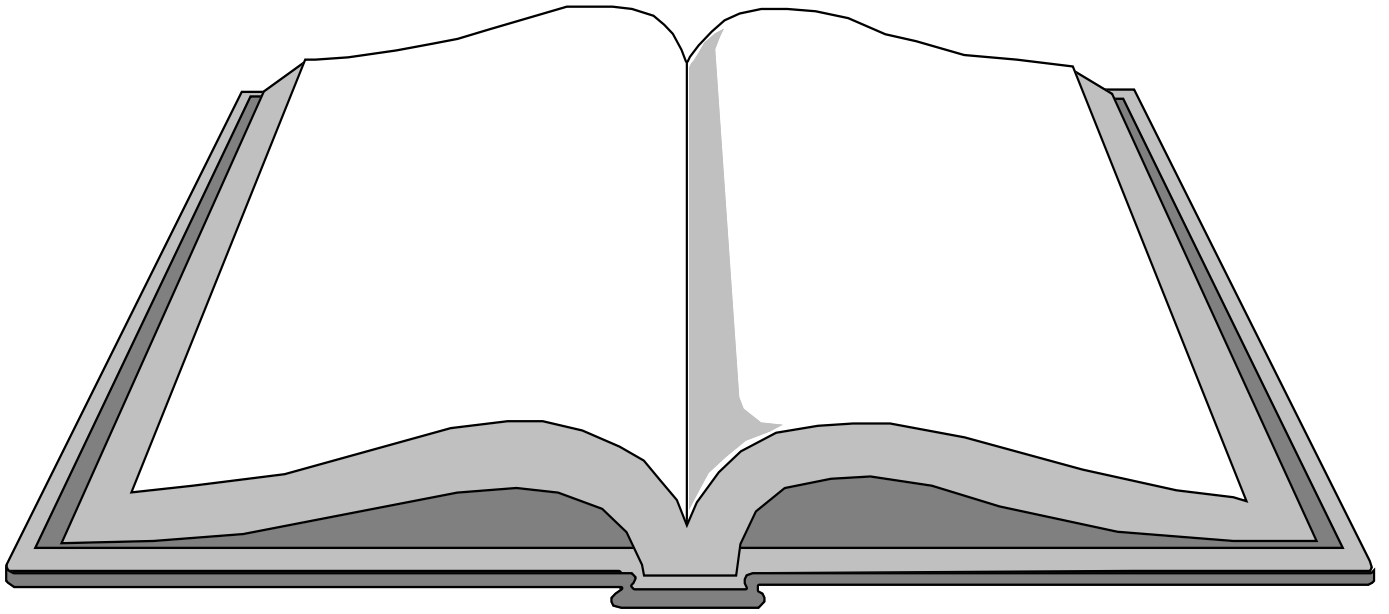


*THE BOOK OF*  
**Hebrews**



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# The Book of Hebrews

## Lesson 1

Hebrews is like God's commentary on the old covenant and the law; it is His perspective on the Jewish religion that has become a comfortable ritual rather than a challenging reality. The book is written to Jewish Christians, and therein lies the problem – they have added “Jewishness” to Christianity in an attempt to avoid persecution and be accepted. They have added to the gospel and, in doing so, they have diluted its power.

THEN: Jesus-and ... angels, Moses, priesthood, temple, sacrifices ...

NOW: Jesus-and ... education, political correctness, other gods, etc ...

Key words: better (13x), perfect (14x in Greek), eternal

What Jesus gives us is **better** because it is **eternal** and gives us **perfect** standing before Him!

The temple is still standing as this book is being written, and sacrifices are being offered every day – it would have been easy for these Jewish Christians to escape persecution and go back to the old Mosaic system they had known before. They were second-generation believers, having been won by those who had actually walked with Jesus. They had been persecuted for their faith, specifically for leaving Judaism, and were being seduced by false teachers to take the easy road.

They were at a standstill spiritually and in danger of going backwards (because you CAN'T stand still spiritually!). They had even started to forsake the assembling of themselves together as believers. It is ALWAYS a warning sign when people don't desire to be in church!

