Hebrews is a rich book with many nuggets of life-changing truths waiting to be revealed. My prayer is that you will be richly blessed as you step into the Holy of Holies, into the very presence of God. Jesus, your great High Priest, waits for you. He will usher you in to the presence of God where you can draw near with all assurance. Open your heart, and let God speak to you through this incredible book.

DAY ONE

- 1. As with all studies, be sure to start your time in prayer. We are about to embark on an overview of a book that many view as a difficult and confusing book. Hebrews can be a bit overwhelming when you listen to the opinions of man. The best way to alleviate some of that confusion is by taking the time to understand the book, and putting forth the effort to keep the book in its context. This takes time and effort, but it can be done. We have many weeks of study before us. Three of those weeks will be spent in observing and overviewing this book. Don't push to understand Hebrews the first time through. Don't get frustrated when you don't see something right at the beginning. With prayer, patience, and persistence, we will work to unravel a message that is life changing.
- 2. Today your job is simple. Read the book. Read the entire letter from beginning to end without stopping. Find a quiet place and a quiet time and just read. Use your observation worksheets for this assignment. Don't stop to think about anything. Just let the words wash over you.
- 3. Just from what you can remember, jot down how you would answer these two questions. Do this strictly from what you can remember, and don't worry if you can't remember details.
 - a. What do you think the message of Hebrews is at this point?
 - b. Was there anything that struck you or caught your attention as you were reading the book? Why do you think this touched you the way it did?

DAY TWO AND THREE

- 1. While doing an overview of a letter, it is always important to find out who wrote the letter, why it was written, when was it written, and to whom was it written. Many times the letter states that so-and-so wrote it and this is who he wrote it to. Other letters aren't that easy. Over the next two days, we are going to read all of Hebrews again, looking for these four things. My suggestion would be to read chapters 1-7 one day, then read 8-13 the next.
- 2. Jot down your insights to these topics. You will find overview pages at the end of this lesson (pages 4-7) that you will continue to use throughout our observing time. You will not fill up all these sheets today and tomorrow, but we will begin to pick at them. Record what you see quickly, and we will return to these sheets over the next couple of weeks.
 - a. The author of Hebrews
 - b. The recipients of the letter
 - c. The purpose Hebrews was written (this is stated in the letter if you find the verse record that as well)
 - d. When was this letter written

DAY FOUR AND FIVE

1. Did you find the verse that tells you why the book was written? If not go back and read chapter 13 very carefully. The author specifically says that, "I have written to you..." Write out the verse below.

- 2. It is important to understand the type of literature this is. Hebrews is a letter, and we need to keep that in mind as we read. This was meant to be received and read in its entirety. When we read it piece by piece we lose the big picture. We are going to read through the chapters and specifically look for the exhortations that are given to the recipients. Exhortations are words of encouragement, a coming along side to help, strengthening and establishing the believers faith. What does the writer of this letter say to encourage his readers? Record these on the overview pages on page 5.
- 3. If you observe more information on the author, recipients, or the time period, record these new insights like you did for days 2 and 3.
- 4. You may want to read through chapters 1-8 one day and then read through chapters 9-13 the next.
- 5. With one week behind you, you have read through Hebrews three complete times. We have two more weeks of overview. Are some things becoming a little clearer to you? Are more questions coming to your mind? Take the time to jot some of those thoughts down.

HEBREWS OVERVIEW

References to the Author:

Author's Purpose for Writing:

References to the Recipients:

HEBREWS OVERVIEW

Key Words and/or Phrases:

Historical References:

Exhortations:

HEBREWS OVERVIEW

Warnings:

Comparisons and Contrasts:

HEBREWS AT A GLANCE CHART

Book Theme:

Author:	Chapter Themes	Segment Divisions
Purpose:	1	
	2	
Historical Setting:	3	
Type of Literature:	4	
	5	
Key Words:	6	
	7	
	8	
	9	
	10	
	11	
	12	
	13	

DAY ONE

This is our second week of overview. We still have one week to go. Whenever you study a book that is so rich in doctrine, it is vitally important to give great time and attention to setting the context of the book. If you have a solid understanding of the context, then studying and understanding those difficult passages becomes much easier. It will begin to answer questions like what was happening to the recipients and why did they need exhorting. What was happening in their lives? How did the author exhort them? Persevere, and give it your best. You will be great blessed by the effort.

1. Now that the book of Hebrews is a little more familiar to you, we are going to read through it looking for **and** marking key words and phrases. Key words and phrases (and their synonyms) are words that are important to the context of the book, and you will find these words repeated throughout the chapters. You want to mark each word in a distinctive way and/or color so it will stand out. You may want to mark God with a purple triangle, Jesus with a red cross, the Holy Spirit with a blue dove, and time with a green clock. These are just ideas. There is no right or wrong way to mark. You may only find a couple of key words and/or phrases at this point in time. That is great! You may see more later on. If you want more information on looking for and marking key words or learning the steps to do an inductive Bible study, below is a great website.

http://www.preceptaustin.org/observation.htm#MARKING%20KEY%20WORDS

- 2. Write down the key words on the "Hebrews at a Glance" chart on page 7, and you can also record them on page 5 along with the way that you marked them.
- 3. As you read, you may have discovered more information about the author or recipients. If you do, make sure that you record the information on the chart on page 4.

DAY TWO

- 1. You are going to read through Hebrews again looking for two key words or phrases that you may have missed. Mark them in a distinctive way as you did yesterday. The two words/phrases are "let us" and "better." When you are done record what is better than what on the chart on page 6 in the comparisons and contrast section.
- 2. Read through Hebrews one more time keeping in mind the phrases of "let us" and "better." Reading through the book with this in mind, can you see the main theme of this book? If so, record that on the "Hebrews at a Glance" chart on page 7.

DAY THREE AND FOUR

Over the next two days, you are going to read through Hebrews again looking for the main theme of each chapter. Yesterday you looked for the main theme of the book of Hebrews. The author uses each chapter to advance his theme. Think about how each chapter fits in or relates to that main theme. I would suggest that you read chapters 1-8 one day and 9-13 the next. Record your themes on the "Hebrews at a Glance" chart on page 7.

DAY FIVE

1. Read through Hebrews today looking for the following questions. What was life like for the recipients of Hebrews; what were they experiencing; what was happening? These questions will help you to set the historical time period or reference. Write your answers below. Then summarize these and record them on the chart on page 5.

2. Who are the main characters in this book? Who are most frequently mentioned?

3. Why did the author mention so many references to Jesus and His priesthood?

4. Are there any relationships between the references to Jesus our High Priest and the condition of the recipients?

5. Do you have any idea as to why this letter of exhortation has been named "Hebrews?"

6. Let's read Hebrews one more time for this week. As you do, look for any warnings the writer gives to the recipients. List the warnings on page 6 along with chapter and verse.

7. What have you learned this week that you can apply to your own life? Think through the warnings and the exhortations. Write out your thoughts below.

Hebrews 1:1-2 says that, "God . . . in these last days has spoken to us in His Son." If God has spoken through His Son, what did His Son have to say to us? We are just about ready to dig into this wonderful and challenging book of Hebrews. May we attain to maturity and desire the meat of His Word.

DAY ONE

Let's head through the book of Hebrews one more time. This time we are going to be looking for the phrase "therefore," "wherefore," "for this reason," and "since then." There is a saying, "Make sure you know what the therefore is there for!" Mark these phrases in the same way. This is all you are going to be doing for today. Just mark these phrases. Tomorrow we will see what they are there for.

DAY TWO

Read through Hebrews once again. As you do, see what the "therefore's" were there for. Look for what the author says before and after that statement. Write down each occurrence with chapter and verse, and see if you can decide what two ideas those words are tying together. I will give you an example to get you started.

Think through this assignment carefully. If done with prayer and thought, it will help you to see the flow of the book and you will see how one chapter ties in to the next. When we see the flow of the book, then we can take it apart and examine it piece by beautiful piece.

Enjoy the assignment. We only have one more day of our overview, so make these last days of reading through the entire book a precious time of fellowship between you, your Heavenly Father, and Jesus Christ the Mediator of a better covenant.

Hebrews 2:1 - FOR THIS REASON we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it.

FOR WHAT REASON?

Hebrews 1:1-2 - God . . . in the last days has spoken to us in His Son

DAY THREE

This is your last day of overview and the last time that you will be asked to read through the book as a whole. I hope that you have found it to be a real blessing. If you have done **ALL** your homework, you will have read through Hebrews 12 times. It should seem like an old friend by now.

Read through all the instructions for DAY THREE before beginning this assignment.

1. Read through Hebrews one more time looking for the reason why the author brought up the truths regarding Jesus and His relationship to the Old Testament (Old Covenant) references.

2. Look for the different things or people that the author compares to Jesus. List each one of these noting the reference with each one. In chapter one he compares what Jesus did (spoke to us) to the prophets of old.

3. If someone would ask you at this point in time, "What is the book of Hebrews about?" how would you answer them? Write out your answer below.

4. Do you think that this book has any application for us today? If so, what would you say some of those applications may be?

5. At this point in your study, can you see any segment divisions in the book of Hebrews? If you do, you can note them on your "Hebrews at a Glance" chart on page 7. If not, don't worry about it, we will discuss this at class.

DAY FOUR AND FIVE

1. We will now begin to zoom into Hebrews in more depth. We spent two and a half weeks setting the context of this book so we could move to this next step with confidence. So now let's focus on the details of the book of Hebrews. Learning to do a proper observation of a book and chapter takes practice. It may seem time consuming and clunky to begin with, but do the best you can and work through it step by step. You will learn and grow in the process. Take your time and prayerfully walk through these steps. DON'T GET OVERWHELMED!

- 2. Steps to a chapter overview
 - a. **PRAYER** Always remember that prayer is the basis of your study! Lift this time to the Lord in prayer!
 - b. <u>CONTEXT</u> We have spent weeks looking at the context of this book. Make sure that you keep that context in mind as you study each chapter. Let context rule!
 - c. <u>5W's AND H</u> Learn to ask the 5 W's and H questions of the text. Who, what, where, when, why, and how. These are the basic questions to every study. Who is speaking and to whom? Why is he writing? What is happening in their lives? When was this taking place? What are the main points the author makes? You are not going to find answers to every question, but the answers to some of the questions may lead you to other questions to ask. Asking questions of the text keeps your mind focused and engaged in what you are reading!
 - d. <u>KEY WORDS</u> You looked for key words as you were reading through the entire book. Now that we are in one chapter, make sure to mark references to Jesus, God, the Holy Spirit and any pronouns or synonyms that are used. Time references are also key words to most portions of Scripture. Time references can be words like *after, then, when, until, everlasting, beginning, end,* etc. They are used to show the timing of events or a sequence of events. I use a blue clock to mark my time references. Take the time to mark these key words in chapter 1. You may also see a word or phrase that was not mentioned throughout the whole book, but is mentioned just in this chapter (they are key to this chapter), and if so, you want to mark those words as well.
 - e. <u>LISTS</u> Now you might ask yourself, what do I do with all these key words. You are going to make lists. This is the most important step to this exercise because now is the time to question the text about these important topics. Use a separate paper, the margin of your worksheets, or your computer and begin listing what you learn about each key word. In Hebrews 1, you can start you list about Jesus like this

<u>Jesus</u>

- 1. 1:2 spoke to us in the last days
- 2. 1:2 God appointed Him heir of all things
- 3. 1:2 God created the world through Him

- f. <u>CONTRASTS, COMPARISONS, TERMS OF CONCLUSION</u> Look for terms of contrasts, comparisons, and terms of conclusions. Since these don't necessarily stand out clearly to most people, let me give you a little help finding them.
 - i. CONTRASTS this holds one thing up and then shows you the other side. Look for words like . . .
 - 1. but, nevertheless, however
 - 2. Also things like light/dark, day/night, wicked/righteous
 - 3. Mark this in a distinctive way. I circle these worlds in a big red circle and then draw an arrow to the two things that are being contrasted. You may want to write these contrasts in the margins of your observation worksheets.
 - ii. COMPARISONS this is just like something else. These are things that are similar or alike. Look for words like . . .
 - 1. like, as, just as
 - 2. I use a lightning bolt in the side margin of my observation worksheets and I put the one comparison on one side and what it is like on the other.
 - iii. TERMS OF CONCLUSION these indicate that the author is summarizing what he has said, drawing a conclusion to his thoughts, or the result of an action is being discussed. Look for words such as . . .
 - 1. therefore, for, so that, for this reason
 - 2. I put these words in a green box and list the conclusions in the margin of my worksheets.
- g. <u>MAJOR TEACHINGS</u> looking for major characters, doctrines, events, actions. This will mostly be covered with key words and your key word lists. But now look at your chapter and see if there is something that you may have missed. Make a list of what you learned about the characters, doctrines, events, or actions. Don't forget to record chapter and verse on your list.
- h. <u>CHAPTER THEME</u> After studying this chapter, are you happy with your chapter theme or would you like to change it? If you can use words from a specific verse, that would be very helpful and go a long way in memorizing Scripture.
- i. **PARAGRAPH THEMES** Sometimes your chapter is made up of more than one paragraph. This is indicated by a line that is drawn between verses. If there are several paragraphs, then you want to give each one a theme (again using Scripture if possible). What you are looking for is how the author uses that particular paragraph to develop the chapter theme which develops the book theme. Remember that these are all parts of a whole. They work together to accomplish the author's purpose in writing the book.

These are the steps to a thorough observation of the chapter. Aren't you glad that this wasn't expected of you when you were reading the whole book? It would have been too overwhelming at that point. Now we can dig in, in this much depth, because we have taken the time to complete a good overview, and now we are dealing with a smaller piece of Scripture.

3. What did you learn about Jesus Christ from this chapter that you can apply to your own life? Write out how these applications can be seen in your everyday life.

4. Did you see anything from this chapter that you had missed before?

Hebrews

Lesson 3 - Overview and Chapter 1

What a wonderful book! For ten chapters the author paints us an incredible picture of who Jesus is and what He has done for us. If ever you wanted to know the Lord and draw close to Him, this is the book to study. Then after these ten fabulous chapters, detailing the person, the divinity, and the work of Jesus Christ, the author turns his attention to us. This is how you can know Him; this is the way you are to live; this is how you can have the confidence to stand no matter what storms assail you. What an exciting study is before us!

DAY ONE

We will now begin to pull apart each chapter of Hebrews, beginning with chapter one. We began our study on this chapter last week, and we will continue looking at this chapter this week as well as next. Since this chapter focuses on the person and work of Christ, we need to see what we can glean about our Lord. We need to understand a faith that is anchored in Christ, and through that understanding, we need to be able to persevere and continue to the end of our race that He has set before us. Can you imagine a faith that will not allow you to faint and can keep you from being intimidated by the one who is seeking to devour you?

- 1. Read through chapter one on your worksheets and then answer the following questions.
 - a. Jesus is compared to who or what in this chapter?
 - b. What do you learn about Jesus from these verses?

c. What do you learn about the relationship between Jesus and God?

d. What does this tell you about Jesus?

- e. What is the relationship between Jesus and the heavens and the earth?
- f. What do you learn about Jesus' reign?
- 2. In the first two verses, the author contrasts how things were done before and how they were done in the last days. Write this contrast below.

3. In verse 2, the verse states that God "has spoken to us in His Son." What do you think that statement means?

4. Verse 2 also states that, ". . . in these last days" He spoke through His Son. Why do you think they are referred to like this?

DAY TWO AND THREE

These next two days are going to be loaded with truths about who Jesus is. I strongly suggest that you spread these assignments over the two days and give your mind the time to absorb these nuggets of truth.

1. Verse 3 is one of those verses that is so loaded with truths that we can become too overwhelmed to understand what is being said. Let's slowly look at and devour this verse.

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

- a. Jesus is the **radiance (brightness**, KJV) of God's glory. Use a concordance or another word study tool to look up the word for radiance. Write out its transliteration (Greek word spelled with English letters) as well as its meaning.
- b. Jesus is the **exact representation (express image**, KJV) of God's nature. Look this up in your word study books as well.
- c. He **had made purification (had purged)** of sins. Look this phrase up as well, and if your word study has the tense, note the tense of this word and what that means.
- d. Now, in your own words, how would you explain to someone what Hebrews 1:3 means?

- 2. Now, we want to take a look at the deity of Christ. Have you ever had someone ask you to explain Christ's deity, and you found yourself at a loss of what to say? Then perhaps these next assignments will prepare you to give an answer next time. Study well. Take time to think and meditate on what you are reading, and remember to bathe your study in prayer!
 - a. When we use the phrase "the deity of Christ," we are saying that Jesus was and is God. He has always existed as God (which means He had no beginning and has no end). He has the same attributes and character as God. Read through chapter 1 and see what verses show the deity of Christ. List them below.
 - b. As you read through this chapter, are there any verses that call into doubt the deity of Christ? List them below. Since we know that God's Word doesn't contradict itself, then we need to try to wrestle with these verses to understand the point the author is making.
 - c. Let's wade through some verses that may help us with this struggle. As you read through them, look for a couple of things. First, how do these verses show that God is more than one person; and furthermore, how do they show that Jesus is God? Also note if any of these verses speak to the verses that seemed to be contradictive in the first chapter of Hebrews. Don't get overwhelmed with this assignment. Take your time, and be diligent. It is an exercise in building truth into your life. It takes time and effort, but it is well worth it. Study to show yourself approved unto God!
 - i. Genesis 1:26
 - ii. Isaiah 6:8 (Micah 5:2)

iii. Isaiah 7:14 (Matthew 1:23)

iv. Isaiah 9:6

v. John 1:1-2, 14

vi. John 8:24 (Exodus 3:14-15)

vii.John 8:58-59

viii.John 10:30-33

ix.John 14:9

x. John 20:26-28

xi. Colossians 1:15-18

xii.Philippians 2:5-11

- 1. Using your Bible study tools, look up the meaning of the word "form" from Philippians 2:6.
- 2. Compare this verse with Hebrews 1:3. Write out what you learn below.

