Entering the Throne Room
Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace,
that we may obtain mercy
and find grace to help in time of need.
- Hebrews 4:16

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*Jesus, being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high… - Hebrews 1:3*


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# How to Use This Study Guide

Each time you sit down to study, begin with prayer. Before reading the lesson and answering the questions, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal His truth to you. You may find it helpful to have a few study aids such as a dictionary, concordance, and more than one translation of the Bible. You may also find the following online resources helpful:

BibleGateway.com  BlueLetterBible.org  WebstersDictionary1828.com

Note:

The New King James Version (NKJV) was used for this Study Guide with consideration of the New American Standard Bible (NASB) and the Amplified Bible (AMP).

Each lesson ends with a "Final Thoughts" section. Consider using a journal to write your thoughts and insights in as you answer the questions and reflect on the lesson you completed. Your journal is also a good place to write prayers to God in response to what He revealed to you in His Word.

*"…looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith,*
*who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame,*
*and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."*
*- Hebrews 12:2*

*Study notes for Hebrews Introduction*

# Hebrews Chapter 1… *Jesus, Better than Angels*

Hebrews exalts the person and work of Jesus Christ in a unique way. It contrasts the imperfect provisions of the Old Covenant, given under Moses, with the New Covenant offered by the perfect High Priest, Jesus Christ, God's Son. Since it was written to Hebrew believers, it starts with familiar Jewish concepts and themes. Angels were considered second only to God. The writer uses a "chain" of Old Testament verses to show that Jesus, the Son of God, is better than the angels.

**Read Hebrews Chapter 1**

Which verse stands out to you and why?

**Read Verses 1-9**

1. What are some of the ways God spoke in the Old Testament? (Numbers 12:6-8)

   How does He speak to us now? (Hebrews 1:2, John 1:1,14)

2. What works did Jesus accomplish? (Hebrews 1:2-3)

3. List the ways Hebrews 1:3 describes Jesus Christ as God.

4. What is the "more excellent" name Jesus has inherited? (verses 4-5)

5. Describe Christ's Sonship in the following verses.

   Psalm 2:7-8

   Matthew 3:17

   Luke 1:32

   Romans 1:4

6. In what ways is Jesus superior to the angels?

**Read Verses 10-14**

7. What conclusion do you come to regarding creation in verse 10?

8. What does it mean to you that Jesus Christ does not change?

9. Why do you think the writer of Hebrews used a chain of quotations from the Old Testament?

10. Investigate the role of angels in the following verses and comment on what you discover.

    Psalm 103:20

    Matthew 18:10

    Hebrews 1:14

    Revelation 14:6-7

### *Growing Stronger…*

Read Isaiah 61:1-3. In what specific ways did Jesus Christ fulfill this Old Testament prophecy?

### *Final Thoughts…*

Take a few minutes and look back over this study. Has your view of Jesus Christ changed? If so, how? In what areas of your life do you need to recognize that Christ is far better than everyone and/or everything else you might put your faith and trust in? Ask the Holy Spirit to bless and guide you as you continue this study of Hebrews.

> *"To read Hebrews is to breathe the atmosphere of heaven itself.*
> *To study it is to partake of strong spiritual meat.*
> *To abide in its teaching is to be led from immaturity to maturity*
> *in the knowledge of Christian truths and of Christ Himself.*
> *It is to 'go on into perfection.'"* ~ E. Schuyler English

*Study notes for Hebrews Chapter 1*

# Hebrews Chapter 2… *Jesus, Our Brother and Deliverer*

In this chapter, we see the role of Christ in salvation. Jesus took on human form so that through His death He might destroy the devil "who had the power of death". Since God has spoken fully and finally through His Son, who is superior to any other being, we should listen carefully to what He has to say.

**Read Hebrews Chapter 2**

Which verse stands out to you and why?

**Read Verses 1-4**

1. What did the writer of Hebrews want his readers to pay attention to?

2. State the warning you see in verse 1.

   Who is this warning given to? (Hebrews 3:1)

3. Using a dictionary or online source, such as WebstersDictionary1828.com, define:

   Drift

   Neglect

   What are you are doing (or not doing) that might cause you to be neglectful or to "drift away"?

   How can you prevent drifting from God and His truth?

4. What does it mean to you to "neglect so great a salvation"?

**Read Verses 5-9**

5. According to these verses, how did Jesus demonstrate His humanity?

   Add what you glean from Philippians 2:5-11.

6. What else is revealed about Jesus in the following verses?

   Luke 19:10

   John 3:16

   2 Corinthians 5:21

   1 John 4:9

> *"His human nature was perfected through obedience,*
> *including suffering in order that He might be an understanding High Priest,*
> *an example for believers, and establish perfect righteousness."*
> ~ John MacArthur

**Read Verses 10-16**

7. What is the relationship between Christ and those who experience the salvation He gives? (verses 11-12)

8. How do the following verses describe Jesus' victory over death?

   1 Corinthians 15:54-57

   Colossians 2:15

2 Timothy 1:10

Hebrews 2:14

What does this mean for you?

**Read Verses 17-18**

9. Why was it necessary for Jesus to become a man?

10. What makes Christ especially qualified to help you when you are being tempted? (Hebrews 4:14-16)

What lessons can you learn from Him about how to respond to temptation? (Matthew 4:1-10)

### *Growing Stronger…*

What do the following passages say about sin, death, and eternal life?

Romans 5:12

Romans 6:23

1 Corinthians 15:20-22

### *Final Thoughts…*

Christ came down from Heaven, became a man in this sin-cursed earth, and gave His life as a ransom for us all. Jesus is the ultimate example of humility. If Christ humbled Himself so profoundly, surely we too should humble ourselves. Prayerfully consider a specific way that you can humble yourself and serve those around you in the coming week.

