



HEBREWS

WASHED IN THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB

INTRODUCTION TO HEBREWS

... JESUS ALSO SUFFERED OUTSIDE THE CITY ... LET US, THEN, GO TO HIM OUTSIDE THE CAMP, BEARING THE DISGRACE HE BORE. -HEBREWS 13:12-13

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1 CHRIST IS SUPERIOR

2 DON'T REJECT GOD'S SALVATION

3-4 SUPERIOR TO MOSES

5 SUPERIOR HIGH PRIEST

6 WARNING AGAINST FALLING

7 MELCHIZEDEK: A TYPE OF CHRIST

8 MEDIATOR OF A BETTER COVENANT

9A PRIEST OF A BETTER TABERNACLE

9B-10A BRINGER OF BETTER SACRIFICE

10B DRAW NEAR TO GOD

11 REMEMBER HEROES OF FAITH

12 ENDURE CHASTENING

13 CONCLUSION

TITLE

The Earliest hand manuscripts of this book, around 100-200 AD, have the title of the book included "To the Hebrews"

GUESSES

Although not certain, Luther suggested Apollos was possibly the author since Apollos was a prominent defender of the faith and was familiar with the Jewish faith. (See Acts 18) Some have suggested Barnabas, companion of Paul on his first missionary journey.

WHEN IN ROME...

Hebrews is quoted earliest in Rome by Clement, c. 96 A.D., in his letter to the Corinthians. Also *The Shepherd* by Hermas, c. 140 A.D. Consider 13:24 - "those from Italy" [i.e., who have left Italy and are now with the author] greet the recipients of the letter.

THE WRITER

1. Would you read a book if you didn't know who wrote it? What can we learn about the unidentified author? (2:3, 13:7, 3:19, other clues?) What can we say with certainty about the author?
2. The early church considered Paul as the author. Why would 2:3 make it unlikely that it could be the apostle Paul? Can you come up with other reasons for not including Paul as a possibility?

THE ORIGINAL RECIPIENTS

1. What can we identify about their situation? (2:1, 10:32-36, 13:12-13)
2. The letter is full of allusions to the temple worship and the priesthood. What does this tell us about the original recipients?

WHY WRITTEN?

1. How did they start out in their Christian faith? List some of the discouragements and temptations they faced. (2:1; 3:12, 10:35-36; 12:4,12)
2. How would you describe the spiritual growth of the original audience? (5:11-14)

WHEN WRITTEN?

1. Likely earliest date possible: These are apparently second generation Christians. Before Nero's persecution began in the Fall of 64 AD Christianity was a legitimate religion covered under Judaism. These persecutions subsided after Nero's death in 68. Hadn't yet "shed blood," but the threat was growing.
2. Likely latest date possible: (See left column for earliest quote.) Knows "Timothy" (13:23). Apparently assumes the temple still is standing in Jerusalem. This would make the date of the temple's destruction likely the latest possible date, namely _____.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE LETTER

1. Scan through the letter to find examples of these characteristics: a personal letter, pastoral tone with sermons included, rooted in OT faith, centered on Christ.
2. Right off the bat, what similarities do you see between the letter's original audience and your setting? What unique differences might you encounter while reading?
3. This letter wasn't included in the canon of Scripture right away. What qualities are there which help Christians recognize this letter as belonging with the New Testament





HE HAS SPOKEN TO US BY HIS SON... THROUGH WHOM ALSO HE MADE THE UNIVERSE. -HEBREWS 1:2

INTRODUCTION TO HEBREWS

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2 DON'T REJECT GOD'S SALVATION

3-4 SUPERIOR TO MOSES

5 SUPERIOR HIGH PRIEST

6 WARNING AGAINST FALLING

7 MELCHIZEDEK: A TYPE OF CHRIST

8 MEDIATOR OF A BETTER COVENANT

9A PRIEST OF A BETTER TABERNACLE

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12 ENDURE CHASTENING

13 CONCLUSION

1:6 "FIRSTBORN" ΠΡΩΤΟΤΟΚΟΣ

Used to refer to birth order or to special status. With the uncreated Son of God it does not refer to birth sequence except in reference to his resurrection with a glorified body (Ro 8:29; Col 1:18; Rev 1:5). In other places it only refers to his status (Col 1:15). Here also it refers to his status even from his incarnation as creator and head of all creation. "bring into the world" regarding Christ's coming in the flesh.

1:6 "ANGELS WORSHIP HIM"

From Dt 32:43 —not in the Greek manuscript KJV used (that Greek copy dates around 900 AD). But it is in the Greek Septuagint (200 BC) and the Dead Sea Scrolls (dated 100 BC, discovered in 1947.)

