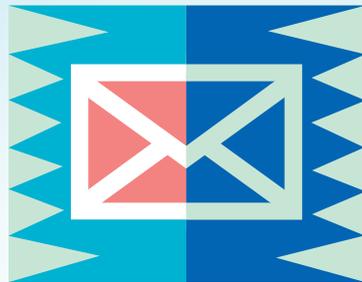


# New Testament Survey

# The New Covenant

Studying Hebrews



*For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe.*

1 Thessalonians 2:13

10



CBLT

# Contents

<b>The New Covenant.....</b>	<b>3</b>
I. Introduction .....	4
II. The Superiority of Christ.....	5
III. Conclusion.....	12
<b>Appendix. Let's Look At Hebrews.....</b>	<b>18</b>

# The New Covenant

## *Hebrews*

# 10

### **LESSON OUTLINE**

- I. Introduction
- II. The Superiority of Christ
  - A. Exploring Hebrews
  - B. Establishing Historical Perspective
    - 1. Authorship and Audience
    - 2. Date
    - 3. General Background
  - C. Examining the Text
    - 1. Overview
    - 2. Theme
    - 3. Key Verse
    - 4. Topics and Teachings
    - 5. Jesus Christ, Our Intercessor at the Throne
- III. Conclusion

Self Test

Appendix. Let's Look At Hebrews

### **LESSON OBJECTIVES**

By the end of this lesson you should:

1. Have a working familiarity with Hebrews.
2. Know the audience, basic outline, key verse, and primary theme and teachings of Hebrews.
3. Be able to explain the purpose of Hebrews.
4. Be convinced of the importance of acting on your faith.
5. Share a specific lesson that you have discovered in your study of Hebrews.

## LESSON ASSIGNMENTS

1. Work through the lesson and check your answers.
2. Read through the entire book of Hebrews at least once during this lesson.
3. Read the appendix, an excerpt from the book *A Look at the New Testament* by Dr. Henrietta Mears.
4. Complete the Practical Assignment.

## WORD STUDY

**Argument**—a course of reasoning aimed at demonstrating truth or falsehood

**Atonement**—the means by which we are reconciled to God

**Covenant**—an oath-bound promise whereby one party solemnly pledges to bless or serve another party in some specified way: sometimes the keeping of the promise depends upon the meeting of certain conditions by one of the parties, other times the promise is made unilaterally and unconditionally; the covenant concept is a central, unifying theme of Scripture, establishing and defining God's relationship to man in all ages<sup>1</sup>

**Exhortation**—a communication meant to urge or persuade the recipients to take some action

**Type**—a model of something

# I. Introduction

The book of Hebrews explains the connection between the Old and New Testaments. Some people find it difficult, and even uninteresting, because they do not know anything about the Old Testament. However the Old Testament is also the inspired Word of God, and if you have taken the CBLT course *Old Testament Survey* you will understand that God built pictures of principles for us. To have any deep understanding of Hebrews you must be acquainted with these principles especially as they are laid out in the Pentateuch and particularly the book of Leviticus. The greater your understanding of these books, the deeper your appreciation will be for Hebrews and what it has to say to us.

Hebrews is the best argument against ritualistic religion in the Bible. It reminds us that it is through faith that we are saved, not through any other action. It was through faith that Noah and Abraham were saved, and their actions demonstrated their faith. Although Hebrews focuses on Judaism it is easy to transfer the principles to other "religious" requirements that we like to add to the Christian faith.

This lesson consist of questions, exercises and projects that will help you to dig into these epistles, opening up your understanding to the context in which they were written, and helping you to interact with God's Word. There are answers in the workbook to help you if you get stuck. In addition there is a self test included so that you can review what you have learned.

You need to have a Bible or New Testament which you will feel free to mark up as you will be required to make many markings. When you read, always keep a pen beside you so that you can mark whenever you find something particularly important to you. You will also need a personal notebook for written assignments. In addition there is a supplement, *New Testament Geography*

---

<sup>1</sup> Chad Brand, et al., editors, *Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary* (Nashville: Holman Bible Publishers, 2003), 355

and *Chronology*, which you must have to complete some of the exercises. If you did not receive one, please ask your leader.

You can do this study on your own, but it will be much more beneficial if you meet with a group and discuss what you are learning and discovering. We are meant to help and encourage and share with each other. It gives all of us more insights and greater joy. And then there is the issue of accountability. So often we have good intentions, but... Life is full and we easily lay aside a study, and then it gets buried. We need to spur each other on! Knowing that you are going to meet with a group often provides that extra incentive to dig in and learn. And every moment spent in the Word of God will build truth into your life and faith in your heart.

## II. The Superiority of Christ

Before you begin reading through Hebrews and then working through this lesson, take time to pray and ask God to speak to you personally as you study this book.

### A. Exploring Hebrews

Take a brisk walk through the 13 chapters of Hebrews. Focus on the big picture of the book, the main themes and elements rather than specific verses or passages. You may want to note these down in your notebook to help you complete other exercises in this lesson. It will be helpful if you follow the outline below.



