

SCRIPTURE PATHS BIBLE STUDIES

*By Lisa Hughes*

# *Hebrews Part 2*

## *Chapters 8-13*

**A 28 WEEK INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY**



## Welcome

*How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord  
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!  
What more can He say than to you He hath said,  
You, who unto Jesus for refuge have fled?*

Nothing could be more true! There is no better foundation for a believer than the rock-solid Word of God. It's my prayer that your faith and love for the Lord will be strengthened as you study His Word in these lessons. I want your hunger for the Scriptures to grow as you study its truths. And more than anything else, I want you to know that you can live upon the Word of God.

Steadfastness, assurance, and hope are the characteristics of all those who build upon the unshakeable foundation of the Word of God. That's why I'm so thrilled you've found your way to this Bible study. Our Bibles contain all the wisdom and guidance we'll need for our daily life (2 Peter 1:3). God's Word is one of the primary means God uses to strengthen our faith and sanctify our hearts. That's why it's so important to dig into the details of the Scriptures and mine the treasures tucked away for us there.

*Scripture Paths Bible Studies* are in-depth, inductive studies of the Scriptures. Each lesson endeavors to teach you how to feed yourself when you delve into God's Word. As you spend time on each lesson you will grow in Bible knowledge and understanding, learn how to apply the Scriptures to your life, and become more firmly convinced than ever that God's Word is authoritative, complete, without error, and sufficient for your life.

### **HELPFUL THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT *SCRIPTURE PATHS BIBLE STUDIES*:**

1. *Purposefully prepared.* Each lesson has a unique goal, whether it's to train you in the art of studying the Scriptures or to showcase the point of the passage. None of it is busywork—it's lifework for our souls.
2. *Plan ahead.* Adding a Bible study to an already busy life takes preparation. You'll need to figure out when you can complete your lessons. Do you like to set aside bits of time each day to work on the lesson or do you prefer to do it all in one sitting? Try experimenting with a method that works best for you.
3. *Persevere.* Keep going to the Lord for wisdom, for strength, and the desire to press on when life gets busy and you find it difficult to finish your lessons.
4. *Pray.* Ask the Lord to transform you through the study of His Word. Use your study time to get to know the Lord better.

5. *Prompt your memory.* Try to glean little nuggets of truth or application from each lesson, and then share them with someone. This will help solidify what you're learning and encourage someone else too.
  
6. *Put it into practice.* Nearly every lesson has questions for you to apply to your life. To study just to study is not our goal. Studying to grow in our understanding of the Scriptures, of the Lord, and how to live lives honoring to Him is what we're aiming at. Look for opportunities to apply God's Word.

There are treasures upon the surface of the Word which we may pick up very readily: even the casual reader will find himself able to understand the simplicities and elements of the gospel of God; but the Word of God yields most to the digger. ~Charles Spurgeon

## **THE GOAL AND PURPOSE OF THIS BIBLE STUDY**

John Calvin wrote, “We owe to the Scripture the same reverence which we owe to God, because it has proceeded from Him alone, and has nothing of man mixed with it.” It’s that premise which propels me to write and study the Bible for myself and for anyone else who wants to study along with me. God has revealed Himself in the pages of Scripture. The Bible is complete and authoritative and contains everything we need to live for His glory. It’s in the study of the Scriptures that we grow in our knowledge of God and are transformed into His likeness. A commitment to lean on and live in God’s Word is a distinguishing characteristic of a Christian as Jesus explained to a crowd of His followers in John 8:31-32: “If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”

Because all “Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work” (2 Tim. 3:16) we study inductively in order to glean as much as we can from the Word of God. Inductive Bible study consists of observation, interpretation, and application. Simply put, *observation* is noticing what the author is saying; *interpretation* is finding out what he means; and *application* is utilizing those truths to your life.

As you study this book of the Bible it is my prayer that you will grow in your commitment to the Word of God as the source of life and godliness, and you will accept it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe (1 Thess. 2:13). As a young man Jonathan Edwards (one of America’s most famous theologians and preachers) made a list of resolutions he desired, by God’s grace, to do his best to live by. One of those commitments is resolution #28: “Resolved, to study the Scriptures so steadily, constantly and frequently, as that I may find, and plainly perceive myself to grow in the knowledge of the same.” May you see the study of God’s Word making such a difference in your life that you bear the fruit of wisdom, knowledge, godly conduct, that you overcome sin and grow daily in your love for Christ.

*Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,  
Lisa Hughes*

## **HOW TO USE THIS STUDY**

Feel free to tailor this study to your needs. Some have found it works best for them to complete the lesson in one sitting, while others find that breaking up the lesson by answering a few questions each day works the best for them. Try experimenting with different ways to complete each lesson, you'll soon discover what works for you and produces the most spiritual benefit.

Some of the lessons have what I call "Eager Beaver" questions. They're rabbit-trail questions. They don't really fit with the theme of the passage, but they're interesting, nonetheless. They're there for your enjoyment and growth.

Another feature of the Bible studies is the opportunity to do word studies. Whenever I want you to study a word further, I'll include the Strong's Exhaustive Concordance number with it. The Strong's number is basically a reference number attached to most words found in the Bible. That number allows you to search for it in different reference works easily—even when you don't know Hebrew or Greek. I explain how to use those resources in an Addendum at the end of the study. These tools are valuable for any Bible study student, yet not mandatory for completing these lessons.

If you're new to studying the Bible then you may feel a bit overwhelmed, but I want to encourage you to stick with the study. Studying the Bible takes planning on your part and commitment, but the spiritual blessing and personal growth in Christ makes any "hardship" worth it. Remember, the goal of studying the Bible is that you would grow more in Christ, so start each lesson with a time of prayer asking the Lord for wisdom and His grace to study His Word, then continue to seek the Lord as you complete the lesson.

If you're a leader and you're introducing this study to your ladies for the first time, be sure to encourage them a lot! Though each lesson was written to achieve a specific purpose, you may find your ladies would fare best if they take two weeks to complete each lesson. If that's the case, feel free to do so. You want the ladies to enjoy studying God's Word, so keep encouraging them. Pray together, memorize a chapter out of the book, and dig into each lesson. As you work on the lessons each week you will all gain a clearer picture of our great God, His will for us, and how to live for Him.

*And what could be better than that?*

Your testimonies are wonderful; therefore, my soul observes them.  
 The unfolding of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple.  
 I opened my mouth wide and panted, for I longed for Your commandments.  
 Turn to me and be gracious to me, after Your manner with those who love Your name.  
 Establish my footsteps in Your word, and do not let any iniquity have dominion over me.  
 Psalm 119:129-133

## A Common-Sense Guide to Studying the Book of Hebrews

As you study this book, remember:

1. *Context is still king in this book.* Just reading the chapter through again and again will help you untangle any knots you may find.
2. If you are still struggling after following the above suggestion, then remember the audience to whom the author of Hebrews is writing. If you remember his purpose in writing to them then you may find the difficulties untangling.
3. Take note of the examples, word pictures, and Old Testament Scripture references since the author uses them in the most obvious and simple ways to clarify the doctrinal points he makes. There is always a connection in his thinking, even if it is not readily apparent. Keep looking, reading, and praying for understanding.
4. Most often the simplest interpretation is the correct one when it comes to this author. He is trying to make things clear and understandable for his audience, not harder.
5. Commentaries are a welcome and wonderful blessing, and I encourage you to make use of the knowledge and insight of these Bible scholars. However, reading a commentary *before* you have studied the passage yourself can lead to confusion.
6. As students of the Bible we want to understand what the author intended his original audience to know. And this process of pulling truth from the passage is called “exegesis.” Some people are tempted to do something called “eisogesis,” which is to read information *into* the text. That is when we take something we know and try to put it back into the text to derive the text’s meaning, though the original audience would never have arrived at that conclusion. One way to guard against this is to ask, “What would the original audience have understood this statement to mean?”

## Hebrews Commentary Recommendations

If you are interested in building your Bible study library the following works may be helpful.

### Recommended Hebrews Commentaries

- Bruce, F. F. *The Epistles to the Hebrews*. NICNT, rev. ed.; Eerdmans, 1990.
- Hughes, Philip Edgcumbe. *A Commentary on the Epistle to the Hebrews*. Eerdmans, 1977.
- Kent, Homer A. *The Epistle to the Hebrews*. Baker, 1972.
- Pink, Arthur W. *An Exposition of Hebrews*. Baker, 2006 – 21st printing.
- Westcott, Brooke Foss. *The Epistle to the Hebrews*. Eerdmans, 1970
- Hughes, R. Kent, *Hebrews 1-9; Hebrews 10-13*. Crossway, 1993
- MacArthur, John. *Hebrews: The MacArthur New Testament Commentary*. Moody Press, 1996.
- Walvoord, John F. and Roy B. Zuck. *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*. Victor Books, 1985.

### Recommended Word Study Helps

- Jamieson, Robert and A. R. Fausset. *A Commentary, Critical and Explanatory, on the Old and New Testaments, 3 Vols*. Hendrickson Publishers, 1974.
- Vincent, Marvin R. *Word Studies in the New Testament, 4 Vols*. Hendrickson Publishers, 1886.
- Wuest, Kenneth. *Wuest's Word Studies in the Greek New Testament, 4 Vols*. Eerdmans, 1961.

## A Hopefully Helpful Hebrews Timeline

- ❖ [About 2000 BC] God makes promise to Abraham.
- ❖ Abraham meets Melchizedek. Melchizedek blesses Abraham. Abraham gives a tenth of the spoil to Melchizedek.
  - Melchizedek, functioning as king and priest of Salem, appears out of nowhere in the Bible record and then vanishes again from the pages of Scripture. We do not hear anything about him until David, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, prophesies about the One to come who is of the priesthood of Melchizedek (Ps. 2; Ps. 110).
- ❖ Isaac born.
- ❖ Jacob and Esau born.
- ❖ Jacob's twelve sons born: Reuben and Simeon, Levi, and Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, and Asher, Issachar and Zebulun, Joseph, and Benjamin.
- ❖ Jacob's family moves to Egypt and lives there for 400 years.
- ❖ Aaron born of the tribe of Levi.
- ❖ [About 1525 BC] Moses born, also of the tribe of Levi.
- ❖ Moses called to lead the Israelites, made up of the twelve tribes, out of Egypt.
  - Note the differences from the list of the sons above. The twelve tribes were all the sons above except that the tribe of Levi did not receive a land inheritance since the Lord was their inheritance. There is no tribe of Joseph. God instead blessed Joseph with a double blessing through his sons, Ephraim and Manasseh. Because Joseph and Levi do not receive the land inheritances we are down to 10 tribes, but because God blessed Joseph's sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, then we are back to 12 tribes.
- ❖ [Around 1445 BC] Israelites leave Egypt. Receive the 10 Commandments at Sinai. The Law is instituted.
- ❖ The priesthood is inaugurated at Sinai. The Levites take care of God's tabernacle. Aaron and his sons are taken from the tribe of Levi and then their family is made into priests to serve the Lord.
- ❖ The wilderness rebellion of Hebrews 3 happens during the desert wanderings.

- ❖ 40 years after they left Egypt, Joshua prepares the nation to enter the land that God intends to give them—the land of rest. See Hebrews 4 to see what the author of Hebrews has to say about this.
- ❖ [Born around 1011 BC] David, of the tribe of Judah, is born. David writes Psalms 2, 8, 16, 22, 102, 104, and 110, which are quoted in the book of Hebrews.
  - David writes about one who is a priest forever like Melchizedek. David is the first one to connect Melchizedek to the idea of a new and different priesthood. This is when the oath is made as referred to in 7:28 “the word of the oath, which came after the Law, appoints a Son, made perfect forever.”
- ❖ [Born 4 BC] The long-awaited Messiah, Jesus, is born.
- ❖ The Levitical priesthood is still in effect.
- ❖ [Died 29-30 AD] At Jesus’ death on the cross He takes on the role of high priest according to the order of Melchizedek. He remains a priest forever having conquered sin and death.
- ❖ With the institution of the new priesthood of Melchizedek there is no longer a need for the Levitical priesthood.
- ❖ With the change in the priesthood there is also a change in the law. The Law of Christ is now instituted. Also known as the New Covenant, the law of the Spirit.
- ❖ [Written before 70 AD] The writer of Hebrews shows the similarities between Melchizedek and Christ and then proceeds to show that Christ is superior to even Melchizedek since Christ will never die and does not need to keep offering sacrifice for sins. Hence, Jesus Christ is the only means of salvation. Those who trust in the perfect and holy Lamb of God to take away their sins know forgiveness of sin, fellowship with God, and look forward to that heavenly kingdom.

## Review of Hebrews Chapters 1-7

### Chapter 1

God spoke to the prophets and now speaks to us in Christ, who is the heir of all things. Beginning in verse 3 Christ's deity is proclaimed. Apparently, at this time in Judaism angels were greatly revered, but the author authoritatively proclaims that Jesus is better than the angels. We read that God elevated Christ above the angels by reminding us that God never spoke to the angels in the way He spoke to Christ—as a Son (vss. 4-5). The author contrasts the role and works of angels with the role and works of Christ. It's important to remember that angels worship and serve Christ. We learn that Christ will reign forever, that He created the world, and that He will remain though everything else will perish. Rather than worshiping angels the recipients of the letter needed to understand that the angels will worship Christ and were created to be ministering spirits to help believers.

### Chapter 2

Chapter 1 closes with the thought that angels were sent to minister to those who would inherit salvation (1:14). "Salvation" is the transition thought into Chapter 2. Because of Jesus' superiority in every way (as seen in Chapter 1) we need to pay close attention to what has been taught and not drift away from that teaching, since it is the gospel which leads to salvation. God testified to this very truth through signs and wonders. From the very beginning God intended to bless man and give him glory as the crown jewel of creation, but because of sin man has never experienced that perfect world. In fact, even Jesus, while on earth, lowered Himself to identify with man in every way. Jesus, as a man, did not experience the fullness of God's intended blessing upon mankind so that He would be like us. God also deemed it fitting that our Savior would be completed—made more like us—through His sufferings on earth. Jesus identified in every way with our humanity so that He could call us His brethren, free us from the snare of the devil, and come to our aid. He was made like us in all things so that He would be the perfect priest to intercede for us and understand our temptations.

### Chapter 3

Because Jesus understands all the ways in which mankind is tempted to sin against God, He is able to come to our aid. We are urged to study Him because He understands our weaknesses in a way no one else can. Jesus is compared with Moses and though Moses is a faithful example, Jesus is more so because He reigns over God's house as a Son, whose house we are also a part of. Because we are members of God's household we are urged to hold fast to our hope in Christ. Quotes from the Old Testament paint a picture of what happens to those who do not hold fast, who because of unbelief, will not experience the blessings of God. We are to take care that we are not unbelieving and encourage one another to believe the Lord so we can enter His rest, unlike the disobedient and unbelieving Israelites.

### Chapter 4

Just as the Israelites were not able to enter the Promised Land because of unbelief so we too need to guard against that same sin. Unlike the Israelites, we need to make sure we enter the rest of God by believing the Good News, which was preached to us. In the same way that God rested

from His works of creation, so we need to rest from our “works” of salvation and accept the gift of God. We are warned that there are some who still need to enter into His rest. We need to be careful that we do not fail to enter His rest (salvation) because of unbelief so we are warned, “today” don’t harden your hearts. The word of God, and God Himself, discerns and reveals our true heart motivations, and can show us our unbelief. Yet amid these warnings and exhortations, let us also remember that Jesus Christ is our great high priest who understands our weakness. So, let us hold fast our confession and draw near to Him so that we will find grace and mercy to help us.

## Chapter 5

Every high priest taken from men is appointed by God to offer sacrifices on man’s behalf. Because the high priest is a man, he understands man’s weaknesses, and must offer sacrifices for the sins of the people and for himself. Christ, too, was appointed by God according to the order of Melchizedek to offer sacrifice for sin. Because He was a man, He understands man’s weaknesses, and is able to offer sacrifice for sin. Yet though He was a man, He was also sinless, which makes Him a better high priest than those appointed under the Levitical system. As high priest, Jesus is the source of eternal salvation. The author desires to explain more about Christ as high priest and the order of Melchizedek, but feels it will be a difficult task because the people are too dull spiritually. Though they should be teachers and leaders in the faith by now, they are still spiritually weak and immature.

## Chapter 6

With the basic elements of the Christian faith established, the writer is now ready to move on to more complex issues if God permits. He then launches into the situation that must have been plaguing them all: The case of those who had been part of the church, but then fell away. What will happen to people like that? The answer: It is impossible to renew them to repentance. The author illustrates this truth using nature—the ground drinks rain to produce vegetation rather than thorns and thistles. If it does produce thorns and thistles it ends up being burned. After that dire warning, the author transitions from talking about those who fall away to those still in the church. He urges the faithful believers to continue to do what they have been doing, and to show diligence until the end so they will inherit the promises. The comments about the promises cause the writer to launch into a discussion about God keeping His word. Just as God promised Abraham and swore by Himself to show He intended to keep His word, so men swear an oath to show they intend to keep their promises. And God did keep His promises to us so we would be greatly encouraged and take hold of the hope set before us. This hope is our sure, steadfast anchor, which is Jesus, our eternal high priest according to the order of Melchizedek, who enters within the veil on our behalf.