1:9 "ANOINTING"

ἘΧΡΙΣΤΗΝ

Greek verb related to the title Messiah / Christ. (See Lk 4:18, Is 61:1,3) The term "Son" is used for Jesus in this chapter. "Christ" is not used until in ch 3. What might be possible reasons for the writer doing this?

1:1-3 SUPERIOR TO THE PROPHETS

1. Christ is called 'the prophet' (Dt 18:15) because he was prophesied to complete all revelation from God. Find and list seven descriptions in these verses that speak of him as superior to all other prophets.

Prophets	Stewards of	Created	Couldn't see	Represented	Nourished	Needed	Died after a
Christ							

2. How is God's Son still today wrongly viewed fulfilling a role less than his real position?

1:4-14 SUPERIOR TO THE ANGELS

1. Read Psalm 2 to describe "God's Son" as depicted in the Psalm. Compare with Matthew 3:17; Mt 26:63-64.
2. 1:5b Compare with 2 Sam 7:11b-17. Explain what is prophesied here.
3. List the comparisons which describe Christ as superior to the angels. Note those which are divine attributes.
4. Discuss: In what way can we say Jesus is named "God's Son"? (Hint: remember his dual nature, cf Lk 1:32; 3:22; 9:35).
5. 1:10-12 Quoting Psalm 102:25-27. What is said about Christ? Compare also with Heb. 13:8. How is this truth comforting during troubles?
6. 1:13 The writer will quote Psalm 110 more later. It is also quoted by Jesus (Mt 22:44) to defend his title as Son of Man and Son of God. "Footstool..." is an expression grown out of ancient practice (ex: Joshua 10:24). What comfort does this picture give God's people as they are persecuted?
7. 1:7,14 What is a good way to describe angels? How are they wrongly viewed? (A problem for Christians in Colossae too? Col 2:18) What makes this description so useful?
8. 1:14 "...those who will inherit salvation" (Mt 25:34) If someone is facing persecution or a hard life for their faith, how could you use this description to comfort them?
9. Scan through this chapter once more. See again how many descriptions/pictures of God's Son you can find and relate to how it bolsters your confidence in him.





“HE HAD TO BE MADE LIKE THEM, FULLY HUMAN IN EVERY WAY” -HEBREWS 2:17

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7 MELCHIZEDEK: A TYPE OF CHRIST

8 MEDIATOR OF A BETTER COVENANT

9A PRIEST OF A BETTER TABERNACLE

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13 CONCLUSION

1:6 "MESSAGE BY ANGELS"

The giving of the law at Sinai: ("By angels" Gal 3:19. Acts 7:53) Also in Dt 33:2 Hebrew: "holy ones" Greek Septuagint "angels"

"SIGNS AND WONDERS..."

- Acts 2:22 -> who Jesus was/is.
- 2 Co 12:11-13 -> who is apostles and early missionaries really proclaimed and served

2:8 NIV 2011 REVISION

There are ways to read the OT quote, "put everything under their feet." The Greek and Hebrew here is singular "his feet." But it can refer to the collective singular "mankind / their feet. (Cf. NIV 2011)" Thus it can have a dual meaning in original Hebrew. Ultimately the writer uses it to point to Christ. (See Heb 2:8-9) The Psalm may be only seen as partially fulfilled in mankind. But never fully fulfilled in fallen mankind. It is only fully fulfilled in the humbled and then exalted Son of God according to his human and divine natures.

2:1-4 ADMONITION: DON'T REJECT SALVATION!

1. Have you ever experienced drifting in a lake or river? 2:1 How do we avoid drifting away from our salvation? What do we need to pay attention to when we begin to drift?
2. 2:2 What are the "binding message, violation, and just punishment" referred to here?
3. What options are left if we ignore God's salvation?
4. 2:4 Briefly list some of the signs etc. given by the Lord to confirm his Son's work. What do signs, wonders, and miracles attest to?

2:5-9 WHY DID THE SON BECOME LOWER THAN ANGELS?

1. Read this section then read Psalm 8. How does this point us to mankind? How does it point us to the Son of God?
2. When did Jesus become lower than the angels? When did his exaltation begin?
3. 2:9 Why did he lower himself?
4. Explain why it is so important that we can say with Paul, "May I never glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Gal 6:14).

2:10-15 COMFORT IN HIS SUFFERING

1. 2:10 Who was Jesus really even as he suffered in a lowly form? What indication is there here that his death was part of the plan?
2. 2:11 How are we "of the same family" and "brothers" with Jesus? (See also John 20:10-18) Psalm 22 is a messianic Psalm used to also prove this point as true.
3. 2:12-13 is quoting Isaiah 8:17-18. In what way are we also "children" added to God's family by God himself?
4. 2:14-18 We are following a suffering Savior! What comforts do we have in knowing God's Son suffered? How could you use the thought in this section, "Jesus lowered himself, shared in our humanity, our suffering..." to comfort a suffering friend?
5. How could you use the thought, "Jesus became like me to take my place and my death away" to comfort someone afraid of dying?





“ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER DAILY... SO THAT NONE OF YOU MAY BE HARDENED BY SIN’S DECEITFULNESS.” -HEBREWS 3:13

INTRODUCTION TO HEBREWS

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3-4 SUPERIOR TO MOSES

5 SUPERIOR HIGH PRIEST

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7 MELCHIZEDEK: A TYPE OF CHRIST

8 MEDIATOR OF A BETTER COVENANT

9A PRIEST OF A BETTER TABERNACLE

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“CHRIST” - ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ

First time used in Hebrews. Talking about his position as “The Anointed One.” God chose him alone as Savior.

3:7-11 TODAY IF YOU HEAR...

Psalm 95 is quoted here. We sing this Psalm as the *Venite* for morning praise on page 46 of CW. “For forty years they saw what I did.” Reason for praise, right? How does the full message of that Psalm serve as an important reminder for us?

4:2 NIV 84

“DID NOT COMBINE WITH FAITH”

This is actually a passive verb in Greek. Better translated “But the Word which they heard did not benefit them, since they were not united by faith to those who (really) heard.” (Note how the NIV 2011 is an improvement here from the NIV 84)

3:1-6 WORTHY OF GREATER HONOR THAN MOSES

1. What are some times when you felt spiritually weak? 3:1 How does the writer address the people even though they are “weak”?
2. What is our “heavenly calling”?
3. How is Jesus both “apostle and high priest”?

Moses - faithful				
Jesus - faithful				

4. Both are called “faithful” (3:2, 3:5-6) List what makes Jesus greater:
5. What was Moses purpose? How might he be wrongly placed alongside Christ in honor today? What are we doing when we place Moses on equal ground as Jesus?

3:7-19 WARNING AGAINST HARDENING OF HEART

1. What are these verses warning against? Can you list some of those incidents?
2. 3:12-14 What direct warning is given to us? What ought we be doing instead?
3. 3:16-19 What was amazing about Israel’s rebellion? Why should we not be amazed at God’s response?
4. Why is it such a serious thing when a Christian turns away from God? Because sin's deceitfulness can destroy our faith, what should we be doing each day?

4:1-13 MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ENTER HIS REST

1. What sort of rest are we looking to enter? How do we know he is speaking of a greater rest than what Israel was first promised (Joshua 22:1-9) through Moses & Joshua?
2. What disqualifies us from entering the rest offered us? How do we enter that rest?
3. 4:11 What was Israel’s example of disobedience?
4. 4:7 Although God's rest has been rejected in unbelief, who is it still offered to?





“FOR WE DO NOT HAVE A HIGH PRIEST WHO IS UNABLE TO EMPATHIZE WITH OUR WEAKNESSES...”

HEBREWS 4:15

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1 CHRIST IS SUPERIOR

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3-4 SUPERIOR TO MOSES

5 SUPERIOR HIGH PRIEST

6 WARNING AGAINST FALLING

7 MELCHIZEDEK: A TYPE OF CHRIST

8 MEDIATOR OF A BETTER COVENANT

9A PRIEST OF A BETTER TABERNACLE

9B-10A BRINGER OF BETTER SACRIFICE

10B DRAW NEAR TO GOD

11 REMEMBER HEROES OF FAITH

12 ENDURE CHASTENING

13 CONCLUSION

HIGH PRIEST

Only in Hebrews is Jesus directly given the title of High Priest in the New Testament. There are many Old Testament pictures and prophecies fulfilled as Jesus takes this title. Other New Testament books also describe the work he carried out and continues to carry out as our High Priest.

MELCHIZEDEK

A type of Christ. Read more about him in Genesis 14.

5:9 "ONCE MADE PERFECT"

τελειωθεις Greek for "having reached his goal, completed"; Jesus uses this verb in John 17:5; see also John 19:28.

"SALVATION FOR ALL WHO OBEY"

Those who obey him = Those who listen to his Word and then as believers follow him in faith. God works this in his people.

- Acts 6:7
- John 6:28-29
- 1 John 3:23
- Hebrews 11:8

4:14-16 DRAW NEAR TO THE THRONE OF GRACE!

1. Name some things people use that result in catastrophe if you don't hold onto them firmly. Based on what you read here, deduce what might have been happening among the Jewish readers?
2. List five ways Jesus is superior to the high priest who served in the temple:
3. In what ways might we start to lose a firm hold on Jesus and fall back on lesser things?

5:1-4 WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO BE A HIGH PRIEST?