*Study notes for Hebrews Chapter 2*

# Hebrews Chapter 3… *Jesus, Greater than Moses*

The writer moves from speaking of angels to speaking of Moses, the man most revered by the Jews. God gave the law through Moses; in the eyes of the Jews, Moses and the law were synonymous. The law became the most important thing in their lives. The writer shows that it is by steadfast faith in Jesus, who is greater than Moses, that we can enter into God's rest.

**Read Hebrews Chapter 3**

Which verse stands out to you and why?

**Read Verses 1-6**

1. How are believers described in verse 1?

   What is the "heavenly calling"?

2. Apostle means "sent one". How does this apply to Jesus Christ? (John 6:38)

3. How is Jesus also our High Priest? (1 Timothy 2:5)

*"As Apostle, Jesus pleads God's cause with believers.*
*As High Priest, He pleads the believer's cause with God."*
~ Ron Rhodes

4. How did each man demonstrate faithfulness?

   Moses, Exodus 40:16-17

   Jesus, Philippians 2:8

5. Read the following verses and describe "whose house we are".

   1 Corinthians 3:16

   Ephesians 2:19-22

   1 Peter 2:5

**Read Verses 7-15**

6. List the ways the Israelites failed God in these verses.

   What was the consequence?

7. In what ways do you sometimes harden your heart toward God?

8. What are some antidotes for a hardened heart? (verse 13, Psalm 95:6-8)

**Read Verses 16-19**

9. What two things kept the Israelites from entering God's rest? (verses 18-19)

### *Growing Stronger…*

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God." (Ephesians 2:8) Read the following verses and explain how faith in Jesus Christ is better than the Law.

Galatians 3:2

Galatians 3:5-6

Galatians 5:13-14

Galatians 5:18

### *Final Thoughts…*

At Kadesh Barnea, the Israelites rejected Moses and Aaron, their apostle and their high priest. (Numbers 14) In what ways have you rejected your Apostle and High Priest, Jesus? Has your heart become callous and hard toward Him and the "heavenly calling"? Consider the things that you have learned from this chapter that will help you in these areas.

*Study notes for Hebrews Chapter 3*

# Hebrews 4:1-13… *Entering God's Rest*

God offered His rest to the Israelites in the wilderness, but because of their disobedience and unbelief, a generation of Jews failed to enter the Promised Land. Likewise today, God's promised rest is entered only through faith in Jesus Christ.

**Read Hebrews Chapter 4**

Which verse stands out to you and why?

**Read Verses 1-5**

1. Explain the promise that remains. (verse 1)

2. Why wasn't "the word which they heard" enough to bring the Israelites rest?

3. What does Hebrews 11:6, in the Amplified Bible, say about faith?

   What does that mean to you?

   How do you exercise your faith?

4. Read the following verses and describe God's "rest".

   Exodus 33:14

   Psalm 23:1-3

   Matthew 11:29

**Read Verses 6-10**

5. What keeps you from entering God's rest?

6. When and how should you respond to the voice of God?

   How do **you** "hear" His voice?

**Read Verses 11-13**

7. Why are we to "be diligent to enter that rest"?

> *"Rest is an internal state of soul, a relaxing into God's chest, even when dashing through a day or a season."*
> ~ Jane Rubietta

8. List the characteristics of the Word of God mentioned in:

   1 Thessalonians 2:13

   2 Timothy 3:16-17

   Hebrews 4:12

   How does God use His Word to work in your life?

9. Does Hebrews 4:13 concern you or comfort you? Explain your answer.

### *Growing Stronger…*

Everything in your life is "…open and exposed, and revealed to the eyes of Him with whom we have to give account." (Hebrews 4:13 AMP) Compare this statement to 1 Corinthians 3:11-15 and 2 Corinthians 5:10.

How is the expectation of future judgement relevant to your daily life?

### *Final Thoughts…*

In the midst of struggle, is rest a reality in your life? If not, is it hindered by disobedience or unbelief of any kind? What have you learned from this week's lesson that might help you enter more fully into God's rest?

*Study notes for Hebrews 4:1-13*

# Hebrews 4:14-5:11… *Jesus, Our Great High Priest*

The writer now begins to show that Christ is superior to the Levitical priesthood. This was very important for Jewish believers to understand because they had always approached God through a high priest from the tribe of Levi. Believers now come to God through Jesus Christ, who is our great High Priest.

**Read Hebrews 4:14-5:11**

Which verse stands out to you and why?

**Read Hebrews 4:14-16**

1. What distinguishes Jesus from ordinary Jewish high priests? (verse 14)

   What are you exhorted to do because of this distinction?

   List some ways this can be accomplished.

2. Read Isaiah 53:3-6. How does Christ's suffering and sacrifice for you show that He is able to sympathize with your sufferings?

3. In light of what Jesus has done as High Priest, how are you encouraged to approach the "throne of grace"?

   What will you find there?