#### Exercise 1

*Mark Hebrews.* As you read Hebrews mark the following words.

Brown -- "Priest, -s, -hood"

Green -- "Covenant"

Orange -- "Better"

#### Outline of Hebrews

I.	Christ, Superior to Angels	1:1–2:18
II.	Christ, Superior to Moses and Joshua	3:1–4:13
III.	Christ, Superior to the Old Testament Priesthood	4:14–7:28
IV.	A Superior Covenant	8:1–10:18
V.	The Superiority of Faith	10:19–13:25

### B. Establishing Historical Perspective

#### 1. Authorship and Audience

One of the most unique facts about Hebrews is that it not only does not have a specific author named, it also does not have a specific audience named. There are several theories for who the author may have been, including Paul or a co-worker of Paul's such as Apollos or one of the other church leaders. In the end we have to agree with Origen's statement: "Who wrote the epistle in truth God alone knows."<sup>2</sup> But that in no way detracts from the acceptance by the early church of this letter as inspired.

<sup>2</sup> Irving L. Jensen, *Jensen's Survey of the New Testament* (Chicago: Moody Bible Institute, 1981), 407.

We have slightly more information about the intended audience, but it is not possible to locate the destination of the letter geographically. We know only that they were Jews who either had friends in Italy or were themselves from Italy (Hebrews 13:24). More important than their geographical location is their spiritual condition. We know from the content of the letter that these Jewish Christians were struggling with their faith and were in danger of returning to Judaism.

## 2. Date

Because Hebrews does not have a named author it is a little bit more difficult to date the epistle. Jensen explains one time frame possibility:

*The interval between A.D. 65 and A.D. 70 may be accepted as the time when Hebrews was written. A date before A.D. 70 is based on the fact that in A.D. 70 Jerusalem, with its Temple, was destroyed by the Roman general Titus. Hebrews gives the clear impression that the Temple was still standing when the epistle was written (see 8:4-5; 10:11), and there is the hint that the removal of the Temple services was not too far distant (12:27). If the Temple had already been destroyed, some mention of it surely would have been made by the writer, because one of his main points was that the Jewish institutions were intended to be superseded by a more perfect system.*

*That the epistle was written as late as A.D. 65 is supported by the observation that the readers were a second generation of Christians (2:1-4; cf. 5:12).<sup>3</sup>*



**Question 1** When was Hebrews most likely written?

---

## 3. General Background

Because we do not know exactly to whom the book of Hebrews was written we don't have any specific geographical or societal information to study. However, there is still a rich background to the book of Hebrews that needs to be considered. If the gospels are the link or bridge between the Old Testament and the New, then Hebrews is the one book which really explains that link. Hebrews shows us how Judaism is related to Christianity. Irving Jensen helps us see some of these links:

*The book of Hebrews occupies a very important place in the Scriptures. It is the Spirit's commentary on the Pentateuch, especially the book of Leviticus. The writer uses the Old Testament Scriptures throughout, making at least eighty-six direct references, traceable to at least one hundred Old Testament passages. Hebrews explains the meaning and significance of the whole Jewish ritual. It makes clear that all the ceremonial laws given in the Old Testament, such as the offerings of sacrifices and the ministrations of the priests, were but types pointing forward to Christ, the great sacrifice for sin, the true Priest, the one Mediator between God and man. In Hebrews the Christian is taught that he has passed from the realm of shadows into that of reality, that in Christ he has the fulfillment of all the earlier types.*

*Hebrews has been referred to as the fifth gospel because it tells of Jesus' finished work on earth and His continuing work in heaven. There is no other book in the New Testament that helps us to understand the present ministry of Christ as does the book of Hebrews. Many Christians know little about Christ's present work for His people. Hebrews shows us that just as God led the Israelites from Egypt through the barren wilderness, protecting them from danger, supplying all their needs, teaching them, training them, and eventually bringing them into the rich land of Canaan, so Christ is at this present time helping His*

---

<sup>3</sup> Jensen, 406-407.

children, by intercession, inspiration, instruction, and indwelling, to enter into the spiritual rest land of abundant living, a taste of the heavenly glories to come.<sup>4</sup>



**Question 2** According to Jensen how many references to the Old Testament are there in Hebrews?

It is important that you familiarize yourself with some of the Old Testament background for Hebrews so that you can grasp more fully the truths the author is trying to convince his audience of. Everything in the New Testament is a fulfillment of the Old—and it is better than the “old”. In the following exercise we have included an overview of Hebrews which points out some of the key Old Testament scriptures that are used in Hebrews.



### Exercise 2

*Connecting the Old and New Testament.* Turn to Hebrews. In the margin of your Bible write in the reference to the Old Testament text next to the verses in Hebrews that relate to it.

Old Testament	Hebrews
Psalm 8:4-6	2:5-18
Psalm 95:7-11	3:7-4:13
Psalm 110:4	4:16-7:28
Jeremiah 31:31-34	8:1-10:18
Habakkuk 2:3-4	10:32-12:3
Proverbs 3:11-12	12:4-13
Exodus 19	12:18-29

As you continue your reading and studying of Hebrews, be sure to read the above Old Testament passages as you come to them, so that you see the connection.