1. Scan through these verses to describe the duties of a high priest (See further Lev 16) What about their qualifications?
2. In what way do believers become "ignorant and going astray"? (Consider also Numbers 15:27-31)
3. Discuss: Why does our church use the titles "Pastor, teacher, elder etc." but not follow the Roman Catholic tradition of using the title "priest"?
4. Why is it important for a priest to be "called by God?" What about our church and the "divine call" for those serving in the public ministry?

5:5-10 JESUS SERVES PERFECTLY AS GREAT HIGH PRIEST

1. 5:5-7 What are Christ's qualifications as the great High Priests? How is Christ greater as he carries out his office of High Priest?
2. 5:7 *Jesus' innocence was not from lack of exposure to pain or temptation. Rather it was a his virtue was proven again and again and again.* List some of the times he endured the ordeals alluded to in these verses. (Define Jesus active and passive obedience).
3. What examples do we have that demonstrate Jesus' prayers were heard? (This was a fulfillment of Messianic prophecy.)
4. 5:7-10 Explain the paradox: "During the days of Jesus' life on earth... he became the source of eternal salvation."
5. How does this section help you to, "approach God's throne of grace with confidence." (4:16)





“WE DO NOT WANT YOU TO BECOME LAZY”

-HEBREWS 6:12

INTRODUCTION TO HEBREWS

1 CHRIST IS SUPERIOR

2 DON'T REJECT GOD'S SALVATION

3-4 SUPERIOR TO MOSES

5 SUPERIOR HIGH PRIEST

6 WARNING AGAINST FALLING

7 MELCHIZEDEK: A TYPE OF CHRIST

8 MEDIATOR OF A BETTER COVENANT

9A PRIEST OF A BETTER TABERNACLE

9B-10A BRINGER OF BETTER SACRIFICE

10B DRAW NEAR TO GOD

11 REMEMBER HEROES OF FAITH

12 ENDURE CHASTENING

13 CONCLUSION

“BABIES!?”

What is the writer's opinion of baby Christians? What point is he making here?

LAYING OF HANDS

- A few examples in the early church: Acts 8:17, 9:12, 13:3
- Significance?
- How have you seen it practiced today?

4:4-5 ...TASTED THE GOODNESS

- *Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in him. -Ps 34*
- What do we taste of his goodness? How?

6:6 WHO HAVE FALLEN AWAY

If the warning is against unbelief, why does the illustration that follows point towards works? (cf. Matthew 3:7-12, John 15:5-8)

5:11-14 THE SPIRITUAL IMMATURETY OF THE HEBREWS

1. At what ages do children display the most ignorance of the fact that they are immature? What level of spiritual maturity had the Hebrews reached?
2. Describe what the mature believer is able to do. How is this done in your life?
3. Do we ever reach full maturity in our spiritual growth? (cf. Eph 4:11-16) Do we make sure to find the time for serious Bible study?
4. Explain the full implications of saying, "God willing" when deciding on moving past the ABC's of faith.

6:1-8 THE WARNING & ILLUSTRATION

1. What things are listed as "elementary teachings"? Briefly list some of the doctrinal topics which we cover in our catechism and membership courses in our church body.
2. 6:4-5 List and elaborate more on the things which accompany our conversion.
3. What is verses 4-6 warning against?
4. How is an unbeliever "crucifying the Son of God all over again"?
5. How should we apply this section to someone who has denied the faith and later repents?

6:9-12 YOU'VE NOT YET FALLEN, NOW PERSEVERE

1. How does the writer feel about the spiritual state of his readers? What does he use as evidence?
2. What in this section reminds us "faith alone saves"? What reminds us "faith is never alone"?
3. 6:12 Do we always promote those who help God's people and continue to help them as people worthy of imitation? How could we do this even more?
4. How might we "become lazy" when it comes to... growing in faith... producing things that accompany faith?
5. 6:9-12 How do the concluding remarks make you feel about all the of law, the warnings and commands, in this section?





INTRODUCTION TO HEBREWS

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3-4 SUPERIOR TO MOSES

5 SUPERIOR HIGH PRIEST

6 WARNING AGAINST FALLING

7 MELCHIZEDEK: A TYPE OF CHRIST

8 MEDIATOR OF A BETTER COVENANT

9A PRIEST OF A BETTER TABERNACLE

9B-10A BRINGER OF BETTER SACRIFICE

10B DRAW NEAR TO GOD

11 REMEMBER HEROES OF FAITH

12 ENDURE CHASTENING

13 CONCLUSION

MELCHIZEDEK

Name appears 2x in OT and 8x in Hebrews. Focus is not on the person about whom we know very little, but his position.

HOW MANY HIGH PRIESTS?

Jewish historian Josephus records that there were 83 high priests from Aaron to the destruction of the temple in 70 AD.