DAY FOUR

We still have the issue of Hebrews saying that Jesus was begotten. If He is and was God, then how was he the "begotten" of the Father as Hebrews 1:5 states? Let's read some tough cross references. As you read these try to understand what God means when He says that He has "begotten" Jesus. Is He referring to His creating Jesus? Is He referring to Jesus' birth? Does He mean something entirely different? Take your time with this assignment and let these verses speak to you. Ask God for understanding as you try to deal with this difficult topic.

1. Hebrews 1:5-6

2. Psalms 2:7

3. Acts 13:16-39

4. Romans 1:3-4

5. Putting all these verses together, what do you thing "begotten" means?

DAY FIVE

As we have already observed in our overview of Hebrews, the author repeatedly references the Old Testament. This book, as well as the other books in the Bible, are God's Word, spoken to us through His appointed people, so that we may come to know who He is, what He has done, and who we are in Him through Jesus Christ. Peter tells us that, "... we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God. (II Peter 1:19-21) So as these men were moved by God to speak to us, let's listen to what they have to say. Let's allow them to be a lamp shining into the dark places of our lives, bringing to light God's greatest gift, His Son, Jesus Christ.

One thing that we learned from studying Revelation, we saw that prophecy can have an immediately fulfillment as well as a future fulfillment. Many times the Old Testament prophecies of Christ are intertwined with more immediate or future fulfillments of other events.

 Look up the following verses and see how they would have been fulfilled in the Lord Jesus Christ. I will give you the Hebrews passage first, where he is quoting from, and then the context (if necessary). I would suggest that you read the passage in Hebrews first and then look up the passage that he quoted. a. Hebrews 1:5 (II Samuel 7:14 - read II Samuel 7:5-17)

- b. Hebrews 1:6 (Psalms 97:7) in Psalms 97:7 "gods" can be translated "supernatural powers."
 - i. Look up the definition of "first-born" (firstbegotten, KJV) in Hebrews 1:6. Compare how this word is used in Hebrews with how it is used in Colossians 1:15.

ii. What do you think God is showing us in these verses?

c. Hebrews 1:8-9 (Psalms 45:6-7 - check its context!)

d. Hebrews 1:10-12 (Psalms 102:24-27)

e. Hebrews 1:13 (Psalms 110:1) - You may notice that "Lord" is written in two different ways. "LORD" in all capitals is the word Jehovah or Yahweh. "Lord" written in lower case letters is the word "Adonai," which means "Master." Read Acts 2:32-36 with these passages.

2. What have you learned about the Lord this week that you may not have known before? What have you learned that will affect your relationship with Him? How will your study this week transform your life? If your life is being transformed by the renewing of your mind, then you won't be conformed to this world's lifestyle of fleshly desires and selfish lifestyles.

Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. (Romans 12:1-2) What a wonderful book! Did it seem strange to you that the author of this book took two chapters to compare Jesus to the angels? What was so special about the angels, and why did the author choose to use this contrast? That is what we are going to look at this week.

If you have never studied this topic, this should be an enlightening week for you.

DAY ONE

1. Today we are going to read Hebrews 1 and look for the contrast between Jesus and the angels. Compare what you learn about these two on the chart below.

Jesus	Angels

2. Trying to sum up your table above contrast their creation, their occupation, their authority, etc.

3. Now go through these Old Testament references and see what they show about Jesus and His relationship to the Father, the creation, rulership, etc.

OT Reference	Showed what about Jesus?
Psalms 2:7	
2 Samuel 7:14	
Psalms 97:7	
Psalms 45:6	
Psalms 45:7	
Psalms 102:25	
Psalms 102:26-27	
Psalms 110:1 cross reference this to Joshua 10:24	

DAY TWO AND THREE

So back to our original question. What was so special about the angels that the author felt as though he needed to spend this much time on the subject, and this is the topic with which he opened this letter?

Jesus is better than the angels. That seems like a simple enough statement, why not just leave it with that?

Remember that the recipients are Jews. When this letter was written, the Jews held angels in high regard for two primary reasons:

- Their position in the Old Testament. In the Old Testament angels served as mediators between God and man. Hebrews 2:1-2 mentions this connection with the Old Covenant.
- The Talmud and other rabbinical writings and teachings exalted the angels. This went far beyond what Scripture taught.

Below is a portion of a website that gives some background to the Jewish understanding of the time. The website is listed at the end if you want to study this more on your own.

Angels seem not to fit inside a monotheistic faith. God can presumably accomplish anything, so what is the function of an angel? If they are doing God's bidding, they are unnecessary, and if they are opposing God, then how can any heavenly creature thwart the will of an omnipotent God?

Jewish teachings about angels are ancient, going back to the first five books of the Bible, the Torah. Cherubim with flaming swords guard the gates of Eden after Adam and Eve are banished (Gen. 3). An angel arrives to tell Abraham he and Sarah will have a child (Gen. 18) and then an angel stays Abraham's hand when he is about to sacrifice that child (Gen. 22). It is an angel who saves Hagar and Ishmael in the desert (Gen. 21), appears to Moses out of the burning bush (Ex. 3), and announces to Samson's mother to be that she is to have an exceptional child (Judges 13). This list is but a sampling of the angelology of the Bible.

God's intermediaries

Why do angels play such a prominent role in Jewish tradition? Some medieval Jewish commentators propose that angels are necessary because they perform tasks that are beneath the dignity of God's "personal involvement." Others, mostly moderns who understand heavenly agents as a way of giving God "cover," assume that angels permit God to distance Himself, in a way, from certain deeds or obligations. But part of the allure of angels is also the colorful and humanly compelling notion of a representative of God who is more humanlike, and therefore more approachable in imagination. For example, as outlandishly otherworldly as Ezekiel's description of angels may seem to us, with its depiction of four faces, animal countenances, four wings, wheels with eyes, fire, and so on, it is still more understandable than a God one cannot see. (For the full fantastic depiction, see Ezekiel 1). The Hebrew word for angel, "mal'ach," means messenger. One traditional portrait of angels is as functionaries who carry out God's will. The rabbis declare that "wherever the angel appears the shechina (the divine Presence) appears (Exodus Rabbah 32:9)." Angels are used to give God distance from the action. Since it is too anthropomorphic (that is, giving God human characteristics) to have God wrestle with Jacob, an angel serves the purpose (Gen. 28).

http://www.beliefnet.com/Faiths/Judaism/2002/04/Angels-In-Jewish-Tradition.aspx#

Now, with some of that background, let's see what the Scripture teaches us about angels.

1. Using your word study tools, look up the word angel in both the Hebrew and the Greek. Make sure to write your numbers and the transliteration of the words along with their definitions.

2. We are now going to God's Word to learn about these beings. We want to learn about their creation, their division, their actions. Before we dive in to these verses there are a couple of terms we need to understand. Sometimes throughout Scripture these beings are not referred to as angels. They are called Cherubim and seraphim. They are called "sons of God." You will also note that there are good angels and bad; those who work for Satan, and those who work for God. Keep all this in mind as you look at the following passages. Make sure to read them in their context.

a. Job 38:6-7

b. Psalms 78:49

c. Psalms 103:19-21

- d. Matthew 4:11
- e. Matthew 13:41-42
- f. Matthew 18:10
- g. Matthew 25:31
- h. Matthew 25:41
- i. Mark 12:25
- j. Luke 20:36
- k. Colossians 1:16
- I. Hebrews 13:2
- m. II Peter 2:4
- n. Jude 6
- o. Revelation 1:16-20

- p. Revelation 12:3-9 (the stars in 12:4 are the angels that went with Satan when he exalted himself above God)
- q. Revelation 22:6-16
- 3. Now, take all this information and summarize it into a paragraph or an outline to explain what you have learned about angels. This may come in handy in a conversation sometime!

DAY FOUR

Throughout the Bible there are references to the "angel of the LORD." Is this a different angel than your standard angels that we looked at the last two days? As we look at the references you will note that the word "Lord" is spelled with all capital letters. As we talked about last week, this is the word that is translated as YHWH (Yahweh) which is the name of God. There are some theologians who feel that the term "the angel of the LORD" is referring to an appearance by Christ, Himself. This is referred to as a "Theophany." These must be interpreted in the light of the Scriptural context in which they are found as you will discover in Luke 2.

In the Old Testament, you may find people rejecting the words of God's prophets, but you will never find them rejection the angel of the LORD!

1. Look up each of these verses. Discover the purpose of the appearance and the occasion as to why the angel of the LORD appeared.

a. Genesis 16:7-14

b. Genesis 22:10-17

c. Judges 6:11-24

d. I Chronicles 21:1-27

e. Luke 1:8-13, 19

f. Luke 2:8-15

g. Acts 8:26

2. Now summarize all you have learned about the angel of the Lord. Keep in mind the Greek and Hebrew meanings of the word angel.

We are not done dealing with this issue yet because chapter two of Hebrews has more to tell us. We are just building a foundation - a place to stack up the information that we are accumulating. If these created beings are amazing, what must that make Jesus?

DAY FIVE

How does learning all this information help us? How does this make a difference in our lives? This is application time. Let's take a look at a couple more passages and see what our relationship to or our responsibilities are in light of what we have learned about the angels.

- 1. Look up these Scriptures, and record what you learn.
 - a. Hebrews 1:2 with Galatians 1:8

b. II Corinthians 11:13-15 with I John 4:1-5

c. I Timothy 5:21

d. Hebrews 1:13-14

e. I Corinthians 6:2-3

2. If you choose to look at commentaries on Hebrews 1, you may do that now. Do not go past chapter 1. It is vitally important that you learn to search out the truth for yourself first, so you have a plumb line to measure up all other teachings. Do they measure up to the plumb line of God's Word?

Hebrews Lesson 5 - Chapter 1

God has spoken to us in these last days through His Son.

Are you listening?

Are you paying attention to what He says?

DAY ONE THROUGH THREE

You are going to do a chapter study on chapter two over the next couple of days. If you forget how to do this look back at lesson 3 on pages 16-19. Listen to God speaking through His Son. Lift this time up in prayer; take your time; allow the Word's spoken through His Son to wash over you.

DAY FOUR

1. Read chapters one and two of Hebrews. You are looking for how these two chapters connect. How does one tie into the other? Watch the flow of thought. It will help if you take the time to write down the main ideas or truths that are being taught.

- 2. Hebrews 2:1-4 seems a little out of place in the flow of thought. If we would jump right from chapter 1 to chapter 2:5, the flow would seem unbroken. The question then has to be, why did the author put those four verse at that particular spot. That will be what we look at tomorrow.
- 3. Take time to look over the main teachings in these to chapters, focusing the most on the second chapter. Prayerfully consider all that is there.

DAY FIVE

 Today we will spend some time in other parts of the Bible to help us understand this portion of Scripture better. We are going to look at several passages to help us understand Hebrews 2:2. Note what you learn about the angels' relationship to the Law (Old Covenant). Take the time to look up words in your word study tools to better understand what is being said.

a. Hebrews 2:2

b. Acts 7:38, 51-53

c. Galatians 3:9

d. Deuteronomy 33:2

2. When a person transgressed the Law, disobeyed God's Word, there was to be a just punishment or judgment. God spoke, the Law was clear, judgment was rendered to those who broke the Law. Look up these verses and find out what Law was broken and the punishment for the sin.

a. Leviticus 20:7-16

b. Leviticus 24:13-17

c. Leviticus 26:13-18

3. Now read Hebrews 10:28-29 and see how that relates to what we see in Hebrews 2:2.

- 4. Let's do some word studies for several of the words in Hebrews 2:1-4.
 - a. Pay attention (give heed, KJV) Hebrews 2:1
 - b. Drift away (let slip, KJV) Hebrews 2:1
 - c. Neglect Hebrews 2:3 this is an aorist tense verb (Aorist participle active verb The aorist is said to be "simple occurrence" or "summary occurrence", without regard for the amount of time taken to accomplish the action. This tense is also often referred to as the 'punctiliar' tense. 'Punctiliar' in this sense means 'viewed as a single, collective whole,' a "one-point-in-time" action, although it may actually take place over a period of time. The aorist is used to express an action that is not continuous or habitual.)

5. Read through Hebrews 2:3-4 and write down or draw a diagram of how the Word of the Lord was passed to "us" and who exactly the "us" is in verse 3.

6. Let's compare Hebrews 2:3-4 with a couple of other Scriptures. What do you see as the purpose of the signs, wonders, miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit?

a. Hebrews 2:3-4

b. Romans 15:18-19

- c. II Corinthians 12:11-12
- 7. Considering everything that we have studied to this point, what do you think the author is warning his readers about? Who is he warning, and why is he warning them?

Hebrews Lesson 6 - Chapter 2

DAY ONE

The writer of Hebrews is writing to the brethren to exhort them, to encourage them to walk according to the ways of God. The words are just as practical to us today. The author wants the recipients to be able to persevere no matter what life throws at them. Our job is to hear his words and pay close attention because they are spoken to us through God's Son. Therefore, if we heed, we will be able to hold fast until the end.

So what does God want us to learn from Hebrews 2? How does this chapter and its teachings about Jesus help me in my life? These are things that we want to discover. Once we have understood these truths, we have the responsibility to live according to these truths.

- 1. To start off the week, let's do some word studies. As you look up each word don't forget to record its transliteration along with its definition.
 - a. Subject (put in subjection, KJV) Hebrews 2:5, 8

b. World - Hebrews 2:5

c. Concerned (visitest, KJV) - Hebrews 2:6

2. Now, let's take a look at Hebrews 2:6. When the author talks about "man" or "son of man," who is he referring to? Man? Jesus Christ? There is a big difference to those two possibilities. So which one is right? This is a quote from Psalms 8. Carefully read through Psalms 8, and record who you think this phrase is referring to. Give your reason for why you think what you think.

- 3. When God created man in His image, what was His intent for man. How was he to relate to the creation? Look up Genesis 1:26-28 to answer that question.
- 4. Has a man ever been referred to as "the son of man" or does this terminology only refer to Jesus Christ? Look up the following Scriptures and note who is being called "the son of man."
 - a. John 6:62
 - b. John 8:28
 - c. Ezekiel 2:1-6
 - d. Jeremiah 49:18, 33
 - e. Daniel 8:17
- 5. Read Daniel 7:13. This is a prophecy about Jesus Christ. What does this tell us about Jesus?

6. Now read Hebrews 2:6-9. Could verses 6-8 be talking about man? Make sure you give your reasons for your thoughts.

DAY TWO

We are going to overview and watch the flow of thought through Hebrews 2.

- 1. Read Hebrews 1:14 and then skip right to 2:5 and continue reading to the end of chapter 2.
- 2. Hebrews 2 deals with five different beings; angels, man, Jesus, God, and the devil. At the end of this lesson (page 55) there is a chart "The Five Beings of Hebrews 2." At this point, let's assume that Hebrews 2:6-8 is referring to man instead of Jesus, and record the information accordingly.
- 3. Watch and record the flow of thought through this chapter. Start at Hebrews 1:14 and read to the end of chapter 2, skipping the first four verses in chapter 2 and list the points that the author makes like this:

a. Angels are ministering spirits sent to those who inherit salvation (1:14)

b. The world to come was not subjected to angels (2:5)

C.

DAY THREE

- 1. Hebrews 2:5 is the key verse to understanding what is being said in this chapter. Remember what you learned with your word studies on day one, and use that information to answer the following questions.
 - a. What is the author speaking about?
 - b. To what world is he referring? Simply answer from the text and from the meaning of the word "world."
 - c. Who is not going to rule this world?
- 2. What is going to be subject to whom? Is this subjection occurring now?
- 3. Let's take a little walk through the Scriptures and see if we can draw some conclusions.
 - a. According to Genesis 1:26-28, what was man to do to the earth and the creation?
 - b. According to Genesis 2:16-17, what did God tell man he was not to do? What were the consequences of disobedience?
 - c. Read Genesis 3:1-8.
 - i. What did Adam and Eve do?
 - ii. Who enticed Eve to do it?

- iii. When you studied angels, you read Revelation 12:9. Who is the serpent?
- iv. How did the devil get in this state? Was he always evil? Ezekiel 28:12-19 and Isaiah 14:12-15 give us a glimpse into Satan's fall when he, the anointed cherub, wanted to be like or even above God rather than be subject to God. A cherub is one of the angelic host.

- v. As you can see, Satan enticed Eve to follow in his steps. He does the same to us today.
- 4. What happened as a result of Adam and Eve's sin? Look up the following Scriptures to answer that question:
 - a. Romans 5:12
 - b. Genesis 3:16-19
 - c. John 8:34
 - d. Ephesians 2:1-3

- 5. When man sinned, he lost dominion over the earth. He died spiritually, became a slave to sin, and came under Satan's power. Read Hebrews 2:14-15. Who had the power of death, and who were subject to slavery all of their lives?
 - a. According to Romans 6:23, what are the wages of sin?
 - b. According to Hebrews 2:9, 14, what was Jesus made?
 - c. According to Hebrews 2:9, 14, 17, why was He made this?
 - d. According to Hebrews 2:11-14, why did Jesus do this? Note how man is referred to in these verses. "To sanctify" means to make holy, to set apart unto God.

