

HEBREWS

Consider Jesus, Our Great High Priest &
Mediator of a Better Covenant (4:14; 8:6)

A Self-Study Guide

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Directions:

This is a booklet to aid you in your personal study of this book. Read through the text first, discovering God's precious truths for yourself. Write down the main point of each section of text in the space provided. The text is provided for you to mark, color, and highlight things you find interesting and important. Use the margins on each side of the text and the backside of the page to make notations of the truths you discover and passages you do not understand. When you believe you have seen all there is in text, read and answer the questions in the booklet pertaining to that section of text. The questions are not an exhaustive list of things to look for in the text. The questions are to help you consider the points that the author was trying to convey to his audience. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

Introduction:

1. Read through Hebrews in one sitting. This will help you see the book as a whole unit. Note places in your Bible where there is a natural division in the book, i.e. changes in subject, emphasis, or thought. As you read through the book, use colored pencils to highlight and make notations. Mark any phrases or thoughts that give you an overall impression as to the theme of the book.
2. Jot down key words or phrases as well as key verses that summarize the main message of the book. (You "better" be able to find at least one key word or phrase.)

3. Survey: Write down the main theme of the following sections:

The first seven chapters

speaks to what we have:

1:1-14:

2:1-4

2:5-18:

3:1-6:

3:7-4:13:

4:14-5:10:

5:11-6:20:

7:1-28:

These chapters show we have a great high priest:

8:1-13:

9:1-12:

9:13-10:18:

Final chapters tell us what we must do since we have these things:

10:19-39:

11:1-12:2:

12:3-29:

13:1-25

4. Now answer the following questions:

- a. Look back over the survey and note which of them are “warning” sections:
- b. Find a Bible dictionary or commentary and study the discussion of authorship of Hebrews.
- c. Who are the most likely choices for author of this book?

HEBREWS

1

Read Hebrews 1:1-4.

1:1-4 Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

1. You should have noted certain contrasts between what God has done in the past and what He has done in the "last days." List as many contrasts as you can see:
2. What is the "last days?" (Consider that it is not the "Christian Dispensation." Compare other translations and Daniel 10:14. The ASV translates, "at the end of these days"):

Word Study: Notice the difference in translation of verse 3. The phrase “express image” (NKJV) comes from the Greek word *charakter*, and this word is only used here in the New Testament. According to Thayer, the word means, “1) the instrument used for engraving or carving 2) the mark stamped upon that instrument or wrought out on it; 2a) a mark or figure burned in (Lev. 13:28) or stamped on, an impression; 2b) the exact expression (the image) of any person or thing, marked likeness, precise reproduction in every respect, i.e facsimile.

3. What does it mean for Christ to be the “express image of His person?” Is this the same meaning as “the exact representation of His nature” as the NASB and NIV render?
4. What is the writer's purpose in his description of Christ in verses 2-3?

Read Hebrews 1:5-14.

1:5-14 Main point:-----

Make additional notes at left and below:

4. List all the ways that Jesus is shown to be better than the angels:

vs. 5:

vs. 6-7:

vs. 8-9:

vs. 10-12:

vs. 13-14:

5. To impress upon your mind how important this is, recall in the Old Testament how highly the Jews regarded angels:

HEBREWS

2

Read Hebrews 2:1-4.

2:1-4 Main point:-----

Make additional notes at left and below:

1. What is the warning? How do we heed the warning?

2. To understand fully the phrase, "the word spoken through angels" consider Acts 7:53 and Galatians 3:19. How does this lend more strength to the writer's argument?

Read Hebrews 2:5-9.

2:5-9 Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

3. What is the “world to come” that is spoken of in verse 5?

Read Hebrews 2:10-13.

2:10-13 Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

Word Study: In verse 10 we read that Christ is the “captain” (NKJV) or “pioneer” (NRSV) of salvation. Of this word, Thayer says, “1) *the chief leader, prince; 1a) of Christ; 2) one that takes the lead in any thing and thus affords an example, a predecessor in a matter, pioneer; 3) the author.*” Find this word used also in Acts 3:15; 5:31; and Hebrews 12:2.

4. What is meant by the fact that Jesus was made "perfect through sufferings?"

5. How does this passage prove that Christ is superior?

Read Hebrews 2:14-18.

2:14-18 Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

6. Why did Christ have to be made like His brethren in all things?

Word Study: In verse 17 we read that Christ made “propitiation for the sins of the people.” There is only one other place where this exact Greek word, in this tense is found. Notice Luke 18:13, “*And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be **merciful** to me a sinner!’*” The word translated “merciful” is the same word found here as “propitiation.” This shows what Jesus truly did for us.

HEBREWS

3

Read Hebrews 3:1-6.

3:1-6 Main point:-----

Make additional notes at left and below:

1. In what two ways does the writer tell us that Christ is better than Moses?
2. Who held the positions of "Apostle" and "High Priest" in the Old Testament?

Read Hebrews 3:7-13.

3:7-13 Main point:-----

Make additional notes at left and below:

3. There are a number of different phrases in verses 7-11 that describe the "unbelief" that the Israelites had. List those phrases:
4. You may have noticed that "unbelief" begins in the "heart." Since we are to "beware" of this, how do you recognize the beginnings of this departure from God in your own heart? What are we told to do to correct it?