This is not a comprehensive list of verses quoted, but some of the key ones to understand what the author is using as his point of reference. You have already seen many references to the priesthood, specifically the high priest, the tabernacle, and many Old Testament heroes of the faith. You will find it helpful to familiarize yourself with the Old Testament passages that talk about these.

## C. Examining the Text

### 1. Overview

Because of the complexity and length of this book we are going to give you an overview to help you grasp the flow of the book.

*Hebrews is a long sustained argument, in which the author moves back and forth between an argument (based on Scripture) and exhortation. What drives the argument from the beginning to end is the absolute superiority of the Son of God to everything that has gone*

<sup>4</sup> Jensen, 409-410.

before; this is what his exposition of Scripture is all about. What concerns the author is the possibility that some believers under present distress will let go of Christ and thus lose out on the Son's saving work and high priestly intercession, and thus their own experience of God's presence; this is what the interspersed exhortations are all about.

The introduction (1:1-3) sets the pattern with a sevenfold description of the Son and his work that makes him God's last word. This is followed by a series of two major arguments (1:4—4:13; 4:14—10:18), each with several subsets, and a final major application and exhortation (10:19—13:21), in this case interlaced with some further biblical arguments.

Part 1 is all about the Son—his superiority to angels despite (and because of!) his humanity (1:4—2:18), to Moses (3:1-19), and to Joshua (4:1-13). There the author also sets the stage for part 2: Christ's effective high priestly ministry is made possible through the pre-existent and now exalted Son's having become incarnate. And the failure of the first exodus lay not with Moses and Joshua, but with the people's failure to faithfully persevere; the readers are urged not to follow in their footsteps.

Part 2 is all about the Son as the perfect high priest. After a transitional exhortation (4:14-16), the author then introduces Jesus as high priest (5:1-10), followed by a series of two warnings and an encouragement (5:11-6:3 [slacking off]; 6:4-8 [apostasy]; 6:9-20 [God's sure promises]). Then, drawing on the royal messianic Psalm 110, he uses Melchizedek as a pattern for a priesthood of a higher order (7:1—28). Based on a new, thus superior, covenant, the perfect priest offered the perfect (once-for-all) sacrifice in the perfect sanctuary (8:1-10:18).

Part 3 is all about faithful perseverance. It begins with an appeal—in light of all this, “let us...” (10:19—25)—followed by warning (10:26-31), encouragement (10:32-39), example (11:1-12:3), instruction (12:4-13), and another warning (12:14-17). Finally using marvelous imagery that contrasts Mount Sinai with the heavenly Mount Zion, the author affirms their future certainty (12:18-29), then concludes with very practical exhortations about life in the present (13:1-25).

You will want to watch how the author makes this work—by a series of seven expositions of key Old Testament texts, while making the transition between each by way of exhortation: (1) Psalm 8:4-6 in Hebrews 2:5-18; (2) Psalm 95:7-11 in 3:7-4:13; (3) Psalm 110:4 in 4:16-7:28; (4) Jeremiah 31:31-34 in 8:1-10:18; (5) Habakkuk 2:3-4 in 10:32-12:3; (6) Proverbs 3:11-12 in 12:4-13; and (7) the Sinai theophany (Exod 19) in 12:18-29.<sup>5</sup>



### Exercise 3

*Outlining Hebrews.* You have already been given a very basic outline to Hebrews which will be helpful to you. However outlines are very individual and there is often more than one way to outline a book. Using the information from the above Overview, create an outline following the points. This will help you follow the development of the whole book.

## 2. Theme

The focus of this book is Jesus Christ Himself. Without Him there is no Christianity, but He has completed the Old Testament and brings us salvation by faith in Him.

**Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of Man, is superior to all and the author and finisher of our faith.**

<sup>5</sup> Gordon D. Fee and Douglas Stuart, *How to Read the Bible Book by Book* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002), 391-392.

Through that key theme the believers were being encouraged to stand firm in their faith and not to turn back to “religion”. And so must we.

### 3. Key Verse

Hebrews 4:14 tells us to firmly grip onto the faith that we have said we have. Don't let it be shaken. Why? Because of Jesus Christ. It all lies in Him and what He has done for us, and as our High Priest, continues to do for us.



**Question 3** Write out Hebrews 4:14

---

### 4. Topics and Teachings

Obvious topics in Hebrews include the High Priesthood of Jesus; the Abrahamic covenant; God's sacrifice; the new covenant; faith; the superiority of Christ; the “better” things that we have in Christ; Christian maturity and endurance. Hebrews is full of rich teachings on Christ since He is the focus of the whole book.

#### *Deity of Christ*

This whole book rests on the doctrine of the deity of Christ.



**Question 4** Look at 1:2-3. Write down the seven ways Christ is described in just these 2 verses.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

In 1:6 we see that the angels were to worship Jesus. And in 1:8 a quote from the Old Testament is used directly addressing Christ as God. In 13:8 we read that “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.” Again, an attribute of God to be unchanging.