We don't know who the author of Hebrews was, but many scholars think it was the Apostle Paul:

- The end of the epistle is like others written by Paul (doctrinal, then practical – chapter 10)
- Peter said that Paul had written to these Jewish believers previously (2 Peter 3:15)
- Many of the Jews didn't receive Paul, and that may be the main reason his name is not attached to it

**2 Peter 3:15** And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you;

**Hebrews 1:1-2** God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

God used the prophets at different TIMES and in different WAYS, but Jesus is the ultimate MESSAGE and MANIFESTATION of God.

**John 1:1-3** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

**John 1:14-17** And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me. And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace. For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

**Hebrews 1:3** Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

“Brightness of his glory” refers to the Shekinah that dwelt in the temple

“Express image” means “the exact imprint” – our English word “character” come from this root word

**John 14:9** Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?

“Upholding” doesn’t mean “holding up” but rather “guiding”

“Right hand” doesn’t refer to “position” but to “power”

**Exodus 15:6** Thy right hand, O Lord, is become glorious in power: thy right hand, O Lord, hath dashed in pieces the enemy.

**Hebrews 1:4** Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

Thousands of angels assisted in the giving of the Law, so the Jews considered them extremely important and superior. But Jesus is BETTER than angels!

**Psalms 68:17** The chariots of God are twenty thousand, even thousands of angels: the Lord is among them, as in Sinai, in the holy place.  
The writer of Hebrews gives us several quotations back-to-back from the Old Testament, in order to prove that Jesus is BETTER than angels:

**Hebrews 1:5** For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?

### **JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD!**

**Hebrews 1:6** And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him.

### **JESUS IS THE FIRSTBORN RECEIVING WORSHIP!**

**Hebrews 1:7** And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire.

### **JESUS IS SERVED BY THE ANGELS!**

**Hebrews 1:8-9** But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom. Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.

### **JESUS IS GOD ENTHRONED AND ANOINTED!**

**Hebrews 1:10-12** And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands: They shall perish; but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment; And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail.

### **JESUS IS THE ETERNAL CREATOR!**

**Hebrews 1:13** But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool?

### **JESUS IS VICTORIOUS!**

**Hebrews 1:14** Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

**WE DO NOT WORSHIP ANGELS – WE WORSHIP GOD, AND HE DISPATCHES THE ANGELS TO MINISTER TO US!**

**Hebrews 2:1-4** Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward; How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; God also

bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?

REMEMBER WHAT “THEREFORE” IS THERE FOR!

The writer of Hebrews is not disrespecting angels! He is just contrasting the Old Testament with the New Testament – which is far BETTER! He is saying if they honored the commandments and exhortations spoken by angels, they should “give the more earnest heed” to the gospel!

“Let them slip” means to “drift away” – most spiritual problems are caused by NEGLECT (the anchor doesn’t move, but we do!).

In the OT the law was given by angels, but in the NT the Word was:

- revealed by the Son of God
- preached by the Apostles
- confirmed by signs and wonders

We have a far greater responsibility to obey God’s Word!

GRACE IS A HIGHER LAW THAN LAW!

**Hebrews 2:5-9** For unto the angels hath he not put in subjection the world to come, whereof we speak. But one in a certain place testified, saying, What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man, that thou visitest him? Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands: Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him. But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

WE ARE CREATED LOWER THAN THE ANGELS, BUT LIFTED HIGHER BY REDEMPTION! We were given dominion over the earth at creation, but we lost it through sin. God gives us that spiritual dominion back when we are born again, but the redemption of our bodies has “not yet” happened. Until that final day ... “BUT WE SEE JESUS!”

# The Book of Hebrews

## Lesson 2

Key words: better (13x), perfect (14x in Greek), eternal

What Jesus gives us is **better** because it gives us **perfect** standing before Him, and because it is **eternal**!

The Jewish Christians addressed in Hebrews were second-generation believers, won by those who had actually walked with Jesus. They had been persecuted for their faith, and were being seduced by false teachers to take the easy road. They were at a standstill spiritually and in danger of going backwards (because you CAN'T stand still spiritually!).

