

A Study of the EPISTLE TO THE HEBREWS

“May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever.

Amen.”

-Hebrews 13:20,21

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INSTRUCTIONS

This study is formatted to be a daily study of Hebrews to be done over a period of 14 weeks. I have tried to design questions that will require, on average, about 20 minutes a day to answer. That being said, please remember that the death of a good Bible study is a legalistic adherence to a “list” or schedule. Godly discipline requires a sensitivity to what the Holy Spirit wants to teach us. If you find yourself being led in a direction different from where my questions would take you, forget my questions, and listen to the “higher authority.” Most of all, enjoy the Word of God. There is no book like it in all of creation.

BRIEF BACKGROUND NOTES ON HEBREWS

What Kind of Literature Is It? “Though we usually call Hebrews a letter, important epistolary features are lacking for this book. But if we cannot straightforwardly label it a letter, there are at least indications that it was meant for a restricted circle of readers, not for the general public or even the general Christian public. The recipients are a group who ought to be teachers (5:12). The writer knows them and looks forward to visiting them (13:19, 23). He has a good opinion of them (6:9). He can ask for their prayers (13:18) and give them news of their mutual friend Timothy (13:23). The writer recalls “earlier days” (10:32) and remembers persecutions that his friends had endured (10:32; 12:4), their generosity to other believers (6:10), and their cheerful attitude when their property had been confiscated (10:32-34). He knows their present attitude toward their leaders (13:17). In the light of such statements, it is plain that the writer is addressing a definite, known group, and a small one at that (not many Christians would qualify for the position of teacher).”**

Who Wrote It? Nobody knows. Most likely it wasn’t Paul. Barnabas and Apollos are two frequently mentioned possibilities.

Who Were the Recipients? Probably Jewish-Christians living in Rome.

When Was it Written? “A date before A.D. 70 is indicated, but how much before that we cannot say.”**

** *Quotations are taken from Zondervan’s NIV Bible Library software.*

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WEEK ONE:

1:1-4. Introduction: God has spoken to us in His Son.

Day One: _____

1. Read Hebrews 1:1-4.
2. In the Greek, Hebrews 1:1-4 constitutes one sentence. Write out what you think are the most important thoughts in this first “sentence.”

Day Two: _____

1. Read Hebrews 1:1-4.
2. Look up and write out the following verses
1 Corinthians 1:30,31.
1 Corinthians 2:12,13.
1 Corinthians 2:16.

3. What do you think it means when it says in verse 2, “in these last days [He] has spoken to us in *His Son*?” (Literally, “in Son.”) How exactly has God spoken to us “in Jesus?” How is God speaking “in Son” different from God speaking “in the prophets?” In other words, is there more to God speaking to us “in Jesus” than a written record of His teaching?

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Day Three: _____

1. Read Hebrews 1:1-4.
2. The following seven statements about Jesus appear in these verses:
 - (1) God appointed Jesus heir of all things.
 - (2) God made the world through Jesus.
 - (3) Jesus is the radiance of God’s glory.
 - (4) Jesus is the exact representation of God’s nature.
 - (5) Jesus “upholds” (NIV: “sustains”) all things by the word of His power.
 - (6) Jesus made purification of sins.
 - (7) Jesus sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

Do you have any response to these seven statements? Anything that you found particularly noteworthy? Anything that you found confusing?

Day Four: _____

1. Read Hebrews 1:1-4.
2. Do you think it’s a little weird that in verse 2 it says that God “*appointed*” Jesus heir of all things? It sounds like God the Father is the One who gives the orders, and Jesus is the One who follows them. What do you think about that? (Check out 1 Corinthians 15:23-28.)

Day Five: _____

1. Read Hebrews 1:1-4.
2. It says in verse 3 that after Jesus made purification of sins, “He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high (verse 3)?” Do you think Jesus really “sat down?” What is the significance of this statement?

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Day Six: _____

1. Reread Hebrews 1:1-4.
2. What did you learn about God this week that was either new or especially impacting for you?
3. Can you think of some personal applications from what you learned this week?

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WEEK TWO:

1:1-4. Introduction: God has spoken to us in His Son.

1:5-13. Christ is much better than the angels.

Day One: _____

1. Read Hebrews 1:1-4.
2. In verse 3 it says that Jesus is the “exact representation of God’s nature.” How strong an evidence for the Deity of Christ is this statement?
- 3a. Look up and write out the following verses:
 - 2 Corinthians 4:4.
 - Colossians 1:15.