#### *Jesus the High Priest*

The priesthood is discussed in 4:14-5:10, interrupted by an exhortation, and then returned to in chapters 7-9. Melchizedek, a unique individual from the time of Abraham is used as a type to represent Jesus.

Jesus had to become one of us, so that He could represent mankind before God, both as our High Priest and our atonement (2:17).

Jesus is a High Priest who can fully sympathize with us because He has experienced every temptation we have (4:15).

Jesus was a High Priest in the order of Melchizedek (Genesis 14:18-20; Psalm 110:4; Hebrews 7:1-17). Melchizedek was a king-priest which made him different from and above Aaron.

In Hebrews 10:12-14 we have a picture of what Jesus is actually doing right now in Heaven. We know that He is seated at the right hand of God, which indicates that His task on earth was completed.

As the High Priest who always has access to God He is now in Heaven offering intercession for us (7:25; 9:24).

## Covenant

Look at the definition of *covenant* in the Word Study. This is an extremely important concept in the Bible. It is mentioned a number of times in the New Testament, but is a major theme in Hebrews. You have already marked this word in your Bible. Hebrews is a good place to start a study on the new and old covenants God has made with mankind.

The old covenant which is sometimes referred to as the Mosaic covenant, or the covenant of the law, depended on the law for a right relationship with God. God said, if you keep my law then you will be acceptable to me. Within that covenant was the offering up of sacrifices each time a law was broken. So there was a constant effort on the part of sinful man to keep his relationship unbroken with God.

The new covenant brought in by Christ was based on his one-time perfect sacrifice. The burden was taken off of man to repeatedly make sacrifices. The blood of Jesus was the one-time sacrifice that would give man the ability to have an unbroken relationship with God.

Intertwined with the theme of the covenant is the blood. Hebrews 9:22 tells us “without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.” It is important to remember that none of God’s requirements were done away with when the new covenant came in, but rather they were perfectly fulfilled in Christ and His shedding of blood in sacrifice for our sin. *Blood* is another word that you may want to take the time to mark in your Bible.

## The “Better”

Since you have already marked in your Bible the word *better* you will have an opportunity now to identify from the following list what verses they are taken from.



**Question 5** Fill in the blanks with the Scripture reference.

- a) \_\_\_\_\_ – a **better hope**. Our hope now being in Jesus Christ and what He has done for us instead of the law.
- b) \_\_\_\_\_ – a **better covenant**. The old covenant being based on the law and the new and “better” covenant based on the sacrifice of Christ.
- c) \_\_\_\_\_ – **better promises**. The old promises related to physical blessings, but the new promises are spiritual and eternal blessings.
- d) \_\_\_\_\_ – **better possession** and a lasting one. Earthly possessions cannot compare to what a believer will have in eternity.
- e) \_\_\_\_\_ – a **better country**, that is, a heavenly one.
- f) \_\_\_\_\_ – God had provided something **better** for us. All of those heroes of the faith believed what they did not live to see. Christ is our “better”. And theirs too.
- g) \_\_\_\_\_ – “the sprinkled blood, which speaks **better** than the blood of Abel.” Jesus’ blood is better than all the sacrifices offered down through the ages starting with Abel, because He was the perfect lamb of God.



### Practical Assignment: Preach on the “Better”

Write a sermon outline based on the “Better” that are listed in Hebrews. Make sure you draw out a practical application for your listeners to act upon and be prepared to share your outline with your leader.

## Faith

One of the most well-known portions in Hebrews is chapter 11, the “Faith” chapter. This is a listing of great men and women who are an example to us in faith. These were people who based their

lives on the unseen. In 12:1 we are told that they are a “great cloud of witnesses” to our own Christian lives. You may want to mark the word *faith* even if you limit it to this one chapter.

### **Other Themes**

There are also other smaller themes that run in Hebrews, such as the idea of the rest that we can find in Christ. In your own readings you probably noticed many of the contrasts and warnings that are littered throughout the book. We have just chosen a few of the more outstanding topics for you to focus on and familiarize yourself with.

### **5. Jesus Christ, Our Intercessor at the Throne**

Read the appendix, Chapter 19 of *A Look at the New Testament* as you complete this section.



**Question 6** Who does Mears suggest Hebrews was first written to?

---

### **The Superiority of the Person of Christ**



**Question 7** What two great truths were taken for granted by the author of Hebrews?

---

---



**Question 8** What misconception was Hebrews written to correct?

---

---

---

### **The Superiority of the Priesthood of Christ**



**Question 9** Why can we have boldness to come before the Father?

---

---



**Question 10** List Christ’s great appearances:

Past- \_\_\_\_\_

Present- \_\_\_\_\_

Future- \_\_\_\_\_



**Question 11** Why is it important to meet regularly with other Christians?

---

---

### **The Superiority of the Life in Christ**



#### **Exercise 4**

*Define faith.* How does Mears describe faith? Do you agree with her? Why or why not?



**Question 12** How do we set aside unbelief?

---



**Question 13** In Dr. Mears' list of "Clues to a Life of Faith" how many things relate to our personal relationship with Jesus? How many to our relationships with others?