“ALWAYS LIVES TO INTERCEDE FOR US”

- 1 John 2:1-2
- Romans 8:33-34

JESUS AS PRIEST

He didn't become priest on the basis of a regulation. Review chapter 1 to see another explanation of what grounds Jesus has for his priesthood.

7:1-3 A TYPE OF CHRIST

1. We said the audience was familiar with Jewish worship and history. What parts have you found most difficult so far since you don't share this same background? Who was Melchizedek? (cf. Gen 14, Psalm 110)
2. What is a “type of Christ” in Scripture? List some examples. How Melchizedek a type of Christ?
 - His Office:
 - His Name:
 - His Genealogy:

7:4-10 MELCHIZEDKEK A TYPE OF CHRIST IN PRIESTHOOD

1. Using greater—lesser comparisons how is Melchizedek greater than the Levitical priesthood? (Consider Genesis 14: the direction of the blessing and offering given.)
2. When the writer writes "Just think how great he was" in describing Melchizedek, what point is he driving at?

7:11-28 CHRIST OFFERS A SUPERIOR PRIESTHOOD

1. How did the Levitical Priesthood not offer everything needed?
2. What does Christ's priesthood bring us? (cf. vs 19)
3. 7:20-25 find three other ways Christ's priesthood is superior to the Levitical priesthood.
4. Think of some examples of people forgetting the fact the Jesus "saves completely."
5. How can we make it clear to others what Jesus' priesthood really has accomplished?
6. 7:26-28 Identify additional ways in which Christ is superior to all other priests. How do these truths remove any fear that we must make sacrifice for ourselves for our own sins?





“THE NEW COVENANT IS ESTABLISHED ON BETTER PROMISES.”

-HEBREWS 8:6

INTRODUCTION TO HEBREWS

1 CHRIST IS SUPERIOR

2 DON'T REJECT GOD'S SALVATION

3-4 SUPERIOR TO MOSES

5 SUPERIOR HIGH PRIEST

6 WARNING AGAINST FALLING

7 MELCHIZEDEK: A TYPE OF CHRIST

8 MEDIATOR OF A BETTER COVENANT

9A PRIEST OF A BETTER TABERNACLE

9B-10A BRINGER OF BETTER SACRIFICE

10B DRAW NEAR TO GOD

11 REMEMBER HEROES OF FAITH

12 ENDURE CHASTENING

13 CONCLUSION

A NEW TOPIC

8:1-5 = introduction to 8:6-10:18

“The superior *work* of Jesus”

DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW COVENANT:

- “I will write my law on their hearts”
- “I will be their God”
- “All will know me”
- “I will remember their sins no more”

DOES GOD “FORGET” OUR SINS?

- What is meant by “remember their sins no more?”
- How can this phrase be mis-used?
- How should it be used for comfort?

8:1-5 EARTHLY PRIESTHOOD: A COPY OF THE HEAVENLY

1. Sometimes our summary of our faith can sound like all is done in the past. Jesus is still serving! Where is our high priest now serving?
2. What things done and used by the Levitical priest were like copies of the heavenly things?

8:6-13 CHRIST: MEDIATOR OF A BETTER COVENANT

1. 8:6-13 What are the old and new covenants? Who is the mediator of each?
2. What was “wrong” with the old covenant? Give some concrete examples.
3. The results of the new covenant are listed. This covenant won't be broken like the old covenant that was made at Sinai. How do we see that truth in the Church today?
4. Describe when these results and blessings are fulfilled in the new covenant.
5. How does our high priest connect the blessings of the new covenant with his gift of the Lord's Supper?
6. What is the chief point of the new covenant?
7. Who is in charge to take action for its fulfillment?
8. The covenant of Jeremiah 31:31 is not new in that it didn't exist before the “old” Sinai covenant. Explain. What is the significance of calling it “new”?
9. 8:13 Recall the historical setting of this letter. Why is this concluding phrase about the old covenant important for them to hear?
10. Are there church bodies today which are confused about this matter regarding the old covenant? Why is the concluding phrase a helpful reminder for us today?





“HE WENT THROUGH THE GREATER AND MORE PERFECT TABERNACLE”

-HEBREWS 9:11

- 7 MELCHIZEDEK: A TYPE OF CHRIST
- 8 MEDIATOR OF A BETTER COVENANT
- 9A PRIEST OF A BETTER TABERNACLE
- 9B-10A BRINGER OF BETTER SACRIFICE
- 10B DRAW NEAR TO GOD
- 11 REMEMBER HEROES OF FAITH
- 12 ENDURE CHASTENING
- 13 CONCLUSION

TABERNACLE

The tabernacle was a portable version of the temple used in the wilderness until Solomon. 1440BC –960 (*480 years) -1 Kings 6

1ST TEMPLE

Built by Solomon. It stood from about 960-586BC (*373 years) 2 Chronicles 36:15-ff. It was destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar.