3b. Do you think these two verses also provide strong evidence for the Deity of Christ? (NOTE: The Greek word for “image” used in the verses above is different from the Greek word for “exact representation” in Hebrews 1:3.)

Day Two: _____

1. Read 2 Corinthians 4:4 and Colossians 1:15.
2. Look up and write out the following verses (note that the Greek word translated “image” or “likeness” in the verses below is the same Greek word for “image” in 2 Corinthians 4:4 and Colossians 1:15).

Romans 8:29.

1 Corinthians 11:7.

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1 Corinthians 15:49.

2 Corinthians 3:18.

3. After reading the verses above, do you still believe that 2 Corinthians 4:4 and Colossians 1:15 provide strong evidence for the Deity of Christ?

Day Three: _____

1. Read Hebrews 1:1-4.

2. Now go back and reconsider the question, How strong an evidence for the Deity of Christ is the statement in verse 3 that Jesus is the “exact representation of God’s nature?” What do you need to know before you can confidently answer this question? What do you think “exact representation of God’s nature” means?

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Day Four: _____

1. Read Hebrews 1:5-13.

2. Verses 5-13 identify a number of ways in which Jesus became much better than the angels. These include:

(1) God called Jesus His Son, and Himself Jesus’ Father, but He never said that to the angels.

(2) God tells the angels to worship Jesus.

(3) God’s angels are “ministers,” but Jesus is called “God,” and Jesus’ throne is forever and ever.

(4) Jesus laid the foundations of the world, and created the heavens, and the angels did not.

(5) Jesus is eternal, and the angels are not (the angels can be destroyed).

(6) God promises Jesus victory over Jesus’ enemies, and He never did that for any angels. Why should we care that Jesus is “better than the angels?”

3. Jehovah’s witnesses believe that Jesus is really the archangel Michael. Do you see a problem with their theology?

4. Suppose somebody believed that Jesus died for their sins, and that they personally needed to trust Jesus to have their sins forgiven, but they didn’t believe Jesus is God. Would they be saved?

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Day Five: _____

1. Given your knowledge of scripture, what do you think is the strongest biblical evidence for the Deity of Christ?

2. Give some reasons why you think it is important to believe that Jesus is God.

Day Six: _____

1. Reread Hebrews 1:1-13.
2. What did you learn about God this week that was either new or especially impacting for you?

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3. Can you think of some personal applications from what you learned this week?
(Optional) OF ACADEMIC INTEREST: Look up the OT verses quotes in Hebrews 1:1-13. Do you see anything bothersome about how the inspired writer of Hebrews interprets these verses? What do you make of that?

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WEEK THREE:

1:14-2:8a. Man has a special place in God's economy.

Day One: _____

1. Read Hebrews 1:14-2:8a.
2. It says in Hebrews 1:14 that angels are "ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?" According to this verse, who are angels sent out to serve?

Day Two: _____

1. Read Hebrews 1:14-2:8a.
2. Verse 3 says "how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?" Answer the following three questions:
 - 2a. Who are the "we" here? Does it refer to people who are Christians?
 - 2b. What is it that they will not escape if they neglect so great a salvation?
 - 2c. How can Christians "neglect...a salvation?"

Day Three: _____

1. Read Hebrews 1:14-2:8a.
2. There are three aspects to "salvation:" past, present, and future. These are illustrated in the following three verses. Look up and write out each of the following:
Titus 3:5.
Romans 5:10.
Hebrews 9:28.

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3. Explain how each of these verses illustrates one of the three aspects of salvation.

Day Four: _____

1. Read Hebrews 1:14-2:8a.
2. Now try again to answer the question, "How can Christians "neglect...a salvation?"

Day Five: _____

1. Read Hebrews 1:14-2:8a.
2. To whom did God "subject the world to come?"
3. Look up the following verses and write them out:
Matthew 19:28.

1 Corinthians 6:3.

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2 Timothy 2:12.

Revelation 20:4.

4. In light of the verses above, what do you think it means when it says that the "world to

come” will be subjected to man?

Day Six: _____

1. Reread Hebrews 1:14-2:8a.
2. What did you learn about God this week that was either new or especially impacting for you?
3. Can you think of some personal applications from what you learned this week?

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WEEK FOUR:

2:8b-18. Christ can help us to “come to glory.”

Day One: _____

1. Read Hebrews 2:8b-18.
2. Hebrews 2:8,9 says, “...But now we do not yet see all things subjected to him. But we do see Him who has been made for a little while lower than the angels, *namely*, Jesus...” What’s the thought-connection between (i) not seeing all things subjected to man, and (ii) seeing Jesus? To see the connection, try filling in the following blank: “While we do not yet see God accomplishing his ultimate goal for man, we do see Him...