---



---



---

Dr. Mears suggests that we should ask, "Whom do we believe?" instead of "Do we believe?"



**Question 14** If we do not believe Jesus, whom do we believe?

---



---



**Question 15** Who will make it possible for us to live a life pleasing to God?

---

## III. Conclusion

This lesson has been a little different from some of the other lessons in that we have had the opportunity to focus on just one book, but it is also made unique by that particular book. We know so little about the background of Hebrews. It is not like Corinthians or Ephesians where we know the author and the audience and we have historical information about the cities. But that is certainly not a loss when we come to the study of this magnificent book. Actually it helps us to focus on the content even more. Instead of being distracted by the background of the book we are forced to look at the content and to recognize Jesus for who He really is! What an honor it will be one day to bow before the One who is the Creator and Sustainer of heaven and earth, the One who has been before time and will be after time, the One whom even the angels serve and worship!

If for some reason you have only studied this one lesson please note that it is one in a series of 12 lessons which cover the epistles of the New Testament and the Revelation. These lessons do not necessarily need to be done in order but we would encourage you to pursue your study of the scriptures both for your personal spiritual growth and so that you will be prepared to help others.

Other lessons are:

- Lesson 1—James and Galatians — *The Truth about Faith*
- Lesson 2—1 and 2 Thessalonians — *Standing Firm in Persecution*
- Lesson 3—1 Corinthians — *Problems of the Church*
- Lesson 4—2 Corinthians — *Ministry Defended*
- Lesson 5—Romans — *Righteousness by Faith*
- Lesson 6—Colossians and Ephesians — *Christ and His Church*
- Lesson 7—Philemon and Philippians — *Joy and Forgiveness*
- Lesson 8—1 Timothy and Titus — *Church Leadership*
- Lesson 9—1 Peter, 2 Timothy & 2 Peter— *Encouragement and Warnings*
- Lesson 11—Jude, 1, 2 & 3 John — *Love in Action*
- Lesson 12—The Revelation — *Climax of the Ages*

# Self Test

Score: \_\_\_/100

## True and False (7 points each, \_\_\_/84)

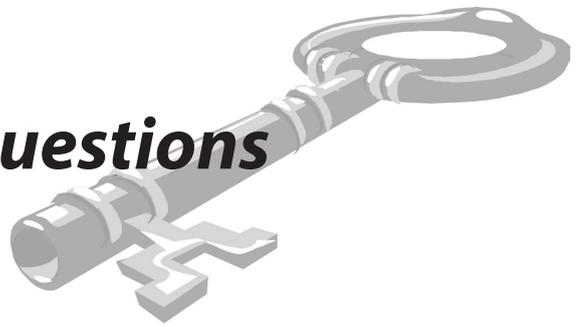
### Answer the following questions True or False.

1. \_\_\_ Hebrews was most likely written between A.D. 65 and 70.
2. \_\_\_ Paul wrote Hebrews.
3. \_\_\_ It was written primarily to Jews.
4. \_\_\_ One of the key words for Hebrews in this lesson was “temple”.
5. \_\_\_ Hebrews is sometimes referred to as the fifth gospel.
6. \_\_\_ Hebrews has over 100 direct references to the Old Testament.
7. \_\_\_ The theme of Hebrews is, “Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of Man, is superior to all and the author and finisher of our faith.”
8. \_\_\_ The key verse is Hebrews 4:14.
9. \_\_\_ This verse states, “Whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him.”
10. \_\_\_ One of the key teachings of Hebrews is that Jesus is our High Priest.
11. \_\_\_ Another key teaching is about apostasy in the last days.
12. \_\_\_ Mears titles this book, “Jesus Christ, Our High Priest”.

## Fill in the Blanks (4 points each, \_\_\_/16)

Outline of Hebrews		
I.	Christ, Superior to (1) _____	1:1–2:18
II.	Christ, Superior to Moses and Joshua	3:1–(2) _____
III.	Christ, Superior to the Old Testament (3) _____	4:14–7:28
IV.	A Superior Covenant	8:1–10:18
V.	The Superiority of (4) _____	10:19–13:25

# Answers to Questions



## Question 1

Most likely Hebrews was written between A.D.65 and A.D. 70.

## Question 2

There are at least 86 references to the Old Testament in Hebrews.

## Question 3

See Hebrews 4:14 in your Bible.

## Question 4

1. Heir of all things
2. God made the world through Him
3. Jesus is the radiance of God's glory
4. He is the exact representation of God
5. He sustains everything by His power
6. He washed away our sins (provided purification for our sins)
7. He sits at the right hand of God in heaven

## Question 5

- a) Hebrews 7:19
- b) Hebrews 7:22; Hebrews 8:6
- c) Hebrews 8:6
- d) Hebrews 10:34
- e) Hebrews 11:16
- f) Hebrews 11:40
- g) Hebrews 12:24

## Question 6

Jewish Christians in Jerusalem.