*"Throne of Grace" Such a conception of the presence of God into which beleaguered Christians may come at any time, suggests both the sovereignty of the One they approach and His benevolence."*
~ Walvord and Zuck ,The Bible Knowledge Commentary

**Read Hebrews 5:1-4**

4. List the criteria that had to be met for a man to qualify as high priest.

   In what ways did Jesus Christ qualify? (Hebrews 2:17-18)

5. What makes Jesus Christ a unique High Priest? (1 John 3:5)

**Read Verses 5-11**

6. In verses 5-6, the writer quotes Psalms 2 and 110. What titles are given to the Messiah?

   Psalm 2:6

   Psalm 2:7

   Psalm 110:4

7. Read Genesis 14:18. How is Melchizedek a foreshadow of Christ?

8. The Levites offered animal sacrifices. What did Jesus offer?

   What kind of offerings can you bring to God? (Romans 12:1)

9. How can you be assured of being heard by God?

10. Have you ever learned obedience from the things that you have suffered? Explain your answer.

### *Growing Stronger…*

Jesus prayed with "loud crying and tears to the One able to save Him from death, and He was heard". (Hebrews 5:7 NASB) Read Jesus' prayer in Matthew 26:39. From the following verses, in what sense did the Father answer His Son's prayer "no" and in what sense did He answer "yes"?

Matthew 27:45-50

Matthew 28:1-7

### *Final Thoughts…*

Praise and thank God for the offering of His Son, Jesus Christ, for your sins! Also thank Him for being your "merciful and faithful High Priest" (Hebrews 2:17) who understands your every need. What offerings will you bring to your High Priest this week?

*Study notes for Hebrews 4:14-5:11*

# Hebrews 5:9-6:12… *Growing Up In Faith*

The writer is troubled over the state of the Hebrew church. He is deeply concerned that these spiritual children are reluctant to develop beyond the basics, so he urges them to graduate beyond elementary teachings and grow on to maturity.

**Read Hebrews 5:9-6:12**

Which verse stands out to you and why?

**Read Hebrews 5:9-14**

1. What does it mean that some had become "dull of hearing"? (Matthew 13:15)

> *"The dullness usually comes first, then the desire to give up. Watch out when the Word of God starts seeming dull to you!"*
> ~ David Guzik

2. According to the following verses, what are some characteristics of an immature Christian?

   1 Corinthians 3:1-3

   Ephesians 4:14

3. What are some marks of spiritual maturity?

   1 Corinthians 15:58

   James 1:22

4. How do you "discern both good and evil"? (Hebrews 5:14)

   1 Thessalonians 5:21-22

   1 John 4:1

**Read Hebrews 6:1-8**

5. Why is it important for you to grow beyond the "elementary teaching about the Christ" (NASB) and press on to maturity?

   Read John 10:28-30. According to Jesus' words, is it possible for a true believer to lose their salvation? Explain your answer.

6. Read the following verses and comment on what you discover.

   Matthew 7:18-19

   1 Corinthians 3:13-15

   Hebrews 6:7-8

7. How will maturing and growing in your faith help you produce "useful" fruit?

**Read Verses 9-12**

8. What hope and encouragement is given to believers in these verses?

   How might you encourage a believer who seems to have lost hope?

9. What diligent works does the writer refer to?

   How do these verses inspire you to good works? (Matthew 25:40)

***Growing Stronger…***

What do the following verses say about the assurance of salvation?

John 1:12

John 5:24

Romans 8:38-39

1 John 5:12-13

***Final Thoughts…***

Are you growing spiritually or have you become stagnant? Take some time this week to sit before the Lord. Ask Him if there is anything in your life that needs to be forsaken so that you can continue to grow and mature in your knowledge and understanding of Him.

*Study notes for Hebrews 5:9-6-12*

# Hebrews 6:13-20… *God's Promises Bring Hope*

Abraham "patiently endured" and God gave him a promise. Abraham had assurance and hope because he knew that what God had sworn to him would come to pass. Our hope in Jesus Christ anchors our souls because we know God's promises are true.

**Read Hebrews 6:13-20**

Which verse stands out to you and why?

**Read Verses 13-15**

1. Read Genesis 22:16-18 and describe the promise God gave to Abraham.

   How have "all the nations of the earth" been blessed through Abraham? (Matthew 1:1)

2. How can you follow Abraham's example of waiting patiently for the fulfillment of God's promises?

**Read Verses 16-18**

3. Define "immutable" using a dictionary or online resource such as WebstersDictionary 1828.com.

4. Why did God confirm His promise to Abraham with an oath? (verse 17)

5. Why is it important to you that God cannot lie? (Numbers 23:19)

6. What have we who have "fled for refuge" been encouraged to lay hold of? (verse 18)

   What is "the hope" that is set before us?

**Read Verses 19-20**

7. In what ways do the following verses give you hope?

   Romans 5:3-5

   Colossians 1:27

   1 Peter 1:3

8. Describe how hope anchors your soul.

9. Read the following verses and comment on what you discover about "the veil".

   Exodus 26:33

   Leviticus 16:2

   Mark 15:37-38

   Hebrews 6:19-20

### *Growing Stronger…*

"For as many as are the promises of God, in Christ they are all answered 'Yes.' So through Him we say our 'Amen' to the glory of God." (2 Corinthians 1:20, Amplified) The Bible is a treasure-trove of promises from God and each one can give you hope. Read the promises below and explain the hope they give you.

Deuteronomy 31:8

Isaiah 43:2

James 1:5

1 John 1:9

What other promises from God give you hope?

> *"I believe the promises of God enough to venture an eternity on them."*
> ~ Isaac Watts

### *Final Thoughts…*

What specific promise of God do you need to cling to this week? Write it down and carry it with you. Spend time thanking God for the hope you have that anchors your soul.

*Study notes for Hebrews 6:13-20*

# Hebrews 7… *A Superior Priesthood*

This chapter opens with the description of Melchizedek, a mysterious Old Testament figure who, as a king and a priest, is a fitting prototype of Jesus Himself. The writer then describes a new priesthood, "in the order of Melchizedek". This permanent priesthood, which is superior to the Levitical priesthood, presents Jesus, our perfected High Priest.