_____.”

Day Two: _____

1. Look up and write out the following verses:
Romans 5:1-5
2. What does the “hope of the glory of God” mentioned in Romans 5:2 refer to?

Day Three: _____

1. Read Hebrews 2:8b-18.
2. What does it mean when it says in Hebrews 2:10 that God is “bringing many sons to glory?” What is this process called?

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3. Look up and write out the following verses:
1 Timothy 4:7,8
4. Is God preparing us for something? How? What?

Day Four: _____

1. Read Hebrews 2:8b-18.
2. Look up and write out the following verses:
Hebrews 2:17,18
3. The fact that verse 17 says that Jesus “had to be made like His brethren in all things,” and verse 18 says that “since He Himself was tempted...He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted” suggests that Jesus was somehow inadequate to help man live righteously apart from the experience of taking on humanity. Do you have any problems with this? Any ideas on why it was necessary for Jesus to be human in order for Him to help us?

Day Five: _____

1. Read Hebrews 2:8b-18.
2. One explanation for why it was necessary for Jesus to take on humanity is that He had to experience victory over sin *in the flesh*. As a result, believers, who are inhabited by Jesus (cf. Galatians 2:20), are able to appropriate Christ’s experience of victory over sin in the

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flesh for themselves. In other words, there is a part of every believer's life that has already experienced victory over sin in the flesh. This becomes the cornerstone on which the process of sanctification is built. What do you think about this explanation?

Day Six: _____

1. Reread Hebrews 2:8b-18.
2. What did you learn about God this week that was either new or especially impacting for you?
3. Can you think of some personal applications from what you learned this week?

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WEEK FIVE:

3:1-6. Christ is more worthy than Moses.

Day One: _____

1. Read Hebrews 3:1-6.
2. Read Hebrews 3:1 and explain how you know that the writer is addressing believers.
3. Hebrews 3:6 states that we are "His house" *if* "we hold fast our confidence and the boast of our hope firm until the end." Does this mean that we can lose our salvation if we *don't* "hold fast our confidence...until the end?" Explain your answer.
4. If the expression "His house" does not refer to our salvation, what do you think it means?

Day Two: _____

1. Look up and write out the following verse:
1 Peter 2:5
2. The NIV translates verse 5 by saying that we "are being built into a *spiritual house* to be a holy priesthood." This "holy priesthood" is supposed to offer up "spiritual sacrifices." What do you think is meant by "spiritual sacrifices?"

3. Look up and write out the following verses:

1 Peter 2:9

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4. Verse 9 states we as a "royal priesthood, a holy nation," are intended to "proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." How do you think this relates to "offering up spiritual sacrifices?"

Day Three: _____

1. Look up and write out the following verses:

Romans 12:1.

Matthew 5:16.

2. Given the preceding verses, do you think it is reasonable to say that God is about the business of raising up a people who, through their "spiritual sacrifices" of living holy lives and proclaiming the goodness of God, glorify Him to the world?

Day Four: _____

1. Read Hebrews 3:1-6.
2. Read 1 Peter 2:5-9.
3. One interpretation of the expression "His house" is that it means God's work on earth by which He is glorified by men. Do you think that is a reasonable interpretation?
4. Read Romans 11:17-22. Do you think the "olive tree" in verse 17 may also be interpreted as "God's work on earth by which He is glorified by men?"

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Day Five: _____

1. Read Hebrews 3:1-6.

2. Look up and write out the following verses:

Romans 11:22.

Hebrews 3:6.

3. Do you see a connection between Romans 11:22 and Hebrews 3:6? What is it?

4. One interpretation of Hebrews 3:6 is that if we don't "hold fast our confidence and the boast of our hope firm until the end," then we forgo our opportunity to be a part of "God's work on earth by which He is glorified by men." That is, we are still believers, but with respect to God's work on earth, we are sitting on the sidelines as spectators, as opposed to being a player out on the field. Does this seem like a reasonable interpretation to you?

Day Six: _____

1. Reread Hebrews 3:1-6.

2. What did you learn about God this week that was either new or especially impacting for you?

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3. Can you think of some personal applications from what you learned this week?

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WEEK SIX:

3:7-4:11. Therefore, let us be diligent to enter the rest of God.

4:12,13. Nothing that we think or do escapes the notice of God.

4:14-5:10. Jesus is our "High Priest" who can help us enter that rest.