## Question 7

1. God exists.
2. God reveals Himself to men.

## Question 8

Hebrews was written to correct the misconception that by becoming Christians the Jews had given up something. When we give up religious forms which are tangible—as were the sacrifices, etc—and focus on the spiritual, it is much more difficult. Humans crave traditions and the tangible. God is on the other hand concerned about the unseen.

## Question 9

We can be bold because Jesus as our High Priest is sitting there beside the Father interceding for us.

**Question 10**

Past—On the cross

Present—At the right hand of the throne

Future—In the clouds of glory

**Question 11**

If we are not exposed to the warmth of other Christians we quickly grow cold in our own spiritual lives.

**Question 12**

We can set aside the sin of unbelief by looking constantly at Jesus.

**Question 13**

About eight things can be related to my personal relationship with Jesus Christ, but some of these things also relate to my relationships with others. At least eight things relate to my relationships with others.

**Question 14**

Any person who does not believe Jesus, believes Satan because he is the only other choice. Every philosophy and religion and cult that is not Christianity is Satan's.

**Question 15**

Jesus Christ.

# Answers to Exercise



## Exercise 1

“Priest” in all forms occurs 36 times in Hebrews.

“Covenant” occurs 21 times.

“Better” occurs 13 times.

## Exercise 2

No answer needed. Let your leader check your Bible.

## Exercise 3

Your answer should be similar to this although you may use different phraseology or a slightly different outline schematic:

Introduction (1:1-3)

- I. First argument: the superiority of the Son (1:4-4:13)
  - A. Superiority to angels (1:4-2:18)
  - B. Superiority to Moses (3:1-19)
  - C. Superiority to Joshua (4:1-13)
- II. Second argument: the Son as the perfect high priest (4:14-10:18)
  - A. Transitional exhortation (4:14-16)
  - B. Jesus as the high priest (5:1-10)
  - C. Warnings and encouragement (5:11-6:20)
    1. Warning 1: slacking off (5:11-6:3)
    2. Warning 2: apostasy (6:4-8)
    3. Encouragement: God’s sure promises (6:9-20)
  - D. The priestly order of Melchizidek (7:1-28)
  - E. The new covenant and perfect priesthood (8:1-10:18)
- III. Application and exhortation: faithful perseverance (10:19-13:21)
  - A. An appeal to action (10:19-25)
  - B. A warning (10:26-31)
  - C. Encouragement (10:32-39)
  - D. Examples (11:1-12:3)
  - E. Instruction (12:4-13)
  - F. Another warning (12:14-17)
  - G. Affirmation of future certainty (12:18-29)

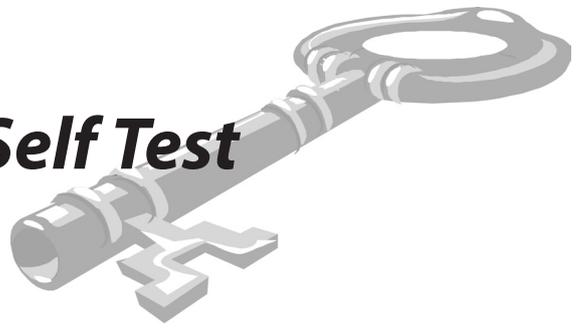
Conclusion: practical exhortations (13:1-25)

## Exercise 4

Faith, according to Mears, is a simple act of will. It is just trusting God, believing Him.

Your answer.

# *Answers to Self Test*



## **True and False**

1. T
2. F
3. T
4. F
5. T
6. F
7. T
8. T
9. F
10. T
11. F
12. F

## **Fill in the Blanks**

1. Angels
2. 4:13
3. Priesthood
4. Faith

# Let's Look At Hebrews

## *Hebrews Portrays Jesus Christ, Our Intercessor At The Throne*

Chapter 19 from *A Look at the New Testament* by Henrietta Mears<sup>6</sup>

This book was written, first of all, to Jewish Christians, probably of Jerusalem, who were wavering in their faith. Because of the taunts and jeers of their persecutors, the Jewish Christians were beginning to think they had lost everything, altar, priests, sacrifices, by accepting Christianity. The Apostle proves that they had only lost the shadow to be given the substance (Jesus Christ).

### **Instead Of Losing All — They Had Gained All**

We Have:

- a great High Priest (4:14)
- an anchor of the soul (6:19)
- a High Priest on the throne (8:1)
- an enduring possession (10:34)
- an altar (13:10)

We have the “better” things of Christianity. (Mark the 13 “betters.”)

Do we know the real difference between having Christ as a Saviour and as a Priest? Well, this book answers the question.

<sup>6</sup> Used by permission

# The Superiority Of The Person Of Christ

(Read Hebrews 1:1-4:13)

Nowhere are our Lord's deity and humanity so emphasized as in Hebrews 1 and 2. As our great High Priest, Christ is able to understand all our need, because He is perfect Man. He is "touched with the feeling of our infirmities." He is able to meet all our need, because He is perfect God. *He is able.*

Write down all that you find about Christ in Hebrews 1 and 2. If you knew nothing more about Him than you found in these two chapters, you would know much.