Read Hebrews 3:14-19.

3:14-19 Main point:-----

Make additional notes at left and below:

5. Exactly what did the Israelites do so that God would not allow them to enter Canaan?
How can you apply this to us?

HEBREWS

4

Read Hebrews 4:1-10.

4:1-10 Main point:-----

Make additional notes at left and below:

1. Note the various verses and reasons listed as to why the people were prevented from entering the rest:
2. What was the promised rest? Carefully look at verse 8 in considering your answer.
3. Explain the meaning of verse 10. What application should we make from this verse?

Read Hebrews 4:11-13.

4:11-13 Main point:-----

Make additional notes at left and below:

4. How does verses 12-13 connect with the thoughts of verse 11?

5. **WORD STUDY: "DILIGENT". Check a Greek lexicon:

6. According to verses 12-13, what especially about our lives is of concern to God?

7. Therefore what does studying the Bible regularly help us do?

Read Hebrews 4:14-16.

4:14-16 Main point:-----

Make additional notes at left and below:

8. According to this passage, what makes our High Priest better than the Levitical priesthood?

9. What hope and confidence can we receive from this passage?

Read Hebrews 5:1-10.

5:1-10 Main point:_____

Make additional notes at left and below:

1. How is Christ superior in this passage?
2. Explain what it means that Christ “learned obedience by the thing which He suffered.”

Read Hebrews 5:11-14.

5:11-14 Main point:_____

Make additional notes at left and below:

3. What does “dull of hearing” mean?
4. List the symptoms given that would identify being “dull of hearing.”
5. According to the text, what are the differences between a “babe” and “those who are of full age?”

5. What are the two "immutable" things upon which our salvation is based?
6. What does the writer intend for us to understand from his phrase in verse 19, "which enters the Presence behind the veil, where the forerunner has entered for us...?"

HEBREWS

7

Read Hebrews 7:1-10.

7:1-10 Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

1. List the ways that Melchizedek was greater than those of the Levitical priesthood.
2. Why is the statement in verse 3 "without father, without mother, without genealogy" important?

Read Hebrews 7:11-19.

7:11-19 Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

3. Why was the priesthood changed from the Levitical order to the order of Melchizedek?

4. Why was the law weak and unprofitable? What purpose did the law have, according to the text?

5. According to this section of text, what about Christ and His priesthood better than the Levitical priesthood? What is unique about His priesthood?

Read Hebrews 7:20-28.

7:20-28 Main point:-----

Make additional notes at left and below:

6. Why does the writer keep emphasizing that Jesus was not made a priest without an oath? (Other priests were not made priests with an oath.)

7. What is meant by, "He is able to save to the uttermost?" Check a lexicon.

8. According to this text, give a list of all the things that are better about the priesthood of Christ?

Read Hebrews 8:1-6.

8:1-6 Main point:-----

Make additional notes at left and below:

1. What is the purpose of the writer's quotation of Exodus 25:40, "See that you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain?"

2. What are the things listed in this text that makes Christ a better High Priest?

3. In what way do we have a better covenant and better promises?

Read Hebrews 8:7-13.

8:7-13 Main point:-----

Make additional notes at left and below:

4. Notice in verse 7 that the implication is that the first covenant was faulty, and yet in verse 8 the statement is that the people were at fault. Explain where the fault lies:

5. What Old Testament scripture gives a definition of the "first covenant"?

6. What is meant by, "I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts?"

7. What is meant by, "None of them shall teach his neighbor and none his brother saying, 'Know the Lord,' for all shall know Me?"

8. Explain, "Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away":

HEBREWS

9

Read Hebrews 9:1-10.

9:1-10 Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

1. In the space below, draw a representation of the tabernacle of the Old Testament with the various articles of worship listed in this chapter. Verse 9 says that these things are symbolic. Can you identify the symbolism of the articles of worship in the tabernacle?

Read Hebrews 9:11-15.

9:11-15 Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

2. This section contains a number of contrasts between the system surrounding the tabernacle of old and the offering of Christ. List as many of these contrasts as you can see that shows how much better Christ is with His offering:

3. What does verse 15 teach?

Read Hebrews 9:16-22.

9:16-22 Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

4. According to this passage, when did the new covenant take effect? Why is this knowledge important?

Read Hebrews 9:23-28.

9:23-28 Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

5. List all the things the writer of Hebrews says is better about the work of Christ than the work of the high priest under the old law:

Read Hebrews 10:1-10.

10:1-10 Main point:-----

Make additional notes at left and below:

1. Why was it not possible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins?
2. Compare the quotation of verses 5-7 with the original writing in Psalm 40. Notice the obvious difference in the Old Testament rendering and this quotation. Though different, how do these two statements tell us more about what God desired in Christ and still desires in us?
3. What does God mean when He said He did not desire sacrifice and offering nor had pleasure in them?
4. Explain the following statements in verses 9-10:
"I have come to do your will, O God":

"He takes away the first that He may establish the second":

"By that will we have been sanctified...":

"through the offering of the body of Jesus once for all":

Read Hebrews 10:11-18.