Thousands of angels assisted in the giving of the Law, so the Jews considered them extremely important and superior. But in chapter one, the author gives us several quotations back-to-back from the Old Testament, in order to prove that Jesus is BETTER than angels. The author is not disrespecting angels, just contrasting the Old Testament with the New Testament – which is far BETTER! He says in chapter two that if they honored the commandments and exhortations spoken by angels, they should “give the more earnest heed” to the gospel!

### **GRACE IS A HIGHER LAW THAN LAW!**

**Hebrews 2:3** How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;

There is an ironic twist in Hebrews chapter two – the author has just proved that Jesus is BETTER than the angels, and now he states that Jesus was made “a little LOWER than the angels.”

**Hebrews 2:9** But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

**This is the message of the gospel: GOD TOOK ON A HUMAN NATURE THAT HE HAD NEVER POSSESSED SO WE COULD TAKE ON A DIVINE NATURE THAT WE HAD NEVER POSSESSED.**

Jesus took my sin and death so that I could take His holiness and life.

**Hebrews 2:10** For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

“CAPTAIN” = “a pioneer, one who opens up the way for others”

“PERFECT” = “complete, effective, adequate” ... through SUFFERINGS!

**Hebrews 2:11** For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren,

BRETHREN = same nature, same family, same blood, etc.

Verse 12 quotes Psalm 22:22

Verse 13 quotes Psalm 18:2 and Isaiah 8:18

(prophetic passages where God refers to the church as His “children”)

**Hebrews 2:12-13** Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee. And again, I will put my trust in him. And again, Behold I and the children which God hath given me.

**Hebrews 2:14** Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

Jesus took on every part of human nature, except SIN. God cannot die, but the body He created for Himself could die on the cross – and, by dying, actually destroy the power of death!

“DESTROY” = obviously not “annihilate” because Satan is still active – means “to render inoperative or of none effect” – that’s why we still have to resist the devil, because he will try to convince us that he has power

**Hebrews 2:15** And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

**1 Corinthians 15:26** The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.

We spent a lifetime in bondage, but Jesus destroyed our last enemy first! If He could conquer your worst problem, He can deal with any problem!

**Hebrews 2:16** For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham.

**Jesus didn’t come to save angels – He came to save human beings.** That meant that God who was higher than the angels had to stoop lower than His own heavenly creation to become a man.

**Hebrews 2:17** Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.

”BEHOVED” = “was needful”

Jesus is both a MERCIFUL and FAITHFUL high priest – He could never “break the rules” on our behalf, so He took our penalty on Himself!

**1 John 1:9** If we confess our sins, he is FAITHFUL and JUST to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

FORGIVENESS only takes one, but RECONCILIATION takes two – just like a handshake takes two hands. God has extended His hand to offer forgiveness, but it takes our obedience to obtain reconciliation.

**Forgiveness does not establish relationship, only reconciliation does** - God forgave the world, but just because He offered forgiveness doesn't mean we are saved – we still have to choose to be reconciled!

**2 Corinthians 5:17-21** Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God, who hath **reconciled** us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of **reconciliation**; To wit, that God was in Christ, **reconciling** the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of **reconciliation**. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye **reconciled** to God. For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

**In the Bible, men are invited to be “reconciled” to God; that is, they must change their attitude and accept the provision God has made.**

**NOT ONCE IS GOD SAID TO BE “RECONCILED” TO US – IT WAS WE WHO NEEDED TO BE “RECONCILED” TO GOD! AND HOW DID GOD DO THIS? BY TAKING THE PUNISHMENT HIMSELF!**

**Colossians 1:19-22** For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell; And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreprouable in his sight:

Jesus became a man so He could feel exactly what you feel! He was tempted like you, but did not sin. Angels could never sympathize with us!

**Hebrews 2:18** For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.

“SUCCOUR” = “to run to the cry of a child, to bring help when needed”

# The Book of Hebrews

## Lesson 3

Key words: better (13x), perfect (14x in Greek), eternal

What Jesus gives us is **better** because it gives us **perfect** standing before Him, and because it is **eternal**!

Thousands of angels assisted in the giving of the Law, so the Jews considered them extremely important and superior.

In chapter one, Paul gives us several quotations back-to-back from the Old Testament, in order to prove that Jesus is BETTER than angels.