DAY FOUR AND FIVE

- 1. Let's take a look at what we saw yesterday.
 - a. When man, through his sin, lost rulership of the earth, he then became a child of wrath, subject to slavery, bound to walk according to the prince of the power of the air (Satan).
 - b. Satan, a fallen angel, is referred to as "the prince of this world" at this point in history.
 - c. When Jesus became a man, He was made a little lower than the angels, but that was only for a little while. Jesus is still better than angels. Now He is our resurrected Lord, the God-man, who has conquered sin and death. All things, even angels, good and evil, are subject to Him.

2. Read Ephesians 1:20-23 and record what this passage says.

3. What is our present position as children of God, redeemed by Christ from death's power? Use Ephesians 1:22-23 and Ephesians 2:4-7 to answer that question.

- 4. What is going to happen in the future? Read the following verses and record your observations.
 - a. Matthew 25:31 note the relationship of the angels to Jesus.

b. Daniel 7:27

c. Revelation 2:25-29 - Note to whom He is speaking. Also, note what that one is to do. How does this compare with the exhortation of Hebrews?

d. Revelation 5:9-10

e. Revelation 20:1-10

- 5. At the end of the lesson, there is an insert entitled "God's Plan of the Ages." On the chart you will notice a time period of 1000 years. Some think that it is the 1000-year period of time that the author of Hebrews is referring to in Hebrews 2:5 when he mentions the inhabited earth to come. Note that it is yet future.
- 6. What does the possibility that Hebrews 2:5 points to the world to come mean to us here and now? Where are our eyes to be? Read II Corinthians 4:17-18. Until that time who can help us and why? Go back to Hebrews 2 to answer these questions.

7. Can you now see why we have "so great a salvation" (Hebrews 2:3) and why we must be careful not to neglect this salvation nor drift away from it? May you keep eternity before your eyes.

God The Five Beings of Hebrews 2 Jesus

Devil Man Angels

Hebrews Lesson 7 - Chapter 2

I don't think that many of us really take the time to think about what it meant for Jesus to voluntarily take on human form. Why would He do that, and what does that mean to us?

"He Himself likewise also partook of the same (flesh and blood), that through death He might render powerless him (Satan) who had the power of death . . . and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives." - Hebrews 2:14-15

Did we really think ourselves slaves? Weren't we free to live as we pleased? Isn't it bringing our lives under the submission of the Lord Jesus Christ that enslaves us?

Would need to come to the realization that one of two things will drive or rule our lives - self (which is Satan's realm) or Christ (allowing Him to live through us so that our lives can be pleasing to God the Father). We are either going to be ruled by Satan (self) or the Lord, there is no other choice.

Knowing our desperate state of being bound by the power of sin and death, Jesus took on flesh and blood, was tempted in all ways that we are, and choose to take our penalty upon Himself when He died on the cross. How can we neglect so great a salvation, knowing the cost that was paid by Jesus on our behalf? Don't neglect this salvation! Fall on your face before a holy God and acknowledge your gratefulness for the gift that was given to people who are so undeserving!

DAY ONE

1. Since we are made of flesh and blood, Jesus partook of the same for our sake. He was made like us. Let's take some time to look at what that entailed. Read through the follow passages of Scripture and write down your insight of what Jesus experienced in order to become our merciful high priest who is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.

a. Luke 1:26-35

b. Luke 2:4-12 (Matthew 13:55-56)

c. Luke 2:21-24

d. Luke 2:41-51 (specifically 51-52)

e. John 1:10-11

f. Matthew 4:1-11

g. Isaiah 53:2-3

h. Mark 3:21-22

i. John 7:2-7

j. Luke 22:39-44 (Matthew 26:36-44) - look at the heart of Jesus as He cried out

2. Now, we will look at a passage that beautifully lays out the incarnation of Christ -Christ becoming man for our sakes. Carefully and prayerfully read through Philippians 2:5-11 and note all that took place for you! This is a wonderful passage to memorize!

DAY TWO

Yesterday we Read Philippians 2:5-11 and saw that Jesus humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on the cross. In Hebrews 2 we are told that He tasted death for everyone in order to make propitiation (satisfaction) for the sins of the people. It is said that He paid a debt He did not owe because we owed a debt we could not pay. Jesus satisfied that debt for us with His own death. His shed blood satisfied God's righteousness so we can come into God's presence with confidence (Hebrews 10:19).

1. Look up the following verses and note what you learn about Jesus' death made on behalf of every man. Why did He do this?

a. John 1:29

b. I Corinthians 5:7

c. I Peter 1:18-19

d. Romans 6:23

e. Galatians 3:13

f. II Corinthians 5:21

- 2. The idea of Jesus dying to taste death for every man was prophesied a 1,000 years before He actually died. If you read through Psalms 22, you will notice that there is an extremely vivid picture of crucifixion, even though such a punishment had not yet been instituted.
 - a. Read through this Psalm, but let's look at it as a psalm written by David as he speaks through the Holy Spirit crying out in the anguish in which Jesus is going to suffer on behalf of mankind from His birth to His crucifixion. Psalms 22:1-21 shows the anguish of His life on earth, tempted as we are.
 - b. From Psalms 22:22-31 is the praise that comes as the result of complete and perfect obedience to the Father, even to the point of death on a cross. (It is Psalms 22:22 that is being quoted in Hebrews 2:12.)

DAY THREE

Today we want to look at what it means to be delivered from the fear of death.

 There is tremendous hope for those who are true believers in Jesus Christ. The author of Hebrews defines for us what a true believer is - someone who stands firm until the end. It is that standing firm in the faith until the end that proves what was truly in the heart of a person. Was their commitment a true commitment - I will pick up my cross and carry it to the end (my death), or was it a half-heart commitment - I will pick up my cross and carry it until it causes my discomfort or doesn't allow me to do something that I want to do, and then I will put it down and go my own way? One

Hebrews

Lesson 8 - Chapter 2 & 3 is a faith tried by fire and found true; the other is a faith that doesn't stand up to the test of fire and is found to be a false faith.

Prayerfully read the following verses, and record what you learn about the hope and promises given to the true followers of Jesus Christ. Some of these verses are deep and full of rich doctrine and may be difficult to understand. Do this assignment with much prayer, and allow God to help you plumb the depths of these precious verse.

a. Romans 8:1, 11, 38-39

b. Galatians 2:20

c. Romans 6:4-5, 8-10

d. II Corinthians 5:1-8

e. I Corinthians 15:50-58

f. I Thessalonians 4:13-18

g. John 11:25-26

2. Summarize what physical death brings to a believer. Do you understand why the believer has been delivered from the fear of death?

DAY FOUR AND FIVE

Take the time to do a thorough chapter study of chapter three. If you are still unsure of how to do a chapter study or overview follow the directions on pages 16-19 of lesson 3.

So there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God. For the one who has entered His rest has himself also rested from his works, as God did from His. Therefore let us be diligent to enter that rest, so that no one will fall, through following the same example of disobedience. (Hebrews 4:9-11)

So what is this rest and how does this apply to us?

DAY ONE

We are going to be looking at chapters 3 and 4 together as they both deal with this topic of rest. Over the next three weeks, we will look at exactly what is meant by rest. These chapters are a vital to this book, but they are by no means easy to understand. We cannot just skim over them, so we will spend this time to become as familiar as possible with these chapters and their message.

Some of the understanding of these chapters is based on your knowledge of the Old Testament passages referred to by the author. Therefore, we want to look at these occurrences and see what we can learn from them. Remember to always start your study in prayer. So let's dig in and see what we can see.

1. Read Hebrews 3. List the main points - in order - covered in this chapter.

2. Now read through chapter 4 and do the same thing. Record all the main points.

DAY TWO AND THREE

1. Read through Hebrews 3 once again. If you have any questions about interpretation, jot them down in the space below. As we study, let's see if you able to answer those questions.

2. In chapter three, we see the author comparing and contrasting Jesus and Moses. Moses was the one who received the Law from God, and Moses is the one who wrote the first five books of the Bible - the Pentateuch. He is the one who led the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt where they were enslaved for 400 years. He brought the Old Covenant to the people of Israel. Needless to say, he was held in high regard by the people. Take the time to record what you learn about Jesus and Moses and how they compare or contrast. 3. In Acts 7, Stephen recounts Israel's history in glorious detail. This he did just before he was stoned to death. He spends a great deal of time talking about Moses which gives us an insight to the Jewish mind. Read through Acts 7:1-53. Record the major events in Moses' life. Note what is said about him and how the people responded to Moses, the prophets, and the Holy Spirit.

DAY FOUR

Using the same steps as you have before, do a chapter study or overview on Hebrews 4.

DAY FIVE

- 1. In Hebrews 3 and 4 the author quotes from Psalms 95. Read this psalm carefully and prayerfully.
 - a. Record the two geographical places mentioned in this psalm.
 - b. Why was God provoked to anger with the people?
 - c. How did these circumstances affect God?

- d. What was God's response to His people?
- 2. Now let's take a look at what happened at Meribah and Massah. Read the following passages and record what happened at each of these places.
 - a. Exodus 17:1-7

b. Numbers 20:1-13

3. What similarities do you see between what happened at Meribah and Massah and what could happen to the readers of this epistle of Hebrews?

4. There is still more to understand in the Old Testament, but we will work on that next week.

Jesus Christ is our faithful High Priest who wants to bring us into that Sabbath rest. He is faithful, are you? How are you living in light of what you have learned?

DAY ONE AND TWO

- 1. When you did your chapter overview for chapter 3, you probably marked the word "house." If you did not, read the chapter again and mark every usage of the word "house" along with its synonyms and pronouns.
- 2. List everything that you learn about the usage of the word "house" below.

3. Read Hebrews 3:6 and 3:14. Can you see how these two verses relate to each other? Write it down below. We will continue to look at this through the week so don't panic if you don't see something great right now!

- 4. Today, many people define the "house of God" as a building. Is that what the author of Hebrews is referring to? Read the following verses (in context) and note what you learn about the "house of God" from them. Read them carefully and prayerfully. It may just change your own understanding.
 - a. Ephesians 2:11-22

b. I Peter 2:4-5

c. I Peter 4:17

d. Romans 16:5

e. Colossians 4:15

f. Hebrews 10:21

5. Now I want to take a look at some cross references that will help us understand the phrase in Hebrews 3:14 "we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end." What exactly does it mean to become partakers of Christ? Look up the following verses and record what you learn.

a. John 6:48-51

b. John 14:16-24

c. Romans 8:9-11

d. Colossians 1:24-27

e. Ephesians 5:25-32

- 6. Considering everything that you have just read, how would you answer the following questions?
 - a. How would you define "the house of God?"
 - b. What does it mean to become a partaker of Christ?
 - c. How would you explain Hebrews 3:6, 14 to someone else?

- 7. Now read the following verses and see how they compare with Hebrews 3:6 and 14.
 - a. I John 2:19

b. John 8:31

c. Matthew 10:22

DAY THREE

1. As a review from what you looked at yesterday, summarize Jesus Christ's relationship to His house.

2. Hebrews 2 ends and Hebrews 3 starts with a statement concerning the priesthood of Jesus Christ. Hebrews 4:14-16 contains another statement about His priesthood along with an exhortation. What does God want us to see and understand about this priesthood and its importance to us? How are we to live in light of this? Read Hebrews 2:17-3:14 and 4:14-16 and answer the questions above. Watch for (and mark if you haven't) the repeated phrase "hold fast."

3. We are going to go over those verses one more time, because I want to make sure you see the importance of these truths. Read Hebrews 2:17-3:14 and Hebrews 4:14-16 one more time. Remember that the faith of the Hebrews was being severely tested by trials and difficulties in their lives. We face the same kind of situations in our lives today, so what can we learn from these verses? How can they be lived out in our lives today? What can we do? How should we live?

DAY FOUR AND FIVE

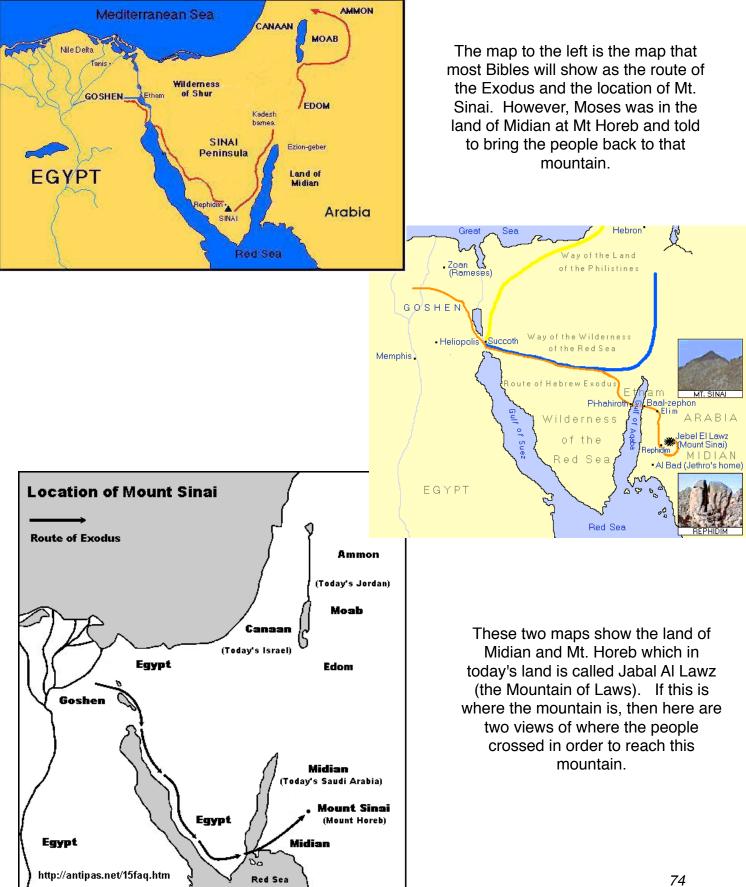
As you read through Hebrews 3, you saw that God was not only angry with the people at Meribah and Massah, but that He was provoked with them for 40 years because they did not believe Him and enter into His rest.

Now the question becomes, what rest? How were they supposed to enter that rest? We are going to look into the Old Testament for answers to these questions. As we read these passages, keep in mind what you have learned from Hebrews chapter 3 and 4.

Spend the remainder of your study time carefully reading these passages and taking notes on what you learn trying to answer the above questions. I have given you the verses and plenty of paper afterward to take notes. Study well and seek God for understanding, because we can learn a lot from these words.

- 1. Exodus 3:1-17 (there is a map at the end of the lesson pg 74 to help you put their travel in context)
- 2. Deuteronomy 6:23
- 3. Numbers 13 and 14
- 4. I Corinthians 10:1-13 (shows us the importance of understanding these events)

Hebrews Lesson 10 - Chapter 3



There remains therefore a rest for the people of God

We are not to miss that rest.

DAY ONE

Read through Hebrews 3 and 4 again. What is God saying about this rest to the readers of Hebrews and to us today? We need to understand the importance of this so that we don't come short of His rest.

List everything you learn about this rest. Take your time and prayerfully process this idea. It is a vitally important concept.

DAY TWO

1. Use your word study tools to look at the word "rest" as used in Hebrews 3-4. Record its transliteration and its definition. Look up each usage to see if the same word is used in each case.

2. Did you notice that a different word was used in Hebrews 4:9? If not, look it up now. Note its transliteration and its definition. Can you see a reason why a different word was used here?

- 3. Let's take a look at some of the Scriptures that explain the Sabbath and see what we can learn that will help us better understand *sabbatismos* in Hebrews 4:9. Record what you learn from each verse. At the end of this week, we will draw some conclusions about the rest that remains for God's people.
 - a. Genesis 2:1-3 notice what God rested from, what was complete, and why He rested.

b. Exodus 20:8-11

c. Exodus 31:12-17 - What is the sign? Who is the sign between?

d. Ezekiel 20:1-24 - there are many wonderful insights in these verses; however, our focus is what we can learn about the Sabbath.

DAY THREE THROUGH FIVE

- 1. There are three different views as to what "the rest" refers to in Hebrews.
 - a. The faith-rest life describes that our walk is to be lived out practically by simply resting in the promises of God rather that straining to please Him by our own efforts. It is to cease to strive to do it yourself, to rest in faith, and simply believe God. (Colossians 2:6-7; II Corinthians 5:7; Matthew 11:28-30)
 - b. The millennial rest describes the time when Christ will rule upon the earth for a thousand years, and Israel as a nation will finally receive all that was promised to her under the New Covenant. Israel will live at rest in her promised land while Christ rules as King of kings. (Daniel 7:13-14, 27-28; Zechariah 14:1-9, 16-21) Look back at the chart "God's Plan for the Ages" that was included in lesson 7.
 - c. The eternal rest that includes the New Heaven and the New Earth (Revelation 14:12; Isaiah 65:17-18; 66:22-23)

- 2. Now it is time for you to look at these views objectively. As you look at each of these interpretations, remember all that you have learned in your study to this point. Ask yourself these questions:
 - a. What have I learned about "the rest" of Hebrews 3 and 4?
 - b. How does this compare with God's rest? Did God rest because He was tired or worn out? Do we rest because we are worn out?
 - c. What would keep me from entering this rest?
 - d. What would be the consequences of not entering this rest?
 - e. When I enter this rest, what do I do?
 - f. How would each interpretation of this rest fit in with the whole message of Hebrews?
- 3. Write out your observations.

4. Explain Hebrews 4:12-13 in light of the context of Hebrews 3 and 4.

5. What has God shown you in your study to this point? How has your study affected your life?

Hebrews Lesson 11 - Chapter 3 and 4

Jesus is your High Priest. What does that mean to you? The God-Man who came to walk on this earth, to experience all that we experience, is reaching out to you as your sympathetic High Priest. How will you respond to Him?

