence is overwhelming that the term "leaders" is a comprehensive term for those who occupied the offices the Lord Jesus Christ gave His church as a gift when He ascended back on high: "And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers" (Ephesians 4:11). As demonstrated by the fact that the fourth use of the modifier "some" applies to both terms, "pastors" and "teachers," these two terms apply to those who occupy one office, the office also called "elders" or "bishops"

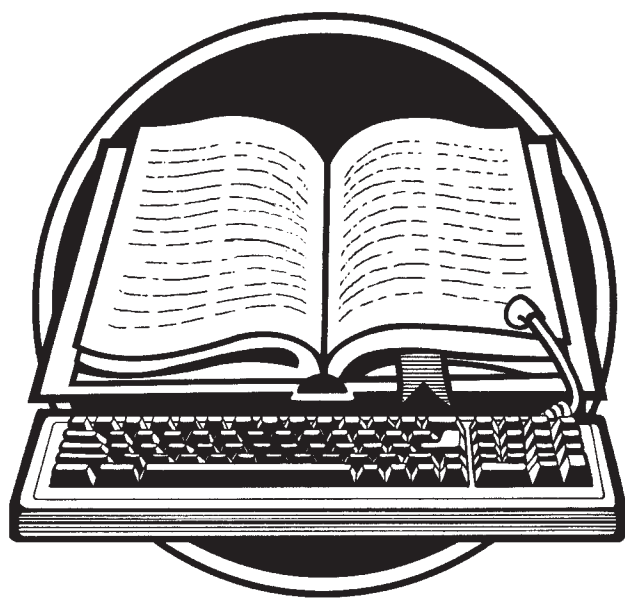
(“overseers”)(Acts 20:17,28; 1 Peter 5:1-2). This position harmonizes with the use of the word “leaders” in all four passages.

Decision-making authority in a congregation without elders is vested in all the men of the congregation (1 Corinthians 11:3; 1 Timothy 2:11-12). The younger should submit to the older (1 Peter 5:5), but that doesn’t imply that the more mature as a separate group make the decisions.

The offices of “apostles” and “prophets” are no longer found in the church on earth, since these offices depended on the use of miraculous, spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians 12:1-5,28) and these gifts have ceased (1 Corinthians 13:8-13).

The leadership of evangelists is in their preaching and teaching (2 Timothy 4:1-5), which they should do “with all authority” (Titus 2:15).

Pastors (elders, overseers) lead by watching for the souls of the members (Hebrews 13:17), ruling (making decisions for) the congregation (1 Timothy 5:17), setting an example of life for the members (1 Peter 5:1-4), and perhaps but not necessarily personally laboring “in the word and doctrine” (1 Timothy 5:17).



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