## Chapter 7

Important details about Melchizedek are introduced in this chapter. We learn that Melchizedek was a king and a priest of the Most High God, and even Abraham honored him by giving him a tenth of his spoils. Since there is no record of Melchizedek’s death it seemed as if his role as priest never ceased. It is in this way that Melchizedek is compared to Christ whose priesthood is eternal. The writer continues to point out how great Melchizedek is by reviewing how Abraham gave a tenth of the spoils to him, which was only right since Melchizedek was a priest. But

Melchizedek was not a priest descended from Levi; in fact, it was Levi who gave tithes to him when Levi “was in the loins of his father Abraham.” The writer reminds us that the Levitical priesthood was not able to bring men to God, so there needed to be a different priesthood that would last forever so that all could draw near to God through Jesus Christ. There needed to be many Levites because the work never ended, and only death brought an end to their work. But because Jesus lives forever, He is able to hold His priesthood permanently, and therefore secure access to God for man. We needed to have a high priest who was perfect and holy, and able to offer Himself as the perfect sacrifice, thereby destroying the need for ongoing sacrifices that were imperfect.



- e. What is the spiritual condition of the people to whom the author is writing?
  
  - f. What is the author's purpose in writing this book?
2. Since this year's Bible study begins in the middle of the book of Hebrews, it's crucial that we know the contents and structure of Chapters 1-7. By reviewing the first 7 chapters of the book, we'll grow in our understanding of the flow of the book, which will guide us into a proper interpretation of the book. From Chapter 1 answer these questions:
- a. Summarize the contents of this chapter.
  
  
  - b. What is the main point the author is trying to communicate to his readers in this chapter?
3. From Chapter 2 answer these questions:
- a. What are the contents of this chapter?
  
  
  - b. What is the connection between 1:14 and 2:1?

- c. What is the main point the author is trying to get across to his readers in this chapter?
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- 4. From Chapter 3 answer these questions:
    - a. Summarize the contents of this chapter.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
    - b. Explain the connection between 3:1 and 2:17-18.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
    - c. What does the author want to make sure his readers understand in this chapter?
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- 5. From Chapter 4 answer these questions:
    - a. What are the contents of this chapter?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
    - b. Explain the connection between 4:1 and 3:19.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
    - c. What is the main point the author is trying to communicate to his readers?



- b. What does the author want to make sure his readers understand from this chapter?

There is indeed, no book in Holy Scripture which speaks so clearly of the priesthood of Christ, which so highly exalts the virtue and dignity of that only true sacrifice which He offered by His death, which so abundantly deals with the use of ceremonies as well as their abrogation, and, in a word, so fully explains that Christ is the end of the Law. ~John Calvin

## Hebrews Part Two

### Lesson #2, Chapter 8 Overview

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 8 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 8. Now, summarize the contents of Chapter 8. This is not the time to be super detailed; instead, think of trying to tell a 4th grader the contents of the chapter.<sup>1</sup>
  - a. Summarize paragraph 1 (verses 1-6).
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. Summarize paragraph 2 (verses 7-13).
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
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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<sup>1</sup>The method and process of observation in Bible study does God honor as we stop, observe, and consider each and every one of His recorded Words, in their context. I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge the debt I owe to the Precept Inductive Bible Studies observation method, which I have adapted in my studies. As far as I know, the method is the brainchild of Kay Arthur, though I've encountered a number of others who have also come up with similar ways for observing the text. The point of observation is to slow down and really look at what God has preserved for us in His Word. What I've created here is simply another variation to help us peer more closely at the Scriptures—for our good and His glory.

3. Now you're ready to title your chapter. Your title should reflect the contents of the chapter in an abbreviated way. Remember, a title's purpose is to help you remember what is in each chapter.
4. On the *Hebrews Bible Text* handout at the end of this lesson, 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. It helps to look for any actions that are required of the reader or things they are told to do or be.
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 the comparisons and contrasts you discovered 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!

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 in 1915, called “Come Before Winter” from 2 Timothy 4:21.

## **Hebrews Chapter 8**

1 Now the main point in what has been said is this: we have such a high priest, who has taken His seat at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens,

2 a minister in the sanctuary and in the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, not man.

3 For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices; so it is necessary that this high priest also have something to offer.

4 Now if He were on earth, He would not be a priest at all, since there are those who offer the gifts according to the Law;

5 who serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things, just as Moses was warned by God when he was about to erect the tabernacle; for, "See," He says, "that you make all things according to the pattern which was shown you on the mountain."

6 But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, by as much as He is also the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted on better promises.

7 For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion sought for a second.

8 For finding fault with them, He says, "Behold, days are coming, says the Lord, When I will effect a new covenant With the house of Israel and with the house of Judah;

9 Not like the covenant which I made with their fathers On the day when I took them by the hand To lead them out of the land of Egypt; For they did not continue in My covenant, And I did not care for them, says the Lord.

10 “For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel After those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws into their minds, And I will write them on their hearts. And I will be their God, And they shall be My people.

11 “And they shall not teach everyone his fellow citizen, And everyone his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ For all will know Me, From the least to the greatest of them.

12 “For I will be merciful to their iniquities, And I will remember their sins no more.”

13 When He said, “A new covenant,” He has made the first obsolete. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to disappear.

## Hebrews Part Two

### Lesson #3, Chapter 8:1-5

Read Hebrews 7:1 through 8:5 before beginning your lesson. Take the time to ask the Lord to prepare your heart to see and understand the treasures of His Word.

Hebrews 8:1-5 is a preliminary section in much the same way that Chapter 1 began to set up the superiority of Christ over angels and Moses. This section in Chapter 8 slowly builds the case for the superiority of that heavenly tabernacle where Jesus ministers as high priest. This discussion reaches its apex in Chapter 9. *You will need to be patient as you study this section to gain understanding of details that will be revealed in the chapters to come.*

1. The author of Hebrews begins Chapter 8 with the statement, *Now the main point in what has been said is this*. What topic has been discussed in Chapter 7?
  
2. What is the main point of Chapter 7 as summed up in 8:1-2?
  
3. What is the identity of the high priest from Hebrews 8:1? For confirmation see Heb. 6:20; 7:26-28; and 8:1.
  
4. What do we learn about our high priest in verses 1-2?
  
5. What observations can you make about our high priest *who has taken His seat at the right hand* of God from the following verses? See Heb. 1:3; 10:11-14; 1 Pet. 3:21-22; Rev. 3:21.

6. The term *majesty* is an identifying name for God, as well as a description. What do you learn about God and His majesty from the following verses? See 1 Chron. 16:27; 29:11; Ps. 145:12; Is. 24:14; 26:10; Micah 5:4; Heb. 1:3; and Jude 25.
  
7. Define *sanctuary* [ESV *holy place* (Strong's #39)].
  - a. What is the sanctuary according to Heb. 9:12 and 10:19?
  
8. Define *tabernacle* [ESV *tent* (Strong's #4633)].
  - a. What is the true tabernacle as seen in verse 2? Here *true* is used in the sense of genuine, real, or authentic, so Jesus ministers in the real, genuine, true tabernacle.
  
9. Define *minister* (NIV *serves* [Strong's #3011]). Rom. 15:16 adds to the meaning of the word.
  
10. What makes the sanctuary and tabernacle of verse 2 unique? See verses 2, 5, and 9:24.

11. What is every high priest appointed to do? See verse 3 and 5:1.
  
12. Because the earthly tabernacle and earthly high priest parallel the heavenly ones, what is necessary for Jesus to do according to verse 3?
  
13. What does the author concede about Jesus in verse 4?
  - a. How were the earthly (Levitical) priests appointed? See verse 4; 5:4; 7:5.
  
  - b. Instead, what do we know about Jesus Christ? See 6:19-20; 7:11-14.
  
14. What does Jesus Christ do for us in that heavenly tabernacle? See verse 2; 4:15-16; 7:24-25; 9:11-12, 15, 24; 10:11-14, 19-22.
  
15. At the time this letter was written, some might have inferred that Jesus was somehow lacking because He was not “eligible” to minister within the Levitical system. However, that misperception is instantly corrected in verse 5. What do you learn?

16. In verse 5 we also learn that in actuality the earthly tabernacle is *what* in reality?
17. How does that explain why it was essential for Moses to follow God's plan?
18. Summarize what you have learned from Hebrews 8:1-5 about the following areas:
- a. Jesus Christ is superior to the earthly high priests because:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. The earthly tabernacle is:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. The earthly Levitical priesthood is only a shadow of:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - d. The tabernacle Jesus ministers in:
19. Just as the institution of marriage is a shadow and copy of the great love that Jesus bears toward the church (Eph. 5:25-32), so the patterns and plans God has revealed to Moses (verse 5) represent the spiritual truths and realities found in heaven. What reality do we have to look forward to? See Rev. 7:9-17; 21:2-5, 22; 22:1-5.

20. Summarize what you have learned from Hebrews 8:1-5. Begin with this statement: *Now the main point in what has been said is this ...*

Today our Lord is seated because His work is completed. There were no chairs in the Old Testament tabernacle because the work of the priests was never finished. Each repeated sacrifice was only a reminder that none of the sacrifices ever provided a finished salvation. The blood of animals did not wash away sin or cleanse the guilty conscience; it only covered sin until that day when Jesus Christ died to take away the sin of the world (John 1:29). ~ Warren Wiersbe <sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Warren W. Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary*, "An Exposition of the New Testament Comprising the Entire 'BE' Series," (Wheaton, Ill.: Victor Books, 1996, c1989), Heb 8:1.

## Hebrews Part Two

### Lesson #4, Chapter 8:6-9

Read Chapter 8 before beginning your lesson. Take the time to ask the Lord to prepare your heart to see and understand the treasures of His Word.

1. Summarize what you learned in last week's lesson. Start with this statement, *Now the main point from 8:1-5 is this:*
2. What has Jesus obtained according to verse 6?
3. Verse 6 begins with the contrasting word *but*. It is also helpful to note that *now* as used here is not a time reference but is used in a logical sense. The opening phrase could also be translated, *But as the case now stands*. What is being compared with Jesus' more excellent ministry? See verses 3-5.
4. It has already been established that Jesus is a greater high priest than the earthly high priests. Now the author reveals that even how He serves as high priest is better. What is a crucial element of Jesus' more excellent ministry? See the rest of verse 6.
5. Define *mediator* [Strong's #3316]. To gain a more complete picture of this term look up the following verses: Gal 3:19-20; 1Tim. 2:5; Heb. 8:6; 9:15; 12:24.

6. Who does Jesus need to mediate between? Why did those parties need a mediator? See Rom. 3:10, 23; 5:12; 6:23; 5:8-9.
  
7. As mediator what is He bringing to the table, so to speak, according to verse 6?
  
8. What other names does the author of Hebrews use to describe the “better covenant”? See verses 7-8.
  
9. The same argument used in Hebrews 7:11 is also used by the author in Hebrews 8:7. What point does he make in both 7:11 and 8:7?
  
10. What are the components of the first covenant? See Deut. 26:16-19; 27:9-10; 28:2, 58-63; 30:15-20.
  
11. Hebrews 8:8-12 is a direct quote of Jer. 31:31-34. Before he begins to quote from Jeremiah, the author states in verse 8, “For finding fault with them” which helps us understand the context from which God begins to speak. The Israelites had entered into a covenant relationship with God who promised He would be their God and take care of them if they kept their promise to be faithful to love and obey Him. Did Israel keep their part of the covenant and what were the results? See Judges 2:1-3; 6:10; 2 Kings 18:11-12; Ps. 81:6-14.

12. Consider what you learned about the covenant God made with the Israelites from Questions 10 and 11. Now answer, “Why did God find fault with Israel?”
  
13. Yet even though Israel had broken their covenant with God, what was He still willing to do according to verse 8?
  
14. What does the word *effect* [KJV, NIV *make* (Strong’s #4931)] mean from verse 8?
  
15. Eager Beaver: In verse 8, why does God speak of the nation of Israel as if it were two different groups? See 1 Kings 11:9-13, 31-36; 12:16-21.
  
16. God says the new covenant will be different from the one He made with the Israelites. When was that old covenant put into effect according to verse 9?
  
17. Look up the following verses to get more information on when the old covenant was made with Israel. See Ex. 19:1-2; 34:27-29; Deut. 4:32-38.
  
18. What else do you learn about what God intended to do for Israel in this covenant relationship according to Ex. 3:8; 19:3-6; Deut. 28:1-14?

19. What did God expect Israel to do to keep their part of the covenant? See Deut. 6:1-25.
20. After almost 850 years of God upholding His part of the covenant, even though Israel had continually broken their part, what does He finally do according to verse 9?

When Israel failed to be true to the covenant, God's solicitude and concern for His chosen people gave place to one of righteous indignation, which attitude culminated with the captivities.<sup>1</sup>

~Kenneth Wuest

21. When did the new covenant go into effect? See Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:20; Heb. 9:15; 12:24.
22. John MacArthur in his commentary on Hebrews writes, "Under the law, His [God's] care depended on her [Israel's] continuance. Her [Israel's] disobedience did not abrogate [nullify, void] the covenant, but it forfeited all the blessings of it. It was a covenant of law. Not so the New Covenant."<sup>2</sup> *Not so the New Covenant*. What hope those words bring! Those words take us back to where we began in verse 6. Jesus Christ has a more excellent ministry as a mediator of an immensely superior covenant to that covenant which the Israelites had previously known. In fact, it even had better promises! What are the better promises of the New Covenant? See Gen. 12:3; Heb. 6:12-20; 7:21-25, 28; 8:10-12.

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<sup>1</sup>Kenneth S. Wuest, *Wuest's Word Studies from the Greek New Testament: For the English Reader*, (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997, c1984), Heb 8:9.

<sup>2</sup>John MacArthur, *Hebrews*, (Chicago: Moody Press, 1996, c1983), 215.

23. Complete these sentences.
- a. Jesus Christ is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. Jesus Christ has \_\_\_\_\_.
  - c. I am amazed \_\_\_\_\_.
  - d. It encourages me \_\_\_\_\_.

### Understanding the Different Covenants of the Old Testament

Abrahamic Covenant – Gen. 12:2, 15:5. The covenant made with Abraham. The covenant would stand regardless of the behavior of the recipient. Abraham's offspring would become a great nation. Through him God would bless all the families of the earth. Promised the land as an eternal possession.

Sinaitic Covenant – Ex. 19:5-6. The covenant made at Mt. Sinai. To be God's special nation required obedience to God who had freed them from slavery. Obedience results in blessings; disobedience results in chastisement.

Deuteronomic Covenant – The covenant made before the Israelites entered the land of Canaan. Deuteronomy is a covenant renewal document. The covenant text itself is greatly expanded and more detailed than the covenant document given at Sinai. It follows a pattern known as a suzerain-vassal treaty in which God is the covenant initiator—the great king; while Israel is the covenant recipient—the vassal. Because God is the covenant initiator, He determined the parameters of acceptable behavior for the recipients—Israel. As recipients, they are called to accept the covenant as God offers it, to keep it as God demands, and to receive what God decrees in accordance with their adhering to the covenant treaty.

“The unilateral promise and covenant commitment made to the patriarchs was that they would sire a nation that would be a servant to the Sovereign God, a servant charged with the privilege and responsibility of bridging the gap between that transcendent Lord of creation and the creatures in His image whom He proposed to restore to the purposes for which He had brought them into existence.”

Roy B. Zuck, editor, *Biblical Theology of the Old Testament*

## **Hebrews Part Two**

### **Lesson #5, Chapter 8:10-13**

1. In your own words summarize Hebrews 8:1-9.
2. The author of Hebrews continues to quote verbatim from Jer. 31:31-34 as he writes Hebrews Chapter 8. In verse 10 God declares, “This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after those days.” In verse 10, what days is God referring to? See verses 8-9.
3. Verse 10 reveals some of the features of the new covenant. What are they?
4. What do you learn from the verses to follow about the Word of God being in our minds and hearts? See Ezek. 11:19-20; 36:26-27; Jn. 3:5-7; 2 Cor. 3:3, 12-18; Phil. 2:12-13; Titus 3:3-7; 1 Pet. 1:23.
5. What are some of the daily benefits of having God’s law inscribed into your heart and mind as a member of the new covenant?
6. Not only does God intend to write His law upon our minds and hearts, what else does He intend? See verse 10.