In chapter two, Paul shows us that Jesus was made “a little LOWER than the angels” – God took on a human nature that He had never possessed so we could take on a divine nature that we had never possessed!

Next to Abraham, Moses was the man most greatly revered by the Jews. The entire system of Jewish Law came through Moses, and so it is a temptation for these Jewish Christians to go back to the “safety” of living under the Law (no persecution). There is a similar temptation today, because no one minds a brand of Christianity that just lets you “blend in” or that doesn’t demand any change in your life!

So, in chapter three, in order to show them that going back to the Law would be futile, the author proves that **Jesus is BETTER than Moses!**

**Hebrews 3:1-2** Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus; Who was faithful to him that appointed him, as also Moses was faithful in all his house.

“PARTAKERS” = “partners” (same word as in Luke 5:7)

“APOSTLE” = “one sent with a commission”

An APOSTLE represents GOD TO MAN

A HIGH PRIEST represents MAN TO GOD

Moses was only an Apostle (not a high priest), but Jesus was BOTH

**Hebrews 3:3-6** For this man was counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as he who hath builded the house hath more honour than the house. For every house is builded by some man; but he that built all things is God. And Moses verily was faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after; But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.

“HOUSE” – used 6X in these verses, refers to PEOPLE, not buildings

Moses was a SERVANT in the house (v. 5)

Jesus was a SON over the house (v. 6)

But Jesus was also the BUILDER of the house (v. 3-4) – HE IS GOD!

Moses spoke about things to come (“which were to be spoken after”), but Jesus brought the fulfillment of those things! Moses spoke in the shadows of the OT, but Jesus brought the light of the NT.

“HOPE FIRM UNTO THE END” – we live in the “future tense”!

(i.e. Joshua and Caleb lived in the “future tense” for forty years, even when the majority of the Israelites did not)

**Hebrews 3:7-11** Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness: When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years. Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err in their heart; and they have not known my ways. So I sware in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.)

Canaan represents our SPIRITUAL INHERITANCE (not Heaven!)

The wilderness represents a LACK OF FAITH or REBELLION (we don’t believe we can possess it, or we don’t want to possess it – both wrong!)

It is possible to be “out of Egypt” but not “in Canaan” – and that is really the problem of these Hebrew believers – they are “LOOKING BACK”

This section quotes Psalm 95:7-11 almost verbatim, which is God’s reaction to Israel’s rebellion – “they shall not enter into my rest!” And all of that faithless, rebellious generation died in the wilderness!

**There are three RESTS referred to in this section ...**

**1. God rested on the Sabbath Day (4:4)**

This parallels our rest in salvation (Christ’s completed work – 4:3)

**2. Israel had “rest” when they inherited Canaan (3:11)**

This parallels our “rest” as we claim our inheritance in Christ (4:11)

We have to “LABOUR” to enter into this rest!

**3. There is a final FUTURE rest in Heaven for God’s people! (4:9)**

When we enter into this rest, there is no more “work” to be done!

**Hebrews 3:12-13** Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

“DEPARTING FROM THE LIVING GOD” = “APOSTASY”

**Hebrews 3:14-15** For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end; While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.

**IF** we hold steadfast, we get to enter into God’s rest – if not, we don’t!

**Hebrews 3:16-19** For some, when they had heard, did provoke: howbeit not all that came out of Egypt by Moses. But with whom was he grieved forty years? was it not with them that had sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness? And to whom sware he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not? So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

It was not EVERYONE who couldn’t enter in, just those who didn’t have faith and rebelled in their hearts – and they died in the wilderness because of that UNBELIEF. However, Joshua and Caleb believed ... and God let them lead the next generation into the Promised Land!

**2 Kings 7:1-3** Then Elisha said, Hear ye the word of the Lord; Thus saith the Lord, To morrow about this time shall a measure of fine flour be sold for a shekel, and two measures of barley for a shekel, in the gate of Samaria. Then a lord on whose hand the king leaned answered the man of God, and said, Behold, if the Lord would make windows in heaven, might this thing be? And he said, Behold, thou shalt see it with thine eyes, but shalt not eat thereof. And there were four leprous men at the entering in of the gate: and they said one to another, Why sit we here until we die?