Day One: _____

1. Read Hebrews 3:7-4:11.

2. The "rest" that is being referred to in the Old Testament passages speaks of God's plan to bring the Israelites into Canaan, "a land which flows with milk and honey (Numbers 14:8)." The plan was to have the Israelites vanquish those who lived in that land, and then be about the business of establishing a holy nation that would honor God." What do you think the New Testament analog of "God's rest" is?

Day Two: _____

1. Look up and write out the following verse:

Hebrews 4:1.

2. What do you think it means to "fall short" of God's rest?

Day Three: _____

1. Look up and write out the following verses:

Hebrews 4:10,11.

Galatians 5:4.

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2. In light of the preceding verses, do you see a connection between God's grace and His rest?

Day Four: _____

1. Look up and write out the following verses:

John 15:5,6.

2. One interpretation of God's "rest" is that it is the spiritual condition of "abiding in Christ"/"walking by the Spirit"/"living by grace." What do you think about that? Does that seem like a reasonable interpretation to you?

Day Five: _____

1. Read Hebrews 4:12-5:10.

2. Look up and write out the following verses:

Hebrews 4:14-16.

Hebrews 5:9.

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3. According to the preceding verses, to whom are we called to turn for help in living the Christian life?

4a. Look up and write out the following verses:

Luke 10:40-42.

4b. According to the preceding verses, what is the “good part, which shall not be taken away from her?”

Day Six: _____

1. Reread Hebrews 3:7-5:10.

2. What did you learn about God this week that was either new or especially impacting for you?

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3. Can you think of some personal applications from what you learned this week?

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WEEK SEVEN:

5:11-6:8. You have become sluggish and are at risk of falling away.

Day One: _____

1. Read Hebrews 5:11-6:8.

2. Look up and write out the following verse:

Hebrews 5:12

Day Two: _____

1. Read Hebrews 5:11-6:8.

2. According to Hebrews 6:1-2, the “elementary teachings” relate to:

(1) repentance from acts that lead to death, and faith toward God;

(2) baptism/washings;

(3) laying on of hands;

(4) the resurrection of the dead;

(5) and eternal judgment.

As best as you can, and making guesses where necessary, describe the “elementary teachings” (the “ABC’s” of the Christian life) in your own words.

Day Three: _____

1. Read Hebrews 5:11-6:8.

2. According to the writer of Hebrews, is it “good enough” for believers to know the “elementary teachings” without knowing the more “advanced” teachings?

3. Do you have any ideas for what might comprise the “advanced teachings?” If you do, elaborate below.

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Day Four: _____

1. Read Hebrews 5:11-6:8.

2. Hebrews 6:4-6 states that, “It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, who have tasted

the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age, if they fall away, to be brought back to repentance, because to their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace.” Do you think this verse refers to believers? Why or why not?

3. Do you think this verse says that if a believer turns away from God (“falls away”) after having known God that they can lose their salvation? Explain your answer.

Day Five: _____

1. Look up and write out the following verses:

Galatians 5:4:

2 Peter 3:17,18:

2. Both of these verses speak of “falling” and “grace” in the same context. Try and elaborate on the relationship between “grace” and “falling away.”

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3. One interpretation of what it means when it says, “It is impossible for those...to be brought back to repentance, because to their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace,” is that we can frustrate our sanctification. That is, while we are in the flesh, if we refuse to cooperate with the Spirit of God (“fall away”), then it is impossible for God to cause us to grow, since our cooperation is required. What do you think of that interpretation?

Day Six: _____

1. Reread Hebrews 5:11-6:8.

2. What did you learn about God this week that was either new or especially impacting for you?

3. Can you think of some personal applications from what you learned this week?

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WEEK EIGHT:

5:11-6:8. You have become sluggish and are at risk of falling away.

6:9-20a. Be encouraged, for the inheritance God has promised those who endure is certain and secure.

6:20b. Christ is a high priest like Melchizedek.

7:1-10. The greatness of Melchizedek.

7:11-28. The “Melchizedekian” priesthood is better than the Aaronic priesthood.

Day One: _____

1. Read Hebrews 5:11-7:28.

1. Look up and write out the following verses:

Hebrews 5:11-14

2. Just between you and God, do you think these verses could have been directed towards you? Do you have a hunger for the “solid food” of God, or are you content with just “milk?” If you don’t have a hunger for “solid food,” what do you think you can do, if anything, to develop that hunger?

Day Two: _____

1. Read Hebrews 6:10.

2. Read Hebrews 10:32-34.

3. According to these verses, had the Christians to whom “Hebrews” was addressed evidenced good works in their lives?

4. Would you classify these Christians as “low commitment” or “high commitment”

Christians?