7. Read about God's desire to create a people who are His! What do you learn from Jer. 24:6-7; 32:36-42; Ezek. 37:21-28?
  
8. How can we as New Testament believers (and many of us Gentiles) apply these new covenant promises to ourselves, when they were specifically given to the Israelites? That question can be answered in different ways. The quickest and easiest answer is because the New Testament authors, writing under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, applied Jer. 31:33 to the early church (and by extension, to us). It is clear from the context that the author of Hebrews applies the promises of Jeremiah 31 to us as well. Read 2 Cor. 6:16 where Paul does the same thing.
  - a. Another facet to understand is the promises of God given specifically to Israel were also applied to any Gentile who placed their faith in the one true God. Those early Gentile believers were brought into Abraham's family by faith. Rahab (Josh. 2:1; 6:25; Matt. 1:5; Heb. 11:31) and Ruth (Ruth 1:4; Matt. 1:5) are prominent examples, while the names and stories of others who believed are scattered through the pages of Scripture. Can you think of any others? Be sure to include verse references with your answer.
  
  - b. Along those same lines, we remember that God called *the Israelites* to be His own possession, though He did not reject the Gentiles who came to Him by faith. During the Old Testament times, there was a *remnant* of Gentile believers who placed their faith in the one true God. Then during New Testament times after the early church was formed, it was primarily the Gentiles who were turning to Christ in faith. Yet, God has still provided a *remnant* of *believing* Jews who placed their faith in Jesus Christ. What do you learn from Rom. 9:8; 11:5-7, 25-27?
  
  - c. What do you learn from Gal. 3:6-9, 14, 22, 26-29 as it pertains to this issue of who the new covenant applies to?

9. Closely examine verse 10 to see what you need to do to maintain this covenant. What do you find?
  
10. What do you find when you examine the following verses about the work of God? See Acts 16:14; Rom. 8:28-30; Eph. 2:4-10; Phil. 1:6; 2:13; 2 Thess. 2:13-14; Titus 3:4-6.
  
11. How does understanding the work God does to keep you “His” encourage and motivate you?
  
12. What does verse 11 say we won’t need to do? Why (verse 11)?
  
13. Why won’t that teaching be necessary? See verse 10; Jer. 24:7; Jn. 14:17, 26; 17:3.
  
14. What are the distinctives of those who know the Lord versus those who don’t from the following verses? See Jer. 4:22; 9:3, 6, 23-24; John 6:45; 10:14-15; 1 Jn. 5:20.
  
15. It is significant to note that the word *know* is used twice in verse 11, but two different Greek words are used.

- a. The first *know* in the verse (the Greek word “ginosko”) means “to know” as in the sense of commending God to one who is ignorant of Him, like learning to recognize a stranger.
  - b. The second *know* in the verse is the Greek word “oida.” This word indicates an absolute acquaintance or relationship with God because one is born under His covenant.
  - c. Rewrite verse 11 in your own words while including the two different definitions for the word “know.”
16. The end of verse 11 states that “all shall know Me.” Who are the “all” in that statement? See verse 10.
17. From Moses (Ex. 33:13) to Paul (Phil. 3:10) the great desire of all believers is to know the God who redeemed them. Read the following verses to spur your thinking, then write your own prayer expressing your desire to know God better: Ex. 33:13; John 14:21; Gal. 4:4-9; Phil. 3:7-11.
18. The very last phrase of verse 11 explains just who will come to know God. Who is that? The following verses help explain what that phrase means: 1 Chron. 12:14; 2 Chron. 34:30; Jer. 6:13; Jonah 3:5.
19. Verse 12 reveals another amazing aspect of the new covenant. What is it?

20. F. F. Bruce in his commentary on this verse states, “For the Hebrew, ‘remembering’ was more than a mental effort; it carried with it the thought of doing something to the advantage, or disadvantage, of the person remembered.”<sup>1</sup> God, being perfect, does not forget anything, yet something happened that caused Him to “forget” our sins so He could do good to us. What was that? See Heb. 9:11-15 and Col. 1:21-22.
21. What an incredibly encouraging feature of the new covenant this is! What are some practical ways this truth has affected your everyday life?
22. What do you learn about the old and new covenants in verse 13?
23. What do you learn from the following verses about the relationship between the old and new covenants (law and grace)? See 2 Cor. 3:7-11; Gal. 3:21-25; Heb. 7:18-19; 8:6.

Praise be to God, who gave to Jesus Christ a more excellent ministry as the mediator of the better covenant (Heb. 8:6)! The love of God is greater and deeper than we can comprehend. That He would choose to love those who were His enemies is mysterious and humbling.

Psalm 13:5 But I have trusted in Your lovingkindness; my heart shall rejoice in Your salvation.

Psalm 36:7 How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God! And the children of men take refuge in the shadow of Your wings.

Lamentations 3:22 The Lord’s lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, for His compassions never fail.

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<sup>1</sup>Bruce, F. F. *The Epistle to the Hebrews, Revised*, The New International Commentary on the New Testament, (Grand Rapids, MI, Eerdmans, 1990), 194.



- c. Summarize the contents of the third paragraph (verses 11-14).
  
  - d. Summarize the contents of the fourth paragraph (verses 15-22).
  
  - e. Summarize the contents of the fifth paragraph (verses 23-28).
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 title should reflect the contents of the chapter in an abbreviated way. Remember, a title's purpose is to help you remember what is in each chapter.
  4. On the *Hebrews Bible Text* handout at the end of this lesson, 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. It helps to look for any actions that are required of the reader or things they are told to do or be.
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 the comparisons and contrasts you discovered 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

*Discovering the Treasures of the Word*

- 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 that 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!

## Hebrews Chapter 9

1 Now even the first covenant had regulations of divine worship and the earthly sanctuary.

2 For there was a tabernacle prepared, the outer one, in which were the lampstand and the table and the sacred bread; this is called the holy place.

3 Behind the second veil there was a tabernacle which is called the Holy of Holies,

4 having a golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, in which was a golden jar holding the manna, and Aaron's rod which budded, and the tables of the covenant;

5 and above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat; but of these things we cannot now speak in detail.

6 Now when these things have been so prepared, the priests are continually entering the outer tabernacle performing the divine worship,

7 but into the second, only the high priest enters once a year, not without taking blood, which he offers for himself and for the sins of the people committed in ignorance.

8 The Holy Spirit is signifying this, that the way into the holy place has not yet been disclosed while the outer tabernacle is still standing,

9 which is a symbol for the present time. Accordingly both gifts and sacrifices are offered which cannot make the worshiper perfect in conscience,

10 since they relate only to food and drink and various washings, regulations for the body imposed until a time of reformation.

11 But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things to come, He entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation;

12 and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.

13 For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled sanctify for the cleansing of the flesh,

14 how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

15 For this reason He is the mediator of a new covenant, so that, since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were committed under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

16 For where a covenant is, there must of necessity be the death of the one who made it.

17 For a covenant is valid only when men are dead, for it is never in force while the one who made it lives.

18 Therefore even the first covenant was not inaugurated without blood.

19 For when every commandment had been spoken by Moses to all the people according to the Law, he took the blood of the calves and the goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people,

20 saying, "This is the blood of the covenant which God commanded you."

21 And in the same way he sprinkled both the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry with the blood.

22 And according to the Law, one may almost say, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

23 Therefore it was necessary for the copies of the things in the heavens to be cleansed with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.

24 For Christ did not enter a holy place made with hands, a mere copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us;

25 nor was it that He would offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the holy place year by year with blood that is not his own.

26 Otherwise, He would have needed to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now once at the consummation of the ages He has been manifested to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.

27 And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment,

28 so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him.

## **Hebrews Part Two**

### **Lesson #7, Chapter 9:1-10**

Read Chapter 9 before beginning this lesson. Be sure to ask the Lord for His help to understand and apply His Word in your life.

In Hebrews Chapter 7 we learned that Christ the high priest is superior to the priests descended from Levi. In Hebrews Chapter 8 we learned our high priest, Jesus, is the mediator of a better covenant. Now in Chapter 9 we will study how Christ's sacrifice is superior to the sacrificial system set up under the old covenant. With affection and reverence the author reveals the parts and pieces of the old covenant worship system in Hebrews 9:1-10, which points to the One who offered Himself once for all.

1. Though the first covenant was passing away (8:13), it still had value—the old covenant prepared the way for the new covenant, as we learn in this chapter. What did the first covenant have according to verse 1?
  
2. Look up the following passages to gain the sense of the word *regulation*: Luke 1:6; Rom. 1:32; 2:26; 8:4; and Heb. 9:1, 10. What does the author mean with the phrase, “*regulations of divine worship*?”
  
3. Numbers 28 and Deut. 10:12-13 are two places we can read about the regulations of divine worship under the old covenant. What do you learn about the worship God required under the old covenant?
  
4. The old covenant had regulations or commands that provided instruction in how God was to be worshiped. What do you learn about the specific way God is to be worshiped under the new covenant from the following verses? See John 4:23-24; 1 Cor. 14:26-33; 1 Thess. 5:12-22; 1 Tim. 2:8-12; 3:14-15; 4:13; 2 Tim. 4:2; 1 Pet. 1:13-25.

5. There is a principle here we must take care not to overlook. God has always given specific commands in how He is to be worshiped. Can you think of any areas where you need to take care to worship the Lord in the way He prescribes?
  
6. The earthly sanctuary is described as the *earthly place of holiness* (ESV). This holy sanctuary located in this world is described in verses 2-5. Let's begin by looking at verse 2 which says it had a tabernacle. What is a *tabernacle* (ESV *tent* [Strong's #4633])? See Ex. 39:32-34; 40:2, 18-20.
  
7. To read more about the items of the holy place see Ex. 25:23-40; 40:22-25; Lev. 24:5-9. What interesting details did you discover from those passages?
  
8. A possible discrepancy arises in verse 4 as to the actual location of the altar of incense in the tabernacle. Where does the author of Hebrews say the golden altar of incense sat (verses 3-4)? Now read Ex. 40:17-27; Lev. 16:12-13 to see where Moses placed it.
  - a. When did the high priest enter into the Holy of Holies? See Lev. 16:34; Heb. 9:6-7.
  
  - b. The *Believer's Bible Commentary* states, "Verse 4 says that the golden censer was also in the Most Holy Place. The Greek word translated *censer* can mean either the incense altar (mentioned in Ex. 30:6 as being in the Holy Place) or the censer with which the high priest carried the incense. The best explanation is the latter. The writer regarded the censer as

belonging to the Most Holy Place because the high priest carried it in from the incense altar into the Holiest Place on the Day of Atonement.”<sup>1</sup>

9. What else was located in the Holy of Holies according to verse 4? What was inside it?
  
10. Why would those items be significant enough to reside in the ark of the covenant? For the manna see Ex. 16:33-35; Deut. 8:3, 16. For Aaron’s rod see Num. 17:1-11. For the tablets see Deut. 10:1-5.
  
11. Verse 5 mentions the “mercy seat.” What is that? See Ex. 25:21-22; 26:34; 30:6. Also notice: what is another name for the ark of the covenant?
  
12. Look up the definition for *mercy seat* in a Bible dictionary (NIV *atonement cover* [Strong’s #2435]). What added details do you discover about this piece of furniture in the tabernacle?
  
13. The writer of Hebrews terminates his discussion of the tabernacle’s contents with the words, “but of these things we cannot now speak in detail.” Why is that? See Heb. 8:1.

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<sup>1</sup>MacDonald, William and Arthur Farstad, *Believer's Bible Commentary: Old and New Testaments*, (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997, c1995), Heb 9:4.



16. What does the Holy Spirit indicate in verse 8?
17. Eager Beaver: The phrase, “The Holy Spirit is signifying this” hints at the guidance the Holy Spirit gave the Bible writers. What do the following verses teach you about how the Bible was written by God through men? See 2 Sam. 23:2-3; Acts 1:16; 3:18; 2 Tim. 3:16; 1 Pet. 1:10-12; 2 Pet. 1:20-21.
18. What do we learn about the tabernacle at the beginning of verse 9?
19. That information about the tabernacle from the beginning of verse 9 helps us understand the point being made in this section. D. A. Carson states, “At a literal level, the outer tent obscured the way into the second tent. At a symbolic level, the tabernacle and all its ritual stood in the way of direct and permanent access to God. In certain respects the law foreshadowed and prepared for the ministry of Christ. But when the new covenant was inaugurated, the inadequacies of the old covenant cult<sup>2</sup> became glaringly obvious.”<sup>3</sup> What was the old covenant unable to do according to verses 9-10?
20. Why wasn’t the old covenant able to cleanse the soul from sin? See Heb. 10:1-4.

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<sup>2</sup>The meaning of the term “cult” is to describe a system of religious beliefs, rather than referring to those whose beliefs are heretical to biblical truth.

<sup>3</sup>Carson, D. A., *New Bible Commentary: 21st Century Edition*, Rev. Ed. of: *The New Bible Commentary. 3rd Ed.* / Edited by D. Guthrie, J.A. Motyer. 1970., 4th ed. (Leicester, England; Downers Grove, Ill., USA: Inter-Varsity Press, 1994), Heb 9:1.

21. The writer of Hebrews uses terms like “symbol,” “copy,” or “shadow” to describe the old covenant in Hebrews 8-10. What is his purpose in using those terms? What does he hope to accomplish for his readers?
- a. Paul does something similar in 2 Cor. 3:7-11. How is this passage similar to what the author of Hebrews is doing in Heb. 9:1-10?
22. If readers of this book do not understand the purpose of the old covenant and revert back to Judaism what is at stake? See verses 11-12.
23. What is the significance of saying as verse 8 does that the entrance into the very presence of God remains hidden as long the old covenant rituals are adhered to and Jesus Christ is rejected? See Jn. 14:6; 2 Cor. 3:12-18; Heb. 10:19-22.
24. What warnings can you learn from this lesson?
- a. What encouragements can you take with you from this lesson?

*A Time of Reformation has Come.*

## Hebrews Part Two

### Lesson #8, Chapter 9:11-22

As you come to this lesson ask the Lord for His abundant grace in studying and applying His Word.

Keep in mind that every point the author makes in this chapter is tied to the scarlet ribbon whose themes are death and blood. Each comment, each thought, each point is in some way related to something about death or blood. Trace the scarlet ribbon through the chapter and you will see the trail of death and blood in the chapter. Notice how each of the comments or arguments are related to those themes and you will gain insight into the author's mind. Though this may sound like a grim topic, it really isn't. This chapter spells the beginning of hope for all who believe in Christ.

1. The whole point of Hebrews 9:1-10 culminates in verse 11. In your own words *briefly* summarize 9:1-11.
  
2. What is Christ high priest of according to verse 11? What are those "things?" See also 8:6; 9:15; 10:1; 11:1; 1 Pet. 1:4.
  
3. Which tabernacle did Christ enter? See 9:11, 24 and 8:1-2.
  
4. How did Christ obtain eternal redemption according to verse 12?
  
5. The priests *daily* entered the holy place to offer up sacrifices, while *each year* on

- the Day of Atonement the high priest entered the holy of holies, yet Jesus entered that heavenly tabernacle only *one time—once for all*. Explain the significance of the phrase, “once for all,” after reviewing the verses to follow: Heb. 7:23-25, 26-28; 9:26-28; 10:10-14.
6. Jesus obtained eternal redemption for us through the shedding of His blood once. The thought is so staggering that the author of Hebrews further expounds upon it by discussing two truths. What are they (verses 13-14)?
7. *How much more*. The phrasing, the nuances of the words used by the author of Hebrews all review the superiority of Christ’s sacrifice compared to the valuable, but imperfect sacrificial system, which came before. Just how efficient was Christ’s death on your behalf? What did His blood cleanse (verse 14)?
- a. Personalize this truth by making a list of the things that were cleansed in your life through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ on your behalf.
8. His death on your behalf had a purpose. What is it according to the end of verse 14? See also Rom. 6:13, 2 Cor. 5:14-15; 1 Thess. 1:9; Heb. 12:28-29.

Eager Beaver: Note the perfect working together of the three members of the Trinity in verse 14. What is each member doing?

9. Verse 15 begins, “*For this reason* He is the mediator of a new covenant,” which immediately ties it to something previously stated. What is the connection (verse 14)?
  
10. Verse 15 states, “a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions.” Who died?
  
11. In verse 15 we read the term, “redemption of the transgressions.” Define *redemption* (NIV *ransom* [Strong’s #629]).
  - a. Look up the following verses to see just what that phrase means: Acts 20:28; Gal. 3:13; Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:13-14; 1 Pet. 1:18-19; Rev. 1:5.
  