DAY ONE AND TWO

- 1. Read Hebrews 4:14-5:14. How does the ending of chapter four tie in with chapter five?
- 2. For the remainder of these two days, do a chapter study on chapter five. Don't forget that there are basic instructions for doing a chapter study or overview on pages 17-18. Take your time and be thorough in your overview.

DAY THREE

As you read through Hebrews 5, you read about the priesthood of Aaron. In order to have an appreciation for what is being said, you need to understand the priesthood. That is going to be our goal for the next several days.

As you read the Scriptures listed, keep notes about what you learn about the priesthood and the priest. There is a chart to record your information at the end of this lesson on page 85. There is also a paper that has the priestly garments drawn out for you on page 86. Make notations about what you learn about each piece and its importance.

Look for any parallels to what you have read in Hebrews 5.

Read through Exodus 28-29 and Leviticus 8, and record your information.

DAY FOUR AND FIVE

- 1. In Hebrews 5:3-4, we read that not everyone could offer sacrifices for the sins of the people; only those who were appointed by God. Let's do a quick background study to see how God set up the priesthood from the very start.
 - God chose one man from among the nations to make a people for Himself. The man that He chose was Abraham.
 - Abraham had a son of promise whose name was Isaac.
 - Isaac has a son whose name is Jacob. Jacob's name is changed to Israel.
 - Jacob had 12 sons, these become the 12 tribes of Israel.
 - The tribe of Levi was chosen by God to provide priests that would minister at God's altar. These priests were the only ones who could enter the Holy Place and the High Priest could enter the Holy of Holies once a year on the Day of Atonement.
 - The rest of the Levites, who were not priests, ministered by moving the Tabernacle and its furniture. All priests had to be Levites, but not all Levites could be priests.
 - The priestly line came through the line of Aaron. He was the first high priest consecrated by God.
 - a. What would happen if someone not of this priestly line decided that they wanted to take the place of the high priest? Read Numbers 16:1-18:7 and note what happened when those who were not appointed as priests, decided to take that honor unto themselves. Record any other insights about the priesthood on your chart.

b. Let's look at one other example of someone intruding into the priesthood. Read II Chronicles 26:1-23. Record the main points of what happens in this incident.

- 2. Now read Hebrews 5:1-6.
 - a. Since Jesus was of the tribe of Judah and not Levi, how did He become High Priest?

b. According to whose order was He a priest?

- c. Read Psalms 110. Hebrews 5:6 is the second time the author quotes from Psalms 110. He also quoted from this chapter in Hebrews 1:13. As you read Psalms 110, look for the verses which the author quotes.
- d. Now read Psalms 2. The author quotes from this chapter in Hebrews 1:5 as well as Hebrews 5:5. What do you learn about Jesus from these two quotations? Don't make this complicated or super-spiritual, just note what you observe in the context of these verses.

e. Reading Hebrews 5:5-10, what do you learn about Jesus as a Son? Look at these verses compared to Hebrews 5:1-2.

3. What have you learned about Jesus, your High Priest, this week that you can apply to your life? Did you see any truths that can help you in your daily walk as you look back over Hebrews 4:14-5:10? If so list these truths in the space below. Be as specific as you can be. As the phrase goes, this is where the rubber meets the road. There are so many precious truths that we can apply to our lives through these wonderful verses. Don't miss them!

- 4. If you have time, it would be great to memorize Hebrews 4:14-16. Memorizing is a great way to ensure that you can always meditate on God's Word no matter where you are and what you are doing.
- 5. One last thing. You may have noticed that we did not talk at all about Melchizedek, and you may have had some questions about him. Fear not; we have not forgotten him. We will see more of him in the next chapters. We will take the time then to find out as much as we can about this mysterious person.

Hebrews Lesson 12 - Chapter 4 and 5

The Priesthood	Parallels with Hebrews



High Priest's Garments

What does it mean to be mature in the Christian life?

DAY ONE AND THREE

Hebrews 6:1 exhorts us to press on to maturity. We are not exhorted to do something without being given the information that we need in order to accomplish the goal. So we are going to do a thorough study of chapter 6. Back in chapter 5, the author was discussing Christ, our High Priest, in the order of Melchizedek, and he brings that up again in chapter 6:20. So we will be going back there again. Let's start by reading Hebrews 5:11-14, and continue reading through chapter 6. Spend the next couple of days wading through this chapter doing a thorough observation on it. Don't forget that there are steps to doing a thorough chapter study back in lesson three. Take your time, there are many truths that you don't want to miss in this chapter.

DAY FOUR

1. Read Hebrews 5:11-6:12. When you read this, what do you think the writer's concern is for the recipients of this letter?

2. You have probably seen that there are two different types of people being contrasted in this passage. Who are they and how are each described.

- 3. Look up the following Greek words, and do a word study on each of them.
 - a. Dull of hearing Hebrews 5:11
 - b. Sluggish (slothful, KJV) Hebrews 6:12
- 4. Let's look at another passage to see what it means to be a babe instead of being mature.
 - a. Read I Peter 2:1-3 and record what you learn.

b. Read I Corinthians 3:1-9 and note what you learn.

- 5. What parallels do you see between Hebrews 5:11-6:2 and I Corinthians 3:1-9?
- 6. The KJV uses the word "carnal" for "fleshly." I Corinthians 3:1-9 is the passage from which we get the term "carnal Christian." Some say that these are Christians who live in sin. Read I Corinthians 6:9-11. From what you have read in these passages, how would you define "carnal Christian?"

- 1. Today you are going to look at one more passage about pressing on to maturity or perfection.
 - a. Observe Ephesians 4:11-16.
 - b. What is Paul saying in this passage?

2. If you have a good commentary, you could take the time to read what it has to say on Hebrews chapter 5. List any insights you gained by reading this.

3. Now for your last but most important assignment. Where do you stand on the maturity meter? What have you learned this week that you can apply to your life?

Hebrews Lesson 13 - Chapter 6

For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, and *then* have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God and put Him to open shame. (Hebrews 6:4-6)

Wow! What does that mean? Does this describe something that can happen to a Christian? Does it teach that a Christian can lose his salvation? Could this be happening to you?

These are all really important questions, and it is vital that we understand what this is saying.

DAY 1

- 1. In order to understand what is being said in Hebrews 6, we are going to do a couple of word studies. Record the transliterations as well as the definitions to the following words.
 - a. Leaving Hebrews 6:1
 - b. Mature (full age, KJV) Hebrews 5:14
 - c. Maturity (perfection, KJV) Hebrews 6:1
 - d. Repentance Hebrews 6:1
 - e. Washings (baptisms, KJV) Hebrews 6:2

2. According to Hebrews 6:1-2, what were the Hebrews to leave or go on from, if they go on to maturity?

3. Now for a question that you may not have the answer to at this time, but it gives you something to think about. When the author refers to the elementary teachings about Christ, he uses the Greek word which when translated means Messiah. Remembering to whom Hebrews was written and the context of this passage, what do you think those elementary teachings would include and why? Think about it, and if you don't have an answer right now, that is fine. Just move on.

- 4. You have already looked up the word repentance. What would repentance from dead works include? We are going to look up some passages and see if we can answer that question.
 - a. What are our works, our good deeds apart from Christ? Read these passages and answer this question.
 - i. Isaiah 64:6

ii. Ephesians 2:8-9

iii. Romans 8:9

iv. Romans 9:30-32

v. Galatians 3:2, 5, 10

b. What is the state of a man before he is saved? Read Romans 5:12 and Ephesians 2:1-3.

c. In Hebrews 9:14 the author refers once again to "dead works." Look at this verse and see what you can learn. We are dealing with some tough passages, so just do the best you can.

- d. Now we are going to look at some passages that have to do with repentance. Read the passage and record what you learn about repentance and salvation.
 - i. Matthew 3:1-3
 - ii. Luke 13:3

iii. Acts 2:38

iv. Acts 20:17-21

v. Acts 26:15-20

e. How would you explain repentance from dead works?

5. Read through Hebrews 6:1-2, and write down point by point what you think the author is saying. What are the elementary teachings or principles?

Now it is time to tackle that difficult passage. It is important to spend time in prayer whenever you study the Bible, but when you get ready to dive into something like this, now is the time to leave it all at the foot of the cross. Just let God speak and be willing to hear what He has to say. Bathe this lesson in prayer. We want to be able to handle the Word of God accurately, so be teachable and be ready to allow the whole counsel of God's Word to instruct you in your life.

- 1. Read through Hebrews 6 again, to keep yourself in context with this chapter. You have already observed this chapter, but is there anything you have missed?
- 2. In order to prepare to understand Hebrews 6:4-8, we need to look at some important words. We are going to not only look at their definitions, but we also want to see the tense, mood, and voice of these words. Let's see what we can learn.
 - a. Have been enlightened (Hebrews 6:4) aorist passive participle
 - b. Have tasted (Hebrews 6:4-5) aorist middle participle
 - c. Have been partakers (Hebrews 6:4) aorist passive participle
 - d. Have fallen away (Hebrews 6:6) aorist active participle
 - e. To renew (Hebrews 6:6) present active infinitive

- f. To repentance (Hebrews 6:6)
 - i. Look up repentance in Hebrews Hebrews 6:1
 - ii. Hebrews 7:21
 - iii. Hebrews 12:17

- 1. Today we are going to step away from Hebrews for a moment to go to another book that may add some clarity. I am going to ask that you take today to read the book of I John. It is not a very long book, so take the time to read straight through.
- 2. Read the book of I John once again, jotting down the main ideas that are discussed throughout the book. You will see a theme begin to develop very quickly.

3. Now there are two verses I want you to look at. One is the purpose for John writing this letter. The other is a very interesting statement that I think we need to hang on to. Write what you learn from these two verses.

a. I John 5:13

b. I John 2:19

- 1. Keeping in mind all that you learned yesterday from I John and all that you learned the day before with the word studies you did, see if you can answer the following questions.
 - a. If those described in Hebrews 6:4-6 fall away, what is their state afterward and why?

- b. Why do you think the author of Hebrews uses the ground illustration in Hebrews 6:7-8? Before answering that, keeping in mind all we have discussed, you may want to look at these cross-references. They are all of the same parable, so if you run short of time you may only want to look up one of these passages.
 - i. Matthew 13:2-9, 18-23, 24-30, 36-43

ii. Mark 4:3-20, 26-29

iii. Luke 8:4-8, 11-15

iv. Now let's go back to the question of why do you think the author of Hebrews uses the illustration of the ground in the context of this passage of Hebrews 6:4-8?

2. At this point in our study, how would you describe those who fall away in Hebrews 6:4-6? Are they believers or nonbelievers? Do they profess Christ, but not really know Him? Why do you hold the view that you hold? Be as thorough in answering this question as you can be, because you may find yourself trying to explain this to someone someday.

- 3. One more thing for today, and then we will call it quits. The word "hope" is used three times in this chapter, in verses 11, 18, 19.
 - a. Look up each of these usages and write down what you observe.

b. How does this fit with what we have just studied in Hebrews 6:4-8?

There are basically four differing views as to what Hebrew 6:4-8 is saying. Read through these brief descriptions. Think about what each is saying. Are there points that you agree with? Disagree with? Some that need to be thrown out and if so why? I left space after each so you can write your thoughts about the strengths and/or weaknesses of each argument. Think about all you have learned this week as you go through each one. Give it some real thought because you may run into someone who holds one of these views. Are you ready to defend that from the Word of God and not your opinion against their opinion?

1. This viewpoint says that this passage describes saved people, people who are truly regenerated, but who then lose their salvation through deliberate apostasy.

2. This viewpoint says that this passage describes people who have professed to know Christ, but who have never truly been saved. They have shown some evidence of apparent conversion, but then they have turned away.

3. This viewpoint says that this passage describes saved persons who have backslidden. In this view, "falling away" is treated as a falling into sin, so that they are at the point of divine chastisement.

4. This viewpoint says that this passage describes a hypothetical case to illustrate the folly of apostasy. (If a person would do this . . . then this would be the result)

When testing comes in your life, to what do you cling? Do you know the promises of God well enough to carry you through the tough times, or do you find yourself wavering at those low points? As you learn more about God, and Jesus Christ, your Great High Priest, we will find the ability to draw near to Him, stand on His promises, and weather the storms of life no matter how bad they may get.

DAY 1 THROUGH DAY 3

We are going to finish looking at chapter six over these next three days and then move on to chapter seven. Last week we struggled through some really tough verses to see if we could understand what the author was saying. It was not easy, was it? There are some more verses just like them coming up later in Hebrews (just to give you something to look forward to).

1. Read through Hebrews 5:11-6:20. Note the flow of thought from chapter 5 right through to the end of chapter 6. Give special attention to verses 9-20, since we did not cover those last week. How do these verses fit with what the author said from 5:11-6:8?

- 2. In verse 12, what two things are being contrasted?
- 3. So being given this contrast between the sluggish and the faithful that inherit the promises, it would behoove us to understand what those promises were, don't you think? Write out what you think is being said in verses 13-18.

4. The event that is being referred to in 6:13-14 is found in Genesis 22. Take a couple of minutes to go back to Genesis 22 and read verses 1-19. It should be a familiar story, but come to it with an open mind. Make note below of what God swears or promises as well as writing out the main events of the passage.

- 5. To understand the importance of this action by Abraham, we have to know the background of who Isaac was and the idea behind burnt offerings.
 - Firstly, when we skip ahead to the laws of sacrifices, burnt offerings were voluntary offerings, never forced offerings
 - Secondly, before this event took place, there were quite a few conversations between God and Abraham about this child that he was about to sacrifice. As you read these passages, look for any promises that would involve this son. By the way, if you are to have descendants, it needs to start with having at least one child!
 - Keep brief notes on what you learn. We are not studying the covenant (although that is a fantastic course), we are looking for information about the importance of Isaac.
 - a. Genesis 12:1-3
 - b. Genesis 13:14-16

c. Genesis 15:1-18

d. Genesis 17:15-21

e. Genesis 21:1-12

6. Two references in the New Testament will help us to understand Abraham's confidence to obey God completely. Read these verses and record how these words had the ability to enable Abraham to carry out God's instructions.

a. Romans 4:17-21

b. Hebrews 11:17-19

7. Looking at all we have studied with God's promises to Abraham, was Abraham willing to offer up Isaac before or after God had made these promises to him? What does this tell you about Abraham's faith?

8. Now if Abraham could cling to the promises of God and **know** that God would keep His promise, and if we know that God's Word is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8), how can this help us in our own lives and in our own struggles?

- 9. What do you think the author wants the recipients of this letter to understand from this passage of Hebrews 6:9-20? Remember what we have learned about the recipients. If you need a little refresher, look at Hebrews 10:32-34.
- 10. How can you take what you have learned over these last couple of days and apply this to your own life? How can this change the way you perceive the trials that come into your life? Be honest with yourself and before God, and allow this knowledge to become wisdom (knowledge applied).

11. If you have any commentaries that you would like to look at, now is the time. You can do that with your remaining time. Don't read any further than chapter six.

DAY FOUR AND FIVE

For the last two days of this week, you are going to be doing an observation on Hebrews 7. This brings up the topic of Melchizedek once again. So before you start with your observation, read Genesis 14. This is the first place Melchizedek is mentioned. Write down what you learn about him below, and then proceed to your observation.

One last thing to leave with you. There is an old hymn with which many of us are not familiar. The words are incredible, and speak to the topic of weathering the storms being anchored in the promises of God. The hymn is called *Begone Unbelief!* The words were written by John Newton and the music is attributed to Johann Haydn. As you read these words, be aware that they were written 250 years ago. It was like he was living today, is it not? Enjoy.

Begone Unbelief!

Begone unbelief, my Savior is near, And for my relief will surely appear: By prayer let me wrestle, and He wilt perform, With Christ in the vessel, I smile at the storm.

Though dark be my way, since He is my Guide, 'Tis mine to obey, 'tis His to provide; Though cisterns be broken, and creatures all fail, The Word He has spoken shall surely prevail.

His love in time past forbids me to think He'll leave me at last in trouble to sink; Each sweet Ebenezer I have in review, Confirms His good pleasure to help me quite through.

Determined to save, He watched o'er my path, When Satan's blind slave, I sported with death; And can He have taught me to trust in His Name, And thus far have brought me, to put me to shame?

Why should I complain of want or distress, Temptation or pain? He told me no less: The heirs of salvation, I know from His Word, Through much tribulation must follow their Lord.

How bitter that cup, no heart can conceive, Which He drank quite up, that sinners might live! His way was much rougher, and darker than mine; Did Jesus thus suffer, and shall I repine?

Since all that I meet shall work for my good, The bitter is sweet, the medicine is food; Though painful at present, wilt cease before long, And then, O! how pleasant, the conqueror's song! There is a beautiful praise song that helps us to once again take a look at what Jesus, our Great High Priest, has done on our behalf. Read through the words to this song written by Charles L. Bancroft.

Before the throne of God above I have a strong, a perfect plea: A great High Priest, whose name is Love, Who ever lives and pleads for me.

My name is graven on His hands, My name is written on His heart; I know that while in heaven He stands No tongue can bid me thence depart No tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair, And tells me of the guilt within, Upward I look, and see Him there Who made an end of all my sin.

Because a sinless Savior died, My sinful soul is counted free; For God, the Just, is satisfied To look on Him and pardon me To look on Him and pardon me

Behold him there, the risen Lamb My perfect, spotless righteousness, The great unchangeable I am, The King of glory and of grace!