Two great truths are taken for granted—the existence of God, and that He reveals Himself to men. He revealed Himself before, *in time past*, by the prophets; *in these last days . . . by His Son*. The Bible records a series of stories of how God speaks to man and reveals His will and His plan to them. How marvelous to hear His only begotten Son speak! *Hear ye Him!* In Christ *all voices merge into one Voice*.

Remember, this letter is written to rectify the erroneous idea that the Christian Jews had lost some things because they had taken up Christianity. The letter is written to correct this misconception. Christianity is not "giving up" but "receiving," receiving the greatest gifts of life, in fact Life itself, for Christ is Life.

## The Argument For Christianity

### The Superiority of the Person of Jesus Christ

- The Lord Jesus Christ is greater than any human leader (prophets) (1:1-3).
- The Lord Jesus Christ is greater than angels (1:4-2:18).
- The Lord Jesus Christ is greater than Moses (3:1-19).
- The Lord Jesus Christ is greater than Joshua (4:1-16).

When God wanted to save man from his sin, He did not send an angel, but His Son. God came not in the form of an angel but in the form of a man. He became Man to redeem man. He suffered as a man and died as a man that He might be our Redeemer (2:10). Jesus tasted the bitterness of death for us, in order that He might render the Devil powerless, who has the power of death. He came up from the grave with the keys of hell and of death and no longer can the Devil lock any of us in death. Jesus came not to help angels but men.

Hebrews 4:12 shows the power of God's Word. Let the Word search and try you! Let God's Word have its proper place in your life. It searches out every motive and desire and purpose of your life, and helps you in evaluating them. Christ is the living Word of God. He is alive (quick) and powerful and all-wise and all-knowing. Let Him have His way!

# The Superiority Of The Priesthood Of Christ

(Read Hebrews 4:14-10:18)

Here begins the main theme of this book.

## Of a Better Covenant (8:13)

A better covenant because it is based on better promises. These promises are written on the heart, not on tables of stone (8:10).

## Of a Better Tabernacle (9:1-12)

Christ officiates in heaven. The tabernacle was of this world. The high priest entered into the holy of holies once a year, but Christ has entered into the heavenly sanctuary “once and for all.” Christ’s was not an annual redemption, but an eternal one.

## Of a Better Sacrifice (10:18)

He Himself is the sacrifice. He offered Himself as a lamb without blemish, to cleanse us. The sacrifices of the Old Testament were calves and goats. They could not take away sin. They were but the shadow. This Sacrifice needed to be offered only once.

Christ is called our High Priest. What does that mean? We are taught very plainly in the Word that sin has cut men off from God. No sinner can approach God. The way has been closed. In the Old Testament, a representative, the high priest, whom God appointed, could come into God’s presence only once a year, after sacrifice for the sins of the people had been made. He must offer the blood of calves and goats not only for the sins of the people, but for his own sins, for he too was a sinner. He then would go into the holy place, then on beyond the veil into the holy of holies where the Ark of the Covenant rested. Over it was the mercy seat, and here God met man through the mediator, the high priest.

How can we approach God today? Christ has made that possible. He is our High Priest, our Representative before the Father. He entered into the heavenly sanctuary, God’s presence, bearing the blood of His own sacrifice to cleanse us from our sins and to give to us eternal salvation. His blood had to be shed, for *without shedding of blood is no remission* (9:22). *But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down on the right hand of God* (10:12). *It is finished*, he said on the cross. All His work of redemption had been completed, hence we see Him sitting: We find this picture of Christ often in Hebrews.

Christ did not have to die more than once. He offered Himself once and for all as an offering for sin. This is why we can come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need (4:14-16).

Our High Priest is at the right hand of the Father at this minute, making intercession for you and for me (7:25; 8:1; 10:12)! He has gone *to appear in the presence of God for us* (9:24). This is why we can have boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way (10:19, 20). Avail yourself of this glorious privilege.

### Christ’s Great Appearings

In Hebrews 9, our Lord’s three great appearings stand out in letters of light:

#### PAST—

On the cross—*“Once in the end of the world hath He appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself”* (9:26).

#### PRESENT—

At the right hand of the throne — *“Now to appear in the presence of God for us”* (9:24).

#### FUTURE—

In the clouds of glory—*“Unto them that look for Him shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation”* (9:28).

Christ offered Himself as the sacrifice, a Lamb, without blemish or spot. The priest offered the lives of calves and goats, but they could not take away sin. This better Sacrifice had only to be offered once and for all (10:10-18).

Since Christ has made this new and living way into the presence of the Father, let us come boldly to the throne of grace. The sin question is settled forever.

Christ's death is sufficient. God can now not only forgive us our sins, but cleanse us from sin.

"What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus."

Let us not only approach the throne of grace, but let us *not neglect the assembling of ourselves together* (10:25). There is nothing like Christian fellowship to make us grow. Mr. Moody visited a woman who had grown cold in her Christian life. She said she had not been able to come to church, but otherwise she could not understand what had happened to make her feel as she did about spiritual things. Without saying a word, Mr. Moody arose and lifted out a live coal from the grate and placed it on the hearth. In a few moments the glow was gone, and the coal was black. "I see it," she said. You cannot continue to glow in your Christian life alone. You need the warmth of fellowship with other Christians. This is a command to us.