**Read Hebrews Chapter 7**

Which verse stands out to you and why?

**Read Verses 1-3**

1. List the ways Jesus and Melchizedek are alike. (Genesis 14:17-20)

**Read Verses 4-10**

2. What conclusion does the writer arrive at in verse 7?

3. Read verses 9-10. Why was it significant that Levi (yet unborn) paid a tithe through Abraham to Melchizedek?

**Read Verses 11-19**

4. Why did a new priesthood from the "order of Melchizedek" replace the order of Aaron? (verse 11)

   What did this new priesthood require? (verse 12)

5. What made Jesus unique as a member of His tribe? (verses 13-14)

6. On what basis did Jesus Christ become a priest? (verses 15-17)

7. What is the "better hope" that we have?

   What benefit is mentioned? (Hebrews 4:16)

**Read Verses 20-28**

8. How is Jesus unique among the priests who represented Israel before God?

| Jesus Christ | Priests |
| --- | --- |
| | |

9. How does Christ's "unchangeable priesthood" relate to His ability to save completely those who come to God through Him? (verses 24-25)

10. How did Jesus fulfill the role of High Priest when He was on earth? (verse 27)

***Growing Stronger…***

What do you learn about Christ's intercession from the following verses?

Isaiah 53:12

Luke 22:31-32

Romans 8:31-34

Hebrews 7:25

What does it mean to you that Jesus is praying for **you** at this very moment?

> *"In His life Christ is an example showing us how to live, in His death He is a sacrifice satisfying our sins, in His resurrection a Conqueror, in His ascension a King, and in His intercession a High Priest."*
> ~ Martin Luther

***Final Thoughts…***

We will only appreciate our need for a high priest when we realize how holy and unapproachable God is and how sinful and defiled we are. Spend some time this week praying and reflecting on what it means to you personally that Jesus Christ is your perfect High Priest.

*Study notes for Hebrews Chapter 7*

# Hebrews Chapter 8… *A New Covenant*

The first covenant was a legal code written on tablets of stone to the nation of Israel. The New Covenant, ministered by our great High Priest, is written on the hearts of individuals and provides full and final forgiveness of sin.

**Read Hebrews Chapter 8**

Which verse stands out to you and why?

**Read Verses 1-6**

1. Where is Jesus right now? (Hebrews 1:3)

   What is He doing? (Hebrews 7:25)

2. How does the fact that Christ is seated show that His ministry is superior to the Levitical priests? (Hebrews 10:11-12)

3. How does Ephesians 5:2 describe the "gifts and sacrifices" of our High Priest?

   What is **your** response?

4. What do the terms "copy", "shadow", and "pattern" indicate to you about the Levitical priesthood? (Hebrews 8:5)

5. Using a dictionary or online resource, such as WebstersDictionary1828.com, define:

   Mediator

   Covenant

6. Why is it necessary to have a mediator between God and man? (Romans 3:23)

7. Why is Christ the only one who can fulfill that role? (1 Peter 1:18-19)

**Read Verses 7-13**

8. Read the following verses and summarize the difference between the first and the new covenant.

   Exodus 24:7-8

   Luke 22:20

   Romans 11:27

9. Where was the fault in the first covenant? (Hebrews 8:8-9)

10. Read the following verses. How does the new covenant impact your life?

Ezekiel 36:26-27

2 Corinthians 3:5-6

> *"Understand, therefore, that the LORD your God is indeed God. He is the faithful God who keeps His covenant for a thousand generations and lavishes His unfailing love on those who love Him and obey His commands."* ~ Deuteronomy 7:9 NLT

11. What do you discover when you compare 2 Corinthians 5:17 with Hebrews 8:13?

### *Growing Stronger…*

Do you think you would view sin differently if you were required to bring animal sacrifices to a priest on an ongoing basis? Explain your answer.

What does living under the new covenant of forgiveness and grace mean to you?

### *Final Thoughts…*

"For I will be merciful and gracious toward their wickedness, and I will remember their sins no more." (Hebrews 8:12 AMP) Meditate on the fact that God has chosen not to remember your sins anymore. How does this motivate you to act? Start by thanking Him for His mercy. Is there someone who needs your mercy today?

*Study notes for Hebrews Chapter 8*

# Hebrews 9:1-14… *The Perfect Tabernacle*

The rituals of the first covenant were conducted in an "earthly sanctuary" where the high priest offered animal sacrifices as a temporary covering for sin. Jesus, as Mediator of the new covenant, entered into the perfect tabernacle – the very throne room of God. He sacrificed His own blood, giving eternal life to all who come to Him.

**Read Hebrews 9:1-14**

Which verse stands out to you and why?

**Read Verses 1-5**

1. According to verse 1, what did the first covenant provide?

2. What is the significance of the "second veil" located in the tabernacle? (verses 3-5)

**Read Verses 6-10**

3. When did the high priest go into the Holy of Holies?

   What did he do in the Holy of Holies?

   What sins did he make atonement for?

   Do you commit sins "in ignorance"? Explain your answer.

4. Why did the high priest enter the Holy of Holies twice? (Leviticus 16:11-12;15-16)

   Why did Jesus only enter once?