One in Himself, I cannot die My soul is purchased by His blood My life is hid with Christ on high, With Christ, my Savior and my God With Christ, my Savior and my God

- 1. As you can see by the chapters, we are going to be skipping around a bit. Chapter 5 introduces us to Melchizedek. We spent the last three weeks understanding the difficult passage in chapter 6, and then when we come to chapter 7, we go back to the topic of Melchizedek. Last week we touched on the passage in Genesis when he is first introduced in the Bible. Before we tackle Hebrews 7, let's review some of the things that we have learned over the last 15 weeks.
 - a. This is a letter of exhortation (encouragement).
 - b. This letter is directed toward Hebrews, whom the author considers to be Christians.
 - c. The author has made it abundantly clear that continuance in the faith is evidence of their salvation. Those who hold fast the beginning of their assurance (that Jesus Christ is the Messiah - the Savior) firm until the end are truly saved.
 - d. The author wants them to understand that Jesus Christ is much better than all that they had under the old covenant. The covenant was merely a shadow; Jesus is the substance.
 - e. In Jesus Christ, God revealed His plan for mankind. With Christ revelation is complete; therefore, we are not to drift away from Him. If they choose to walk in disobedience of unbelief, then they will miss the rest that rightfully belongs to the people of God.
 - f. The author establishes the fact that Jesus is the exact representation of God Himself; He is the Son of God. He is better than the angels even though He was made lower than the angels for a little while as He became the Son of Man. He goes on to establish the qualifications and the authority that Jesus has to hold the office of the priesthood - a permanent priesthood - even though He is from the tribe of Judah and not the tribe of Levi.
 - g. This eternal priesthood is a major theme of the book of Hebrews. The author is going to spend a good bit of time developing this argument as he compares two differing priesthoods that of Aaron and the Levites versus the order of Melchizedek. Since this is an important theme of the book, it is very important for us to understand what is being said in this passage. We cannot skim over this and think that it doesn't apply to us; it has no meaning to us.

2. Read through Hebrews 5:1-10 and then Hebrews 7. As you read through these chapters, record all that you learn on the chart below about the various priesthoods. It may help you to record the information in different colors for different chapters. Also make sure that you note the verse next to your observation. Take your time and be thorough.

The Aaronic Priesthood	Melchizedek	Jesus, Our High Priest

1. Today you are going to spend time reviewing what you did in Lesson 12. Go back to pages 81-86 and look at all the information that you collected on days three through five. Record any information in the space below that might help you as study through Hebrews 7.

2. Now, once again, pulling all this information together, describe the difference between the priesthood of Aaron and the priesthood of Jesus Christ. This is where you can sum everything up and try to make sense of it, so you could explain this to someone else.

1. According to Hebrews 7, was Jesus made like Melchizedek or Melchizedek like Jesus? Give a reason for your answer.

2. Isaiah 9:6-7 gives a prophecy about Jesus, and the author of Hebrews quotes from here in Hebrews 1:8. How do these passages parallel with the passage in Hebrews 7:1-3? Record what you see in each of these passages on the chart below and then answer that question.

Isaiah 9:6-7	Hebrews 1:8	Hebrews 7:1-3

As the author carefully lies his case before you to establish the order of Christ's priesthood, he refers to the priesthood changing. If the priesthood has changed, than what else must change as well? The answer to that question can be found in chapter 7. When you find it, record what you learn and support your answer by the text.

4. Now read through chapter 8. What do you see in Hebrews 8 that supports what you just answered in the last question? Make sure you record the verses where you found your answer.

5. If you have time, and you want to see what the commentaries say about chapter 7, now would be the time to do that.

DAY 4 AND DAY 5

For these last two days this week, you are going to do a thorough observation on chapter 8. Make sure you give this plenty of time, and as you work your way through your observations, keep in mind what you have already learned about the priesthood, the new ways, and how Jesus fits into all of this. We are just about to get into the meaty part of Hebrews. All this work is helping us to build a foundation on which to stand when we wade through the heavy doctrine coming up. Study well, and allow God to work in your life and open your eyes of understanding so that you come to have a better understanding of your God and of His Son. Through that understanding, you should come to have a deeper appreciation for what Jesus Christ has done for you and how you should live in gratitude toward Him.

"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." - Hebrews 8:6. Jesus has obtained a more excellent ministry, better than that of the high priests of the old covenant. Jesus has brought a better covenant enacted on better promises. What are those promises? What do they mean to us?

DAY 1 AND DAY 2

If there is a better covenant, than we need to understand both of them so we understand why one is better than the other. The author also brings up the idea of two tabernacles; there is the one that Moses erected which was to serve as a copy and shadow to the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched and not man. We will see that these two things are intertwined and to understand the old will help us to understand the new. This is not an issue that can be skimmed over quickly, so we will break this down into two weeks. This week we will look at the covenants, and then next week we will study the tabernacle.

1. Read over your observation worksheet for Hebrews 8. If you didn't mark better as a key word last week, mark it now as you read the text. Write down any new insights about this chapter below.

2. Look up the Greek word for covenant. Record its transliteration as well as its definition.

3. Does this word in Greek mean the same as it did in the Old Testament? Do a word study on the word covenant in the Old Testament. You can use Jeremiah 31:31.

4. If the New Covenant referred to as "the Covenant of Grace" is better than the Old Covenant referred to as "the Law," what makes them so different? Read John 1:17 and write it out below.

- 5. Exodus 19-23 explains the covenant of law that God made with the people of Israel through Moses. Exodus 20 lists the Ten Commandments. In chapter 24, Moses reads the laws to the people and they agree that all God said they would do. This is the enacting of the First Covenant, the Covenant of Law. In Hebrews 9:18-21 the author refers to the ratification of this First Covenant. Let's try to understand this covenant. Read Exodus 19-24 and then answer the following questions.
 - a. When Moses read the words of the Law to the people, what was their response?
 - b. What did Moses do with God's words and what was this called?
 - c. Record what Moses did in Exodus 24:4-11.

- d. Where did this event take place?
- e. What appearance did the Lord take on at this time?
- 6. When Moses delayed coming down from the mountain, the people of Israel made a golden calf and began to worship it (Exodus 32). When Moses saw it, he was upset and threw the tablets down, breaking them. These were God's words written in God's own finger. In Exodus 34, Moses returns to the mountain, so God could write down His laws once again. Read Exodus 34, and note what happened to Moses' face.

Today we will look at the New Covenant. Why was this one a better covenant? What is the relationship between the two covenants? How do these two covenants relate to the Jew and Gentile? These are all questions that need to be answered, but much ground work needs to be done to acquire those answers.

In Hebrews 8:8-12 the author is quoting from the Old Testament. The passage being quoted is Jeremiah 31:31-34. Jeremiah talks about the promise of a New Covenant.

Let's look at the background of Jeremiah. Jeremiah prophesied before and during the Babylonian siege of Jerusalem. After Solomon the nation was divided into two parts. The northern kingdom was called the kingdom of Israel. This northern kingdom of Israel fell to the Assyrians in 722 BC. The southern kingdom was called Judah. There was continually an heir of David that sat on this throne. They went through a series of good kings and bad kings. The good kings brought the people back to God, the bad kings led them astray. As a result God turned the kingdom over to its enemy, Babylon, and in 586 BC Jerusalem (Judah) fell. The nation of Israel, as a whole, was destroy. Why did the kingdom fall? Because they failed to walk in obedience to God's covenant. As Moses communicated to the people all that God said, he wrote the words in the books of

Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. (For your information he also wrote Genesis.) When you read through Deuteronomy 28-30, you see blessings and cursings. There are blessings that are promised to the people if the walk in the ways of God and keep His covenant. If they chose to disobey God's commands, He told them exactly what would happen to them, thus the curses. These curses were falling upon the land of Judah in Jeremiah's time.

We need to remember that God is always faithful to His Word. If He has promised, He will do it. God gave the people His plan, and they responded that they would follow it. But they chose to go their own way and disobey God's commands, so God, being faithful, brought about the curses He had promised. Look at what God told them.

1. Read Deuteronomy 28:58, 63-66. Record what you learn about the relationship to their obedience and their land.

2. Now read Deuteronomy 29-30. Don't spend too much time. You are not going to list everything you learn. Just read the chapters and see what they say. Watch the word covenant as you read through this.

DAY 4

Well, obviously the people broke the covenant, and the curses came upon the people and the land. However, in the midst of this turmoil, Jeremiah gives a promise of a New Covenant that is coming.

1. Read Jeremiah's prophecy about the New Covenant in Jeremiah 31:31-40. If the people were willing to listen to Jeremiah, can you image what a relief and what a hope that would be to them?

- 2. The conditions of the New Covenant are written out in Jeremiah 31:33-34. What will happen when this New Covenant is put into place?
- 3. Who will this covenant be with according to Jeremiah 31:31-34?
- 4. Now read Jeremiah 32:37-44, and then answer the following questions.
 - a. What is God's promise concerning the land and the people?
 - b. What will God be to them?
 - c. According to verse 39-40, what will God do for them personally? List His promises below.

- d. How long will this covenant last?
- 5. The question then becomes, how can God do this when man's heart are so evil? Record what Jeremiah says about man's heart in Jeremiah 17:9.
- 6. Ezekiel wrote his book at the same time as Jeremiah. Ezekiel went into captivity during the second of the three sieges against Jerusalem. Read Ezekiel 11:13-21.
 - a. What was Ezekiel's question to God?

b. What was God's answer?

- c. What is God going to have to do to the hearts of the people?
- d. When He does that, what will the people do?

- 7. Read Ezekiel 36:24-28. This is part of the New Covenant that God has promised to Israel and Judah.
 - a. What does God say about their land?
 - b. What will God do for them personally?
 - c. How does this parallel with what you read in Ezekiel chapter 11?

- 1. Now let's turn to the New Covenant, the Covenant of Grace, as it is laid out for us in the New Testament (New Covenant testament and covenant are interchangeable words).
 - a. Read Romans 1:16. To whom did the gospel come first?
 - b. To whom did Jesus come? Read John 1:11 and Matthew 15:24.
- 2. Today we look at the church, and it is composed primarily of Gentiles. When the church first began, it would have been primarily Jews with some Gentile converts. Read Romans 11:17-18 and Ephesians 3:4-6.
 - a. The gospel message began with who?
 - b. Who was grafted in?
 - c. What is the mystery of Christ in Ephesians 3:4-6?
- 3. Read Ephesians 2:11-12. What was the Gentiles relationship to the covenants of promise?
- 4. Now read Ephesians 2:13-22.
 - a. How were they to be brought near to God?
 - b. The dividing wall that separated Jew and Gentile was the Law. Jesus abolished that barrier through His death.

- c. Verse 15 says that the two He makes into one new man are Jews and Gentiles. They, though the New Covenant of His blood, become sons of God, part of the church which is the body of Christ. (Ephesians 5:28-29)
- d. According to Ephesians 2:19, what do the Gentiles who come to Christ become?
- e. Read Hebrews 3:6 and see how that relates.
- f. According to Ephesians 2:18, by who do we have access to the Father?
- g. How does that compare to Ezekiel 36:27?
- 5. The night that Jesus was betrayed, He met with His disciples in the upper room to share the Passover meal before He went to the cross as the Passover Lamb. Jesus spoke to them, and His words are recorded in Matthew 26:26-29. Read the passage, and tell how this corresponds with Hebrews 8 and the quotes from Jeremiah.
- 6. Read Hebrews 8 one more time. Answer the following questions.
 - a. When Moses built the tabernacle, how did he build it?
 - b. The "He" of Hebrews 8:6 refers to the "He" of Hebrews 8:4. This in turn refers to Hebrews 8:1. Who is this "He?"
 - c. What is the better covenant that "He" is the mediator of? What is it better than? Read Hebrews 7:22 to help you answer this question.

d. Look up the Greek word for "new" in your word study tools. Record what you learn below.

7. The whole idea of Hebrews 8 is that there is a whole new order of the New Covenant. It is based on better promises that provide a better priest (in the order of Melchizedek), one who ministers in the true tabernacle. This opens a whole new way for the people of God to draw near to the throne of God Himself. The author is prepared now to tell you how this all works in the person of Jesus Christ. This is where it will really get good!

Hebrews Lesson 17 - Chapter 8

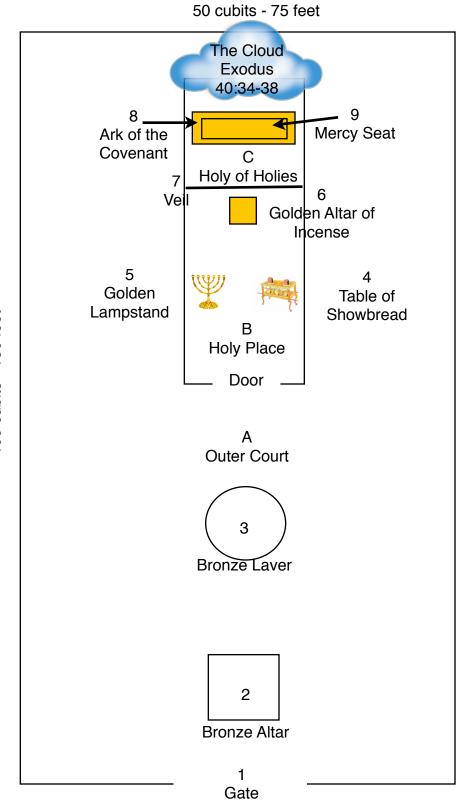
What an awesome study you have before you if you have never done a study on the tabernacle! What a beautiful picture God has painted for us in the pages of the Old Testament.

DAY 1 AND DAY 2

This week we want to understand the Tabernacle that was erected by Moses under the Old Covenant. Only by understanding all this represents, will we truly be able to grasp the meaning of Hebrews 9. The author has carefully laid down his arguments which proves that there is a better way than Moses, a better way than the old covenant, a better way than the old priesthood, and that Jesus has the right to take the position of High Priest. With that established, the author now moves into the meat of Hebrews. Let's dig in and have ourselves a feast!

- 1. According to Hebrews 8:1-5, after what was the earthly Tabernacle patterned?
- 2. Let's take a look and see how this Tabernacle was put up by Moses. Read Exodus 25:1-9.
 - a. What were they to construct?
 - b. From where would the materials come?
 - c. How did they know what to construct?
- 3. On the next page is a picture of the Tabernacle that they were to construct. What a picture God painted for His people, for each article of furniture was a picture of the work that Christ would do in our lives. This should help us to worship and honor Him even more as we see this come to life.
- 4. Each number and letter will be described on the proceeding pages. Enjoy!

Hebrews Lesson 18 - Chapter 9



100 cubits - 150 feet

THE TABERNACLE

- A. The outer court can only be accessed through the gate (1).
- B. This is the Holy Place the actual Tabernacle. It was 30 cubits long (45 feet) and 10 cubits wide (15 feet) and 10 cubits high (15 feet). These dimensions include the part beyond the veil, the place that is called the Holy of Holies. Only the priests could enter the Holy Place through the door. They would do this daily to minister in the tent of meeting (Exodus 40:24).
- C. The Holy of Holies, is included in the Holy Place. This part of the Tabernacle is 10 cubits by 10 cubits by 10 cubits 15 feet cubed. It takes up one third of the entire Tabernacle. It was separated from the Holy Place by a veil. This part of the Tabernacle was only entered by the high priest one day of the year the Day of Atonement.

THE FURNISHINGS

- 1. There was only one entrance giving access to any part of the Tabernacle and that was the gate to the outer courtyard. There was a door which led into the Tabernacle itself. If you read John 10:9, Jesus refers to Himself as the door. No one was going to come into the presence of God but through Him. This door was always facing to the East. Have you tried entering by another way?
- 2. The first piece of furniture you would see upon enter through the door was the bronze altar. It had four horns, one on each corner. It stood three cubits (4 1/2 feet) off the ground. When the people brought an offering to the Lord, either for reconciliation because of sin or for consecration, the sacrifice was tied to the horns of the altar. The coals of fire were inside this five by five cubit box (7 1/2 by 7 1/2 feet). A bronze grate covered the coals of fire that held the sacrifice as it was consumed by the fire. The altar was God's picture of His Lamb, Jesus, nailed to the cross for our sins, baptized with the baptism of fire. Have you allowed Him to carry your sins?
- 3. The laver was where the priests washed daily. They could not enter the Holy Place without washing. It was also made of bronze which is the symbol of judgment. Jesus, the Word of God, said that we are made clean through the Word. (John 15:3; Ephesians 5:26) Do you need cleansing?

- 4. The table of showbread was made of acacia wood and then covered by gold. It sat to the right as you entered the Holy Place. On it were twelve loaves of bread representing God's covenant people, Israel. Every Sabbath these were eaten by the priests and fresh bread was put in its place. The table was two cubits long and 1 cubit wide and 1 1/2 cubits high (3 feet by 1 1/2 feet by 2 1/4 feet). John 6:48 tells us that Jesus is the bread of life. Have you tried to satisfy your hunger somewhere else?
- 5. Opposite the table of showbread was the seven-branched lampstand made of pure gold. It burned olive oil night and day serving as the only light source in the Tabernacle. Jesus is the light of men (John 1:4). The only way to God is to walk in the light of Jesus. Are you walking in His light or are you walking in darkness?
- 6. The altar of incense was made of acacia wood and covered with gold. This was before the veil in the Holy Place (Exodus 30:6-8; 40:26). You will see that in Hebrews 9:4 it talks about the golden altar of incense being behind the veil. This word in the Greek translated "altar" can also be translated as "censer," and we are told that the high priest took a censer behind the veil with him. We are only given the height of the altar which was 2 cubits (about 3 feet). This article would have been higher than the table of showbread and higher than the ark of the covenant. The fragrance from this altar would have wafted through the Tabernacle, across the mercy seat and above the other furniture. Incense was to burned perpetually as a picture of Jesus, our High Priest, who forever lives to make intercession for us (Hebrews 7:25). Do you need an intercessor?
- 7. The veil was made of blue, purple, and scarlet, fine and twisted linen. It separated the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies. No priest could enter the Holy of Holies except through the veil. There was no other way to approach the ark of the covenant the presence of God. This was a picture of Jesus whose torn flesh, like the rent veil, gave access to the very presence of God (Hebrews 10:20). He was the covenant sacrifice. Have you passed between the pieces?
- 8. The ark of the covenant was made from acacia wood and covered with gold. Its location was the Holy of Holies. This was a 2 1/2 cubit long (3 3/4 feet), 1 1/2 cubit wide (2 1/4 feet), 1 1/2 cubit tall (2 1/4 feet) with a lid called the mercy seat. Hovering above the mercy seat were two cherubim with outstretched wings. The ark of the covenant contained the tablets of stone, a pot of manna, and Aaron's rod that budded (Hebrews 9:4). At the ark of the covenant we meet Jesus, God incarnate, who before Abraham was born. He was the I AM, one with the Father (John 8:58; John 10:30-33). Do you believe that Jesus is I AM, God incarnate? If not, you shall die in your sins (John 8:24).