12. Why was this death and mediation necessary (verse 15)?
  
13. Christ is a mediator for whom? What did they receive as a result of His mediation (verse 15)?
  
14. Some might say, “Why did Christ have to die to redeem mankind?” One part of that answer is explained in the verses to follow where the author introduces a new angle to his argument for Christ’s superiority. In verses 16-17 where the word

- covenant* is used in these verses in the NAS version, the NIV translates it *will*, while the KJV uses *testament*. The latter two versions provide insight into what the author is communicating here so that it reads, “For where a *last will and testament* is, there must of necessity be the death of the one who made it. For a *last will and testament* is valid only when men are dead, for it is never in force while the one who made it lives.” How does the author’s point fit in with what you know about someone dying and leaving a “last will and testament?”
15. Now we know why the author has been talking about last wills and testaments in verses 16-17. He’s making a comparison! What is being ushered in in verses 16-17 with verse 18?
  
  16. How was the first covenant inaugurated (verse 18)?
    - a. If that substance was used during the covenant ceremony what had to happen to get it?
  
  17. The author goes on to explain verse 18 further in verses 19-20 when he summarizes what happened when the first covenant was inaugurated by Moses in Ex. 24:3-8. How do those two passages (Heb. 9:19-20 and Ex. 24:3-8) underscore what is said in verse 18?
  
  18. Verse 21 begins, “And in the same way.” What comparison is being made between verses 19 and 21?



There Is a Fountain Filled with Blood  
by William Cowper

There is a fountain filled with blood  
drawn from Immanuel's veins  
And sinners plunged beneath that flood  
Lose all their guilty stains.

The dying thief rejoiced to see  
That fountain in his day;  
And there may I, though vile as he  
Wash all my sins away.

Dear dying Lamb, thy precious blood  
Shall never lose its power  
Till all the ransomed church of God  
Are saved, to sin no more.

For since by faith I saw the stream  
Thy flowing wounds supply  
Redeeming love has been my theme  
and shall be till I die.

## Hebrews Part Two

### Lesson #9, Chapter 9:23-28

Ask the Lord to focus your mind and heart to glean the most you can from this lesson.

1. What is the connecting thought from Heb. 9:22 to verse 23? (In other words, what is the “therefore” there for?)
  
2. What two places are mentioned in verse 23?
  - a. What comparison is made between the two places?
  
3. What does the word “these” refer to when the writer states, “Therefore it was necessary for the copies of the things in the heavens to be cleansed with *these*, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than *these*.” Refer to verses 19-22 for your answer. Now rewrite verse 23 with your expanded understanding of “these.”
  
4. How are the heavenly things cleansed according to verse 23?
  
5. Who or what is the better sacrifice according to verse 24?
  
6. What does the holy place made with hands refer to? See verses 11, 24, and 8:1-5.

7. What did Christ enter (verse 24)? Why?
  
8. What was *not* His purpose while there (verse 25)?
  
9. Why did Christ appear before God for us? See Matt. 10:32; Rom. 8:34; 1 Jn. 2:1-2.
  
10. It is difficult to imagine how someone would leave Jesus Christ and return to Judaism after learning what Christ has done for us. What is the root of all such turning away? See Heb. 3:12.
  
11. The author of Hebrews urges his readers to decide who they will follow: those who would drag them back into Judaism or Christ. Throughout the book, the author has presented Christ in His glorious superiority as *the* way to get to God. Now in Chapter 9 the author draws our eyes upward to heaven. He is calling us to place our faith in the reality of heaven rather than the shadowlands of this world. What are some specific ways you can remind yourself that heaven is more real than what we experience here on earth?
  
12. In verse 26 we read, *Otherwise, He would have needed to suffer often since the foundation of the world.* Why would Jesus have needed to suffer often according to the line of reasoning in verses 23-25?
  
13. When did Jesus offer Himself up as the perfect sacrifice according to verse 26?

14. What do you learn about the time when Jesus lived, died, and rose again from the following verses? See Mark 1:15; Gal. 4:4; Eph. 1:10; 1 Tim. 2:6; Titus 1:3; Heb. 9:10; 1 Pet. 1:20.
  - a. What does that teach you about God?
  
15. Why was it necessary for Jesus' sacrifice to span the time since the *foundation of the world*? See Rom. 5:12, 14-18.
  
16. Jesus's sacrifice covered the sins of those who lived in the past. Jesus's sacrifice covered the sins of those who lived in the present with Him. Jesus's sacrifice covered those who would live in the future. What does this teach you about His sacrifice and His ability to overcome sin?
  - a. How would understanding—and believing—that truth make a difference in your daily life?
  
17. Keeping in mind Jesus' complete and comprehensive forgiveness and victory over sin and death we come to the phrase, *He has been manifested*. Define *manifested* (NIV, KJV *appeared* [Strong's #5319]). Now look up Jn. 9:3; 21:1; Rom. 1:19; Col. 1:26 to gain a greater understanding of the word's meaning.
  
18. Jesus appeared on the scene for what purpose (verse 26)?

19. What do we learn about men and death from verse 27?
  - a. How does that little verse provide an answer for those who say they went to heaven and have now come back to tell us all about it?
  
20. In the same way that men die once, what did Christ do once? See verse 28.
  
21. What is His purpose when He appears again according to verse 28?
  
22. Just what is a *salvation without reference to sin*? See Rom. 6:22; 8:23; Eph. 4:30; 2 Tim. 4:8; 1 Pet. 1:3-5, 7-9.
  
23. What do you learn about those who eagerly await the coming of the Lord Jesus? See Rom. 8:1; 1 Cor. 1:7-8; Phil. 3:20-21; Titus 2:11-14.
  - a. Consider your attitude toward Christ's second appearing. What terms best describe your attitude? What is the best way you can encourage your heart to eagerly wait for Him?

“Strangers on earth, we wait for thee;  
O leave the Father’s throne,  
Come with a shout of victory,  
Lord, and claim us as thine own.  
No resting Place we seek on earth,  
No loveliness we see,  
Our eye is on the royal throne,  
Prepared for us and thee.”

Lord, increase the number of those who look for thee, and desire, and pray, and wait,  
and watch through the dreary hours of the night for the morning which thy coming shall usher in!<sup>1</sup>

Come, Lord Jesus, come.

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<sup>1</sup>Charles H. Spurgeon, *Spurgeon’s Sermons: Volume 8*, electronic ed., Logos Library System; Spurgeon’s Sermons (Albany, OR: Ages Software, 1998).

## Hebrews Part Two

### Lesson #10, Chapter 10 Overview

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 10 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 10. Now, summarize the contents of Chapter 10. This is not the time to be super detailed; instead, think of trying to tell a 4th grader the contents of the chapter.<sup>1</sup>

Note: This chapter contains direct quotations from the Old Testament Scriptures. The author of Hebrews repeats them exactly as they are used in their original context in the Old Testament which means that sometimes the pronouns don't follow the context. Don't let those pronoun changes fool you. Take note of when a quote is used and trace who or what the author is talking about. You should then be able to identify the pronoun references properly.

- a. Summarize the contents of the first paragraph (verses 1-10).

- b. Summarize the contents of the second paragraph (verses 11-18).

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<sup>1</sup>The method and process of observation in Bible study does God honor as we stop, observe, and consider each and every one of His recorded Words, in their context. I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge the debt I owe to the Precept Inductive Bible Studies observation method, which I have adapted in my studies. As far as I know, the method is the brainchild of Kay Arthur, though I've encountered a number of others who have also come up with similar ways for observing the text. The point of observation is to slow down and really look at what God has preserved for us in His Word. What I've created here is simply another variation to help us peer more closely at the Scriptures—for our good and His glory.

- c. Summarize the contents of the third paragraph (verses 19-25).
  
  - d. Summarize the contents of the fourth paragraph (verses 26-31).
  
  - e. Summarize the contents of the fifth paragraph (verses 32-39).
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 title should reflect the contents of the chapter in an abbreviated way. Remember, a title's purpose is to help you remember what is in each chapter.
  4. On the *Hebrews Bible Text* handout at the end of this lesson, 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. It helps to look for any actions that are required of the reader or things they are told to do or be.
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 the comparisons and contrasts you discovered 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

*Discovering the Treasures of the Word*

- 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 that 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!

## Hebrews Chapter 10

1 For the Law, since it has only a shadow of the good things to come and not the very form of things, can never, by the same sacrifices which they offer continually year by year, make perfect those who draw near.

2 Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, because the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have had consciousness of sins?

3 But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins year by year.

4 For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

5 Therefore, when He comes into the world, He says, "Sacrifice and offering You have not desired, But a body You have prepared for Me;

6 In whole burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You have taken no pleasure.

7 "Then I said, 'Behold, I have come (In the scroll of the book it is written of Me) To do Your will, O God.' "

8 After saying above, "Sacrifices and offerings and whole burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You have not desired, nor have You taken pleasure in them" (which are offered according to the Law),

9 then He said, "Behold, I have come to do Your will." He takes away the first in order to establish the second.

10 By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

11 Every priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins;

12 but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, sat down at the right hand of God,

13 waiting from that time onward until His enemies be made a footstool for His feet.

14 For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.

15 And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us; for after saying,

16 “This is the covenant that I will make with them After those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws upon their heart, And on their mind I will write them,” He then says,

17 “And their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.”

18 Now where there is forgiveness of these things, there is no longer any offering for sin.

19 Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus,

20 by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh,

21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God,

22 let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful;

24 and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds,

25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

26 For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,

27 but a terrifying expectation of judgment and the fury of a fire which will consume the adversaries.

28 Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses.

29 How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace?

30 For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay." And again, "The Lord will judge His people."

31 It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

32 But remember the former days, when, after being enlightened, you endured a great conflict of sufferings,

33 partly by being made a public spectacle through reproaches and tribulations, and partly by becoming sharers with those who were so treated.

34 For you showed sympathy to the prisoners and accepted joyfully the seizure of your property, knowing that you have for yourselves a better possession and a lasting one.

35 Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward.

36 For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised.

37 For yet in a very little while, He who is coming will come, and will not delay.

38 But My righteous one shall live by faith; And if he shrinks back, My soul has no pleasure in him.

39 But we are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul.

## Hebrews Part Two

### Lesson #11, Chapter 10:1-7

Read Hebrews 9:23-10:7 at least once before beginning this lesson. Please take the time to bow your heart before the Lord and ask for His guidance and insight as you study.

“Under the Old Covenant, the priests were busy all day long, from dawn to sunset, slaughtering and sacrificing animals. It is estimated that at Passover as many as three hundred thousand lambs would be slain within a week. The slaughter would be so massive that blood would run out of the Temple ground through specially prepared channels into the Brook Kidron, which seemed to be running with blood.

But no matter how many sacrifices were made, or how often, they were ineffective. They failed in three ways: they could not bring access to God; they could not remove sin; and they were only external.” ~John MacArthur<sup>1</sup>

1. What two things are being contrasted in verse 1 of Chapter 10?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. How does that continue the line of reasoning of Hebrews 9:23-28?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What key points about the law does the author reiterate in verse 1? Reread the following verses for confirmation of those same points being made: 7:18-19; 8:5; 9:9, 11.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Define *shadow* [Strong’s #4639].
  - a. Define *form* (NIV *reality*; KJV *image* [Strong’s #1504]).

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<sup>1</sup>John MacArthur, *Hebrews*, (Chicago: Moody Press, 1996, c1983), 246.

5. What is the law not able to do according to verse 1?
  
6. What logic does the author use to further substantiate this truth in verse 2?
  
7. Explain how verse 3 help us understand the meaning of the phrase, “worshippers...would no longer have had *consciousness of sins*?” Look up the following verses for help in forming your answer: Heb. 8:12; 9:9, 13-14; 10:22.

“If the offerings had completely and finally absolved them from sin, then would they not have ceased making the annual trek to the tabernacle or temple? The regular recurrence of the sacrifices branded them as ineffectual. Whoever has to take medicine every hour to stay alive can hardly be said to be cured.” ~ *Believer's Bible Commentary*<sup>2</sup>

8. What definitive statement is made in verse 4?
  
9. Why was this a necessary reminder for those who were considering a return to Judaism?
  
10. Stop for a moment and consider again these words, *It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins* and then read the hymn that follows. What does take away your sin? How should that impact your life?

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<sup>2</sup>William MacDonald and Arthur Farstad, *Believer's Bible Commentary: Old and New Testaments*, (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997, c1995), Heb 10:2.

Nothing But the Blood  
by Robert Lowry

What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus; What can make me whole again? Nothing but the blood of Jesus.	For my pardon, this I see, Nothing but the blood of Jesus; For my cleansing this my plea, Nothing but the blood of Jesus.	This is all my hope and peace, Nothing but the blood of Jesus; This is all my righteousness, Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
Oh! precious is the flow That makes me white as snow; No other fount I know, Nothing but the blood of Jesus.	Nothing can for sin atone, Nothing but the blood of Jesus; Naught of good that I have done, Nothing but the blood of Jesus.	Glory! Glory! This I sing— Nothing but the blood of Jesus, All my praise for this I bring— Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

11. Verse 5 reveals that someone was going to come into the world. Who was that?
  - a. Explain how you figured out the answer to the question above from the surrounding context of verse 5.
  
12. The author of Hebrews is quoting Ps. 40:6-8 to make a key point that we will look into in a moment. Read Ps. 40 and summarize the contents of the psalm. Pay particular attention to the context of Ps. 40:6-8.
  
13. The author of Hebrews quotes Ps. 40:6 from the LXX or the Septuagint, which is the Greek version of the Old Testament. The Hebrew language version of Ps. 40:6 reads, “My ears you have opened,” while the Greek language version reads “a body you have prepared for Me,” as we have here in our text (Heb. 10:5).
  - a. According to Heb. 10:1-5 the “body” was prepared for what purpose?

- b. What point is the author making in Heb. 10:1-5?
  
  - c. Why would the author have preferred the LXX translation here?
  
  - d. Now read Heb. 10:10. How does that add insight into the author's meaning in verse 5?
14. What does Heb. 10:6 reveal?
15. Why aren't those things pleasing to God *in this context* (10:1-6)?
- a. Now look up the following verses to see what else God has to say about why those things aren't pleasing to Him: 1 Sam. 15:22-23; Ps. 50:8-15; 51:16-17; Is. 1:11-17; Amos 5:21-26.
16. If sacrifices and offerings aren't pleasing to the Lord, what is? See verse 7.
17. The author of Hebrews sees Ps. 40:6-8 as predictive of Christ who came to do God's will. Look up the following verses and record what you learn about Christ doing God's will. See Matt. 26:39-42; Jn. 4:34; 5:30; 6:38; 8:42.

18. What did God's will for Christ involve?
  
19. How did Christ respond to God'?
  
20. How have you benefitted from Christ understanding God's will for His life?
  
21. Christ proclaimed, "Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God." It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins (10:4), so Jesus Christ shed His blood to take them away. What response does this debt of love inspire in you as you consider your life and His sacrifice?

My Soul Complete in Jesus Stands  
by Grace Hinsdale

My soul complete in Jesus stands!  
It fears no more the law's demands;  
The smile of God is sweet within,  
Where all before was guilt and sin.

My soul at rest in Jesus lives:  
Accepts the peace His pardon gives;  
Receives the grace His death secured,  
And pleads the anguish He endured.

My soul its every foe defies,  
And cries—'tis God that justifies!  
Who charges God's elect with sin?  
Shall Christ, who died their peace to win?

A song of praise my soul shall sing  
To our eternal, glorious King!  
Shall worship humbly at His feet,  
In Whom alone it stands complete.

## **Hebrews Part Two**

### **Lesson #12, Chapter 10:8-18**

Ask the Lord to prepare your heart to study His Word in this lesson.

1. Explain the flow of Heb. 10:1-7.
  
2. What parenthetical information does the author of Hebrews include in his verse 8 commentary?
  
3. Why is that a significant point in light of what he has just said?
  
4. What further information does the author include in his final comments in verse 9?
  
5. What does Jesus coming to do God's will have to do with establishing the second (or new) covenant?
  
6. Verse 10 begins, *By this will*. What "will" is the author referring to (verse 7, 9)?
  
7. Just what is God's will in this case? See verse 10.
  - a. How do we benefit from Christ's obedience to God's will?

8. Define *sanctified* (NIV *made holy* [Strong's #37]).
  
9. What is significant about the verb choice here—*have been sanctified*? What does that tell you about your position before God? See also 1 Cor. 6:11; Eph. 4:24; 1 Thess. 3:13; Heb. 10:14.
  
10. What key words in verse 11 reveal the hopelessness of the old covenant system?
  
11. What key words in verse 12 provide a contrast to the hopelessness of verse 11?
  
12. What did Jesus do after He made sacrifice for sins (verse 12)?
  - a. What does that indicate about Christ's work?
  
13. What is He doing *now* (verse 13)?
  - a. *When* will that change (verse 13)?
  
  - b. What does that tell you about God's future plan?

14. Jesus paid the ultimate price and gave the perfect sacrifice, yet we read that He *waits*. He waits for the day when all the world will see Him as King of kings and Lord of lords. Why does God make Jesus wait? See Phil. 2:9-11; 2 Pet. 3:8-9; Rev. 19:1-18.
  