5. Record some things you discover about blood sacrifice from the following verses:

   Leviticus 17:11

   Romans 3:25

   Hebrews 9:7

> *"The worship of God has always involved a sacrifice.*
> *It began with the blood of bulls and goats and lambs and culminated with the blood of the perfect and spotless Lamb of God — Christ Himself."*
> ~ Josh McDowell

6. What did the practices described in Hebrews 9:6-7 indicate? (verse 8)

7. What shortcoming did the tabernacle sacrifices have? (verses 9-10)

8. What spiritual gain became available when the first tabernacle was replaced? (Ephesians 3:11-12, Hebrews 4:16)

**Read Verses 11-14**

9. What do verses 11-12 say concerning "the greater and more perfect tabernacle"?

10. How was Christ's sacrifice for sin different from all other sacrifices for sin? (verses 13-14, 1 Peter 1:18–21)

11. As a believer, what does the blood of Christ provide for you?

### *Growing Stronger…*

We have all heard the voice of our conscience when we have done something wrong, when we have offended God. Our conscience convicts us no matter how hard we try to suppress its voice or attempt to justify our actions. What do you learn about your conscience from the following verses?

Isaiah 30:21

Romans 2:15

1 Timothy 1:5

Titus 1:15

Do you ever ignore your conscience? What will happen if you keep ignoring it?

### *Final Thoughts…*

Christ's blood cleansed you once for all from acts that lead to death so that you may "serve the living God." (Hebrews 9:14) How can you serve Him out of gratitude for this cleansing? Take time to thank God for all He has done for you.

*Study notes for Hebrews 9:1-14*

# Hebrews 9:15-28… *Jesus, The Final Sacrifice*

The death of Christ was a stumbling block to the Jews. The writer shows that it was necessary for the Messiah to die because a testament, or will, requires death and forgiveness requires blood. The sacrifice of Jesus Christ is superior to the first covenant sacrifices because He has entered the sanctuary of heaven with His own blood, not the blood of animals.

**Read Hebrews 9:15-28**

Which verse stands out to you and why?

**Read Verses 15-17**

1. Reflect on what you have learned so far in this study. What qualifies Jesus to be the "Mediator of the new covenant"?

2. Who committed the "transgressions under the first covenant"? (verse 15)

   How are they forgiven? (Romans 3:25)

3. Why would it not be possible to receive your "eternal inheritance" if Christ had not died? (Hebrews 9:16-17)

*"The Son of God became man to enable men to become sons of God."*
~ C. S. Lewis

4. Describe what 1 Peter 1:4 says about a believer's inheritance.

**Read Verses 18-28 and Exodus 24:3-8**

5. Using a dictionary or online resource, such as WebstersDictionary1828.com, define:

   Atonement

   Remission

6. What must happen for sins to be forgiven? (Leviticus 17:11)

7. How did Jesus establish the new covenant? (Matthew 26:27-28)

8. List two ways Christ is your superior High Priest and Sacrifice. (Hebrews 9:24-28)

9. What do the following verses say about death and judgment?

   Romans 14:12

   2 Corinthians 5:10

   Hebrews 9:27

   How do these truths influence your daily life?

10. If you are a believer in Christ, what promise is yours according to Hebrews 9:28?

### *Growing Stronger…*

"For you know that you were redeemed from your empty way of life inherited from the fathers, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish." (1 Peter 1:18 HCSB) Each of the following verses has a common thread. Describe what they mean to you.

Galatians 3:13

Colossians 1:13-14

Titus 2:14

Revelation 5:9

### *Final Thoughts…*

"…so also Christ was offered once for all time as a sacrifice to take away the sins of many people. He will come again, not to deal with our sins, but to bring salvation to all who are eagerly waiting for Him." (Hebrews 9:28 NLT) Who in your life needs to hear and understand Christ's atoning sacrifice for their sins? Pray for a Spirit-filled opportunity to share the Good News with someone.

*Study notes for Hebrews 9:15-28*

# Hebrews 10:1-18… *Complete Forgiveness*

The first covenant and its laws were not bad, just incomplete. Animal sacrifices could never take away sin, only cover it. Through Christ's obedience to the Father's will at the cross, new covenant believers receive what those under the law could not: complete forgiveness.

**Read Hebrews 10:1-18**

Which verse stands out to you and why?

**Read Verses 1-4**

1. Verse 1 speaks about "good things to come". What are some of those "good things"? (Hebrews 9:11-12)

2. Contrast what the sacrificial system under the law was unable to do (verse 2) with what Christ's sacrifice was able to do. (Hebrews 9:14)

3. What was one result of the continual sacrifices? (verse 3)

   How was this beneficial?

**Read Verses 5-10**

4. Who is speaking in verses 5-7?

   Did the Father have pleasure in burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin? Why or why not?

5. In coming to do the will of the Father, what has Jesus done? (verse 9)

6. Using a dictionary or online resource, such as WebstersDictionary1828.com, define "sanctified".

7. By what means are you sanctified? (verses 9-10)

> *"Sanctification is not a heavy yoke to bear but a joyful liberation."*
> ~ Corrie ten Boon

**Read Verses 11-18**

8. Read verse 12 in the Amplified Bible and describe Jesus' sacrifice.

   What does Jesus sitting at the "right hand of God" signify?

9. Read verse 14. What does this verse declare Jesus accomplished?

   What is still occurring?

   How is this evident in your life?

10. Summarize the blessings of the new covenant mentioned in verses 16-17.

11. What conclusion does the writer reach in verse 18?

What does this mean to **you**? (1 Peter 3:18)

### *Growing Stronger…*

Sanctification does not stop with salvation. Even though we have been "set apart" as God's children, we continue to behave in ways that are rebellious. Our heart wants to please and obey God, but our flesh is weak making sin difficult to resist. Yet, it is in our continual struggle with sin that sanctification takes place. Read the following verses and record what more you learn about sanctification.