## The Superiority Of The Life In Christ

(Read Hebrews 11-13)

From now on, the writer tells us the kind of a life we should live, because of Christ's work as High Priest for us. We know He is at the right hand of God and that He *ever maketh intercession for us*. When Christ finished His work of redemption on earth, He went to heaven to continue His work of intercession for us.

After one has accepted Christ, there are planes of Christian living. Some Christians live in the basement of Christian experience, merely inside the building, but where it is dark, dismal and gloomy. Others live on the ground floor. They leave the first foundations and go on. Some sunlight enters but their outlook is upon the circumstances about them. The others live up higher. Sunlight and warmth flood the rooms. The noise and attractions of the worldly street do not disturb them. The air is pure. The outlook is toward the blue skies and distant mountains. These live above the world, hid with Christ in God. It is in this high realm that God wishes us all to live continuously.

Let us look at a few men and women of God whose names are given in Hebrews 11, that lived with a high look. The Holy Spirit tells us the secret of each life is faith, yet it is not so much his or her faith as their reliance upon our faithful God. A woman became known as a person of faith. Very often people would ask her, "Are you the woman with the great faith?" She would reply, "I am not the woman with the great faith, but the woman with the little faith in a great God!"

The secret of Christian living is simply allowing Christ to meet our needs. Some say, "I have no faith; I can't believe." Yet we constantly place faith in our fellow men. You want to go to New York from San Francisco. You buy your ticket and get on the train. In the course of your journey a half-dozen engineers will guide your train. Without seeing them or knowing a thing about their ability, you trust your life to them. Faith is just trusting God, believing Him. There is nothing mysterious about faith. It is a simple act of the will. Either we will believe God, or we won't. We decide. It is as simple as turning an electric light switch. This is not a difficult, or baffling, or mysterious thing to do. And the result is light and power. When we decide to believe God absolutely, then supernatural life and power enter our lives. A miracle is wrought within us. One of the practical results of faith is that it makes weak men strong (11:34).

To live in the Hall of Faith forever we need to do two things. First, like anyone entering a race, *lay aside every encumbrance*. Yield everything to Christ. Second, we are really to believe that Jesus is trustworthy. When we do we have given up the sin which so easily besets us—for that is the sin of unbelief. We give up that sin by *looking unto Jesus*. After we have surrendered our lives to Christ and laid aside the deadly sin of unbelief, we can *run the race set before us, looking unto Jesus*.

There is only one kind of human being in the world that can please God. Who is it? Hebrews 11:6. It is not what we do for God, but what God does for us that makes a life of power and strength. Our great God, rather than our great faith, is the thing to think most about. It is fashionable to be doubtful rather than sure about the great facts of God and Christ and salvation. Remember, this cannot please God.

The little words “let us” give us the clue to this new life in Christ.

<b>Clues To A Life Of Faith</b>	
<b>“Let Us”</b>	
Draw near .....	10:22
Hold fast .....	10:23
Consider one another.....	10:24
Persevere .....	10:25
Lay aside every weight and sin .....	12:1
Run with patience .....	12:1
Endure manfully, looking unto Jesus.....	12:2
Consider Jesus .....	12:3
Despise not chastening. ....	12:5-13
Follow peace with all men .....	12:14
Avoid bitterness .....	12:15
Be loving and hospitable.....	13:1-4
Be established in doctrine .....	13:9
Go forth .....	13:13
Offer the sacrifice of praise .....	13:15

Dr. Haldeman tersely calls Hebrews 11 “the Westminster Abbey of the Royal Dead”—*dead unto the world and alive unto God*.

Have you ever been to Westminster Abbey, or Arlington Cemetery, or Mt. Vernon? If so, you will understand what people mean when they call this chapter “The Westminster Abbey of Faith.” Just as these wonderful spots contain memorials of some of the greatest men of the English speaking world, so this chapter is a record of the great heroes of faith.

What is faith? Faith is believing what God says and trusting Him. The question is not, “Do we believe?” but “Whom do we believe?”

The belief which is a mere intellectual conviction has never yet saved a soul, but the belief which means the surrender of the whole life to Christ is the belief which brings salvation.

Two boys stood on the edge of a frozen pond. One said, “Bill, I believe it will hold us up.” “Do you?” said the other. “Yes.” “Then get on.” “No,” said the first, “I don’t want to.” “Then you don’t believe it will hold your weight.” He was right. If a man stands outside the finished work of Christ and says, “I believe that. I believe its philosophy. I believe it is enough to save a man,” that man is never saved. To be saved he must stand on the finished work of Christ.

Because of the great company of witnesses on the bleachers watching from heaven, let us run the race of life God has set before us. As an athlete would, when he is preparing for a race, let us lay aside every sinful habit, and anything that would hinder us (12:1,2).

**To Run Life's Race**

Let us have patience..... 12:1

Endure chastening ..... 12:11

Follow peace and purity of heart. .... 12:14

Always look to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith.

A life well pleasing in His sight will be made possible by the Lord Himself.