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5. Despite their previous good works, the writer of Hebrews is concerned that they not become “sluggish,” and that they have need of “diligence” in their Christian walk? Why do you think it might be that they had grown weary in their Christian walk?

6. Just between you and God, have you grown weary in your Christian walk? If you have, what, if anything, do you think you can do about it?

Day Three: _____

1. Read Hebrews 6:9-20a.

2. Look up and write out the following verses:

Philippians 1:6.

Romans 5:2b-5.

3. Look up and write out the following verse:

Hebrews 6:18:

4. What is the “hope set before us?”

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Day Four: _____

1. Hebrews 6:18 states that God’s oath is the source of our “strong encouragement.” The oath refers to the Abrahamic covenant. Do you have any idea why the Abrahamic covenant is especially significant? (HINT: The Abrahamic covenant is often described as an “unconditional” covenant. In other words, God made promises to Abraham, independent of any corresponding actions on Abraham’s part (cf. Genesis, Chapter 15)).

2. Why should the Abrahamic covenant be a source of “strong encouragement” to us?

Day Five: _____

1. Read Hebrews 6:20b-7:28.

2. Why do you think the writer of Hebrews goes to great trouble to demonstrate that Jesus is “a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek?”

3. What insight into the Christian life is gained by viewing Jesus as our “high priest?”

Day Six: _____

1. Reread Hebrews 5:11-7:28.

2. What did you learn about God this week that was either new or especially impacting for you?

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3. Can you think of some personal applications from what you learned this week?

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WEEK NINE:

8:1-6. Christ has a more excellent ministry.

8:7-13. Christ is the mediator of a new and better covenant.

9:1-14. The blood of Christ cleanses our conscience.

Day One: _____

1. Read Hebrews 8:1-13.

2. The quotation in Hebrews 8:8-12 is taken from Jeremiah 31:31-34. A similar thought is expressed in Ezekiel 36:24-28. Look up and write out the following verses:

Ezekiel 36:26,27.

Day Two: _____

1. Read Jeremiah 31:31-34.

2. According to Jeremiah 31:31-34, with whom will God make this new covenant?
3. Even though the primary application of Jeremiah 31:31-34 is to the redeemed nation of Israel during the time after Christ's Second Coming, it has a significant "foreshadowing" in the church. Four characteristics of this New Covenant are identified:

- 1) God will put His laws in the minds and hearts of His people.
- 2) There will be harmony in the submission of God's people to His Lordship.
- 3) God's people will have an innate knowledge of God.
- 4) The sins of God's people will be forever forgiven and forgotten.

Did these four characteristics also apply to the Old Covenant? If not, elaborate on the differences between the Old Covenant and the New Covenant in each of these four respects.

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Day Three: _____

1. Read Hebrews 8:1-13.
2. On the basis of these verses, do you think it is reasonable for a New Covenant/Testament believer to expect a different kind of spiritual life than what an Old Covenant/Testament believer would have experienced? How so?

3. Read Hebrews 9:1-10:18.

4. The Greek word "suneidēsis" occurs three times in Hebrews 9:1-10:18. It is most frequently translated by the English word "conscience." These three occurrences are listed below, with the English (NIV) translation of "suneidēsis" boldfaced and italicized:

Hebrews 9:9. "This is an illustration for the present time, indicating that the gifts and sacrifices being offered were not able to clear the *conscience* of the worshiper."

Hebrews 9:14. "How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our *consciences* from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!"

Hebrews 10:2. "If it could, would they not have stopped being offered? For the worshipers would have been cleansed once for all, and would no longer have felt *guilty* for their sins."

According to these verses, what is true about a New Covenant/Testament believer that would not have been true about an Old Covenant/Testament believer?

Day Four: _____

1. Look up and write out the following verses:

Romans 7:18-20

Galatians 2:20a

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2 Corinthians 5:17

Romans 8:1,2

2. Briefly explain why it is legitimate for a New Covenant/Testament believer to feel completely free to draw near to God no matter how frequently or egregiously he/she may sin.

Day Five: _____

1. Read Hebrews 9:1-14.

2. Explain why the teaching that New Covenant/Testament believers can have a "clear conscience" before God is crucial for the believer's Christian walk.

Day Six: _____

1. Reread Hebrews 8:1-9:14.

2. What did you learn about God this week that was either new or especially impacting for you?

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3. Can you think of some personal applications from what you learned this week?

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WEEK TEN:

9:1-14. The blood of Christ cleanses our conscience.