15. In verse 14 the author sums up his statements from verses 11-13. What was Christ able to do through His *one* offering?
  
16. Define *perfected* [Strong's #5048]. Now rewrite verse 14 using the definition.
  
17. Explain how verse 15 adds weight to what has already been said.
  
18. What truths were confirmed (verses 16-17)?
  
19. How do the truths of verses 16-17 confirm what the author teaches us in verse 14?
  
20. What jaw dropping statement is made in verse 18?
  - a. Verse 18 states, *where there is forgiveness of these things*. What are those *things* according to verse 17?

21. Why would it be crucial to understand verse 18 in the battle against returning to Judaism?
  
22. Summarize what you learned about Christ from verses 8-18.
  
23. Think of at least one way these bedrock truths about Christ can make a difference for *you* in your daily life.

O Happy Day

By Philip Doddridge

O happy day that fixed my choice  
on Thee, my Savior and my God!  
Well may this glowing heart rejoice  
and tell its raptures all abroad.

O happy bond that seals my vows  
to Him who merits all my love!  
Let cheerful anthems fill His house,  
while to that sacred shrine I move.

High Heav'n that heard the solemn vow,  
that vow renewed shall daily hear;  
till in life's latest hour I bow,  
and bless in death a bond so dear.

'Tis done, the great transaction's done—  
I am my Lord's and He is mine;  
He drew me, and I followed on,  
charmed to confess the voice divine.

Now rest, my long-divided heart,  
fixed on this blissful center, rest;  
nor ever from my Lord depart,  
with Him of ev'ry good possessed.

## Hebrews Part Two

### Lesson #13, Chapter 10:19-31

Read Hebrews 10:1-31 in preparation for this lesson. Ask the Lord to help you grow in wisdom and understanding of His ways.

Keep in mind the recipients of this letter are a mixed group of people just like any church congregation. There are believers at all stages of growth, as well as unbelievers, who range from seeking God to scoffing at Him. The believers in this group have endured suffering and persecution and are now trying to withstand the wiles of false teachers who want to lure anyone they can back to Judaism and the sacrificial system known by their fathers. Just like any good preacher, the writer of this letter addresses his comments to the majority, those who are believers, trying to minister to their spiritual needs, while at times he addresses those on the sidelines, seeking to win them to Christ and to woo them back to the right path.

1. What do we have according to verse 19 and what does it allow us to do?
  - a. How is that possible? See also 10:16-18.
  
2. What term does the writer use to describe Jesus' flesh (verse 20)?
  - a. How is Jesus' flesh or body like the veil in the temple? See Matt. 27:51, then look up Heb. 9:11-14 and then read Is. 53:1-12.
  
3. What are we to do since we have a great high priest who rules over the house of God? See verse 22.
  - a. What qualities should our hearts have as we draw near to God (verse 22)?

4. Define *conscience* [Strong's #4893].
  
5. What kind of conscience is described here?
  - a. What other kinds of consciences are described in the Scriptures? See Acts 23:1; 24:16; 1 Cor. 8:7; 2 Cor. 4:2; 1 Tim. 4:2; Titus 1:15; Heb. 9:9, 14.
  
  - b. According to verse 22 what can happen to even an evil conscience?
  
6. Unlike most of us, the recipients of this letter were familiar with the preparations necessary to enter God's presence. What things needed to be done? See Num. 19:16-19 for an example. How does that coincide with what the author is describing in verse 22?
  
7. Since we have confidence to enter God's presence because of our great high priest what else are we urged to do according to verse 23? Why?
  
8. Just what is the *confession of our hope*? See 2 Cor. 9:13; 1 Tim. 6:12; Heb. 3:1, 6; 4:14; 10:23.
  
9. This command would have been especially poignant to the Hebrews readers because of the ones in their midst who were wavering in the faith. They had forgotten the crucial truth contained in this verse. What is the key to holding fast to your hope *without wavering* (verse 23)?

10. Think of one area of your life where you need to be reminded that *He who promised is faithful*. Write down 3 ways you can shore up your thoughts so they will not falter.
  
11. Since we have confidence to enter God's presence because of our great high priest, we are to draw near, we are to hold fast, and we are also to do what according to verse 24?
  
12. Define *consider* [Strong's #2657].
  - a. Define *stimulate* (NIV *spur*; KJV *provoke* [Strong's #3948]).
  
13. How are you doing in these three areas—drawing near, holding fast, considering how to stir up others? Which of these three areas do you need to give special attention to? What specific steps do you need to take to do so?
  
14. Besides encouraging others in the body, what else do we need to be mindful of according to verse 25? Why?
  
15. Verse 26 is connected to the previous verses by the transition word *for*. What do the two phrases—*forsaking the assembling together* and *sinning willfully*—have to do with each other?

16. Explain what it means to *willfully and deliberately* sin against what you know is the right thing to do. See also James 4:17. How is deliberately sinning different than falling into sin?
  
17. If we continue to willfully sin against the knowledge of the truth, what is the result (verses 26-27)?
  
18. What is the point of comparing the Law of Moses and the new covenant in verses 28-29?
  - a. What does the comparison in verses 28-29 have to do with “sinning willfully”?
  
  - b. Why would this person receive a severer punishment according to verses 28-29?
  
19. What awaits those who sin willfully according to verses 30-31?
  
20. If judgment and punishment await the person who sins willfully, what does this tell you about their spiritual condition? See also Jn. 3:36; 5:24; Rom. 8:1; Gal. 3:13; Heb. 3:12; 4:2.
  
21. The writer of Hebrews urges us to examine ourselves to see if we are in the faith. If we find a pattern of willful rebellion against what we know is right, then we

need to be suspicious of our “salvation.” We need to realize we may not be saved at all. And if we are not saved, then we deserve the full wrath of God. How can you escape this judgment from God?

What a sweetness there is when we stand fully assured of our faith and hope in Jesus Christ. Condemnation from God does not nip at our heels, rather His compassion welcomes us to come to Him. Though the day of Christ’s return is drawing near, His children have nothing to fear.

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!  
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.  
—Fanny Crosby

Charles Spurgeon commenting on these verses states: “Notice the practical teaching of this great truth. If you have been thus washed, do not defile yourselves again. If, by God’s rich mercy, you have been delivered from the transgressions of the past, let gratitude move you to holy living, and endeavor, not only to grow in grace yourselves, but to help others in the same direction, that so the abounding mercy of God may have from us abundant praise. God grant it for his name’s sake! Amen.”<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Charles H. Spurgeon, *Spurgeon's Sermons: Volume 51*, electronic ed., Logos Library System; Spurgeon's Sermons (Albany, OR: Ages Software, 1998)

## **Hebrews Part Two**

### **Lesson #14, Chapter 10:32-39**

Prepare your heart for this lesson by asking the Lord for His help and trusting Him to do just that!

1. What is it about the former days that the Hebrews readers were supposed to remember? See verses 32-34.
2. Why would the author of Hebrews remind these believers about the former days after hearing 10:26-31 read to them?
3. Explain what the term *enlightened* means after looking up the following verses: See John 1:9; Acts 26:18; 2 Cor. 4:6; and Eph. 1:18.
4. What happened after they were enlightened according to verse 32?
5. Define *endured* (NIV *stood your ground* [Strong's #5278]). Now list what you learn about enduring from the following verses: Matt. 10:22; 24:13; Rom. 12:12; 1 Cor. 13:7; 2 Tim. 2:10, 12; Heb. 12:2-3, 7; James 1:12; 1 Pet. 2:20.
6. We have seen from these verses that standing firm in the face of trial is a supernatural response to suffering. What is our natural response to suffering and trials?

7. What does *being made a public spectacle through reproaches and tribulations* mean? To help you develop your answer look up 1 Cor. 4:9; 1 Thess. 1:8-10; 2:1-2, 14; Heb. 11:35-38.
  
8. The Hebrews endured suffering by becoming sharers with those who had been made a public spectacle. Why would they do this? See Rom. 12:9-13, 15; Phil. 1:7; 2:3-4; Heb. 13:1, 3.
  - a. How does their “joining in” show courage on their part?
  
9. Part of the suffering the believers endured was being thrown in prison because of their faith in Jesus Christ. How did they respond to their brethren (verse 34)?
  - a. While some were thrown in prison, what happened to some of the other believers (verse 34)?
  
  - b. How did they respond to those circumstances according to verse 34? Why?
  
  - c. How would that same attitude aid you in *any* circumstance of suffering you might be asked to face?
  
10. What are some specific steps you can take to equip yourself now, so that when the time comes you will stand firm in suffering like the Hebrews believers did?

11. What exhortation is given to the Hebrews in verse 35? Why would their previous circumstances and their previous godly response be a motivation to stand firm now?
  
12. Define *confidence* [Strong's #3954].
  
13. Any runner will tell you that the most difficult time to persevere in the race is right before the finish line is in view. That is exactly the place where the Hebrews believers found themselves in their spiritual race. From what you know about the Hebrews and their circumstances, what factors contributed to their temptation to throw away their confidence?
  
14. The author of Hebrews has encouraged these beleaguered believers to stand firm, to stay the course, to finish the race all the way through this book. Skim over Chapters 1-10 and list at least 5 times when the author encourages them to keep holding on in the same way that he encourages them here in 10:35.
  
15. Why do they need to continue to show endurance according to verse 36?
  
16. What encouragement is given in verse 37? How is that a motivation to stay on course and finish the race?
  
17. What is the warning of verse 38? How is that a motivation to stay on course and finish the race as well?

18. What affirmation does the writer of Hebrews give to his readers in verse 39?
  
19. What does a person shrink back from according to verses 35-39?
  
20. What kind of person shrinks back? See Matt. 12:43-45; Heb. 3:12; 6:4-6; 10:26-27; 1 Jn. 2:19.
  
21. Dear storm-tossed and troubled soul, are these words of exhortation for you? Do not throw away your confidence, your boldness, your open faith in Jesus Christ just because you are experiencing difficulty. Stand firm. Your boldness and confidence in Christ have great reward. He is coming soon. How have the encouragements from this lesson been a balm for your soul?

Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken  
by Henry F. Lyte

Jesus, I my cross have taken, all to leave and follow Thee.  
Destitute, despised, forsaken, Thou from hence my all shall be.  
Perish every fond ambition, all I've sought or hoped or known.  
Yet how rich is my condition! God and heaven are still mine own.

Let the world despise and leave me, they have left my Savior, too.  
Human hearts and looks deceive me; Thou art not, like them, untrue.  
And while Thou shalt smile upon me, God of wisdom, love and might,  
Foes may hate and friends disown me, show Thy face and all is bright.

Go, then, earthly fame and treasure! Come, disaster, scorn and pain!  
In Thy service, pain is pleasure; with Thy favor, loss is gain.  
I have called Thee, "Abba, Father"; I have set my heart on Thee:  
Storms may howl, and clouds may gather, all must work for good to me.

*Discovering the Treasures of the Word*

Man may trouble and distress me, 'twill but drive me to Thy breast.  
Life with trials hard may press me; heaven will bring me sweeter rest.  
Oh, 'tis not in grief to harm me while Thy love is left to me;  
Oh, 'twere not in joy to charm me, were that joy unmixed with Thee.

Take, my soul, thy full salvation; rise o'er sin, and fear, and care;  
Joy to find in every station something still to do or bear:  
Think what Spirit dwells within thee; what a Father's smile is thine;  
What a Savior died to win thee, child of heaven, shouldst thou repine?

Haste then on from grace to glory, armed by faith, and winged by prayer,  
Heaven's eternal day's before thee, God's own hand shall guide thee there.  
Soon shall close thy earthly mission, swift shall pass thy pilgrim days;  
Hope soon change to glad fruition, faith to sight, and prayer to praise.

## **Hebrews Part Two**

### **Lesson #15, Chapter 11 Overview**

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 11 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 11. Now, summarize the contents of Chapter 11. This is not the time to be super detailed; instead, think of trying to tell a 4th grader the contents of the chapter.<sup>1</sup>
  - a. Summarize the contents of the first paragraph (verses 1-7).
  - b. Summarize the contents of the second paragraph (verses 8-12).
  - c. Summarize the contents of the third paragraph (verses 13-16).

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<sup>1</sup> The method and process of observation in Bible study does God honor as we stop, observe, and consider each and every one of His recorded Words, in their context. I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge the debt I owe to the Precept Inductive Bible Studies observation method, which I have adapted in my studies. As far as I know, the method is the brainchild of Kay Arthur, though I've encountered a number of others who have also come up with similar ways for observing the text. The point of observation is to slow down and really look at what God has preserved for us in His Word. What I've created here is simply another variation to help us peer more closely at the Scriptures—for our good and His glory.

- d. Summarize the contents of the fourth paragraph (verses 17-22).
  
  - e. Summarize the contents of the fifth paragraph (verses 23-29).
  
  - f. Summarize the contents of the sixth paragraph (verses 30-31).
  
  - g. Summarize the contents of the seventh paragraph (verses 32-38).
  
  - h. Summarize the contents of the eighth paragraph (verses 39-40).
- 
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 title should reflect the contents of the chapter in an abbreviated way. Remember, a title's purpose is to help you remember what is in each chapter.
  4. On the *Hebrews Bible Text* handout at the end of this lesson, 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. It helps to look for any actions that are required of the reader or things they are told to do or be.
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 the comparisons and contrasts you discovered 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 that 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!

## Hebrews Chapter 11

1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

2 For by it the men of old gained approval.

3 By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.

4 By faith Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained the testimony that he was righteous, God testifying about his gifts, and through faith, though he is dead, he still speaks.

5 By faith Enoch was taken up so that he would not see death; and he was not found because God took him up; for he obtained the witness that before his being taken up he was pleasing to God.

6 And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

7 By faith Noah, being warned by God about things not yet seen, in reverence prepared an ark for the salvation of his household, by which he condemned the world, and became an heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

8 By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going.

9 By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise;

10 for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

11 By faith even Sarah herself received ability to conceive, even beyond the proper time of life, since she considered Him faithful who had promised.

12 Therefore there was born even of one man, and him as good as dead at that, as many descendants as the stars of heaven in number, and innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore.

13 All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.

14 For those who say such things make it clear that they are seeking a country of their own.

15 And indeed if they had been thinking of that country from which they went out, they would have had opportunity to return.

16 But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them.

17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten son;

18 it was he to whom it was said, "In Isaac your descendants shall be called."

19 He considered that God is able to raise people even from the dead, from which he also received him back as a type.

20 By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau, even regarding things to come.

21 By faith Jacob, as he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff.

22 By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the exodus of the sons of Israel, and gave orders concerning his bones.

23 By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's edict.

24 By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter,

25 choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin,

26 considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking to the reward.

27 By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured, as seeing Him who is unseen.

28 By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of the blood, so that he who destroyed the firstborn would not touch them.

29 By faith they passed through the Red Sea as though they were passing through dry land; and the Egyptians, when they attempted it, were drowned.

30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days.

31 By faith Rahab the harlot did not perish along with those who were disobedient, after she had welcomed the spies in peace.

32 And what more shall I say? For time will fail me if I tell of Gideon,  
Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets,  
33 who by faith conquered kingdoms, performed acts of righteousness, obtained  
promises, shut the mouths of lions,  
34 quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from weakness  
were made strong, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight.  
35 Women received back their dead by resurrection; and others were tortured,  
not accepting their release, so that they might obtain a better resurrection;  
36 and others experienced mockings and scourgings, yes, also chains and  
imprisonment.  
37 They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were put  
to death with the sword; they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins, being  
destitute, afflicted, ill-treated  
38 (men of whom the world was not worthy), wandering in deserts and mountains  
and caves and holes in the ground.  
39 And all these, having gained approval through their faith, did not  
receive what was promised,  
40 because God had provided something better for us, so that apart from us they  
would not be made perfect.

## Hebrews Part Two

### Lesson #16, Chapter 11:1-7

Before you begin your study, stop and ask the Lord for His help to apply His Word to your life.

1. What is the connecting thought or idea between 10:39 and 11:1?
2. How does the author define faith in verse 1?
3. Define these two synonymous words: *assurance* (KJV *substance*, NIV *being sure* [Strong's #5287]) and *conviction* (KJV *evidence*, NIV *certain* [Strong's #1650]).
4. How did these “men of old” mentioned in verse 2 gain approval? See verse 1.
5. Doesn't verse 2 just make you perk up a bit? The men of old were not super-saints. They were fallible, just like us, yet they gained God's approval. How does that make the information in verse 1 all the more important to pay attention to and understand, since we desire to be pleasing to God as well?
6. What do we understand “by faith” according to verse 3?
7. Explain what “so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible” means according to verses 1-3.

