

Introduction

“The purpose of the book of Hebrews is to exalt Christ and proclaim His preeminence as He is superior to everyone and everything...In this epistle, contrast reigns. Everything is presented as better: a better hope, a better testament, a better promise, a better sacrifice, a better substance, a better country, a better resurrection, a better everything. Jesus Christ is presented here as the supreme Best. And we are presented as being in Him and as dwelling in a completely new dimension—the heavenlies. We read of the heavenly Christ, the heavenly calling, the heavenly gift, the heavenly country, the heavenly Jerusalem, and of our name being written in the heavenlies. Everything is new. Everything is better. We don’t need the old.”

John MacArthur

The MacArthur New Testament Commentary:

Hebrews, p. xix

This year we are memorizing Ephesians 2. This week’s verse is Ephesians 2:18...
“...for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father.”

Day One

*Read Hebrews 1:1–4; **The Deity of the Son***

1. According to Hebrews 2:1, 3:6, and 6:1, why was the book of Hebrews written?

2. In Hebrews 1:1–2, what contrast is given about God’s communication with His people?
 - a. What importance does that key transition have in redemptive history?

3. From verses 1–2, what truths about God the Father did the author identify?

4. From verses 3–4, what truths about Jesus Christ did the author identify?
 - a. How do these truths affirm the deity of Jesus Christ?

5. How would these truths about God the Father and Jesus His Son have encouraged those to whom they were written?
 - a. How would these truths encourage believers in the church today? How do they encourage *you*?

Day Two

*Read Hebrews 1:5–14; **Superior to the Angels***

“Many Jews believed that the Old Covenant was brought to them from God by angels. This, above all else, exalted the angels in the minds of the children of Israel. They believed that angels were the mediators of their covenant with God, the angels continually ministered God’s blessings to them. If the writer of Hebrews, therefore, was to persuade his fellow Jews that Christ is the mediator of a

better covenant than that given through Moses, he would have to show, among other things, that Christ is better than the angels.”

John MacArthur

The MacArthur New Testament Commentary:

Hebrews, pp. 24–25

1. Using a Bible with cross references, list and briefly summarize some of the Old Testament texts the writer included in verses 1:5–14
 - a. Why do you think the author emphasized the inclusion of these Old Testament texts?

2. In verse 5, to which Old Testament covenant was the writer referring? (See 2 Samuel 7:8–16.)
 - a. How would that support the author’s argument that Jesus is superior?

3. According to verses 6–7, what is the role of angels?
 - a. In contrast, what is the work of the Son of God in verses 8–9?

4. In verses 10–12, what specific attributes of Jesus the Son are highlighted?

Day Three

*Read Hebrews 2:1–18 and Psalm 8; **Jesus the Supreme Man***

1. In Hebrews 2:1, what warning is given? What specifically had been heard that would keep a believer from drifting?
 - a. What would it look like practically to “pay much closer attention” in your own life?

2. According to Genesis 1:28 and Psalm 8, what is the position and purpose of mankind?
 - a. From Genesis 3:1–19, how did Adam fail in his responsibility, originally described in Genesis 1:28?

 - b. From Hebrews 2:8, how will Jesus’ final reign and the culmination of redemptive history reverse Adam’s failure?

3. As presented in Hebrews 2:9–14, how would you summarize a key gospel truth for an unbeliever?

4. From verses 15–18, what did the death of Jesus, the perfect man, accomplish for believers? How does this strengthen you to face temptations and trials this week? Be specific.

Day Four

Read Hebrews 3: *The Supremacy of Jesus to Moses*

1. In Hebrews 3:1, what two roles are used to describe Jesus? Use a dictionary or other resource to define these roles.
2. According to Hebrews 3:2–6a, how were Jesus and Moses similar? How was Jesus superior?
 - a. Why do you think it was important for the writer to establish Jesus' superiority in this letter?
3. According to verses 6b and 14, what must one do to be part of God's house?
 - a. From 1 Peter 1:3–5, 13, and 21, what is the believer's hope?
 - b. Hebrews 3:6 exhorts the believer to persevere in the faith by holding fast to one's hope. Using your knowledge of Scripture or cross references and other Bible study tools, write down three other Scripture references that teach about the believer's perseverance.
4. From Hebrews 3:15–19, how did Israel sin against God, and how did God respond?

Day Five

Read Hebrews 3:7–4:13 and Psalm 95; *The Rest That Is to Come*

1. Which Old Testament text does Hebrews 3:7–11 quote? What point in Israel's history does this text describe?
 - a. From this text and Hebrews 3:12–14, what relevance does this have for the church today?
2. In Hebrews 3:12, who were the brethren the author mentioned? Why is this important for understanding this verse?
3. What exhortation is given in 3:13?
 - a. Is this a pattern of your life? Share with your group an occasion when you were exhorted by another believer and how their words were a particular encouragement to you.

4. In Hebrews 4:1, what was the rest that was promised? What does this rest foreshadow?

5. According to 4:8, what kept the Israelites in Moses' generation from entering their rest? What keeps people today from entering into God's rest?

6. From Hebrews 4:11, what does it look like to strive to enter God's rest? Use Scripture to support your answer.

7. How is 4:12-13 both an encouragement and a warning?

The Epistle to the Hebrews

- I. Old Testament...Pictures of Christ
- II. Jesus Is Born...Pictures Become Reality
- III. The Book of "Betters"

Anderson Adapted from Every Woman's Grace at Grace Community Church of Sun Valley, CA March 22, 2017