9:15-9:28. Christ's death secures our inheritance, our ultimate salvation.

10:1-18. Christ's sacrifice enables us to move past forgiveness and on to serving God.

10:19-25. Therefore, let us draw near to God.

10:26-31. If we go on sinning we can expect a terrible punishment.

10:32-39. Remember your good beginning, that you may finish well.

Day One: _____

1. Read Hebrews 9:1-10:18.

2. Read the following verses, paying careful attention to those words that are boldfaced and italicized:

Hebrews 9:12. "He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, *having obtained eternal redemption.*"

Hebrews 9:15. "For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called *may receive the promised eternal inheritance--now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.*"

Hebrews 9:28. "so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but *to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.*"

Hebrews 10:10. "And by that will, *we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.*"

Hebrews 10:14. "because by one sacrifice *he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.*"

3a. Note that the verses above emphasize the following themes: (i) inheritance, (ii) redemption, (iii) salvation (deliverance), and (iv) sanctification.

3b. Note also that part of our "inheritance" that Christ's death secured for us is our "salvation," which includes both our present deliverance from the power of sin and our future redemption when we will be freed from this body of death.

4. Look up and write out the following verses:

Romans 8:29,30.

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5. With all of the above verses in mind, briefly explain in your own words what Christ's death has secured for us.

Day Two: _____

1. Read Hebrews 10:19-25.

2. Verses 19-21 give two reasons why we should "draw near" to God. They are:

1) because "we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus," and

2) because "we have a great priest over the house of God."

Explain in your own words what these two reasons are, and why they should encourage

us to draw near to God. In other words, explain why “we have confidence to enter the holy place,” and the value to us of having “a great priest over the house of God.”

3. Honestly, do these verses encourage you to draw closer to God? Why or why not?

Day Three: _____

1. Read Hebrews 10:19-25.

2. Not only are we to “draw near” to God, but verses 24 and 25 say that we are to encourage others in their Christian walks. How do you think somebody could best encourage you in your Christian walk? Be specific.

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3. Can you think of a specific way in which you could encourage somebody in their Christian walk this week? Write it down below. Why don't you do it!

Day Four: _____

1. Read Hebrews 10:26-39.

2. Read the following verses, paying careful attention to those words that are boldfaced and italicized:

Hebrews 10:26-31. If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, *no sacrifice for sins is left*, but *only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire* that will consume the enemies of God. Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. *How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God under foot*, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified him, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know him who said, “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” and again, “The Lord will judge his people.” *It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.*

3. Is this verse saying that Jesus' death on the cross is no longer valid if Christians engage in a behavior of persistent sin? Elaborate on your answer.

4. Are Christians completely forgiven for all the sins that they have ever committed and will ever commit? List some Bible verses you know that address this issue.

Day Five: _____

1. Read Hebrews 10:26-39.

2. This picture of Christians being judged by fire occurs elsewhere in Scripture. Look up and write out the following verses:

John 15:5,6.

39

1 Corinthians 3:12-15.

3. One interpretation of these verses is that Christians will be “refined” by fire at the judgment seat of Christ. Those parts of a Christian's life that have not come under Christ's lordship will be “burnt away,” leaving only the sanctified portion of a Christian's life to be carried forward to our life after death. Does this interpretation seem reasonable to you? Why or why not?

Day Six: _____

1. Reread Hebrews 9:1-10:39.

2. What did you learn about God this week that was either new or especially impacting for you?

3. Can you think of some personal applications from what you learned this week?

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WEEK ELEVEN:

11:1-6. By faith we please God.

11:7-40. Our predecessors lived by faith.

Day One: _____

1. Read Hebrews 11:1-6.
2. Verse 1 states that “faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” What “things” do you think the writer of Hebrews has in mind here?
3. Verse 6 states that “he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.” Is the reward that is being spoken of here the eternal life that is promised to all believers, or is it something different? If something different, what?

Day Two: _____

1. Read Hebrews 11:1-6.
2. 1 Corinthians 13:2 states, “And if I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.” And 1 Corinthians 13:13 states, “But now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.” But Hebrews 11:6 says, “...without faith it is impossible to please Him.” How do you reconcile these verses?

Day Three: _____

1. Read Hebrews 11:7-40.
41
2. Look up and write out the following verse.
Hebrews 11:39
3. According to Hebrews 11:39, what characteristic other than faith unites these OT believers?
4. Look up and write out the following verses:
Hebrews 11:13,14
1 John 2:15

Day Four: _____

1. Read Hebrews 11:13,14 and 1 John 2:15.
2. Just between you and God, would you characterize yourself as an “alien and stranger” in this world, or as a “lover of this world?”

