

Hebrews Part One

Lesson #2, Chapter 1 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 1 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 1. Now, summarize the contents of Chapter 1. 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 1-4).

 - b. Summarize paragraph 2 (verses 5-14).

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.

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.

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 1. Your Chapter 1 list about *God* should begin by looking something like the one below. Include the details that you learn about Him. For example: verse 1—*He* spoke long ago to the fathers; verses 1-2—*God...has* spoken to us in *His* Son.

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.
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: *God* and *Father* from 1:1.

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 sovereign from verse 1 (because He ordained His plan and how it would be revealed to the world); God is knowable from verse 2 (because He has spoken to us in Christ and made His will known).

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 1 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. Be sure to mark or write down any “nuggets” you observed which you thought were interesting.

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

Discovering the Treasures of the Word

Whom He hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory, and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high (Heb. 1:2-3).

“You see, dear friends, how glorious were His original — the “express image” of His Father’s person. How lowly did He become to purge away our sins and that by Himself, too, using His own body to be the means, by His sufferings, of taking away our guilt. Not by proxy did He serve us, but by Himself. Oh, this is wondrous love! And then see the glory, which followed after the shame. He has now ascended up on high, and sits down at the right hand of God’s great Majesty. Follow Him, believer, follow Him with the eye of thy faith; let thy soul lovingly track Him in His upward march, and as thou seest Him, say — “He is my Lord and my God,” and know that all that He did and all that He is, He is, and He did for thee.”¹ ~Charles H. Spurgeon

¹Charles H. Spurgeon, *Spurgeon's Sermons: Volume 58*, electronic ed., Logos Library System; Spurgeon's Sermons (Albany, OR: Ages Software, 1998).

Hebrews Chapter 1

1 God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways,

2 in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.

3 And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

4 having become as much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than they.

5 For to which of the angels did He ever say, “You are My Son, Today I have begotten You”? And again, “I will be a Father to Him And He shall be a Son to Me”?

6 And when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says, “And let all the angels of God worship Him.”

7 And of the angels He says, “Who makes His angels winds, And His ministers a flame of fire.”

8 But of the Son He says, “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, And the righteous scepter is the scepter of His kingdom.

9 “You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness above Your companions.”

10 And, “You, Lord, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the works of Your hands;

11 They will perish, but You remain; And they all will become old like a garment,

12 And like a mantle You will roll them up; Like a garment they will also be

changed. But You are the same, And Your years will not come to an end.”

13 But to which of the angels has He ever said, “Sit at My right hand, Until I make

Your enemies A footstool for Your feet”?

14 Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of

those who will inherit salvation?