Psalm 4:3

1 Thessalonians 4:3-5

Hebrews 2:11

Hebrews 10:14

### *Final Thoughts…*

How is Christ an example to you in His declaration to the Father, "Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God"? (Hebrews 10:9) During your quiet time this week, ask the Lord to help you listen to His leading and to make godly choices as you go about your day.

*Study notes for Hebrews 10:1-18*

# Hebrews 10:19-25… *A New and Living Way*

New Covenant believers can boldly approach God because of the "new and living way" that Christ provided. This confident access to God strengthens our faith, gives us hope, and motivates us to love others.

**Read Hebrews 10:19-25**

Which verse stands out to you and why?

**Read Verses 19-20**

1. What are we exhorted to do with "boldness"? (verse 19)

2. How does the "blood of Jesus" give you boldness? (Isaiah 53:12, Ephesians 1:7)

3. What kept worshipers from approaching God with boldness before Christ came? (Hebrews 10:4)

4. How is Jesus the "living way" into the Holiest place? (Mark 16:6)

5. What does it mean that the veil was Christ's flesh? (Hebrews 10:20, Mark 15:37-38)

**Read Verses 21-25**

6. Read the following verses and describe how we are "washed".

   Acts 22:16

   1 Corinthians 6:11

   Ephesians 5:26

   Titus 3:5

> *"To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood…"*
> ~ Revelation 1:5b

7. How should you relate to God according to Hebrews 10:22-23?

   How should you relate to fellow believers? (verses 24-25)

8. Why should "the Day approaching" encourage you to fellowship with other believers?

### *Growing Stronger…*

"And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love." (1 Corinthians 13:13) These three Christian virtues are mentioned repeatedly in Scripture. Read the following verses and comment on the ways each one can help you persevere until the Day of Jesus Christ.

Romans 5:2-5

Galatians 5:5-6

Hebrews 10:22-24

1 Peter 1:21-22

### *Final Thoughts…*

"But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves." (James 1:22 NLT) Take a spiritual inventory of your life based on Hebrews 10:22-25. Prayerfully consider how well you are doing in each area and ask the Holy Spirit to help you and guide you to a better understanding and obedience.

*Study notes for Hebrews 10:19-25*

# Hebrews 10:26-39… *A Call to Endure*

The writer delivered yet another warning to those who planned to desert the local congregation and return to the ritualistic system of Judaism. Harsh as it is, it is balanced by a promise of hope and reward to all who endure and remain faithful until Christ returns for His church.

**Read Hebrews 10:26-39**

Which verse stands out to you and why?

**Read Verses 26-31**

1. According to verse 29, what is considered "willful sin"?

2. If Christ's provision for sin is rejected, what can be expected? (verses 26-27)

3. Read the following verses and record the aspects of God's character that should motivate you to think twice before disregarding Christ.

   Exodus 20:4-6

   Isaiah 6:3

   John 3:36

**Read Verses 32-34**

4. What reminder is the writer stating in verses 32-33?

   Have you ever experienced anything similar? Explain your answer.

   How did you respond?

5. What did the readers possess that was better and more lasting than their personal suffering or their belongings? (verse 34, Matthew 6:19-20)

Why is your relationship with Christ more important than your possessions?

List your top three priorities in life.

**Read Verses 35-39**

6. Using a dictionary or online resource, such as WebstersDictionary1828.com, define "endurance".

7. According to James 1:2-4 (NASB), how do you build endurance.

> *"Endurance is a key indicator of spiritual fitness."*
> ~ Alistair Begg

8. In Hebrews 10:37, the writer reminds his readers that the return of Christ is near. How does His return encourage you to persevere in your present trials?

9. Read the following verses and describe what they reveal to you about the "just shall live by faith".

Habakkuk 2:4

Romans 1:17

Galatians 3:11

Hebrews 10:38

Give some examples of how **you** "live by faith".

10. What confident conclusion is affirmed in verse 39?

### *Growing Stronger…*

Endurance is an important part of spiritual growth and strength, yet so often people struggle in this area. But there is a way to build endurance through the trials we face. God's word provides us with all we need to endure and thrive as we follow Jesus. Reflect on the following verses then describe what you learn about endurance.

Deuteronomy 31:8

Romans 5:3-4

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Galatians 6:9

Philippians 4:13

### *Final Thoughts…*

When you face challenges, what do you depend upon? How can looking back and seeing what God has done for you in the past help you to endure and remain faithful? (Hebrews 10:32-34)

*Study notes for Hebrews 10:26-39*

# Hebrews Chapter 11… *By Faith*

It is easy to make the Christian life a series of rules and regulations. The Hebrew believers were comfortable with the Mosaic Law. But the writer points to Old Testament saints who understood a better way to please God; they walked by faith.

**Read Hebrews Chapter 11**

Which verse stands out to you and why?

**Read Verses 1-3**

1. Compare 2 Corinthians 4:18 with Hebrews 11:1. What insights do you gain about living by faith?

2. How is believing that the universe was created by God an example of the kind of faith defined in verse 1?

3. According to Romans 10:17 and Ephesians 2:8-9, where does faith come from?

**Read Verses 6-12**

4. What two requirements are necessary to come to God? (verse 6)

   List the ways you are "diligently" seeking God.

5. What motivated Noah to obey?

   What was his reward?

6. Why did Sarah feel confident placing her trust in God?

   How can you have the same confidence?

**Read Verses 13-31**

7. Do you consider yourself a stranger and a pilgrim? Explain your answer.

   How does this affect your priorities and actions?