10:11-18 Main point:-----

Make additional notes at left and below:

5. Explain what is better about the work of Christ than the work of the high priest under the old law, according to this passage:

6. In verse 16, the writer quotes Jeremiah 31 for the second time. What do you believe is the writer's main purpose for using this quotation in this text?

Read Hebrews 10:19-25.

10:19-25 Main point:-----

Make additional notes at left and below:

7. Explain the importance of the following phrases and how they tie in with the Old Testament worship:
"boldness to enter the Holiest":

"by a new a living way":

"through the veil...his flesh":

"for He who promised is faithful":

"hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience":

"bodies washed with pure water":

8. There are a number of reasons the Bible teaches that God's people are to assemble together. What is the main reason for assembling in this text?
9. Explain the phrase, "as you see the Day approaching." What is "the Day?" Are you sure?

Read Hebrews 10:26-31.

10:26-31 Main point:-----

Make additional notes at left and below:

1. Explain what it means to "sin willfully?" Compare 1 John 5:16-17; Numbers 15:27-31 and Psalm 19:12-13.
2. How do these verses destroy the idea that there is no such thing as punishment in hell?

Read Hebrews 10:32-39.

10:32-39 Main point:-----

Make additional notes at left and below:

3. What is the promise to those who "have done the will of God?"

Read Hebrews 11:1-3.

11:1-3 Main point:-----

Make additional notes at left and below:

1. Explain the meaning and importance of each verse:

verse 1:

verse 2:

verse 3:

Read Hebrews 11:4-7.

11:4-7 Main point:-----

Make additional notes at left and below:

2. How was faith visible in these people's lives:

Abel:

Enoch:

Noah:

Read Hebrews 11:8-22.

11:8-22 Main point:-----

Make additional notes at left and below:

3. How was faith visible in the following people's lives:

Abraham:

Sarah:

Isaac:

Jacob:

Joseph:

Read Hebrews 11:23-29.

11:23-29 Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

4. How was faith visible in the life of Moses?

Read Hebrews 11:30-40.

11:30-40 Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

5. What is interesting to you in this passage?

6. How can we receive hope from this passage?

Read Hebrews 12:1-11.

12:1-11 Main point:-----

Make additional notes at left and below:

1. How are each of these statements to help us run with endurance?

“Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses”:

“Lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us”:

“Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith”:

“For the joy set before Him, He endured the cross”:

2. What specifically is the chastening of the Lord? How can we identify it in our lives?

3. What is the purpose of the chastening of the Lord? How then should we receive the chastening?

Read Hebrews 12:12-17.

12:12-17 Main point:-----

Make additional notes at left and below:

3. What lessons are we to learn from Esau?

Read Hebrews 12:18-24.

12:18-24 Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

4. Write down the contrasts that are found in this passage:

Read Hebrews 12:25-29.

12:25-29 Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

5. List the writer's arguments for why we should not refuse Him who speaks:

HEBREWS

13

Read Hebrews 13:1-6.

13:1-6 Main point: _____

Make additional notes at left and below:

1. What is meant by "entertain strangers"? What examples do we have in scriptures of strangers turning out to be angels of God?

2. The NASB, NRSV, and ASV translate, "Let marriage be held in honor..." This is a preferable translation. In fact, can you think of a marriage in the Bible that was not honorable?

3. Noticing verses 5-6, why should the statement “I will never leave you nor forsake you” cause us not to covet, be discontent, or lack boldness?

Read Hebrews 13:7-17.

13:7-17 Main point:_____

Make additional notes at left and below:

4. Why the statement, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever?” How does this give weight to the writer’s argument?
5. What is a “heart established by grace” (verse 9)?
6. What is verse 12 a reference to? What are we to understand since Christ “suffered outside the gate?”
7. What are your observations on the importance of offering to God the “sacrifice of praise” (verse 15)? What things are listed in these verses that describe what our sacrifice of praise is?
8. What are your observations on our relationship to the elders (verse 17)?

Read 13:18-25.

13:18-25 Main point:_____

Make additional notes at left and below:

9. Notice the writer's prayer in verses 20-21. How can we apply this prayer to our lives?

HEBREWS REVIEW

1. What is the key word in the book which is used 13 times?

2. Where do you find "Warning Sections" in the book:

3. In chapter one Christ is proved to be greater than _____.

4. Give two different texts that teach that since we have a greater salvation and lawgiver, we have a greater responsibility:

5. Why was it important that Christ be made like us in all things?

6. Who is Christ greater than in chapter 3? Chapter 4: Chapter 7:

7. List some things that give us boldness to come to the throne of grace:

8. What are some of the things the writer said to do in order to keep from falling away?

9. What was the writer's definition of a "babe" in Christ?

10. The passage in Hebrews that teaches the blood of Christ covers the sins in the O.T.:

11. What did God do to make our hope an anchor of the soul?

12. What two O.T. characters left us the example not to sell heaven for the temporary pleasures of this life?

13. What passage teaches us that Christ took away the first covenant?