2ND TEMPLE

After about 70 years the temple reconstruction began. (Ezra 3) It stood through the entire intertestamental time until destroyed by the Romans in 70 AD. To this day the Jewish people do not have their own temple in Jerusalem.

REDEDICATION / HANAKKUH

Jews celebrate the regaining of the temple approx. 160 BC from the Seleucids, resulting in over 100 years of an independent Jewish nation –the last with a temple.

EXPANSION PROJECTS

King Herod the Great has been called the greatest building in Jewish history. His temple expansion projects continued even beyond his death in 4 BC. This was the temple Jesus walked in.

9:1-10 THE EARTHLY TABERNACLE

1. What pictures come to mind when you think of “God’s temple”? Where did the Levitical priest go for sacrifice? (see a history outline on the left column)
2. By what means could that priest enter to offer sacrifice?
3. 9:1-5 What was the Holy Spirit showing by the arrangement and articles of the tabernacle. Briefly review the symbolism and meaning behind it all.
4. In what way did the tabernacle worship bring inadequate access to God?
5. How was the cleansing limited?
6. Review the senses and imagery the priests and the people would experience in the tabernacle. Compare and contrast it with the experience someone might find today in a Christian church.
7. 9:10 What is meant by the “new order”?
8. Evaluate this statement: “There is a right and wrong way to do worship.”

9:11-14 THE BETTER TABERNACLE:

1. Where did Christ enter for his sacrifice? How is this possible?
2. By what means did he enter? How is this possible?
3. Contrast what Christ did as he came to offer sacrifice with what the priest before him did.
4. 9:14 The payment & purpose of our redemption! Why is it important not to confuse these things with each other?
5. 9:14 “So that we may serve the living God!” Here he points to the result of Christ’s sacrifice. Give some reasons why this means the old covenant is obsolete.





“WE HAVE BEEN MADE HOLY THROUGH THE SACRIFICE OF THE BODY OF JESUS”

-HEBREWS 10:10

- 7 MELCHIZEDEK: A TYPE OF CHRIST
- 8 MEDIATOR OF A BETTER COVENANT
- 9A PRIEST OF A BETTER TABERNACLE
- 9B-10A BRINGER OF BETTER SACRIFICE
- 10B DRAW NEAR TO GOD
- 11 REMEMBER HEROES OF FAITH
- 12 ENDURE CHASTENING
- 13 CONCLUSION

SEALED WITH BLOOD

The Sinai Covenant was sealed with blood as the people agreed to abide by the commands of the Lord and be “a nation of priests” before the world. (Exodus 24)

THE DEVIL MOCKS & IMITATES GOD
How is blood often used and treated in Satanic rituals? Why would they devil want us to look for “power” in blood? How is a deep respect for blood also a deep respect for our Creator?

9:25 “WITH BLOOD NOT HIS OWN”
Consider what impression this gave the people and the priest as they offered sacrifice. What did it teach regarding salvation?

NOT PLEASED WITH SACRIFICE?
(Heb. 10:8) Read Psalm 50 regarding an improper view of sacrifice.

“IT IS WRITTEN ABOUT ME...”
Compare Hebrews 10:7 & Luke 4:21

ONLY A SHADOW
Compare Colossians 2:16-17 & Hebrews 10:1

9:15-22 BLOOD MUST PAY THE PRICE

1. What is the general attitude today about viewing blood and shedding blood?
2. 9:15 What words here highlight the doctrine “saved by grace alone”?
3. 9:16-22 & 10:1-4 What important message was God giving about blood?

9:23-28 ONLY HIS ONCE-FOR-ALL SACRIFICE

	Copies	Christ
Where offered:		
Offering:		
Frequency:		

1. 9:27 What happens to all upon death?
2. 9:28 What happens when our Great High Priest returns?

10:1-18 ONLY CHRIST’S SACRIFICE

1. 10:5-10 What point is made by quoting Psalm 40 regarding God’s will for his Son?
2. Find the phrases in this section which teach that Jesus’ sacrifice was “once for all.”
3. Using your own words describe what makes Jesus’ sacrifice superior to anything else - and why it is all we need for salvation.
4. How could you use the truths above to comfort someone ...feeling like they are too great a sinner for Jesus ...feeling like they must be doing something to ‘pay back’ Jesus?