8. Regarding those who died in faith, why was God "not ashamed to be called their God"?

9. What encouragement do you find in knowing a "city" is being prepared for you? (John 14:2, 2 Peter 3:13)

10. Read the following verses and explain how you can choose to "suffer affliction" rather than the "pleasures of sin".

    Romans 8:18

    2 Corinthians 4:17

*"Faith is believing what God says*
*to the extent that it influences your thinking and your behavior."*
~ Gary and Mona Shriver

**Read Verses 32-40**

11. Each of the individuals named in this chapter were far from perfect, yet they were commended for their faith. What can you learn from this?

12. What helped the martyrs mentioned persevere through their suffering? (verse 35, Philippians 3:12-14)

    How does this encourage you?

13. What is the "something better" that God provided for you? (Hebrews 5:9)

***Growing Stronger…***

"But 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 diligently seek Him." (Hebrews 11:6) Explore the following verses and explain what each means to you.

John 11:25-26

Acts 10:43

Romans 5:1

Ephesians 6:16

***Final Thoughts…***

"For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also." (James 2:26) Each time the phrase "by faith" is used in Hebrews 11, it is followed by a description of the action taken by the individual who acted in faith. What actions demonstrate your faith? Are you faithfully doing all that the Lord has asked you to do?

*Study notes for Hebrews Chapter 11*

# Hebrews 12:1-13… *The Race of Faith*

Jesus endured the shame of the cross to bring us into fellowship with the Father. In the same way, we ought to keep our eyes on Him as we run the race of faith, expressing gratitude and offering our lives in acceptable service to Him.

**Read Hebrews 12:1-13**

Which verse stands out to you and why?

**Read Verses 1-2**

1. Who are the "so great a cloud of witnesses"?

2. What are some of the "weights" and "sin" that ensnare you?

   What is the difference between a weight and a sin'?

3. What "race" we are in? (Hebrews10:36)

   Why is running a race a good metaphor for the Christian life?

4. How are we to run the race of faith? (verses 1-2, Acts 20:24)

5. Read the following verses and describe how they help you to fix your eyes upon Jesus.

   Psalm 119:11

   Proverbs 3:5

   Matthew 6:33

   Matthew 22:37

   James 4:8

6. What does it mean that Jesus is the "author and finisher"? (Philippians 1:6)

7. Read Hebrews 12:2 in the Amplified Bible. Explain what is meant by the joy that was set before Him.

   What joy set before **you** motivates you to endure and persevere? (Matthew 5:12, 1 Peter 1:6-7)

**Read Verses 3-9**

8. Explain what the writer is pointing out in verses 3-4.

   How does this apply to you?

9. Why should you not "lose heart" when the Lord rebukes or disciplines you? (verses 5-9, Proverbs 13:1)

**Read Verses 10-13**

10. For what purpose does the Father discipline believers?

11. What does His discipline produce in your life? (verses 10-11)

In light of this, what should your response be? (verses 12-13)

> *"The most fruitful and the most joy-filled Christians are the most pruned Christians."*
> ~ Bruce Wilkinson

***Growing Stronger…***

Read through the following verses. How do they add to your understanding of what it means to have an enduring faith in Jesus Christ?

John 15:1-11

2 Corinthians 4:8-9

James 1:22-25

***Final Thoughts…***

Do you daily look to Jesus? Keeping your eyes on Him will strengthen you, enabling you to endure and finish your race of faith well. Every struggle, pain, and burdensome day on earth is worth patiently enduring to get to the finish line — eternal glory in the presence of Jesus.

*Study notes for Hebrews 12:1-13*

# Hebrews 12:14-29… *Encouragement and Warning*

The revelation at Mount Sinai was made "on earth" but Israel failed to live by that revelation. The writer reminds the persecuted Hebrew believers that they have now come to Mount Zion and to Jesus, "who speaks from heaven", and they cannot return to the old covenant without consequence.

**Read Hebrews 12:14-29**

Which verse stands out to you and why?

**Read Verses 14-17**

1. What two things are necessary in order to see God? (Psalm 34:14)

   What are some ways you can cultivate these things? (Romans 14:19, 2 Corinthians 6:16-17)

2. Where does a "root of bitterness" come from? (Deuteronomy 29:18)

   How can this cause trouble and defile others?

3. What was Esau's "birthright"? (Genesis 17:1-8)

   What did he trade it for?

   Describe your inheritance as a believer. (Revelation 21:7)

   Name some things that you trade time with God for.

**Read Verses 18-24**

4. Note the differences between Mt. Sinai, (verses 18-21), and Mt. Zion, (verses 22-24), as you describe each one below.

   Mt. Sinai

   Mt. Zion

   How would understanding these differences help the Hebrew believers stay true to the new covenant?

5. Read Genesis 4:4 and Hebrews 9:12. Explain what "the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things" means.

**Read Verses 25-29**

6. Using Hebrews 1:1-3, describe "Him who speaks".

7. Read the following verses. What will be shaken and what will remain?

   Haggai 2:6

   Luke 21:33

   2 Corinthians 4:18

   Hebrews 12:28

   What is your response to these things?

8. How is Hebrews 12:29 a comfort to you? (John 3:36, Romans 5:9)

> *"Since God is in fact a consuming fire, we do best to come to Him on His terms. These are the terms of unmerited approval in Jesus. He will consume all that is outside of that sphere."* ~ David Guzik

### *Growing Stronger…*

Hebrews 12:23 refers to the "church of the firstborn". What do you learn about the significance of the firstborn from the following verses?

Exodus 4:22

Exodus 13:2

James 1:18

How is being "firstborn" significant to you?

### *Final Thoughts…*

"I am making this covenant with you so that no one…will turn away from the Lord our God to worship these gods of other nations, and so that no root among you bears bitter and poisonous fruit." (Deuteronomy 29:18 NLT) Is there a root of bitterness in your heart that is defiling your relationship with others? Is there an idol of anger, resentment, or unforgiveness? If so, confess your bitterness to God and ask Him to forgive you.