Day Five: _____

1. Look up and write out the following verses:
Matthew 6:19-21
42
2. One way to determine whether we are “aliens and strangers” or “lovers of this world” is to ask ourselves where we are accumulating our rewards. Just between you and God, would you say that you are more concerned with accumulating greater riches in this world or in the world to come?

Day Six: _____

1. Reread Hebrews 11:1-40.
2. What did you learn about God this week that was either new or especially impacting for you?
3. Can you think of some personal applications from what you learned this week?

WEEK TWELVE:

12:1,2. Run with endurance, fixing our eyes on Jesus.

12:3-11. Accept your difficulties as the Lord's disciplines.

12:12-17. Encourage others to hold fast to their faith.

Day One: _____

1. Read Hebrews 12:1,2.
2. Hebrews 12:1 speaks of two things that mess us up in the great "race" we are in. What are they?
3. A fun little fact to know and tell is that Greek athletes ran naked. "Encumbrances (NASB)" or "everything that hinders (NIV)" are things that are not bad in themselves, but become bad when they distract us from what God would have us do. Can you think of some "encumbrances" in your life that are hindering your ability to run the race?
4. Are there any sins in your life in which you are "entangled" and which are keeping you from running a good race? If there are, what can you do to put these sins behind you?

Day Two: _____

1. Read Hebrews 12:1,2.
2. Hebrews 12:2 tells us to "fix our eyes on Jesus." The picture here is that Jesus is standing on the finish line and that our eyes are on him as we run the race. What does it mean to "fix our eyes on Jesus?"
44
3. How do you think "fixing our eyes on Jesus" enables us to run the race?

Day Three: _____

1. Read Hebrews 12:3-11.
2. Look up and write out the following verses:
Hebrews 12:11.
James 1:2-4.
1 Peter 1:6,7.
3. We can either fight the trials and tribulations that we experience in life, or accept them as coming from God who is about the business of disciplining us. James 1:2-4 tells us the "right attitude" to have. Yet having this attitude is so hard. Can you think of some specific advice for how we can develop this attitude when we encounter trials?
45

Day Four: _____

1. Read Hebrews 12:12-17.
2. Look up and write out the following verses:
Hebrews 3:13.
Hebrews 10:24,25.

Day Five: _____

1. Read Hebrews 12:12-17.
2. Read Hebrews 3:13 and Hebrews 10:24,25.
3. The Book of Hebrews emphasizes the corporate dimension to our Christian lives. That is, we are *commanded* to be a part of other Christians' lives, to encourage them in their faith. Do you feel that there are believers in your life who know you well enough to encourage you spiritually? If not, can you think of some things that you can do to become more accessible to others?
4. Do you feel that you know some other believers well enough so that you can encourage

them in their spiritual lives? If not, can you think of some things that you can do to get into a position where you can encourage them?

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Day Six: _____

1. Reread Hebrews 12:1-17.
2. What did you learn about God this week that was either new or especially impacting for you?
3. Can you think of some personal applications from what you learned this week?

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WEEK THIRTEEN:

12:18-24. We have come to a better place than our forefathers.

12:25-29. Therefore, do not refuse Him who is speaking.

13:1-7. Specific instructions for holy living.

13:8-15. Jesus is our unchangeable hope.

13:16-19. More instructions for holy living.

Day One: _____

1. Read Hebrews 12:18-29.
2. This section of Scripture contrasts the believer's relationship with God under the Old and New Covenants. Under the Old Covenant, believers confronted a "mountain" that could not be touched, with blazing fire, darkness, gloom and whirlwind, and heard "the blast of a trumpet and the sound of words which sound was such that those who heard begged that no further word should be spoken to them (Hebrews 12:18,19)." Under the New Covenant, believers come to "Mount Zion," the place where God dwells with His people, and to Jesus, who mediates between God and man. In other words, under the New Covenant, God is accessible, and man may enter His presence. With that in mind, look up and write out the following verses:

Hebrews 12:25.

Hebrews 12:28,29.

3. How do you reconcile the fact that—right after telling us that our God is accessible, and that we need not fear approaching Him--the writer of Hebrews reminds us that our God is a "consuming fire," and that we better be careful to "not refuse Him," but rather to offer Him "an acceptable service with reverence and awe?"