“WE ARE NOT OF THOSE WHO SHRINK BACK AND ARE DESTROYED, BUT OF THOSE WHO BELIEVE AND ARE SAVED” -HEBREWS 10:39

- 7 MELCHIZEDEK: A TYPE OF CHRIST
- 8 MEDIATOR OF A BETTER COVENANT
- 9A PRIEST OF A BETTER TABERNACLE
- 9B-10A BRINGER OF BETTER SACRIFICE
- 10B DRAW NEAR TO GOD
- 11 REMEMBER HEROES OF FAITH
- 12 ENDURE CHASTENING
- 13 CONCLUSION

10:29 “BLOOD OF THE COVENANT”

Expression used first in Exodus 24:8 as Moses seals the covenant made at Sinai. Jesus institutes the Lord’s supper with the same words “this is my blood of the covenant,” (Mt 26:28)

GREATER COVENANT = GREATER WEIGHT

“How much more now!” When we insult Christ by unrepentant sinning we despise his covenant of forgiveness which was won and sealed by his own blood. Consider how the apostle Paul warns that those who take the Lord’s Supper unworthily (in unbelief or impenitent hearts) take it to their judgment.

UNREPENTANT SINNING

Unrepentant sinning destroys faith and is a rejection of God’s gift of forgiveness. “You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons too; you cannot have a part in both the Lord’s table and the table of demons. Are we trying to arouse the Lord’s jealousy?” (1 Co 10:21-22)

HE IS COMING

10:19-39 has three main sections. Find the three times Christ’s return is mentioned. What does each reference teach us to do or think in light of his coming again?

10:19-25 DRAW NEAR AS ONE CLEANSED FROM SIN

1. What are some weighty tasks which you don’t feel confident, qualified, or worthy to carry out? List some of the truths in this section which give us our confidence as we approach God.
2. List at least five things we are urged to do and discuss how that is done today in your life and our congregation.
3. How do we see “the Day approaching?”

10:26-31 DON’T DESPISE GOD’S GIFTS!

1. Have you ever encountered a situation in which a believer knows they are sinning but refuses to repent and quit?
2. What type of sinning is described here? What might be an example of it? Why is deliberate and defiant sin by a believer so damaging?
3. The previous section just urged believers to keep gathering with others around the means of grace. What connection is there between those who have the habit of not meeting together and this section?

10:32-39 KEEP PERSEVERING UNDER PRESSURE

1. What was the reaction you received from everyone after you joined God’s kingdom of grace? Relate the reaction many of the first readers of this letter received.
2. Identify four key truths which help us when we are insulted or suffer loss for the faith.
3. 10:34 How would “joyfully” accepting persecution look if it were to happen to you today?





“GOD IS NOT ASHAMED TO BE CALLED THEIR GOD, FOR HE HAS PREPARED A CITY FOR THEM”

HEBREWS 11:16B

- 7 MELCHIZEDEK: A TYPE OF CHRIST
- 8 MEDIATOR OF A BETTER COVENANT
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- 9B-10A BRINGER OF BETTER SACRIFICE
- 10B DRAW NEAR TO GOD
- 11 REMEMBER HEROES OF FAITH
- 12 ENDURE CHASTENING
- 13 CONCLUSION

HEROES & HEROINES OF FAITH

- Abel (Gen 4)
- Enoch (Gen 5:18,21)
- Noah (Gen 6-9)
- Abraham (Gen 17-25)
- Isaac (Gen 22-35)
- Jacob (Gen 25-49)
- Joseph (Gen 30, 37-50) esp. 50:25, Ex 13:19
- Moses (Exodus 2—>)
- The Exodus people (Ex 13-14)
- Jericho (Josh 6)
- Rahab (Josh 2, 6:25, Ja 2:25)
- Gideon (Judges 6-8)
- Barak (Judges 4-5)
- Samson (Judges 13-16)
- Jephthah (Judges 11-12)
- David (1 Sam 16—2 Sam 1-24)
- Samuel (1 Sam 1-25)
- The prophets

TWO KEY POINTS:

- 1) Faith must endure to the end
- 2) Faith works with God’s promises

ACTIONS OF FAITH

What is striking about the actions of the heroes of faith listed in 11:33-38?

11:1-22 FAITH: ABEL TO JOSEPH

1. What do we mean when we say “I have faith”? What is the essence of faith? Can you list some synonyms?
2. What did Abel and Enoch do through faith?
3. What made Noah and Abraham prime examples of faith in what is “unseen”?
4. How did Abraham have a resurrection faith?
5. Describe the three generations after Abraham and what required faith.

11:23-31 MOSES TO CANAAN

1. How is Moses’ example of faith especially encouraging to the first Hebrew readers and today’s persecuted believers?
2. 11:30-31 How do these two examples stand out?