8. What did Abel do by faith (verse 4)?
  
9. What do you learn about Abel according to Gen. 4:1-8, 25; Matt. 23:35; Heb. 11:4; 12:24; 1 Jn. 3:11-12?
  
10. Based on what you have learned from Heb. 11:1-4, why was Abel's sacrifice considered better than Cain's? See also Heb. 4:2.
  
11. How do Abel, and men like him, still speak to us? See Heb. 11:4 and 12:1.
  
12. How can that be an encouragement to you as you continue on your journey to Heaven?
  
13. What happened to Enoch according to verse 5? See also Gen. 5:18-24 and Jude 14-15.
  
14. What was Enoch's secret to pleasing God? See verse 6.
  
15. What must *you* exhibit in your heart and life in order to please God?
  
16. According to verse 6 what two things do you need to believe about God?

- a. Do *you* really believe those two things about God?
  
  - b. How is it manifested in your life?
  
  - c. What is at stake if you don't believe those two things about God? See Jn. 3:16-18; Heb. 3:12; 4:2.
  
  - d. If you struggle with unbelief, what do you need to do so you can think rightly about Him?
17. How does the Lord reward those who seek Him? See Ps. 9:10; Jer. 29:13; Luke 11:10; Col. 3:24.
18. How did Noah show his faith in God according to verse 7? What attitude accompanied this action?
19. Noah's faith in action, and his attitude while going about it, are an example to us! Consider your responses to the Lord each day. Does your faith look like Noah's? What steps may be necessary for you to "tweak," so your response matches Noah's faithful example?
20. What did God warn Noah about? See Gen. 6:13-22.

21. How did Noah condemn the world? See 1 Pet. 3:20 and 2 Pet. 2:5.
  
22. Why is this discussion on faith a crucial building block in the author's argument to his Hebrew readers to place their hope in Christ, rather than return to the Old Testament law system?
  
23. *Without faith it is impossible to please Him.* When do you need to live by faith? What is the *opposite* of living by faith? Do you ever live that way? What truths from this lesson can you implement, so you do live by a faith that is pleasing to God?

“Faith does not ask for any other evidence than for the written Word of God.”

Author unknown

For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God,  
YOU MAY RECEIVE WHAT WAS PROMISED. For yet in a very little while, He who is coming will come, and will not delay. But MY RIGHTEOUS ONE SHALL LIVE BY FAITH; and if he shrinks back, My soul has no pleasure in him. But we are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of THOSE WHO HAVE FAITH TO THE PRESERVING OF THE SOUL.

Heb. 10:36-39



6. What did God do for Sarah according to verse 11? Just how far past the “proper time of life” was Sarah? See Gen. 11:30; 17:17; 18:1-15.
  
7. What was Sarah’s original response to God’s promise for her? See Gen. 18:10-15.
  
8. What does verse 11 say about how Sarah responded to God’s promise?
  
9. The Bible is silent about what happened between Sarah’s response in Gen. 18:10-15 and her reaction in Heb. 11:11. What do you think happened to her? How can that be an encouragement to you if you discover your first response to a situation is not of faith?
  
10. Sarah’s initial response to God was one of unbelief, yet she is listed here among the faithful. What does this teach you about God?
  
11. What is the result of Sarah believing God’s faithfulness to honor His word (verse 12)?
  
12. From verse 13, what do you learn about the promises made to the “by faith” people?
  
13. What promises did they see at a distance? See Gen. 22:18; Luke 2:25-32; Jn. 8:56; Acts 3:19-22; Gal. 3:6-9; 1 Pet. 1:10-12.

14. What are some promises we see at a distance *now*? See Rom. 8:18-25; 1 Cor. 13:8-13; 2 Cor. 4:16-18; 5:6-8; 1 Jn. 3:2.
  
15. What did the “by faith” people say so clearly in verses 13-14?
  
16. Why is this the response of all true believers? See Eph. 2:19; Phil. 3:20; Col. 3:1-3.
  
17. Sometimes that clear-eyed view of heaven grows dim with the distractions of this world. How can you maintain a gaze on that heavenly country?
  - a. Think about this week. Has your view of heaven been clear, hazy, or entirely obscured? Why? Do you need to make any adjustments so you can see heaven clearly?
  
18. Explain what the author of Hebrews means in verse 15.
  - a. How does that clarify the meaning of verse 14?
  
19. When we declare we are waiting for our better, heavenly country, what is the result (verse 16)?

20. What kind of people does God prepare a city for? What kind of people does God claim as His own? See Mark 8:38; 2 Tim. 2:11-13; Heb. 2:11; 8:10.
21. What do you learn about the city God has prepared for us? See Matt. 25:34; Heb. 12:22; 13:14; Rev. 21:2, 10-27; 22:1-5.
22. God is not ashamed of you. He has prepared a city for you. All the promises we live on by faith will be fulfilled in that heavenly realm when we see our dear Lord Jesus face to face. How do those truths inspire greater faith, diligence, and determination to finish the race and receive the promises?

Far Off I See the Goal

by Robert Roberts

Far off I see the goal—O Savior, guide me;  
I feel my strength is small—be Thou beside me;  
With vision ever clear, with love that conquers fear,  
And grace to persevere, O Lord, provide me.

Whene'er Thy way seems strange, go Thou before me;  
And, lest my heart should change, O Lord, watch o'er me;  
But, should my faith prove frail, and I through blindness fail,  
O let Thy grace prevail, and still restore me.

Should earthly pleasures wane, and joy forsake me;  
And lonely hours of pain at length o'ertake me,  
My hand in Thine hold fast till sorrow be o'erpast,  
And gentle death at last for Heav'n awake me.

There, with the ransomed throng who praise forever  
The love that made them strong to serve forever,  
I, too, would seek Thy face, Thy finished work retrace,  
And magnify Thy grace, redeemed forever.

## Hebrews Part Two

### Lesson #18, Chapter 11:17-31

Read Hebrews 11:1-31 to prepare for this week's lesson. Ask for the Lord's help and insight as you study.

1. What did Abraham do by faith according to verse 17? For more details read Gen. 22:1-12.
  
2. What was God's purpose for asking this of Abraham (verse 17)?
  
3. Define *testing* (KJV *tried* [Strong's #3985]).
  - a. Why would God test someone? See Ex. 16:4; 20:20; Deut. 8:2-5, 11-18; 13:3; Prov. 17:3; James 1:12-14; 1 Pet. 1:6-9.
  
  - b. Can you think of times when God has tested you? What things did you learn about the Lord and about your faith?
  
4. Abraham fully understood that God intended to use Isaac to proliferate Abraham's line, so when God asked Him to offer up Isaac, what did Abraham think? See verse 19. Now read Rom. 4:16-21 to understand the depth of Abraham's faith in God.
  
5. How did Abraham receive Isaac back from the dead *figuratively speaking* (ESV, NIV) as it says in verse 19? See Gen. 22:13-14.

6. Think of the sweetness of Abraham's tested faith! Yet, Abraham isn't the only one whose faith has been tested; God tests and tries the faith of all His children. Don't begrudge those trials their sharpening work, for they are perfecting you. They are causing you to live relying upon your God. How are you responding to the trials, tests, and temptations in your life right now? Is there anything you need to change so your response can be more like Abraham's?
  
7. Verse 20 tells us Isaac gave a blessing to his sons *by faith*. Giving a blessing to his sons as his death approaches doesn't seem to take much faith, yet Isaac is commended for that very act of faith in this chapter. What was it about the situation that caused Isaac to exercise his faith and trust in God? See Gen. 25:23; 27:1-10, 18-29, 30-37.
  
8. What did Jacob do by faith according to verse 21?
  - a. Scenes from his own life may have been playing in his head as Jacob blessed Joseph's sons. Read Gen. 48:1-22 for the details. How did this act reveal his faith in God?
  
9. How was Joseph's faith in God exhibited in verse 22 and Gen. 50:24-26; Ex. 12:40-41; 13:18-19; Josh. 24:31-32.
  
10. In verse 23, who acted by faith and what did they do? How did that reveal faith in the Lord?

11. Moses' story is next in this chapter. Read Ex. 1:8-2:10 for the background details of his story.
12. What did Moses do by faith in verse 24?
13. What were the results of this choice as seen in verse 25?
14. What did Moses understand about sin from verse 25? See also James 5:1-5; 1 Jn. 2:17.
15. Why was Moses able to make this choice according to verse 26?
  - a. What choices did other heroes of the faith make? See Ps. 84:10; Rom. 6:16-18; 2 Tim. 2:8-10.
16. Verse 27 recounts that Moses left Egypt "not fearing the wrath of the king." There are many reasons for taking the view that this is the first time Moses left Egypt when he was 40 years old, before he spent the 40 years in the wilderness, before he was commissioned by the Lord to lead the people out of Egypt.

Some compelling reasons for taking this view are the following: *the singular use of "he."* He left Egypt alone the first time, but the second time Moses left Egypt he was accompanied by a million or more people. Another even more compelling reason is the *chronology* of the story. We have Moses growing up, choosing not to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter in verses 24-26, and then in verse 28 the story jumps to the Passover, which was celebrated in Egypt before the nation left there.

So, what do we do with Exodus 2:13-15 that describes Moses leaving Egypt the first time? Read Exodus 2:13-15 and record what you learn about Moses' departure from Egypt as recounted there.

17. Step back a moment and consider what the author of Hebrews is doing in Chapter 11. *He is telling story after story of ordinary people who went through harrowing ordeals and difficult trials, yet kept their eyes fixed on the Lord and His promises.* They were characterized by faith, though they may have had moments of fear, despair, and unbelief. Moses left Egypt because his eyes were fixed on the One, true God. It was this God who motivated Moses to endure ill-treatment with the rest of the Israelites, rather than enjoy the passing pleasures of sin (Hebrews 11:25). Moses was credited with faith, in spite of the moments of fear and failure because over the long haul, he was faithful. How does that encourage you as you seek to trust the Lord in fearful and difficult times, knowing that you haven't always responded in every moment with complete and perfect faith?
  
18. What key mindset allowed Moses to leave Egypt in faith according to verse 27?
  
19. Look up the following verses and then ask yourself, "Am I living like this? Am I living by faith, as seeing Him who is unseen?" See 2 Cor. 4:18; Heb. 11:1, 13-16, 27; 12:2; 1 Pet. 1:8-9.
  
20. What is another situation in which Moses also exhibited faith in God? See verse 28. As you read the details of the Passover which they celebrated in Ex. 12:1-13, 23-27, think about the ways Moses revealed his faith in God and record them here.

21. Another scene of Moses' faith-filled life is listed in verse 29. What is the situation and how was his faith in the Lord displayed? Add any extra details of faith you see in Moses from Ex. 14:13-31.
  
22. What did God do for the Israelites according to verse 30? See also Josh. 6:1-21. Whose faith is on display in this example?
  
23. How did Rahab exhibit faith in God according to verse 31? Read the details of her story and explain why her faith in God was so amazing. See Josh. 2:1-21; 6:22-25.
  
24. It's important to make a distinction here about faith. The mighty acts the people saw and experienced didn't happen as a result of their great or unusual faith. Rather, they got to be part of what God was doing because they put their faith in Him and obeyed His commands. Our faith doesn't *make* God do anything. Our faith lines us up with what God intends to do. The point is not their "great" faith. The point is their faith in a great God who does great things. Summarize what you learn about putting your faith in God from the following verses: Ps. 16:8-9; 62:5-8; Prov. 3:5-6; Matt. 6:30; 17:20; John 11:39-40; 14:1; 2 Cor. 4:7-13.
  
25. Write your own "by faith" story in a manner similar to what we have read in Hebrews 11. Be encouraged as you remember Heb. 11:6: *And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.* Tell your story starting with, "By faith, (your name) ...."

Lord, We Know That Thou Art near us

By Jane Crewdson

Lord, we know that Thou art near us,  
Though Thou seem'st to hide Thy face;  
And are sure that Thou dost hear us,  
Though no answer we embrace.

Not one promise shall miscarry  
Not one blessing come too late  
Though the vision long may tarry  
Give us patience, Lord to wait.

While withholding—Thou art giving  
In Thine own appointed way  
And while waiting, we're receiving  
Blessings suited to our day.

O the wondrous lovingkindness  
Planning, working out of sight,  
Bearing with us in our blindness,  
Out of darkness bringing light.

Weaving blessings out of trials,  
Out of grief evolving bliss;  
Answering prayer by wise denials  
When Thy children ask amiss.

And when faith shall end in vision,  
And when prayer is lost in praise,  
Then shall love, in full fruition,  
Justify Thy secret ways.

## **Hebrews Part Two**

### **Lesson #19, Chapter 11:32-40**

Read Chapter 11 as you prepare to study this final section of the Hebrews Chapter of Faith. Ask the Lord for wisdom and grace to study.

1. After rehearsing the “by faith” deeds of the early heroes of Israel, the author of Hebrews realizes he is going to run out of time if he begins to write about the rest of the heroes of faith. Let’s do a quick study on these men who lived “by faith” upon the promises of God. Summarize each person’s story. Be sure to include how they put their faith in God.
  - a. Gideon—Judges 6:11-8:35.
  - b. Barak—Judges 4:4-22.
  - c. Samson—Judges 13:24-16:31.
  - d. Jephthah—Judges 11:1-12:7.
  - e. We will look at just one episode in the life of David—1 Samuel 17:12-54. (Feel free to search for more episodes of faith from David’s life if you want to study him further.)
  - f. As with David, we will only look at one episode from Samuel’s life—1 Samuel 3:1-21, though you can search for other episodes as well.

2. What were some of the things these men did “by faith” as they put their trust in God? See verses 33-34.
  
3. What do you learn about the resurrection and Old Testament believers in verse 35?
  
4. In verses 35-36, the writer switches from the victorious acts of faith to the acts of faith, which in the world’s eyes, were folly. The not-so-happy-ending descriptions reveal another side to the “by faith” people. What do you learn about them? See also 11:1, 13-16, 25.
  
5. In verses 37-38, we read more ways the “by faith” people responded to their circumstances. How are they described in verse 38?
  
6. What set these men apart to such a degree that it would be said of them that they were *men of whom the world was not worthy*?
  
7. What do you learn about another of whom the world was not worthy? Read Is. 53:1-9 to see what the world saw and how it responded.
  - a. How does heaven respond to the same man? See Is. 9:6-7 and Rev. 5:12-14; 19:11-16.

8. Paul was a man of whom the world was not worthy. What mindset did he maintain? See 2 Cor. 4:7-10, 16-18; 5:1-10.
  
9. What do you need to know about God if you are going to persevere in these kinds of afflictions? See Deut. 4:32-39; 10:12-21; Ps. 30:5; 145:1-21; Lam. 3:19-33, 39-40.
  
10. How would knowing those character traits about God help you to continue in faith when you find yourself facing *extreme circumstances* like the ones listed here?
  
11. How would knowing those character traits about God help you to continue in faith when you find yourself facing *circumstances much smaller* in scope?
  
12. Think about some difficulties you have faced recently or even some inconveniences or unmet expectations you have recently experienced. How did what you know about God's character and His ways help you to persevere with faith? Try to recall the specific ways you were encouraged and comforted.
  
13. Who does "and all these" refer to (verse 39)? What two things happened to "all these?"
  
14. Why did those things happen to them according to verse 40?

15. What is unusual about the pronouns used in verse 40 compared with the previous verses?
  
16. What is the *better thing* that God has provided for us? See Heb. 1:1-4; 7:18-22, 25; 8:6; 9:23-28; 12:24.
  
17. The second part of verse 40 might present a problem for us to understand, *unless* we remember what God provided for us. First, let's take a look at these verses and record what you learn: Acts 3:18; Rom. 5:6; Gal. 4:4-5; 1 Tim. 2:5-6; Titus 1:1-3.
  - a. Who makes it possible for anyone to be made perfect? See Heb. 10:11-14.
  
  - b. On the timeline of history, with Christ as the center, when did "all these" and "us" live?
  
  - c. How is anyone ever able to please God? See 11:6.
  
  - d. Based on what you have learned, explain what verse 40 means.
  
18. What is the clever way the author connects "us" to "all these" in verse 40? Why would he make that connection between the two groups? For a clue, look ahead to 12:1.

19. What is the point of Hebrews 11 and the description of persevering faith? See 10:35-39; 11:1-2, 6, 13-16, 39-40; 12:1-2.
20. What have you learned about faith—persevering faith, looking ahead faith, faith which sees that which is unseen? How has this chapter impacted your thinking about how you live your life during this short stay on earth?