- 9. The mercy seat was made of solid gold and covered the ark of the covenant. One time a year, on the Day of Atonement, the blood of a goat was placed on the mercy seat to cover the sins of the people. It was there, above the mercy seat, that God hovered in the pillar of cloud. The mercy seat was a picture of the throne of God where Jesus' one sacrifice for sins for all time, would sanctify us forever (Hebrews 10:10-13). Have you found mercy? Have you found forgiveness of all your sins?
- 5. One last assignment for today.
 - a. Quickly read Exodus 25:10-22. Note what God says regarding the mercy seat.
 - b. Now try to draw the tabernacle without looking back. Drawing it out will help you to remember how it is set up.

c. On the diagram of the tabernacle on page 126, note next to each item, what that item shows us about Jesus.

DAY THREE THROUGH DAY FIVE

- 1. Do a chapter study on Hebrews 9:1-10:18. These first 18 verses in chapter 10 are included because there is no break between chapter 9 and 10. The break in idea comes in verse 19 of chapter 10.
 - a. As you read through these verses, keep in mind all that you learned last week of how this covenant was inaugurated. We saw that in Exodus 24.
 - b. These observations are very important! Give yourself adequate time to do this assignment. Each day you come back to the passage, you will see it with fresh eyes.
 - c. As you do your observations, you may run into questions about the interpretation on certain items. If you do, write them down. After a thorough observation, you may answer your own questions. If not, they may be good questions to bring up in the discussion time. Next week we will look at the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur).

2. If you remember a long time back, we looked at the structure of the book of Hebrews. We discussed how the practical exhortations begin in Hebrews 10:19. Great things await us as we continue to move through this precious book. Jesus is our great High Priest, the Lamb of God who took the sins of the world upon Himself so that we may enter into the presence of God with confidence. What a joy it will be to understand what His sacrifice means to us!

DAY 1

The author has laid the foundation as to who Jesus is. Better than the angels. Better than Moses. He came to enact a New Covenant, based on new and better promises, as to which He is going to act as High Priest. The Old Covenant was based on the Law, and it was a temporary covenant which used the Aaronic priesthood. It was designed to show the people the need for something better. While the Old Covenant was a reminder of sin year after year, the New Covenant told how we can have a conscience free from sin - a heart no longer cold and callous toward God, but tender and sensitive with a love for God.

- 1. Read through the observation worksheets on Hebrews 9. Take your time and think about what you are reading. If you missed key words, now is the time to mark them. Allow the truths of this passage to sink into your mind and your heart. Remember, we are now talking about a better covenant with better promises with Jesus being a better sacrifice. Through this sacrifice you can obtain eternal redemption.
- 2. In Hebrews 9:1-5, the author refers to the furniture in the Tabernacle. This was our study last week. Can you still see in your mind's eye the Tabernacle and its layout along with the fulfillment that each had in Jesus? For the sake of review, try to draw out the Tabernacle on the next page. If you can't remember all the parts, go back and review that now. It is of the utmost importance to hold this picture in front of you while you study this chapter.

The Tabernacle

3. Now let's review the ark of the covenant again. Although the author says that he can't speak in detail about these things, there is something that you need to see. Below is a picture of what the ark may have looked like. Keep this picture in mind as you read the following passages.



- a. Read Exodus 25:10-22
 - i. Label the poles, the mercy seat, and cheribim.
 - ii. What were the rings on the side of the ark for? Why was this necessary?
 - iii. According to these verses, where did God meet with His people? Label that on the picture.
- b. Read I Samuel 4. Who sits about the cherubim?
- c. What does the author of Hebrews call the cherubim in Hebrews 9:5?
- 4. Read I Samuel 4 again. As you read, answer these questions.
 - a. What happened to the ark?
 - b. What did Phinehas's wife (Eli's daughter-in-law) name her child and why? Do you think she was correct in doing this? Why?
- 5. The cloud above the ark of the covenant was called the Shekinah Glory. It was the radiant presence of God dwelling among His people, Israel. Now let's compare the glory that shone over the ark with what we see in Hebrews.
 - a. Go back and read Hebrews 1:3. Do you see any parallels? Amazing how we would have missed this earlier, isn't it? That is why it is important to observe, observe, observe! There is so much contained within these passages, we can't possibly take it in all at one time. Precept upon precept, line upon line, here a little, there a little. (Isaiah 28:9-13)

- b. Read John 1:14. The word for dwelt is "tabernacled." Compare John 1:1-2 with John 1:14. In the Old Testament days God met with His people in he earthly Tabernacle; in the New Testament days God meets with His people in (or) through Christ!
- 6. Take a couple of minutes to think through the ramifications of all of this. Jesus is your High Priest, ushering you into the very presence of God. Has God spoken to you at or shown you something that you did not know before? Write your insights below.

To really understand what Hebrews 9 is saying, we must understand what went on in the temple every day. That will be our quest for today.

There was daily activity in the Tabernacle, and this took place in the courtyard and in the Holy Place. It was only on the Day of Atonement (the tenth day of Tishri, the seventh month of the Jewish year) that the High Priest entered (Hebrews 9:7) the Holy of Holies, behind the veil (Leviticus 16:2).

The Day of Atonement was a very solemn or holy day to the Jews. Today it is called Yom Kippur. There is a huge difference between the solemn event of the Old Testament, when the people were reminded of their sins and the cost of innocent life needed to pay for those sins, compared to the way it is celebrated today.

- 1. The table of showbread, the lampstand, and the altar of incense were all in the Holy Place where the priests ministered daily. What did the priests do in this area with these furnishings? Read the following Scriptures and record your insights.
 - a. Exodus 27:20-21; Leviticus 24:1-4

b. Exodus 25:30; Leviticus 24:5-9

c. Exodus 30:1-10 - I had discussed earlier that there was a debate about where the altar of incense was located. Compare this passage with Hebrews 9:3-4. However, since we know that it was attended to daily, and that the high priest could only go in the Holy of Holies once a year, taking with him the censer (another translation of altar), we get the picture that the actual altar was outside the veil, and the priest took the censer part of the altar inside the veil on the Day of Atonement.

- 2. Now let's look at these rituals of the tabernacle from the New Covenant view point. Read Hebrews 9:6-10.
 - a. All the activity that went on in the Tabernacle related only to what? (Go back and look at Hebrews 6:1-3 from verse 2, does it seem like some of the people may have been trying to go back to these?)
 - b. What did all these things fail to do in regard to man?

3. Using your word study tools, look up the word "conscience." Record the transliteration and definition as well as finding where this word is used in Hebrews. Look up each reference and note what you observe.

DAY 3 THROUGH DAY 5

Now we need to look at the details of the Day of Atonement in the Old Testament. At the end of this lesson, on pages 140-142, you will find a worksheet for Leviticus 16. Read over it, mark it, learn it, understand it. You need to see to what length the people and the priests went to in order to cover over the sins of the people for another year. Remember that they did this yearly! It will help you understand and appreciate all that Jesus did when He died on the cross and made atonement for our sins once for all! The priests of the Old Testament were covering over sin. Jesus took it away. What a glorious Savior and wonder High Priest we have!

1. As you go through this passage write down all the events that went on. I will give you plenty of room. Be detailed so you can see every step that was taken.

Hebrews Lesson 19 - Chapter 9

2. Now that you wrote it all out, I would like you to try to draw it all out. I want this to be a vivid picture in your mind so that you can carry this passage with you as you continue to study Hebrews. Make your pictures detailed so that you could take this picture, show it to someone else and explain each step in detail. Stick figures are fine. It is the process that helps you learn not the outcome (good thing for those of us who cannot draw)! Again, I gave you plenty of room, you may not have to use it all, but it is there.

Hebrews Lesson 19 - Chapter 9

Leviticus 16

¹ Now the LORD spoke to Moses after the death of the two sons of Aaron, when they had approached the presence of the LORD and died.

² The LORD said to Moses:

"Tell your brother Aaron that he shall not enter at any time into the holy place inside the veil, before the mercy seat which is on the ark, or he will die; for I will appear in the cloud over the mercy seat.

³ Aaron shall enter the holy place with this: with a bull for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering.

⁴ He shall put on the holy linen tunic, and the linen undergarments shall be next to his body, and he shall be girded with the linen sash and attired with the linen turban (these are holy garments). Then he shall bathe his body in water and put them on.

⁵ He shall take from the congregation of the sons of Israel two male goats for a sin offering and one ram for a burnt offering.

⁶ Then Aaron shall offer the bull for the sin offering which is for himself, that he may make atonement for himself and for his household.

⁷ He shall take the two goats and present them before the LORD at the doorway of the tent of meeting.

⁸ Aaron shall cast lots for the two goats, one lot for the LORD and the other lot for the scapegoat.

⁹ Then Aaron shall offer the goat on which the lot for the LORD fell, and make it a sin offering. ¹⁰ But the goat on which the lot for the scapegoat fell shall be presented alive before the LORD, to make atonement upon it, to send it into the wilderness as the scapegoat.

¹¹ "Then Aaron shall offer the bull of the sin offering which is for himself and make atonement for himself and for his household, and he shall slaughter the bull of the sin offering which is for himself.

 12 He shall take a firepan full of coals of fire from upon the altar before the LORD and two handfuls of finely ground sweet incense, and bring *it* inside the veil.

¹³ He shall put the incense on the fire before the LORD, that the cloud of incense may cover the mercy seat that is on *the ark of* the testimony, otherwise he will die.

¹⁴ Moreover, he shall take some of the blood of the bull and sprinkle *it* with his finger on the mercy seat on the east *side*; also in front of the mercy seat he shall sprinkle some of the blood with his finger seven times.

¹⁵ "Then he shall slaughter the goat of the sin offering which is for the people, and bring its blood inside the veil and do with its blood as he did with the blood of the bull, and sprinkle it on the mercy seat and in front of the mercy seat.

¹⁶ He shall make atonement for the holy place, because of the impurities of the sons of Israel and because of their transgressions in regard to all their sins; and thus he shall do for the tent of meeting which abides with them in the midst of their impurities.

¹⁷ When he goes in to make atonement in the holy place, no one shall be in the tent of meeting until he comes out, that he may make atonement for himself and for his household and for all the assembly of Israel.

¹⁸ Then he shall go out to the altar that is before the LORD and make atonement for it, and shall take some of the blood of the bull and of the blood of the goat and put it on the horns of the altar on all sides.

¹⁹ With his finger he shall sprinkle some of the blood on it seven times and cleanse it, and from the impurities of the sons of Israel consecrate it.

²⁰ "When he finishes atoning for the holy place and the tent of meeting and the altar, he shall offer the live goat.

²¹ Then Aaron shall lay both of his hands on the head of the live goat, and confess over it all the iniquities of the sons of Israel and all their transgressions in regard to all their sins; and he shall lay them on the head of the goat and send *it* away into the wilderness by the hand of a man who *stands* in readiness.

²² The goat shall bear on itself all their iniquities to a solitary land; and he shall release the goat in the wilderness.

²³ "Then Aaron shall come into the tent of meeting and take off the linen garments which he put on when he went into the holy place, and shall leave them there.

²⁴ He shall bathe his body with water in a holy place and put on his clothes, and come forth and offer his burnt offering and the burnt offering of the people and make atonement for himself and for the people.

²⁵ Then he shall offer up in smoke the fat of the sin offering on the altar.

²⁶ The one who released the goat as the scapegoat shall wash his clothes and bathe his body with water; then afterward he shall come into the camp.

²⁷ But the bull of the sin offering and the goat of the sin offering, whose blood was brought in to make atonement in the holy place, shall be taken outside the camp, and they shall burn their hides, their flesh, and their refuse in the fire.

²⁸ Then the one who burns them shall wash his clothes and bathe his body with water, then afterward he shall come into the camp.

²⁹ "*This* shall be a permanent statute for you: in the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, you shall humble your souls and not do any work, whether the native, or the alien who sojourns among you;

³⁰ for it is on this day that atonement shall be made for you to cleanse you; you will be clean from all your sins before the LORD.

³¹ It is to be a sabbath of solemn rest for you, that you may humble your souls; it is a permanent statute.

³² So the priest who is anointed and ordained to serve as priest in his father's place shall make atonement: he shall thus put on the linen garments, the holy garments,

³³ and make atonement for the holy sanctuary, and he shall make atonement for the tent of meeting and for the altar. He shall also make atonement for the priests and for all the people of the assembly.

³⁴ Now you shall have this as a permanent statute, to make atonement for the sons of Israel for all their sins once every year." And just as the LORD had commanded Moses, *so* he did.

Read Hebrews 9 and 10 several times. As you read through these verses, think about all that you learned last week. As you read and review, take time to worship God for all He has done for you.

Record any questions you may have.

Write down the many things that you can praise God for from this passage.

1. Read Hebrews 9:13-14, and note the comparison made between the two types of sacrifices and their effects.

- 2. Let's take a look at the phrase "the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled." What exactly does this mean and how was it put into practice in Levitical Law?
 - a. Read Numbers 19 and note what you learn about the ceremony itself. As you read through this passage ask yourself the 5 W's and an H. Record what you learn below.

b. These waters were used for niddah - water that was used for the removal of impurities. This is also mentioned in Numbers 31:21-24. Read through this passage as well.

3. The writer of Hebrews wants us to see his point. What did the blood of bulls and goats - the waters of niddah - cleanse? How often were these sacrifices or cleansings performed?

DAY 3

- 1. Read Hebrews 9:7-14 and answer the following questions.
 - a. What tabernacle did Christ enter?
 - b. With what did He enter?
 - c. How many times did He enter?
 - d. When did the Old Testament priests enter?
 - e. How often did they enter on the Day of Atonement?
 - f. How does this compare with Jesus' entrance? Why?

- g. What does Christ's offering accomplish for those who truly worship Him?
- h. What does this enable you to do? Read Isaiah 6:1-8 and compare this passage with the passage in Hebrews. What are we enabled to do? Why is this possible?

- 2. Now carefully read Hebrews 9:15-28.
 - a. What are the main points that the author is making in this passage?

- b. According to this passage, how are the inaugurations of the first covenant (Law) and the second covenant (grace) similar?
- 3. If you have commentaries and wish to read what they have to say about Hebrews 9, you can do so now. Please make sure that you don't go beyond what we have studied so far.

- 1. Today we are going to begin studying chapter 10. Read your Observation Worksheet on Hebrews 10:1-18.
- 2. What do you learn about the Law from this passage?
- 3. Now it is time to do some word studies.
 - a. Look up the word "impossible" in Hebrews 10:4. Record its transliteration and its definition. What do you learn from this word?
 - b. Look up the word used for "sanctified" as used through Hebrews 10. Write out its transliteration and its definition.

- c. We are going to look at the verb tenses, mood, and voice that are used in these places and then write how you think that fits into the context of the passage.
 - i. Sanctified (Hebrews 10:10)
 - 1. Perfect passive participle
 - a. Punctilliar action in the past with results continuing into present
 - b. Passive voice means that the person is being acted upon
 - 2. Stresses the state brought about by the finished results of the activity

ii. Perfected (Hebrews 10:14)

- 1. Perfect active indicative
 - a. Mood of certainty statement of fact
 - b. Punctilliar action in the past with results continuing into present
 - c. Active voice means the subject is doing the action

- iii. Sanctified (Hebrews 10:14)
 - 1. Present passive participle
 - a. Continuous action that is being done to the subject

- 4. What is the author stressing about Christ's offering in Hebrews 10:1-18? What is/are the points he doesn't want us to miss?
- 5. Let's go back and look at Hebrews 2:17.
 - a. Read the verse.
 - b. Look up the Greek word for "propitiation" (reconciliation KJV). Record its transliteration and its definition.
 - c. Check the usage of this word and record what you learn in the following passages.
 - i. I John 2:1-2
 - ii. I John 4:10

iii. Romans 3:25

d. Now record what you learn regarding propitiation and its relationship to what you studied in Hebrews 9 about the Day of Atonement.

6. How does Hebrews 9:15-10:18 compare with Hebrews 2:17?

- 7. Read Hebrews 10:14-22.
 - a. Why can we have a clear conscience?
 - b. How are you to live in the light of this truth in your everyday life?

c. Is your conscience clear? Why or why not? This is a very person question; answer it in a personal way

This is a day for reflection on the wonderful truths contained in these chapters. You can start out your time by reading commentaries if you so desire on Hebrews 10:1-18. Do not go any further than that.

Take time to look back over the lesson. What have you learned about God this week? How has this study helped to deepen your relationship with Him? Take some time to think about that and write a prayer of worship to your Heavenly Father for all He has done for you.