11:32-38 JUDGES TO PROPHETS

1. Pick four names or four verbs describing what past believers have accomplished through faith. Describe some of the details of their situations. Are there “heroes of faith” whom you have encountered in your life?
2. What does this final section impress on you regarding those who have gone before in faith?
3. 11:39 Compare this verse with Romans 8:18-25
4. 11:40 “Us” What do all believers have in common? What are some ways you can reach out to encourage other believers who suffer for their faith?





“LET US THROW OFF EVERYTHING THAT HINDERS AND THE SIN THAT SO EASILY ENTANGLES.”

HEBREWS 12:1

- 7 MELCHIZEDEK: A TYPE OF CHRIST
- 8 MEDIATOR OF A BETTER COVENANT
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- 9B-10A BRINGER OF BETTER SACRIFICE
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CLOUD OF WITNESSES

“Witness” here comes from the word we use for martyr. This term used here doesn't imply certain death for a cause but is also used as early as the 1st century for those who have died for the faith. What's the point? (recall chapter 11)

YOU'RE NOT ALONE

Read 1 Peter 5:6-11. Identify at least three similar or additional points regarding enduring sufferings.

GOD'S DISCIPLINE

Can you recall a circumstance when discipline wasn't received well but later was accepted as good? It's always good with God!

1. It's the way he lovingly treats his own children (12:5-8)
2. Its for our good (12:9-10)
3. It ends with relief (12:11)
4. We ought to receive it in faith (12:12-13)

12:26-29 UNSHAKEN

Read Haggai 2:6-9 for the context of this beautiful promise!

12:1-3 FINISH THE RACE

1. What are some of the challenges faced by long distance runners? How is this metaphor fitting for the life of faith?
2. Describe how keeping focused on Jesus keeps you from getting bogged down by sin as you follow him.

12:4-13 ENDURE DISCIPLINE AS GOD'S OWN CHILDREN

1. What's the latest news story on persecuted Christians? How bad should every believer expect things to be as they suffer for the sake of following their Savior?
2. 12:5-6 Use this encouraging reminder from Proverbs 3:11-12 to explain the proper attitude toward hardships in a Christian's life.

12:14-29 DON'T TURN YOUR BACK NOW

1. How can someone end up falling short of the grace of God? (refer back to Heb 3:12, 4:1, see Galatians 5:4)
2. What are some things which cause “bitter roots” to grow in churches? Evaluate all of Esau's actions (Gen 25:29-34) and other events in his life that demonstrate his turning aside from the grace of God.
3. (Read Exodus 20:18-21 and compare with Heb. 12:18-24) List at least five things which motivate us to remain faithful to our Lord:
4. Describe what attitude is meant by “worship in reverence and awe.” Describe how this is done not just in our gathering other believers but also in our private spiritual life.





OFFER TO GOD A SACRIFICE OF PRAISE – THE FRUIT OF LIPS THAT CONFESS HIS NAME.

- 7 MELCHIZEDEK: A TYPE OF CHRIST
- 8 MEDIATOR OF A BETTER COVENANT
- 9A PRIEST OF A BETTER TABERNACLE
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HEARTS STRENGTHENED BY GRACE

- (13:9) What things might we wrongly turn to try to strengthen our faith? What things are “grace” which we should rightly turn to for spiritual strength?

13:1-17

Identify the principles of the 10 Commandments in these verses. Elaborate on what aspect of the Commandment they make clear.

CLOSING INSTRUCTIONS

There are 19 commands/imperatives given in these closing verses. They all have to do with living the Christian life in the face of persecution and immorality. Which of these are commands which you most need to take to heart today? What gospel encouragement is offered as you strive to follow these closing reminders?

CLOSING PRAYER/DOXOLOGY

(13:20-21) The letter ends as it must: with resurrection glory! Remember this as you “go with Jesus outside the city to bear disgrace.” For we are looking for that glorious city which is yet to come!

13:1-6 LIVE HOLY LIVES

1. Can you recall a time you were helped by a stranger or needed to help a stranger? Why is “entertaining strangers” so important? What makes it so difficult?
2. Scan through these verses and note carefully the motivation given for keeping each command.

13:7-17 FOLLOW YOUR LEADERS & FOLLOW YOUR LORD

1. What is helpful about remembering past church leaders? (13:7) Why is it also important to give current church leaders proper respect (13:17)?
2. 13:9 “(new) strange teachings” and “(old) ceremonial things” are two opposite dangers. Explain. What parallel traps and temptations might exist today.
3. What is the connection between Jesus’ path to glory and ours? How does this compel us to follow?

13:18-25 CLOSING REMARKS

1. What does this section teach us about prayer? ... sanctified living?
2. Scan the chapter to see what key truths are taught regarding Jesus.
3. Share what this “only short letter” does for all believers of all time. Share some of the comforts, warnings, and encouragements which you will hold onto after concluding another look at this letter.
4. Why is this letter worth sharing and rereading often?