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Day Two: _____

1. Read Hebrews 13:1-3.
2. Look up and write out the following verses:
Hebrews 13:1.
John 13:34,35.
Galatians 6:10.
1 Peter 4:8.
3. The very first "practical application" that the writer of Hebrews gives us is to "love the brethren."
 - 3a. What are some ways that you would like other people to love you in the body of Christ? Be specific.
 - 3b. What are some ways that you could better exercise love towards your brothers and sisters in Christ? Be specific.

Day Three: _____

1. Read Hebrews 13:4-7.

2. Look up and write out the following verses:

Hebrews 13:5.

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Matthew 6:24.

1 Timothy 6:9,10.

3. Do you think that somebody who observed your life would say that you demonstrated a contentedness with what you have, and a freedom from the love of money? Why or why not?

Day Four: _____

1. Read Hebrews 13:8-15.

2. Right smack dab in the middle of a list of practical applications, the writer of Hebrews stops to talk about Jesus. Why do you think that is? Elaborate your answer.

Day Five: _____

1. Read Hebrews 13:16-19.

2. Look up and write out the following verse:

Hebrews 13:17a.

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1 Peter 5:5,6.

3. Who are your “leaders?” Write out their names below.

4. Suppose one of those people that you identified in the previous question, came to you and said that they wanted you to do something—say, help out with the children’s Sunday School ministry on a regular basis. Suppose further that they didn’t ask you, but commanded you. In fact, they quoted Hebrews 13:17 and said that they expected you to submit to them because they were your leader. How would you respond? What do you think would be the godly response?

Day Six: _____

1. Reread Hebrews 12:18-13:19.

2. What did you learn about God this week that was either new or especially impacting for you?

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3. Can you think of some personal applications from what you learned this week?

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**WEEK FOURTEEN:
13:20-25. Benediction.**

Day One: _____

1. Read Hebrews 13:20-25.

2. Look up and write out the following verses:

Hebrews 13:20,21.

3. According to these verses, what is the “secret to achieving true spirituality?”

Day Two-Day Six: _____

1. Read through the Book of Hebrews several times.

2. Read through the outline below and see if you can find a succinct “heading” for each of the indicated sections of Hebrews. Try and write your headings so that by reading them, one after the other, you can “walk through” the main ideas in the Book of Hebrews.

(Feel free to rearrange sections, or come up with your own outline if you'd like.)

HEADING: _____

1:1-4. Introduction: God has spoken to us in His Son.

1:5-13. Christ is much better than the angels.

HEADING: _____

1:14-2:8a. Man has a special place in God's economy.

2:8b-18. Christ can help us "to come to glory."

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HEADING: _____

3:1-6. Christ is more worthy than Moses.

3:7-4:11. Therefore, let us be diligent to enter the rest of God.

4:12,13. Nothing that we think or do escapes the notice of God.

4:14-5:10. Jesus is our "High Priest" who can help us enter that rest.

HEADING: _____

5:11-6:8. You have become sluggish and are at risk of falling away.

6:9-20a. Be encouraged, for the inheritance God has promised those who endure is certain and secure.

HEADING: _____

6:20b. Christ is a high priest like Melchizedek.

7:1-10. The greatness of Melchizedek.

7:11-28. The "Melchizedekian" priesthood is better than the Aaronic priesthood.

HEADING: _____

8:1-6. Christ has a more excellent ministry.

8:7-13. Christ is the mediator of a new and better covenant.

HEADING: _____

9:1-14. The blood of Christ cleanses our conscience.

9:15-9:28. Christ's death secures our inheritance, our ultimate salvation.

10:1-18. Christ's sacrifice enables us to move past forgiveness and on to serving God.

HEADING: _____

10:19-25. Therefore, let us draw near to God.

10:26-31. If we go on sinning we can expect a terrible punishment.

10:32-39. Remember your good beginning, that you may finish well.

HEADING: _____

11:1-6. By faith we please God.

11:7-40. Our predecessors lived by faith.

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HEADING: _____

12:1,2. Run with endurance, fixing our eyes on Jesus.

12:3-11. Accept your difficulties as the Lord's disciplines.

12:12-17. Encourage others to hold fast to their faith.

HEADING: _____

12:18-24. We have come to a better place than our forefathers.

12:25-29. Therefore, do not refuse Him who is speaking.

HEADING: _____

13:1-7. Specific instructions for holy living.

13:8-15. Jesus is our unchangeable hope.

13:16-19. More instructions for holy living.

HEADING: _____

13:20-25. Benediction.

Day Six: _____

1. As you review this wonderful book of the Bible, what would you say was the greatest thing you learned from this study of Hebrews?

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2. Was there anything else that especially impacted you or changed the way you thought about God and/or yourself? Elaborate.