

Hebrews Part One

Lesson #10, Chapter 3 Observation

The goal of this particular lesson is the foundation of all Bible study. It is the practice of observing what's in the text. At this stage in our Bible study you're simply taking note and then recording what God has put into the chapter. You're not making any interpretations about what it means or how it applies to your life—that will come later. Don't rush through this lesson. Set aside time this week to peer into the living and abiding word of God. You'll be glad you did!

On the pages that follow you'll find the text of Chapter 3 in the New American Standard Bible version. *Use those pages to do this lesson.* Feel free to make notes on the page or mark it up as much as you like to help you do this lesson. Using the same Bible version to do this lesson will cut down on any confusion that would arise if we were all using different versions of the Bible when we get together for class discussion.

1. To begin, read through Chapter 3. Now, summarize the contents of Chapter 3. This is not the time to be super detailed; instead, think of trying to tell a 4th grader the contents of the chapter.
 - a. Summarize paragraph 1 (verses 1-6).

 - b. Summarize paragraph 2 (verses 7-11).

 - c. Summarize paragraph 3 (verses 12-19).

2. After reviewing the chapter and what you wrote for your summaries, ask yourself: *What is the main point of this chapter?* How do all the details and events reveal the main idea of the chapter? Record your answer below.

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3. Now you're ready to title your chapter. Your 3-5 word title should reflect the contents of the chapter. Remember, a title's purpose is to help you remember what is in each chapter.

4. On the *Hebrews Bible Text* handout mark *key* words. *God, Jesus Christ, Holy Spirit* are always key words. Start with these first. Then mark words or phrases that are repeated at least 3 times. Mark any other words that seem important to the chapter or are strongly emphasized.

This is the fun part! Mark words or phrases by creating a symbol or using a certain colored pencil every time it appears. This will enable you to see at a glance how often a word is used in the chapter or note a progression of thought.

5. Next, *list the phrase containing the key words* on a separate sheet of paper. This step will allow you to pull together the information you noted from marking the key words. Be sure to cite the verse references when you list your key word information.

For example, with *God* as your key word, you would begin to make a list of the information you discovered every time God is mentioned in Hebrews Chapter 3. Use the Chapter 3 text on the following pages to look for your answers. List on your separate sheet of paper every time *God* and any pronouns referring to Him are used in Hebrews Chapter 3. Be sure to include the verse reference of where you found this information. Then include the details that you learn about Him. For example: vs. 4—but the builder of all things is *God*.

6. Mark any *commands* that are listed in the chapter and any actions that are required of the reader.

7. Now, list the commands on your separate sheet of paper in the same way you did for the key words.

8. Mark words or phrases that are being *compared or contrasted*. Words like *as, likewise, in the same manner, or like* will help you find words or phrases being compared. Contrasting words like “light/dark” or “love/hate” and the word “but” will help you find words or phrases that are being contrasted.

9. Now list what you discovered about comparisons and contrasts on the extra paper you’ve been using.

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10. Mark transition terms: *therefore, wherefore, finally*. Sometimes an author has his own kind of transition term that lets you know he is making a switch to a new topic, so be sure to look for those kinds of terms. (Generally, these are at the beginning of a paragraph.)
11. Mark expressions of time—words like *shortly, quickly, soon, for a little while*.
12. Mark words that are synonyms of each other. For example: *Jesus, Apostle, High Priest* from 3:1.
13. List any *attributes* of God, Christ, or the Holy Spirit that you notice in this chapter and add them to your list paper.

How to identify attributes: Look back over the list you compiled about God and identify any of His attributes that you may see. Identifying attributes is easy when you differentiate between what God is *doing* versus *who He is*. Begin your attribute statements with *God is...* and then finish the sentence. List the verse that identified that particular characteristic for you. For clarity's sake you may want to explain why you identified that particular attribute as shown in the examples. For example: God is supreme from vs. 2 because He had a plan to save mankind through Jesus Christ; God is sovereign from vs. 4 because He is the builder of *all* things.

14. Look for *lists of words, phrases, or related thoughts* in the chapter text. Number any lists you find within the Bible text, then write out your list to the side in the margin or on a separate sheet of paper of the Hebrews Chapter 3 Bible text. This step will help you see the thought progression of the author or the results of some action.

For example, in Hebrews 1:1-2 *we find a list about God speaking*. We discover 1) God spoke long ago; 2) God spoke to the fathers; 3) God spoke through the prophets; 4) God spoke through the prophets in many portions; 5) God spoke through the prophets in many ways; 6) and now in these last days God has spoken; 7) God has spoken to us; and 8) God has spoken to us in His Son.

15. Write down *at least one thing* that you thought was interesting from this chapter.

Remember, the purpose of this lesson is to observe and take note of the contents of the chapter. You are not making any interpretations or applications to your life at this time. Your task at this time is to simply look for the treasures that God has put in each chapter. Have fun digging into God's Word!

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The Holy Spirit, when He invites men to come to Christ, never says, “Tomorrow” but always “Today.” If you can find me one place in the Bible where the Holy Spirit says, “Believe in Christ tomorrow” or “Repent and be saved tomorrow” I will come out of the pulpit and stay out of it – for I would have no gospel to preach. ~Clarence Macartney from his sermon “Come Before Winter – 2 Tim. 4:21” in 1915

No pen, no words, no image can express to you the loveliness of my only, only Lord Jesus. ~ Samuel Rutherford

Hebrews Chapter 3

1 Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of our confession;

2 He was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also was in all His house.

3 For He has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, by just so much as the builder of the house has more honor than the house.

4 For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.

5 Now Moses was faithful in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken later;

6 but Christ was faithful as a Son over His house—whose house we are, if we hold fast our confidence and the boast of our hope firm until the end.

7 Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit says, “Today if you hear His voice,
8 Do not harden your hearts as when they provoked Me, As in the day of trial in the wilderness,

9 Where your fathers tried Me by testing Me, And saw My works for forty years.

10 “Therefore I was angry with this generation, And said, ‘They always go astray in their heart, And they did not know My ways’;

11 As I swore in My wrath, ‘They shall not enter My rest.’ ”

12 Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God.

13 But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called “Today,” so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

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14 For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end,

15 while it is said, "Today if you hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts, as when they provoked Me."

16 For who provoked Him when they had heard? Indeed, did not all those who came out of Egypt led by Moses?

17 And with whom was He angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness?

18 And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who were disobedient?

19 So we see that they were not able to enter because of unbelief.