- 1. We are going to complete the Observation Worksheet on Hebrews 10. As you read, watch the flow of the chapter as you move from verse 18 to verse 19. You will watch the book change from doctrinal instruction to practical application practical exhortations.
- 2. You will also find some difficult teaching and possible questions of interpretation through these verses. Record your questions below.

DAY 2

- 1. Hebrews 10:19 the author begins a series of exhortations. He begins to call us to live a certain way. "Let us . . . " Read from verse 19 to the end of the chapter, and answer the following questions.
 - a. Who could approach the mercy seat of God under the Old Covenant? When could this be done? How often could it be approached?

b. How does this compare with the New Covenant?

2. In Hebrews there are many references to the throne of the Majesty on high, the throne of grace, or the right hand of the Majesty on high. We are going to look at those references and see what we learn from each of these. The evaluate how these verses parallel or complement Hebrews 10:19-25.

a. Hebrews 1:3

b. Hebrews 1:8

c. Hebrews 1:13

d. Hebrews 4:14-16

e. Hebrews 6:19-20 - this doesn't mention the throne, but what does this verse imply?

f. Hebrews 8:1-2

g. Hebrews 9:11-12, 14 - If He entered the holy place, where did He enter?

h. Hebrews 10:12-13

i. Hebrews 12:2

DAY 3

1. What do you learn about the veil in Hebrews 10?

2. Let's look at some cross-references from the Gospels. Keep in mind the veil, its position in the Tabernacle, and its mention in Hebrews 10. As you look up the Scripture, write down any comparisons or parallels between Matthew, John, and Hebrews.

a. Matthew 27:45-53

b. John 14:1-6

3. How would you explain the symbolism of the veil and what happened to it when Christ was crucified?

4. In a sentence or two, summarize what you think God is showing us regarding the veil as we move from the Old Testament shadow to the New Testament substance.

In Hebrews 8:13 the author tells us that the New Covenant makes the Old Covenant obsolete. In Hebrews 10:9 we read that the first is taken away in order to establish the second. Think about this. Why and how does the New Covenant make the Old Covenant obsolete? What does this mean to you as a Christian? How would you explain this to someone? Think through this. The act of writing this out on paper will make you have to process all this information and put your thoughts into words.

1. We come to another warning passage in Hebrews 10:26-31. Read it through and then ask the 5 W's and an H. Write out your insights below.

- 2. You may have already covered this in your first point; however, you need to make sure that you consider this warning in light of what the author has already said. Therefore, write out the answers to the following questions.
 - a. How does this warning compare with the previous warning in Hebrews?

b. Do you see any parallels between this warning and the one in Hebrews 2:1-4?

c. Can you see any parallels between the way the author of Hebrews deals with the recipients of his letter in Hebrews 6:1-12 and Hebrews 10:26-29? If so, what are they?

- 3. In Hebrews 10:26-29 the author tells what happens when a person goes on sinning willfully.
 - a. Read Numbers 15:22-31. In the Old Testament passage you see the difference between unintentional sin and defiant sin. What do you learn from this passage, and how does it compare with Hebrews 10:26-29?

b. "Go on sinning" is a present active participle. What insight does this give you?

c. Explain what is happening in Hebrews 10:29.

- 4. Once again, in Hebrews 10:30-31, the author reminds his readers of the character of God; he again quotes the Old Testament.
 - a. Read Deuteronomy 32:35-36 and note how the author quotes from the song of Moses.
 - b. Read Psalm 145:20, and write it out.

c. Note the reference to "the living God" in Hebrews 3:12. Why this designation for God? What does the author want his readers to see, to recognize, to realize?

- 5. Read what your commentaries have to say on Hebrews 10:26-31.
- 6. Summarize what you think the author is saying 10:26-31.

In the last days there will be those who are apostates. They will walk away from God. We have seen that in the past. It is becoming more prevalent as we head towards the last days. How do you tell whether someone is faithful or an apostate? When the hard times come, faith endures and the faithful draw near to God; apostasy departs.

DAY 1

1. We are going to begin this week by reading Hebrews 10:32-12:3. As you read through this passage note the use of the words "confidence," "reward," and "endurance." If you have not marked those as key words, you want to do that now. When you are finished reading and marking, write a statement of the exhortation that the author sets forth in this passage.

2. In Hebrews 10:37-38 the author loosely quotes from Habakkuk 2:3-4. The book of Habakkuk is a preexilic book, which means that it was written before the southern kingdom of Judah was taken into exile by Babylon (Chaldeans). God raised them up to take Israel (Judah) into captivity. Why would God allow that to happen to His own people? The Chaldeans were God's means to bring judgment to His disobedient people (Habakkuk 1:12). This passage in Habakkuk is also quoted in Romans 1:17 and Galatians 3:11. Look up these references and then consider them in light of Hebrews 10:37-38 and its context. What do you think the author is saying as he quotes this passage?

3. Look up the following words in your Greek word study books. Looking at this definitions will help us to better appreciate what the author is saying. Be sure to include the transliteration as well as the definition of each word.

a. Shrink back

b. Destruction

4. Once again the author points the attention of his readers to the Lord's coming. Look up the following references in Hebrews, and note what you learn about the future from each reference. If you are not familiar with eschatology (the events of end times) look back to lesson 7 and you will find a chart of "God's Plans for the Ages." You can refer to that chart as you look at these verses.

a. Hebrews 1:13

b. Hebrews 2:5

c. Hebrews 6:11-12

d. Hebrews 9:27-28

e. Hebrews 10:25 (To what day do you think the author is referring?)

f. Hebrews 12:25-28

g. Hebrews 13:14

DAY 2

Read through your Observation Worksheets for Hebrews chapter 11, and complete the steps to a thorough chapter study on this chapter. Take your time as you work through it, and allow God to use this chapter to help build your faith. Record any insights you might have on this chapter below.

DAY 3 THROUGH DAY 5

Now let's focus on what faith truly is. Hebrews 11 is referred to the "faith" chapter or the "Hall of Faith." This is certainly not a new subject for this author, but he hits it hard in this chapter. What you want to discover is how the author develops the subject of faith not only through this chapter but through the entire book. That is going to be your assignment for the next three days. You are going to put together a synopsis (an overview or summary of faith). This synopsis is going to consist of the following points

- 1. The definition of faith compare it with the Greek word for believe
- 2. The necessity of faith How important is faith according to the author or Hebrews?
- 3. The manifestation of faith According to Hebrews if you really believe, what will you do?
- 4. The principles of faith that can be applied to your own life

Acquire your information not only from the Scriptures that you read, but you can also use your word study tools or your commentaries.

Please read through the assignments for the rest of this week, so you can determine how much time to spend on each. Below is how I would suggest you break up the assignments, but feel free to complete the assignment anyway you feel will work best for you.

1st day

Read chapter 11 making pertinent notes and doing any word studies necessary for understanding and application for your synopsis.

Hebrews

Lesson 22 - Chapter 10 & 11

2nd day

Look at all the verses in Hebrews that mentions faith, and keep them in their context. Take pertinent notes for your synopsis.

1. Hebrews 2:17

2. Hebrews 3:2-6

3. Hebrews 4:2

4. Hebrews 6:1

5. Hebrews 6:12

6. Hebrews 10:22-23

7. Hebrews 10:38-39

8. Hebrews 11 (these you already looked at)

9. Hebrews 12:2

10. Hebrews 13:7

3rd day

Take all the references and the studies you have done and form your synopsis of faith. I Pray that you will be truly blessed by this assignment.

Are you in a trial right now? Are you going through a difficult situation? Have you ever viewed these difficult times as a necessary part of your training as a child of God? Would it make a difference in your life if you did?

DAY 1

I want to give you one more day to read through Hebrews 11. This is such a precious chapter, and I want to make sure that you have the opportunity to look at it with fresh eyes one more time. Read through chapter 11 and meditate on it today. What can you learn from this chapter that you can apply to your life from this day forward? Prayerfully work through that question.

DAY 2 AND DAY 3

- 1. Complete a chapter study of Hebrews 12.
- 2. Begin memorizing Hebrews 12:1-3. Read these verses aloud three times in a row, at three different intervals during the day.

DAY 4 1. Do word studies on the following words in Hebrews 12.

- a. Witnesses Hebrews 12:1
- b. Encumbrance (weight, KJV) Hebrews 12:1
- c. Sin Hebrews 12:1

d. Entangles (beset, KJV) - Hebrews 12:1

e. Endurance (patience, KJV) - Hebrews 12:1 - Note every use of this word in Hebrews 12.

f. Author - Hebrews 12:2

- g. Perfecter (finisher, KJV) Hebrews 12:2
- h. Discipline (chastening, KJV) Hebrews 12:5 Note the use of this word throughout the chapter.
- i. Scourges (scoureth, KJV) Hebrews 12:6
- j. Holiness, sanctification (holiness, KJV) Hebrews 12:10,14
- 2. Work on your memory verses.

Having observed Hebrews 12 and having done some key word studies, consider Hebrews 12 in the context of all the author has said to this point. Write out how Hebrews 12 fits into the author's purpose for writing. Also, note how it functions in the structure of the letter.

As you write out this assignment, do it as though you are trying to explain it to someone else, someone you are teaching or discipling. Make sure to include practical applications.

Note that we will be going into more depth on this chapter next week, so you may not have all the information to explain completely at this point in time.

Hebrews Lesson 23 - Chapter 11 &12

What is keeping you from being all that God longs for you to be? What is encumbering you?

DAY 1

- 1. Read through Hebrew 12 and the word studies that you did last week. Also read through your analysis of the way Hebrews 12 fits in with the purpose and structure of the letter.
- 2. What do you see as "the race that is set before us?" Obviously, this phrase is a metaphor, but what does it represent? A metaphor is a figure of speech meant to help you understand a point that is being made. We are not actually running a race, but it likens our Christian walk to a race.

To help you answer this question, look at the following cross-references that use athletic terms, and then write out your answer: I Corinthians 9:24-27; Philippians 2:16; 3:12-14; II Timothy 2:3-5; 4:7-8.

DAY 2

Do this day step by step. Don't read the next step until you have completed the one before. Take your time to think through each step. You may want to record your insights as you meditate on these questions. I left you plenty of room to write down your thoughts. Again, take your time and think through these questions.

1. Think about Jesus Christ and what He went through at Calvary for your sake. Ask God to give you a glimpse of what the Lamb of God endured for you in order to take away your sin.

2. Ask God to constantly remind you that Jesus is at the right hand of the throne of God interceding for you. Thank Him for all that He did. Think about the difference He has made and will make in your life.

3. Remember that one day you will stand before the Father and the Son and give an account of what you have done with your life since you came to know the Lord Jesus Christ and became a part of the family of God. Read II Corinthians 5:10 and Romans 14:10-12. Record those things which you think He will bring into accountability.

4. If you were to die today, if this were to be the end of your pilgrimage on earth, what kind of a reward do you think you would have at this point in your life? Read I John 2:28 and I Corinthians 3:10-17; and then, as objectively as possible, answer this question.

5. Ask God to search your heart and life and show you, by His Spirit, the sins and encumbrances that are keeping you from running the race that is set before you. Tell God that you want Him alone to search you, and that you refuse any condemnation that would come from Satan, the accuser of the brethren. Ask God to protect your heart and mind. Anything that God brings to your heart and mind will be for you ultimate good so that you might be able to pursue holiness. List the sins and encumbrances in the appropriate column on the following chart, leaving a line or two between each one.

Sins and Encumbrances	Action I Need to Take

6. Finally, go through the list of sins and encumbrances. Next to each one write the specific action you need to take in order to lay it aside.

- 1. In Hebrews 12:5-6, the author quotes Proverbs 3:11-12. Read these verses in the context of Proverbs 3:1-12.
- 2. From your understanding of Hebrews, how would you describe the discipline that the Hebrews are experiencing?

3. According to Hebrews 12, what place does discipline have in the life of a child of God? Why? What is the purpose of discipline? What is true if discipline is not present?

4. How would you compare Hebrews 5:8 with the message of Hebrews 12?

- 5. Look up the following passages and consider them in the light of discipline that belongs to the child of God. Next to each reference, briefly state what you learn and how it correlates with Hebrews 12.
 - a. Psalm 119:67, 71

b. Deuteronomy 8:1-5

c. Isaiah 54:9-17

d. James 1:2-4, 12

e. I Peter 1:6-9

DAY 4

1. Just to put you into context, answer the following question simply from what the author shares in Hebrews 12. Give a thorough answer. What is God's goal for us - His purpose - in disciplining us?

2. In Hebrews 12:11 we find the phrase "the peaceful fruit of righteousness." Look up Isaiah 32:17 and then explain what you think this phrase means and what relationship it might have to holiness.

3. Read Hebrews 12:12-13. In your own words, explain what you think the author is saying in the context. However, before you do, read Proverbs 4:20-27.

4. Read Hebrews 12:14. Then look up the following cross-references, noting any parallels or insights you glean from comparing Scripture with Scripture. Keep in mind the definition of "sanctification."

a. Matthew 5:8

b. Leviticus 11:45

c. I Peter 1:15

d. I Thessalonians 4:1-8 - Note other verses in Hebrews 12 and 13 which this exhortation parallels in regards to a specific type of sin.

e. Ephesians 5:3-7

f. I Corinthians 6:9-11

g. Revelation 21:27

h. Revelation 22:12-15

1. Read the exhortation and example of Hebrews 12:15-17, and then look up Deuteronomy 29:1-21 and Acts 8:18-24 to get a better understanding regarding this "root of bitterness." Remember, Hebrews is written to Jews who would be familiar with the Scripture. Explain what you think a root of bitterness might be.

2. Let's take a look at Esau. Read Genesis 25:19-34 and list the main points.

- 3. Read Genesis 27:1-41. Note Esau's tears over losing his birthright.
 - a. What do you learn about Esau's sorrow from this passage? Why do you think he wept? Because he forfeited a God-given privilege in his birthright or because he missed material gain?

b. There is a question among theologians as to whether the term "immoral" (profane, KJV) refers to Esau or simply describes the type of person later to be dealt with in Hebrews 13:4. Some think it refers to Esau because of his marriages. Look up the following verses and note why some scholars would adopt this view: Genesis 26:34-35 and 27:46. Genesis 26:35 can read "they were a bitterness of spirit to Isaac and Rebekah."

c. Look up II Corinthians 7:9-10. What two kinds of sorrows are mentioned in this passage? What is the product of each type of sorrow?

d. What kind of repentance do you think Esau experienced? Why?

4. Can you see any comparison between Esau and Hebrews 6:4-8? Explain your answer.

5. At this point if you have any study time left, feel free to read what your commentaries have to say about Hebrews 12:1-17. Record any pertinent notes.

6. One more question, and we will call it a week. Take a few minutes to reflect on what you have learned this week. How has God spoken to you personally? Write it out.

DAY 1

1. Today we are going to complete our look at Hebrews 12. To refresh your memory read through chapter 12 again. There is a division in this chapter between verses 17 and 18. Can you see the change? How does Hebrews 12:18-29 fit with what had been said in Hebrews 12:1-17?

2. In Hebrews 12:18-27 the Old and New Testaments are once again contrasted. The Old Covenant brought the people to Mount Sinai, the New Covenant brings us to the heavenly Mount Zion, the New Jerusalem. Note the contrasts that the author makes between these two mountains.

- 3. Look up the following Old Testament passages and see what they teach you about Mount Sinai.
 - a. Exodus 19:1-25

b. Exodus 20:18-21

c. Deuteronomy 4:10-20

- 4. Now read Hebrews 12:25. How does this compare with what has already been said in the book of Hebrews?
- 5. Let's take a little closer look at the shaking that is going to take place which Hebrews 12:26-29 mentions? The author takes the readers back to the prophet Haggai. To set this book in context, Haggai was a postexilic prophet who was told that the time had come to rebuild the temple (house) of the Lord. The Babylonians had destroyed the temple when they took Judah into captivity in 586 BC.
 - a. Read Haggai 2:5-9. It speaks of the latter glory of the temple being greater, yet the temple built under the remnant was not greater. Therefore, it seems to be a prophecy yet unfulfilled. How, then, does Haggai 2:5-9 correspond with Hebrews 12:26-29?

b. Revelation tells us about the New Heaven and New Earth that comes after the shaking. If you have time, you can read Revelation 21:1-22:5.

DAY 2

Complete a chapter study on Hebrews chapter 13.

DAY 3 AND DAY 4

Hebrews 12:28-29 says, "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; for our God is a consuming fire."

According to the book of Hebrews, if you are going to show gratitude to your Father and His Son for the kingdom They wrought for you, what would you do to offer God an acceptable service? Think of this as you review Hebrews chapter by chapter. Then write down what you would do. Use extra paper so that you have plenty of space to record your answer.

1. Hebrews 13:1 begins with the practical exhortation to allow love of the brethren to continue. How important is this to you as a child of God? Look up the following cross-references and carefully note what we learn regarding love of the brethren. Remember, if you are going to walk in obedience to this exhortation, you need to understand it and all its implications. The Greek word for "love of the brethren" is *philadelphia*. If you are not familiar with this word, it is #5360 - brotherly love out of a common spiritual life; friendship and fondness.

a. I Thessalonians 4:9-10

b. I John 3:16-19

c. I John 4:20-5:3

d. Matthew 22:34-40

e. Romans 13:8-10

f. Luke 10:25-37

2. Having looked up these Scriptures, summarize the importance of this exhortation to the Christian and also the relationship of the exhortation to Hebrews 13:2-4.