Men call the righteous, fools: but one day they shall shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. They hounded them to death, as not being fit to live. In early ages they laid to the Christians charges of the most terrible character, which I should count it shame to mention. But then they will all be cleared; and those of whom the world was not worthy, who were driven and hunted about and made to dwell in the caves of the earth, they shall come forth as worthy ones, and the world shall know her true aristocracy, earth shall own her true nobility. The men whose names she cast out as evil, shall then be held in great repute, for they shall stand out clear and transparent without spot or blemish. It is well that there should be a trial for the righteous, for the clearing of them, the vindication of them, and that it should be public, defying the cavil and criticism of all mankind. ~Charles Spurgeon<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Charles H. Spurgeon, *Spurgeon's Sermons: Volume 18*, electronic ed., Logos Library System; Spurgeon's Sermons (Albany, OR: Ages Software, 1998).

## **Hebrews Part Two**

### **Lesson #20, Chapter 12 Overview**

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 12 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 12. Now, summarize the contents of Chapter 12. This is not the time to be super detailed; instead, think of trying to tell a 4th grader the contents of the chapter.<sup>1</sup>
  - a. Summarize the contents of the first paragraph (verses 1-2).
  - b. Summarize the contents of the second paragraph (verses 3-11).
  - c. Summarize the contents of the third paragraph (verses 12-13).

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<sup>1</sup> The method and process of observation in Bible study does God honor as we stop, observe, and consider each and every one of His recorded Words, in their context. I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge the debt I owe to the Precept Inductive Bible Studies observation method, which I have adapted in my studies. As far as I know, the method is the brainchild of Kay Arthur, though I've encountered a number of others who have also come up with similar ways for observing the text. The point of observation is to slow down and really look at what God has preserved for us in His Word. What I've created here is simply another variation to help us peer more closely at the Scriptures—for our good and His glory.

- d. Summarize the contents of the fourth paragraph (verses 14-17).
  
  - e. Summarize the contents of the fifth paragraph (verses 18-24).
  
  - f. Summarize the contents of the sixth paragraph (verses 25-29).
- 
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 title should reflect the contents of the chapter in an abbreviated way. Remember, a title's purpose is to help you remember what is in each chapter.
  4. On the *Hebrews Bible Text* handout at the end of this lesson, 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. It helps to look for any actions that are required of the reader or things they are told to do or be.
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 the comparisons and contrasts you discovered 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 that 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!

## Hebrews Chapter 12

1 Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

3 For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

4 You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood in your striving against sin;

5 and you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons, “My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, Nor faint when you are reproved by Him;

6 For those whom the Lord loves He disciplines, And He scourges every son whom He receives.”

7 It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline?

8 But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.

9 Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live?

10 For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our good, so that we may share His holiness.

11 All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

12 Therefore, strengthen the hands that are weak and the knees that are feeble,

13 and make straight paths for your feet, so that the limb which is lame may not be put out of joint, but rather be healed.

14 Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord.

15 See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled;

16 that there be no immoral or godless person like Esau, who sold his own birthright for a single meal.

17 For you know that even afterwards, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought for it with tears.

18 For you have not come to a mountain that can be touched and to a blazing fire, and to darkness and gloom and whirlwind,

19 and to the blast of a trumpet and the sound of words which sound was such that those who heard begged that no further word be spoken to them.

20 For they could not bear the command, “If even a beast touches the mountain, it will be stoned.”

21 And so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, “I am full of fear and trembling.”

22 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels,

23 to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect,

24 and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks better than the blood of Abel.

25 See to it that you do not refuse Him who is speaking. For if those did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape who turn away from Him who warns from heaven.

26 And His voice shook the earth then, but now He has promised, saying, “Yet once more I will shake not only the earth, but also the heaven.”

27 This expression, “Yet once more,” denotes the removing of those things which can be shaken, as of created things, so that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.

28 Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe;

29 for our God is a consuming fire.

## Hebrews Part Two

### Lesson #21, Chapter 12:1-6

Read Chapter 12 with a heart of anticipation for what the Lord will teach you out of His Word.

1. Verse 1 begins with “therefore” that is used with great emphasis here and indicates the author is summing up a major thought. What did you discover about what “therefore” is there for?
  
2. To gain a better understanding for the word *witnesses*, look up the following verses: Acts 10:39; Rom. 1:9; Heb. 10:28. What did you learn?
  - a. What does that great cloud of witnesses “witness” about? Don’t forget that verse 1 begins with “therefore,” which should help you figure out the answer to this question.
  
3. What picture is the author of Hebrews painting in verse 1 when he describes the Old Testament saints as that “great cloud of witnesses surrounding us?”
  
4. In what way are those witnesses of Jesus Christ to motivate us (verse 1)?
  
5. What two things are we to lay aside (verse 1)?
  - a. Define *lay aside* (NIV *throw off* [Strong’s #659]).

b. Define *encumbrance* (NIV *hinders*; ESV, KJV *weight* [Strong's #3591]).

6. What do you learn about sin from verse 1?
7. Once we get rid of the things that hinder us, what are we to do according to verse 1?
8. Every believer has to run. As soon as you become a Christian, the race is before you. It is the course you are on. The question then becomes, "How will you run the race of the Christian life?" How can you show your commitment to running with endurance according to verse 1? How are you running right now—at this point in your life? Do you need to make any changes to your running pace?

TO RUN THE RACE WITH ENDURANCE

"To be successful you need a unique mindset. You need the ability to deal with fatigue and discomfort. It's a skill that comes through repetition and hard training. You learn to keep going even when things feel horrible." Matt Aro, winner of two Double Ironman Triathalons

"You have to have the mindset of 'I'm going to finish no matter what.'" Matt Rinard, artist and Ironman Competitor

9. Fixing our eyes on Jesus is the key component to finishing this race well. Define *fixing* (ESV, NKJV *looking* [Strong's #872]).
  - a. What did Paul do to keep his gaze on Jesus? See Phil. 3:7-14; 2 Tim. 2:3-10; 4:7.

- b. What are some practical ways *you* can fix your eyes on Jesus?
10. What do you learn about Jesus from verse 2?
11. Define *author* (ESV *founder* [Strong's #747]).
- a. Define *perfecter* (NKJV *finisher* [Strong's #5051]).
- b. What does that phrase "the author and perfecter of faith" mean? See 1 Cor. 1:7-8; Phil. 1:6; Heb. 2:10; 10:14.
12. What was Jesus' motivation to endure the cross and shame according to verse 2?
13. What did Jesus know that we need to know? See Is. 53:10-12; Phil. 2:5-11; Heb. 2:7-9; 5:9.
14. What are you to ponder and to consider carefully about Jesus according to verse 3?
- a. How does His example help you not to grow weary or lose heart? See Phil. 3:10; 1 Pet. 2:21-25.

*Discovering the Treasures of the Word*

15. Though the Hebrew believers were besieged with difficulties and persecution, what are they reminded about that brings balance back to their world? See verse 4.
16. How would that bring balance to what anyone has been experiencing?

My trials have been fewer than my sins.  
—From *The Valley of Vision*<sup>1</sup>

17. What has been forgotten in the midst of the trials and persecution the Hebrew believers were experiencing? See verses 5-6.
18. How are the truths of verses 5-6 an encouragement in troubled times?
19. Define *discipline* (KJV *chastening* [Strong's #3809]).
20. According to verse 5, how are we to regard the discipline we receive from the Lord?
21. What are some practical ways you can apply that wisdom when you are being trained by the Lord?

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<sup>1</sup>*The Valley of Vision*: a collection of Puritan Prayers. Edited by Arthur Bennet.

22. What is crucial to remember when you are being trained (verse 6)?
23. Which verse from the following list is encouraging to you and why? See Deut. 8:2-5, 16; Prov. 3:12; Ps. 119:71, 75-76; Lam. 3:27-33; James 1:2-4; 5:11; Rev. 3:19.
24. Think about the events and circumstances of your life. Then consider that there is not one part of your life that God cannot or will not use to train you, His child. He does these things; He allows these things; He orchestrates these things for your good. Do you believe it? And if you do, how do you show that you believe it?

Samuel Rutherford not only accepted the discipline of the Lord in His life, he ran to the rod and kissed it, so eager was he to grow more like the Christ he loved. The following quotes are from the little book of his collected sayings called, *The Loveliness of Christ*.

Why should I be afraid at the plow of my Lord that makes deep furrows on my soul? I know He is no idle farmer; He purposes a crop.

I pray you learn to be worthy of His pains who corrects; and let Him wring, and wash you; for He has a Father's heart, and a Father's hand, who is training you up, and making you ready for Heaven.

O, what I owe to the file, to the hammer, to the furnace of my Lord Jesus! God has called you to Christ's side, and the wind is now in Christ's face in this land; and seeing you are with Him, you cannot expect the sunnyside of the slope.

I find crosses Christ's carved work that He marks out for us, and that with crosses He figures and portrays us to His own image, cutting away pieces of our ill and corruption. Lord cut, Lord carve, Lord wound, Lord do anything that may perfect Thy Father's image in us, and make us fit for glory.

*Discovering the Treasures of the Word*

Whether God comes to His children with a rod or a crown, if He come Himself with it, it is well. Welcome, welcome Jesus, what way soever Thou come, if we can get a sight of Thee: and sure I am, it is better to be sick, providing Christ come to the bedside and draw the curtains, and say, "Courage, I am thy salvation," than to enjoy health being lusty and strong and never to be visited by God.

Read and spell right, for He knows what He is doing; He is only lopping and pruning a fruitful tree, that it may be more fruitful.

## Hebrews Part Two

### Lesson #22, Chapter 12:7-13

Read Chapter 12 with a heart of anticipation for what the Lord will teach you out of His Word.

1. Every time the English word “discipline” is used in Heb. 12:5-11, the same Greek word with the same definition is used. Define *discipline* (NKJV *chastening* [Strong’s #3809]).
  - a. Define *endure* [Strong’s #5278]. See also 12:2-3.
  - b. How do James 1:2-4 and James 1:12 help explain the idea of *remaining under* trials because of the training it provides?
2. Hebrews 12:7 begins, “It is for discipline that you endure.” Why would anyone *endure* discipline? See verses 5-7.
3. How would those truths from verses 5-7 help you endure any trials you may face?
4. What rhetorical question is asked in verse 7? What answer is assumed?
5. What does the author assume about every earthly father?

6. What does it mean if you are *not* being trained by the Lord? See verse 8.
  - a. As children, how did we respond to our parent's training according to verse 9?
  
7. To what obvious conclusion does the author bring us in verse 9?
  
8. The author's question in verse 9 takes us to the heart of our response to trials. If trials are part of our heavenly Father's perfect plan to make us more like Himself, then how do we need to respond? How are we often tempted to respond instead?
  
9. What are some crucial truths to remember next time you experience inconveniences, difficulty, affliction, or persecution?
  
10. Though this section of Scripture is primarily about the wise discipline we receive from our loving Father, we can still glean principles for our earthly parenting as we follow God's example. Describe the parenting of earthly fathers according to verse 10.
  
11. Now describe the parenting of our heavenly Father from verse 10.
  
12. Describe some of the ways and means of parenting, as well as its purpose, from the following verses: Deut. 8:2-5; Prov. 3:12; 13:24; 19:18; 29:15, 17; Eph. 6:4; Col. 3:21.

13. How does God employ those same parenting strategies with us?
  
14. List what you learn about discipline from verse 11.
  
15. Define *trained* from verse 11 [Strong's #1128]. See how the same word is used in 1 Tim. 4:7; Heb. 5:14; and 2 Pet. 2:14.
  
16. What result comes *after* the training according to verse 11? What picture comes to your mind when you think of this result?
  - a. How does that truth provide hope in the midst of affliction?
  
17. The beautiful goal of God's parenting causes the author to consider those in the body who may need to hear about God's intended result. What kinds of people are described?
  
18. What circumstances were the Hebrew believers facing that would magnify the weaknesses and frailties of their brethren in Christ?
  
19. What we see in verses 12-13 is the body of Christ. Not everyone is strong all the time, some are still young in the faith and so still weak, some have grown old and feeble, and some have been injured in some way and need special care. What is your responsibility to these different groups according to verses 12-13?

20. Why do you need to help the weak and frail? See 12:1.
21. How would you encourage these fellow believers from Hebrews 12:1-11?

Come, children of God, do not be despondent because of your tribulations.  
YOU ARE IN A RACE,  
SO RUN even while you are smarting from your chastisements, STILL RUN,  
and KEEP ON RUNNING until you win the prize.<sup>1</sup>

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

## Hebrews Part Two

### Lesson #23, Chapter 12:14-21

Read Chapter 12 asking the Lord for His help as you seek to apply it to your life.

1. What are the Hebrew believers commanded in verse 14?
  
2. Define *pursue* (NIV *make every effort*; KJV *follow* [Strong's #1377]).
  
3. Take a look at the practical ways we can pursue peace. What do you learn from Gen. 13:7-9; Ps. 34:12-14; Prov. 17:14; 19:11; Rom. 12:9-18; 14:16-19; Gal. 5:22-23; Eph. 4:1-3?
  
4. We are also to pursue *sanctification* (KJV, NIV *holiness* [Strong's #38]). Just what is that?
  
5. What is the connection between sanctification and seeing the Lord? See John 3:3; Titus 2:11-14; 1 Jn. 3:2-3.
  
6. What is the first thing we should see to according to verse 15?
  - a. What does the phrase, "see to it that no one comes short of the grace of God" mean? See Heb. 4:1-3; 6:11-12; 10:23-25 for help.

- b. In our efforts to obey this command where should our search begin? See 1 Cor. 13:5 and 2 Pet. 1:10-11.
  
7. Next, verse 15 tells us to see to something else. What is it?
  
8. Where does it originate? See Mark 7:20-22.
  
9. Where and how must the battle be waged? See Ps. 119:9-11, 33-35, 133.
  
10. What does bitterness lead to if allowed to continue (verse 15)? What is the result?
  
11. From verse 16, describe the third group of people we are to watch out for. Who are they and who are they compared to?
  
12. How did that person's actions reveal his true spiritual state (verses 16-17)?
  
13. Reexamine the situation the Hebrew believers were facing. To get you started, reread 2:1-3, 17-18; 3:12-13; 4:14-16; 5:12-14; 6:9-12; 10:23-25, 32-39; 11:13-16; 12:1-5, 10-13.

14. Based upon your review of the Hebrews' situation and the immediate context of 12:12-13, why would the commands of verses 14-16 be necessary?
15. This message is as much for us as it was for the Hebrew believers. The things we are commanded to watch for in others, we must also watch for in ourselves. Take some time right now with the Lord to do an inventory of your heart.
- a. Are you growing in a peaceful, quiet spirit? What things hinder you from growing more steadfast in these qualities?
  - b. Are you growing in holiness? Consider what choices you can make to protect and guard your heart, while also strengthening it in holiness.
  - c. Are you sure of the grace of God at work in your life? Why?
  - d. Are you bitter or resentful about something? If so, what is at the root of that sinful response? What biblical truths do you need to apply?
  - e. Are you a troublemaker in some area of your life? Consider ways you can guard against a rash spirit.
  - f. Are you acting immorally, like a godless person? In what ways can you shore up your heart against sinful temptations and repent of your immorality?
  - g. Is your repentance real, whether in salvation or in turning away from a specific sin? What does real repentance look like?
  - h. Why bother answering these questions? See Hebrews 12:1-2.

16. In Hebrews 12:18-21, the author of Hebrews recounts what happened to Israel when God's glory descended upon Mt. Sinai. Read verses 18-21, then read the original account to fill in the gaps from Ex. 19:9-13, 16-20; 20:18-21; Deut. 4:10-13; 5:22-29; 9:15-19.
17. From the verses you just read in question #16, answer the following questions:  
What is Israel's situation?
- a. What will happen if someone touches the mountain?
  - b. Why is Israel to stay back from the mountain?
  - c. How does Israel respond to God's glory?
18. The point of verses 18-24 will come into full view in next week's lesson. For now, let's take a look at the comparison being made between the two mountains mentioned in verses 18 and 22. What is the distinction between Mt. Sinai and Mt. Zion? Where can Mt. Sinai be found (Ex. 19:2)? Where can Mt. Zion be found (verse 22)?
19. Which mountain is to be preferred and why?

## Hebrews Part Two

### Lesson #24, Chapter 12:22-29

To prepare for this week's lesson read Hebrews 10:32 to 12:29. There's too much here to proceed in your own strength. Be sure to stop and ask the Lord for His help as you study.

1. The author uses comparisons effectively *and* frequently in this book. Using the references below list what is being compared and which one is superior.
  - a. From 1:4-5:
  - b. From 1:1-2 and 2:1-3:
  - c. From 3:3-6:
  - d. From 4:8-9:
  - e. From 4:14-15:
  - f. From 6:13-18:
  - g. From 7:18-19:
  - h. From 7:23-24:
  - i. From 8:6-7:
  - j. From 9:11-12:
  - k. From 9:24:
  - l. From 10:4, 10-12:

m. From 10:28-29:

n. From 11:16, 39-40:

2. What point is the author making with his continued use of comparisons in the book of Hebrews?
  
3. We ended last week's lesson with an examination of the first mountain mentioned in this chapter. For review, list five observations about Mt. Sinai from verses 18-21.
  