*Study notes for Hebrews 12:14-29*

# Hebrews 13:1-9… *Love Demonstrated*

Believing in Jesus should affect our daily lives. As followers of Christ, we are called to love, hospitality, sexual purity, contentment, to follow godly leadership, and to continual endurance in faith to the end. These principles are active responses to faith in the life a believer.

**Read Hebrews 13:1-9**

Which verse stands out to you and why?

**Read Verses 1-3**

1. List some ways you offer hospitality to friends.

   How do you show hospitality to strangers? (Deuteronomy 10:19)

2. Read Matthew 25:35-40 and record what you discover.

3. What do you learn from Hebrews 13:2 about angels?

   What does this tell you about how God is working in the world? (Psalm 34:7, Psalm 91:11)

4. Read the following verses and give some reasons believers should minister to prisoners.

   Isaiah 61:1

   Romans 12:14-16

   Hebrews 10:34

*"A Christian is a mind through which Christ thinks, a heart through which Christ loves, and a voice through which Christ speaks, and a hand through which Christ helps."*
~ Saint Augustine

**Read Verse 4**

5. Why is it so important to honor marriage and keep the marriage bed pure? (1 Corinthians 6:13-18)

   What are some of the lies that take away the honor of the institution of marriage?

**Read Verses 5-6**

6. According to 1 Timothy 6:10, what is the root of all evil?

   Why is this true? (Matthew 6:24)

7. What are God's promises? (Hebrews 13:5-6)

   What is your part?

   How do these promises empower you to accomplish the commands in these verses?

**Read Verses 7-9**

8. What is the main idea of verse 7?

   Who are your spiritual leaders?

   How do you follow their example of faith?

9. What do you learn about Jesus in verse 8?

   What impact does this have on you?

   Why are there no "new" doctrines or revelations? (Revelation 22:18)

10. Hebrews 13:9 speaks of our heart being "established by grace". Explain what this means to you. (2 Corinthians 1:21)

### *Growing Stronger…*

What do you learn from the following verses about loving one another as brothers and sisters?

John 13:34-35

1 Peter 3:8

1 John 3:14-17

1 John 4:12

### *Final Thoughts…*

"Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.'" (Hebrews 13:5) Covetousness occurs when you long for someone else's possessions to be your own. Coveting says, "If only I could have what they have, then I would be happy." Are you content with what God has blessed **you** with? The writer exhorts you to find contentment in the Lord who will "never leave you nor forsake you". Examine your heart and seek His forgiveness for any covetous feelings you may have. Humbly ask Him to help you to be content with "such things as you have".

*Study notes for Hebrews 13:1-9*

# Hebrews 13:10-25… *The Believer's Sacrifice*

Under the Old Covenant, the blood of animal sacrifices on the Day of Atonement was brought into the most holy place, but the bodies were burned outside the camp, a location deemed unholy. Jesus suffered outside the city gate, that is outside Jerusalem; the effect of His sacrifice was to make people holy. Believers now offer God a different kind of sacrifice.

**Read Hebrews 13:10-25**

Which verse stands out to you and why?

**Read Verses 10-16**

1. What is the "altar" referred to in verse 10? (Colossians 1:20)

   Why did the Levites serving in the tabernacle "have no right to eat" from that altar?

2. According to Hebrews 13:12, why did Jesus suffer "outside the gate"? (Exodus 29:14, 2 Corinthians 5:21)

3. According to the following verses, how are you to bear Christ's "reproach"?

   Luke 9:23

   Philippians 3:7-8

   Read 1 Peter 4:14. What is the result of bearing Christ's reproach?

*"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose."*
~ Jim Elliott

4. How does having "no continuing city" help you bear persecution?

5. The Jews had set times for prayer and worship. When are **you** to pray and worship? (Hebrews 13:15, 1 Thessalonians 5:17)

**Read Verses 17-19**

6. Who gave spiritual leaders authority over you? (1 Corinthians 12:28)

   To whom are you ultimately submitting to?

7. The writer asks for prayer. Why should **you** pray for your leaders? (James 3:1)

**Read Verses 20-25**

8. Using verse 20, describe God the Father and God the Son and what They have done for you.

9. How is God's will accomplished in you? (verse 21, Philippians 2:13)

10. Consider all you have learned in this study about the old and new covenants as you write verse 25 here.

    Why is this verse an appropriate ending for this epistle?

### *Growing Stronger…*

"And you are living stones that God is building into His spiritual temple. What's more, you are His holy priests. Through the mediation of Jesus Christ, you offer spiritual sacrifices that please God." (1 Peter 2:5 NLT) As seen throughout Hebrews, sacrifices were extremely important under the old covenant. Under the new covenant, God desires a different kind of sacrifice from His children. Read the following verses and describe the sacrifices you can bring to God.

Psalm 51:16-17

Romans 12:1

Hebrews 13:15

Hebrews 13:16

Which areas are you weakest in?

What steps are you going to take to strengthen these areas?

### *Final Thoughts…*

Congratulations! You have completed a study of the book of Hebrews! Look back through the study and make a list of things you have learned. What discoveries have you made regarding the temple, sacrifice, and what Christ's death on the cross accomplished? Note the areas of your walk in faith where you are fruitful and where you need to grow. Then spend some time in the throne room of grace thanking God for His wonderful Word!

*Study notes for Hebrews 13:10-25*

*~ Friends, Prayer Requests… ~*

*"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever."*
*- Hebrews 13:8*