3. Now for a question that might have been on your mind. What is the Christian's relationship under the New Covenant to the Law? Does becoming a Christian make one lawless? Read Christ's words in Matthew 5:17. Then read the other cross references and record what you learn.

a. Romans 8:1-4

b. John 13:34-35

4. Reason this question through. How does a Christian fulfill the Law under the New Covenant?

DAY 5

1. Let's return to the specific command to let love of the brethren continue. How will this love manifest itself? Read I Corinthians 13:4-8 and record how love will show itself in your life. Look up any words that you may be unfamiliar with. Write down how you are going to show this love to others in your life.

2. If the love of the brethren is to continue, then the gift of hospitality even to strangers will not be neglected! When the author of Hebrews sets forth this exhortation, he reminds his readers that they might even be entertaining angels without knowing it. Surely, being Hebrews, their minds would go back to Father Abraham. Read Genesis 18:1-19:1. Note how many angels Abraham entertained and who one of them was. Note how this hospitality was demonstrated.

3. Read the following passages, and note how they complement Hebrews 13:1-2.

a. Romans 12:9-13

b. I Timothy 3:1-2; Titus 1:5-9

c. I Peter 4:9

4. When Christ returns to earth to rule and reign, there will be a judgment of all the nations that are existing at that time. Read what Matthew 25:31-46 has to say about this judgment. Ask the 5 W's and an H, and then record what you learn and how this could relate to the precepts being taught in Hebrews 13:1-3.

5. If a Christian today were to be obedient to this command to be hospitable, how would this hospitality be demonstrated practically? Give this question some thought.

- 6. Now answer these couple of questions.
 - a. How given are you to hospitality?

b. Is hospitality only the woman's responsibility? Give a reason for your answer.

c. If you are not given to hospitality, do you have a valid excuse before the Lord? (For example, would the desire for a perfectly clean house, a specifically prepared meal, or your favorite television programs prevent you from obeying the Lord's command?)

This is our last week of study. What a great study this has been. So remain faithful to the end as we finish up the book of Hebrews.

DAY 1

1. To start out this last week, let's read through Hebrews 13 once again. Last week we looked at hospitality, bringing people into our lives, our homes. What about going out to meet people where they are out. We are going to look up several Scriptures that will show why it is vital to remember those in prison as though in prison with them and those who are ill-treated. As you look up the passages, write out what they teach in relationship to the command in Hebrews 13:3.

a. Ephesians 5:29-30

b. I Corinthians 12:12-27

c. Philippians 2:1-11

- 2. Some remember the prisoners and those who are ill-treated by reading and listening to stories of those who are suffering in one way or another. There are those who don't want to know about people who are suffering because knowing is too painful. Why would I want to feel the pain that comes from the knowledge of others suffering? Here are some practical ways to put Hebrews 13:3 into practice in your life.
 - a. Ask God to lay a specific country or area of the world on your heart. Then get in touch with a reputable foreign mission work that labors in that particular area. Write and ask how you can be kept abreast of the needs of Christians in that part of the world.

b. Establish a plan or set aside a specific day or time to intercede on behalf of those imprisoned and ill-treated because of their testimony for Jesus Christ. Ask God to give you specific Scriptures and specific things to pray on their behalf. Don't grow weary in well-doing; know that the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

DAY 2

How do we "offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe?" We want to examine the three M's - marriage, morality, and money. These represent three areas in a Christian's life where the battle - although subtle - is very great. Often we have problems because we are not aware of Satan's subtle methods and devices to lead us astray in these areas.

1. Read Hebrews 13:4 and look up the Greek words for "adulterers" and "fornicators." Note the English transliteration on both of these words.

2. Look at I Corinthians 7:1-5 and Proverbs 5:15-23. Considering each passage in the light of Hebrews 11:4, and write out what God's Word teaches regarding the sexual relationship between a husband and wife.

3. "Fornication" refers to various kinds of sexual impurity. Read Leviticus 20:10-21, 26 and list what God considers improper sexual expression.

4. Go back to I Corinthians 7:1-2 again and use it along with Hebrews 13:4 to answer this question: What are God's boundaries or limits in the area of sexual expression?

DAY 3

1. Let's take a look at the area of money. According to Hebrews 13:5-6, what should be our attitude toward money? Why?

2. Look up the following Scriptures and note what you learn from each regarding a Christian's attitude toward money:

a. Matthew 6:19-34

b. I Timothy 6:6-11

c. I John 2:15-17

d. Philippians 4:11-19

e. Colossians 3:5

3. Examine your life and ask God to show you any area in which you are not free from the love of money. Record what He shows you so that you can look back on it and think about it. Write out what specific steps you need to take in order to be obedient to God's Word.

4. As you read Hebrews 13:7-8, go back and read Hebrews 2:3-4. What relationship do you see between these two passages? What relationship do you think Hebrews 13:8 has to Hebrews 13:7? What is the author of Hebrews exhorting his readers to do? Write down your thoughts.

- 5. Imitate another's faith? Is that Biblical? Look up the following Scriptures and note what you learn.
 - a. I Corinthians 4:14-17; 11:1

b. Philippians 3:17-19

c. I Timothy 4:12-16

- 6. Next to the Word of God, nothing can have a greater impact on a believer's life than the biographies of men and women, who not only started, but who also finished the race in a way pleasing to our Lord. Get into a habit of reading biographies. As you do, keep the Word of God as your plumb line. The heroes of the faith - Old Testament, New Testament, yesterday's, and today's - all have feet of clay. They lived in bodies of flesh and none of them had or have the corner of truth. Remember that God uses imperfect people because that is all He has until we put off this tent and are clothed with our new body from heaven. Some suggestions would be stories on the lives of:
 - a. Andrew Murray
 - b. Dwight L. Moody
 - c. George Whitefield
 - d. Amy Carmichael
 - e. George Mueller
 - f. Isobel Kuhn
 - g. Esther Ahn Kim
 - h. C. T. Studd
 - i. Gladys Aylward
 - j. Peace Child Don Richardson
 - k. Bruchko Bruce Olson
 - I. Vanya

DAY 4

1. We have two more days so finish strong. Begin your time in prayer as we wrap up our study. In the light of all you have learned and keeping in mind the first recipients of the Epistle to the Hebrews, what do you think the varied and strange teachings referred to in Hebrews 13:9-13 center on? Consider this question in the light of the Old Testament economy and in the light of the following cross-references:

a. Colossians 2:16-23

- b. I Timothy 4:1-6
- c. Romans 14:1-4, 6, 14-23
- 2. How would a Hebrew Christian go outside the camp and bear Christ's reproach? How does this admonition fit into the Epistle to the Hebrews?

3. How would the exhortation of Hebrews 13:9-13 apply to us today? Can it apply?

4. What two types of sacrifices are we exhorted to offer in Hebrews 13:15-16? Explain practical ways by which one would offer such sacrifices. Note how these sacrifices would apply to those who received this letter and to us.

5. Read I Thessalonians 5:18, Ephesians 5:18-20, and Romans 8:28-30. Write out how and why one could offer God praise as a sacrifice to his own evaluation of the situation. Remember what you learned about faith and the "rest."

DAY 5

1. What do you learn from Hebrews 13:17-19 about leadership: leaders' responsibility to us and our responsibility to them?

- 2. Let's look at some cross-references on leadership and see what we can learn from them. Record your insights next to each one.
 - a. I Thessalonians 5:12-13
 - b. I Corinthians 16:15-16
 - c. James 3:1
 - d. I Corinthians 3:5-17

3. Study the benediction of Hebrews 13:20-21. How is this a fitting closing to the Epistle to the Hebrews?

4. Finally, list at least four specific truths that God has taught you through your study of Hebrews. How will these truths practically affect your walk as a child of God?

Chapter Title:

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

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

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

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

⁵ For to which of the angels did He ever say,

"YOU ARE MY SON,

TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU"?

And again,

"I WILL BE A FATHER TO HIM

AND HE SHALL BE A SON TO ME"?

⁶ And when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says,

"AND LET ALL THE ANGELS OF GOD WORSHIP HIM."

⁷ And of the angels He says,

"WHO MAKES HIS ANGELS WINDS,

AND HIS MINISTERS A FLAME OF FIRE."

⁸ But of the Son He says,

"YOUR THRONE, O GOD, IS FOREVER AND EVER,

AND THE RIGHTEOUS SCEPTER IS THE SCEPTER OF HIS KINGDOM.

⁹ "YOU HAVE LOVED RIGHTEOUSNESS AND HATED LAWLESSNESS; THEREFORE GOD, YOUR GOD, HAS ANOINTED YOU WITH THE OIL OF GLADNESS ABOVE YOUR COMPANIONS." ¹⁰ And,

 "YOU, LORD, IN THE BEGINNING LAID THE FOUNDATION OF THE EARTH,
 AND THE HEAVENS ARE THE WORKS OF YOUR HANDS;
 THEY WILL PERISH, BUT YOU REMAIN;
 AND THEY ALL WILL BECOME OLD LIKE A GARMENT,
 AND LIKE A MANTLE YOU WILL ROLL THEM UP;
 LIKE A GARMENT THEY WILL ALSO BE CHANGED.
 BUT YOU ARE THE SAME,
 AND YOUR YEARS WILL NOT COME TO AN END."
 But to which of the angels has He ever said,
 "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND,
 UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES

A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET"?

¹⁴ Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?

Chapter Title:

¹ For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it.

² For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty,

³ how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard,

⁴ God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.

⁵ For He did not subject to angels the world to come, concerning which we are speaking.

⁶ But one has testified somewhere, saying,

"WHAT IS MAN, THAT YOU REMEMBER HIM?

OR THE SON OF MAN, THAT YOU ARE CONCERNED ABOUT HIM?

⁷ "YOU HAVE MADE HIM FOR A LITTLE WHILE LOWER THAN THE ANGELS;

YOU HAVE CROWNED HIM WITH GLORY AND HONOR,

AND HAVE APPOINTED HIM OVER THE WORKS OF YOUR HANDS;

⁸ YOU HAVE PUT ALL THINGS IN SUBJECTION UNDER HIS FEET."

For in subjecting all things to him, He left nothing that is not subject to him. But now we do not yet see all things subjected to him.

Jesus Briefly Humbled

⁹ But we do see Him who was made for a little while lower than the angels, namely, Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone.

¹⁰ For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to perfect the author of their salvation through sufferings.

¹¹ For both He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from one Father; for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren,

12 saying,

"I WILL PROCLAIM YOUR NAME TO MY BRETHREN,

IN THE MIDST OF THE CONGREGATION I WILL SING YOUR PRAISE." ¹³ And again,

"I WILL PUT MY TRUST IN HIM."

And again,

"BEHOLD, I AND THE CHILDREN WHOM GOD HAS GIVEN ME."

¹⁴ Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,

¹⁵ and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.

¹⁶ For assuredly He does not give help to angels, but He gives help to the descendant of Abraham.

¹⁷ Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

¹⁸ For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.

Chapter Title:

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

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

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

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

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

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

⁷ Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit says,

"TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE,

- ⁸ DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS AS WHEN THEY PROVOKED ME, AS IN THE DAY OF TRIAL IN THE WILDERNESS,
- ⁹ WHERE YOUR FATHERS TRIED Me BY TESTING Me, AND SAW MY WORKS FOR FORTY YEARS.
- ¹⁰ "THEREFORE I WAS ANGRY WITH THIS GENERATION, AND SAID, 'THEY ALWAYS GO ASTRAY IN THEIR HEART, AND THEY DID NOT KNOW MY WAYS';
- ¹¹ AS I SWORE IN MY WRATH,'THEY SHALL NOT ENTER MY REST.'"

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

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

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

¹⁵ while it is said,

"TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE,

DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS, AS WHEN THEY PROVOKED ME."

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

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

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

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

Chapter Title:

¹ Therefore, let us fear if, while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you may seem to have come short of it.

 2 For indeed we have had good news preached to us, just as they also; but the word they heard did not profit them, because it was not united by faith in those who heard.

³ For we who have believed enter that rest, just as He has said,

"AS I SWORE IN MY WRATH,

THEY SHALL NOT ENTER MY REST,"

although His works were finished from the foundation of the world. ⁴ For He has said somewhere concerning the seventh day: "AND GOD RESTED ON THE SEVENTH DAY FROM ALL HIS WORKS";

⁵ and again in this passage, "THEY SHALL NOT ENTER MY REST."

⁶ Therefore, since it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly had good news preached to them failed to enter because of disobedience,

⁷ He again fixes a certain day, "Today," saying through David after so long a time just as has been said before,

"TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE,

DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS."

⁸ For if Joshua had given them rest, He would not have spoken of another day after that.

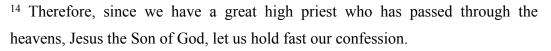
⁹ So there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God.

¹⁰ For the one who has entered His rest has himself also rested from his works, as God did from His.

¹¹ Therefore let us be diligent to enter that rest, so that no one will fall, through following the same example of disobedience.

¹² For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

¹³ And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.



¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.

¹⁶ Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Chapter Title:

¹ For every high priest taken from among men is appointed on behalf of men in things pertaining to God, in order to offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins;

² he can deal gently with the ignorant and misguided, since he himself also is beset with weakness;

³ and because of it he is obligated to offer sacrifices for sins, as for the people, so also for himself.

⁴ And no one takes the honor to himself, but receives it when he is called by God, even as Aaron was.

⁵ So also Christ did not glorify Himself so as to become a high priest, but He who said to Him,

"YOU ARE MY SON,

TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU";

⁶ just as He says also in another passage,

"YOU ARE A PRIEST FOREVER

ACCORDING TO THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK."

⁷ In the days of His flesh, He offered up both prayers and supplications with loud crying and tears to the One able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His piety.

⁸ Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered.

⁹ And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation,

¹⁰ being designated by God as a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

¹¹ Concerning him we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.

¹² For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food.

¹³ For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant.

¹⁴ But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.

Chapter Title:

¹ Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,

² of instruction about washings and laying on of hands, and the resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment.

³ And this we will do, if God permits.

⁴ For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit,

⁵ and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come,

⁶ and then have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God and put Him to open shame.

⁷ For ground that drinks the rain which often falls on it and brings forth vegetation useful to those for whose sake it is also tilled, receives a blessing from God;

⁸ but if it yields thorns and thistles, it is worthless and close to being cursed, and it ends up being burned.

⁹ But, beloved, we are convinced of better things concerning you, and things that accompany salvation, though we are speaking in this way.

¹⁰ For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints.

¹¹ And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end,

¹² so that you will not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

¹³ For when God made the promise to Abraham, since He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself,

¹⁴ saying, "I WILL SURELY BLESS YOU AND I WILL SURELY MULTIPLY YOU."

¹⁵ And so, having patiently waited, he obtained the promise.

¹⁶ For men swear by one greater than themselves, and with them an oath given as confirmation is an end of every dispute.

¹⁷ In the same way God, desiring even more to show to the heirs of the promise the unchangeableness of His purpose, interposed with an oath,

¹⁸ so that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us.

¹⁹ This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil,

²⁰ where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

Chapter Title:

¹ For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham as he was returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him,
 ² to whom also Abraham apportioned a tenth part of all the spoils, was first of all,

by the translation of his name, king of righteousness, and then also king of Salem, which is king of peace.

³ Without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, he remains a priest perpetually.

⁵ And those indeed of the sons of Levi who receive the priest's office have commandment in the Law to collect a tenth from the people, that is, from their brethren, although these are descended from Abraham.

⁶ But the one whose genealogy is not traced from them collected a tenth from Abraham and blessed the one who had the promises.

⁷ But without any dispute the lesser is blessed by the greater.

⁸ In this case mortal men receive tithes, but in that case one receives them, of whom it is witnessed that he lives on.

⁹ And, so to speak, through Abraham even Levi, who received tithes, paid tithes, ¹⁰ for he was still in the loins of his father when Melchizedek met him.

¹¹ Now if perfection was through the Levitical priesthood (for on the basis of it the people received the Law), what further need was there for another priest to arise according to the order of Melchizedek, and not be designated according to the order of Aaron?

¹² For when the priesthood is changed, of necessity there takes place a change of law also.

⁴ Now observe how great this man was to whom Abraham, the patriarch, gave a tenth of the choicest spoils.

¹³ For the one concerning whom these things are spoken belongs to another tribe, from which no one has officiated at the altar.

¹⁴ For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, a tribe with reference to which Moses spoke nothing concerning priests.

¹⁵ And this is clearer still, if another priest arises according to the likeness of Melchizedek,

¹⁶ who has become such not on the basis of a law of physical requirement, but according to the power of an indestructible life.

¹⁷ For it is attested of Him,

"YOU ARE A PRIEST FOREVER

ACCORDING TO THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK."

¹⁸ For, on the one hand, there is a setting aside of a former commandment because of its weakness and uselessness

¹⁹ (for the Law made nothing perfect), and on the other hand there is a bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God.

²⁰ And inasmuch as it was not without an oath

²¹ (for they indeed became priests without an oath, but He with an oath through the One who said to Him,

"THE LORD HAS SWORN

AND WILL NOT CHANGE HIS MIND,

'YOU ARE A PRIEST FOREVER'");

²² so much the more also Jesus has become the guarantee of a better covenant.

²³ The former priests, on the one hand, existed in greater numbers because they were prevented by death from continuing,

²⁴ but Jesus, on the other hand, because He continues forever, holds His priesthood permanently.

²⁵ Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

²⁶ For it was fitting for us to have such a high priest, holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners and exalted above the heavens;

²⁷ who does not need daily, like those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the sins of the people, because this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.

²⁸ For the Law appoints men as high priests who are weak, but the word of the oath, which came after the Law, appoints a Son, made perfect forever.

Chapter Title:

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.

Chapter Title:

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.

Chapter Title:

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.

Chapter Title:

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.

Chapter Title:

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.

Chapter Title:

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 illtreated, 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.