4. Though the Israelites went to Mt. Sinai, what mountain have *we* come to (verse 22)?
  
5. Where does the mountain reside to which we have come?
  
6. What do these two mountains represent? See Gal. 4:21-31 and 2 Cor. 3:7-11.
  
7. What else exists with Mt. Zion according to verses 22-24?
  
8. The author sets up a comparison of superiority again—just as he has done many times in this book. What is the point of the mountain comparison from verses 18-24?

9. The author continues to make his point that Christ is superior in every way. In Hebrews 12:24 what two men are being compared? What did the first man in verse 24 do that “speaks better” than what the second man did? To learn more about the second man and what he did, read Hebrews 11:4.
- a. The NASB, ESV, and NIV all add “the blood” at the end of the verse in reference to Abel in hopes of bringing clarity to what the author is communicating in verse 24.<sup>1</sup> Unfortunately, that choice seems to have muddied the waters rather than providing the insight needed. The NKJV provides better help by simply translating the verse as the original Greek text had it. The NKJV says, “to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.” This rendering helps us see the point of comparison between Jesus as our mediator and priest, who offered Himself as a sacrifice that cleanses us from all sin and the offering that Abel gave. We learn from Hebrews 11:4 that Abel offered up an acceptable sacrifice to God, yet even that pleasing sacrifices pales in comparison to Christ’s magnificent one.
  - b. We learn in Hebrews 12:24 that Christ, as the mediator of the new covenant, sprinkled blood. What does that sprinkled blood communicate to us? See 9:11-14, 19-22; 10:19-22; 1 Peter 1:2; 1 John 1:7.
  - c. The NKJV translation of Hebrews 12:24, “to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel” fits the context of the passage better and leads us to the comparison the author of Hebrews intended us to see, which is the comparison about *speaking*. Look at Hebrews 11:4 and record what you learn about Abel and his sacrifice *speaking* to us. Then note the continued use of *speaking/speaks/spoke* or any reference to communicating in 12:18-29. What does the author of Hebrews want to emphasize about *speaking* in this section of Hebrews (12:18-29)?

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<sup>1</sup> In the NASB, when the translation team adds extra information to the original Greek or Hebrew text, they will *italicize* it as way to let the reader know that it deviates from the original text. When it comes to disputed or difficult passages, it’s especially helpful to know when something was not in the original Greek or Hebrew text.

- d. Why is the comparison about what has been spoken or how it was spoken a significant argument or point of comparison throughout the book? See 1:1-2; 2:1-3; 4:2; 10:29; 11:4; 12:24-25.
10. What warning is given in verse 25?
11. Who warned the Israelites on earth? See 1:1; 10:28.
12. What warning have we been given from heaven? See 10:29-31.
13. According to this context in verse 25, how could someone refuse to heed the message of Christ?
14. What do we learn about creation in verses 26-27?
15. What will remain (verse 28)?
16. How do you receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken? See 10:19-22.
17. How should you respond to such a magnificent gift according to verse 28? What are some specific ways you can apply that daily?

18. What does that response allow you to do (verse 28)?
- a. What does your application of the end of verse 28 look like in your daily life? See Rom. 12:1-2; Col. 3:23-24; 2 Tim. 1:3; Heb. 9:14.
19. What attitudes are to accompany your offering to God according to verse 28?
20. What do you learn about God in verse 29?
- a. Look up the following verses to learn more: Nahum 1:2-3, 5-8; Luke 3:16-17; Heb. 10:26-31; 2 Pet. 3:7.
21. What does verse 29 have to do with verse 28? How does that connection fit in with the exhortation of verses 18-27?
22. After studying these verses, it makes you wonder why anyone would want to go back to the old law system. Obviously, the author of Hebrews wondered that too. He can't imagine why anyone would reject Christ's magnificent sacrifice and the blessings of the new covenant, to instead return to the never-ending sacrifices and offerings of the old covenant. Even in light of the trials and persecutions the believers were experiencing because they were following Christ, the rewards of following Christ far outweighed any momentary, light affliction in the present. In what way has our study in this passage impacted your attitudes and response to the Lord Jesus and how you are living toward Him?

“All things may pass away; the world as we know it may be uprooted; life as we experience it may come to an end; but one thing stands eternally sure—the relationship of every Christian to God. If that is so, there is a great obligation laid upon us. We must worship God with reverence and serve him with fear; for nothing must be allowed to disturb that relationship which will be our salvation when the world passes away.”

~William Barclay<sup>2</sup>

“For every man the choice is the same. Whether we are Jew or Gentile, to try to approach God by our works is to come to Sinai and to discover that our works fall short and cannot save us. Whether we are Jew or Gentile, to trust in the atoning blood of Jesus Christ is to come to Zion, where our heavenly High Priest will mediate for us and bring us to the Father, and where we find reconciliation, peace, and eternal life. And if you have truly come to Zion and received all its blessings, it is inconceivable that you would want to hold on to Sinai in any way.” ~John MacArthur<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> William Barclay, [\*The Letter to the Hebrews\*](#), The New Daily Study Bible (Louisville, KY; London: Westminster John Knox Press, 2002), 222.

<sup>3</sup> John F. MacArthur Jr., [\*Hebrews\*](#), MacArthur New Testament Commentary (Chicago: Moody Press, 1983), 418.

## **Hebrews Part Two**

### **Lesson #25, Chapter 13 Overview**

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 13 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 13. Now, summarize the contents of Chapter 13. This is not the time to be super detailed; instead, think of trying to tell a 4th grader the contents of the chapter.<sup>1</sup>
  - a. Summarize the contents of the first paragraph (verses 1-6).
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. Summarize the contents of the second paragraph (verses 7-16).
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. Summarize the contents of the third paragraph (verses 17-19).

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<sup>1</sup> The method and process of observation in Bible study does God honor as we stop, observe, and consider each and every one of His recorded Words, in their context. I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge the debt I owe to the Precept Inductive Bible Studies observation method, which I have adapted in my studies. As far as I know, the method is the brainchild of Kay Arthur, though I've encountered a number of others who have also come up with similar ways for observing the text. The point of observation is to slow down and really look at what God has preserved for us in His Word. What I've created here is simply another variation to help us peer more closely at the Scriptures—for our good and His glory.

- d. Summarize the contents of the fourth paragraph (verses 20-21).
  
- e. Summarize the contents of the fifth paragraph (verses 22-25).
  
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 title should reflect the contents of the chapter in an abbreviated way. Remember, a title's purpose is to help you remember what is in each chapter.
4. On the *Hebrews Bible Text* handout at the end of this lesson, 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. It helps to look for any actions that are required of the reader or things they are told to do or be.
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 the comparisons and contrasts you discovered 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 that 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!

### **Hebrews Chapter 13**

1 Let love of the brethren continue.

2 Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it.

3 Remember the prisoners, as though in prison with them, and those who are ill-treated, since you yourselves also are in the body.

4 Marriage is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

5 Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you,"

6 so that we confidently say, "The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid. What will man do to me?"

7 Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith.

8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

9 Do not be carried away by varied and strange teachings; for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, through which those who were so occupied were not benefited.

10 We have an altar from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat.

11 For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy place by the high priest as an offering for sin, are burned outside the camp.

12 Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people through His own blood, suffered outside the gate.

13 So, let us go out to Him outside the camp, bearing His reproach.

14 For here we do not have a lasting city, but we are seeking the city which is to come.

15 Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name.

16 And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

17 Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.

18 Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a good conscience, desiring to conduct ourselves honorably in all things.

19 And I urge you all the more to do this, so that I may be restored to you the sooner.

20 Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord,

21 equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

22 But I urge you, brethren, bear with this word of exhortation, for I have written to you briefly.

23 Take notice that our brother Timothy has been released, with whom, if he comes soon, I will see you.

24 Greet all of your leaders and all the saints. Those from Italy greet you.

25 Grace be with you all.





- b. Can you think of someone who excels in the area you are struggling in? Consider meeting with them and glean wisdom in how they practice hospitality.
  
- 10. Who are we to remember in verse 3?
  
- 11. What attitudes are to accompany our “remembering” (verse 3)? See also 10:32-34.
  
- 12. What kinds of actions are implied when we remember those in verse 3?
  - a. How did the New Testament saints minister to one another in this situation? See Acts 16:31-34; 24:23; 27:3; 1 Cor. 12:25-26; Phil. 4:14-16; Col. 4:18; 2 Tim. 1:16-18.
  
- 13. You may not know some literal prisoners, but you may know some who are being ill-treated because of their faith in Jesus Christ. Write down that person’s name and a specific way you intend to minister to them this week.
  
- 14. What are some issues the early church faced regarding marriage? See 1 Cor. 7:1-2, 5, 8-9, 26-28, 32-35, 39; Eph. 5:3-6; 1 Tim. 3:2, 12; 4:1-3; 5:11-15.
  
- 15. What issues seem to be plaguing the Hebrew believers (verse 4)?

16. Why will God judge fornicators and adulterers? See 1 Cor. 6:9-11; Eph. 5:1-10; Titus 3:3-7.
  
17. What are some ways we can honor marriage and keep it undefiled?
  
18. What command are we given in verse 5?
  
19. Define *character* (ESV *life*; NKJV *conduct*; NIV *lives* [Strong's #5158]).
  
20. What are the dangers of falling into this sin? See Luke 8:14; 12:15-21; 16:13-14; Col. 3:5; 1 Tim. 6:9-10.
  
21. What is the antidote to this deadly poison according to verse 5?
  
22. How can you train your character to be free from the love of money? See verse 5.
  - a. What else do you learn from the following verses? See Matt. 6:25-34; Phil. 4:10-14; 1 Tim. 6:6-8.

23. Think about what you learn about God in verses 5-6. Why are those truths about God essential to understand if you want to be content in this life?
  
24. What clues in verses 5-6 hint at the position these Hebrew believers were in because of their faith? Why would this admonishment be an encouragement to them?
  
25. Here is a context question: What do the commands of Heb. 13:1-6 have to do with 12:28-29? How does that motivate you to apply these commands more faithfully in your own life?

I WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU.

THE LORD IS MY HELPER, I WILL NOT BE AFRAID.  
WHAT SHALL MAN DO TO ME?

## **Hebrews Part Two**

### **Lesson #27, Chapter 13:7-16**

Keep seeking the Lord for His help as you study His Word. You'll be so glad you did!

1. What are we to do according to verse 7?
2. List everything you learn about “those” you are to remember from verse 7.
3. Who is like that in your own life? What results of their conduct have borne fruit in you? How do you imitate their faith? Consider taking some time right now to call or write that person to encourage them in the way God has used them in your life.
4. What was the foundation of those godly leader’s faith? See 2 Tim. 1:13; 3:15; Rev. 14:12.
5. What do you learn about Jesus Christ in verse 8?
6. What are the Hebrew believers cautioned against (verse 9)? What reason is given?
7. What dangers come from paying attention to such teaching? See Acts 20:28-30; Rom. 16:17-19; Col. 2:8, 16-23; 1 Tim. 4:1-5; Heb. 9:9-10.

8. What is the danger of trying to strengthen your Christian walk with food or anything else other than grace according to Hebrews 13:8 and the other verses we just examined?
  
9. Now let's look at verse 8 again. What is the significance of that information about Jesus Christ stuck in between the commands of verses 7 and 9? *Context, context, context.*
  
10. While continuing in the same vein of thought from verse 9, the author now introduces some new concepts in verse 10. First, identify what kind of people fit into the "we" category. Next, identify what people fit into the "serve the tabernacle" category.
  - a. Now, consider what kind of altar "we" have. See 9:11-14; 10:4, 14; 12:28; and 13:9.
  
  - b. Those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat from our altar. Why is that? (1 Cor. 9:13; 10:18 will help provide insight.)
  
11. What choice and warning were being presented in verse 10 to those who still wanted to cling to Judaism? What encouragement was given to those who were clinging to Jesus?
  
12. What phrase is repeated in verses 11-13? How does that repetition provide a clue about the point the author is making?

13. Where does our “altar” reside according to verses 10-13? Where does the altar of those who serve the tabernacle reside, according to verses 10-13?
  
14. How do verses 10-13 illustrate the cost that every person must count if they are going to be followers of Christ? See also Matt. 10:24-25; 16:24-26; 2 Cor. 5:15; 2 Tim. 2:3-4.
  
15. Each day brings with it a call to “go out to Him outside the camp, bearing His reproach.” Are you prepared to go out to Him today? What are some ways you prepare your heart to go out to Him?
  
16. Explain the connection between verses 13 and 14.
  
17. As we identify ourselves with Christ and seek that city which is to come, how do we follow in the footsteps of the “by faith” people we studied in Chapter 11? See 11:13-16, 26, 39-40.
  
18. How would a daily reminder of “what is to come” versus “here” transform your life? How can you remind yourself of this fact *daily*?
  
19. What are we to do according to verse 15? How is this possible according to verse 15?
  - a. Why would we do this (verses 10-14)?

20. What fruit is produced in a believer (verse 15)? How often is this to be given to the Lord according to verse 15?
- a. How are you doing in that area? See also Ps. 145:10; Eph. 5:4, 20; Col. 3:15-17; 1 Thess. 5:18.
  - b. Can you think of some specific ways you could implement this command more faithfully?
21. We are told in verse 16 not to neglect or forget doing good or sharing, which means we need to make this area of our life a priority. What do you learn about doing good and sharing from the following Scriptures: Ps. 37:3; Acts 20:35; Gal. 6:10; Eph. 4:28; 1 Thess. 5:15; 1 Tim. 6:17-19; Heb. 13:1-2; James 1:27; 1 Jn. 3:17-18?
- a. Can you think of some specific ways you could implement this command more faithfully?
22. Out of everything we have studied in this lesson, what excites you the most to think about or put into practice in your life? Why?

The Christian's reason for leaving the camp of the world's sin and religion is not because he loves to be singular, but because Jesus did so; and the disciple must follow his Master. ~Charles Spurgeon<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Charles H. Spurgeon, *Morning and Evening: Daily Readings*, Complete and unabridged; New modern edition. (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 2006), April 6 AM.



6. Would your leaders have joy or grief over your soul about how you are responding to them, to the teaching of the Word, or to life's ups and downs?
  
7. The author asks for something that every wise leader knows he needs. What is it (verse 18)?
  - a. See Rom. 15:30-33; Eph. 6:19-20; Col. 4:2-4; 2 Thess. 3:1-2; and Heb. 13:18 for some specific ways to apply this command.
  
8. One pastor jokingly stated, "You get what you pray for." Though said with a smile, this statement is absolutely true. Are you faithfully applying this command to pray for your leaders?
  
9. Why would the author would make a statement like he did in verses 18-19?
  - a. Paul made similar statements in his letters. What were some situations he faced when he spoke like that? See Acts 23:1; 2 Cor. 1:12; 1 Tim. 1:5.
  
10. What do you learn about God's character in verse 20? What do you learn from Rom. 15:33; 16:20; 1 Cor. 14:33; 2 Cor. 13:11; Phil. 4:9; 1 Thess. 5:23; 2 Thess. 3:16 about God?

- a. How does understanding this part of God's character help you see His purpose in sending Christ to redeem mankind? See 1 Pet. 1:3-5.
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11. Verses 20-21 are a benediction. What does the author want to impart to his readers in this blessing?
  
  12. Read other benedictions in the Bible: Num. 6:24-26; Acts 20:32; 2 Cor. 13:14; 1 Thess. 3:11-13; 2 Thess. 3:5; Heb. 13:25; Jude 24-25. Which one is your favorite and why?
  
  13. How can the use of blessings be a potent way to encourage someone?
  
  14. What are some practical ways you can employ the use of blessings to those in your life?
  
  15. What insights do you gain about the author from verse 22?
  
  16. Define *bear with* [Strong's #430].
    - a. Define *exhortation* [Strong's #3874].

17. Why do we need to be reminded *to bear with exhortation*? See 2 Tim. 4:3; Heb. 3:12-13.
  
18. When are you tempted to become impatient with exhortation from the Word? What is the remedy for this impatience?
  
19. After a few more closing remarks, the author of Hebrews finished his letter. What a letter! His words have challenged and changed us. Think about how this book has made an impact on you as you answer the questions that follow.
  - a. What truth or encouragement stands out to you from Chapter 8?
  
  - b. What truth or encouragement stands out to you from Chapter 9?
  
  - c. What truth or encouragement stands out to you from Chapter 10?
  
  - d. What truth or encouragement stands out to you from Chapter 11?
  
  - e. What truth or encouragement stands out to you from Chapter 12?
  
  - f. What truth or encouragement stands out to you from Chapter 13?

20. What encouragement do you have for others who haven't yet studied the book of Hebrews? What do you want them to know?

Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord, equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Hebrews 13:20-21