**2 Kings 7:17-20** And the king appointed the lord on whose hand he leaned to have the charge of the gate: and the people trod upon him in the gate, and he died, as the man of God had said, who spake when the king came down to him. And it came to pass as the man of God had spoken to the king, saying, Two measures of barley for a shekel, and a measure of fine flour for a shekel, shall be to morrow about this time in the gate of Samaria: And that lord answered the man of God, and said, Now, behold, if the Lord should make windows in heaven, might such a thing be? And he said, Behold, thou shalt see it with thine eyes, but shalt not eat thereof. And so it fell out unto him: for the people trod upon him in the gate, and he died.

**Hebrews 4:1-2** Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.

Israel refused to mix God’s Word with faith, and so they lost the inheritance that God had provided for them. **FAITH IS THE ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH THE WORD OF GOD OPERATES!**

**Hebrews 4:3-5** For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works. And in this place again, If they shall enter into my rest.

This passage speaks of Creation Rest, which parallels Salvation Rest (i.e. God did the work, and we just enter into it). Israel refused to enter into the rest God offered, and so do some people today.

**John 1:11-12** He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

**Hebrews 4:6-11** Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief: Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, To day, after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts. For if Jesus had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day. There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his. Let us labor therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.

“LIMITETH” = “marks out, appoints” (the promise is still open TODAY!)

“JESUS” = Greek form of “Joshua” (v. 8)

Israel’s rest in Canaan was not the ultimate rest God promised to His people – and neither is the “rest” we are trying to achieve now! THERE REMAINETH THEREFORE A REST TO THE PEOPLE OF GOD! However, the only way we get to our “eternal” rest (v. 10) is to constantly strive (“labor”) to enter into our inheritance in Christ (v. 11)

**Hebrews 4:12-13** For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

**GOD KNOWS WHETHER YOU HAVE A HEART OF FAITH OR NOT!**

# The Book of Hebrews

## Lesson 4

Key words: better (13x), perfect (14x in Greek), eternal

What Jesus gives us is **better** because it gives us **perfect** standing before Him, and because it is **eternal**!

In chapter one, Paul gives us several quotations back-to-back from the Old Testament, in order to prove that Jesus is BETTER than angels.

In chapter two, Paul shows us that Jesus was made “a little LOWER than the angels” – God took on a human nature that He had never possessed so we could take on a divine nature that we had never possessed!

In chapter three, to show these Jewish Christians that going back to the Law would be futile, Paul proves that Jesus is BETTER than Moses.

In chapter four, Paul warns us against hardening our hearts – if we do, we will miss the REST God has for us, just like Israel did in the OT.

**It is possible to be “out of Egypt” but not “in Canaan” – and that is the problem of these Hebrew believers – they are “LOOKING BACK”**

**Hebrews 4:1-2** Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.

Israel refused to receive God’s Word with faith, and so they lost the inheritance that God had already provided for them. **FAITH IS THE ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH THE WORD OF GOD OPERATES!**

**Hebrews 4:12** For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

**In chapter five, Paul sets out to prove that Jesus has an eternal priesthood that is BETTER than the earthly priesthood of Aaron.**

**Hebrews 4:14-16** Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

You would think that Jesus WOULDN'T sympathize with us because as God He is perfect. But that's exactly why He became a man – so he COULD sympathize with us, because He has lived right where we live!

<b>As a Man, Jesus ...</b>		<b>But as God, He ...</b>	
Was born a baby	Luke 2:7	Existed from eternity	Micah 5:2 John 1:1-2
Grew mentally, physically, spiritually and socially	Luke 2:52	Never changes	Hebrews 13:8
Was tempted by the devil	Luke 4:2	Cast out devils	Matthew 12:28
Hungered	Matthew 4:2	Was the Bread of Life and miraculously fed crowds	John 6:35 Mark 6:38-44, 52
Thirsted	John 19:28	Gave living water	John 4:14
Grew weary	John 4:6	Gave rest	Matthew 11:28
Slept in a storm	Mark 4:38	Calmed the storm	Mark 4:39-41
Prayed	Luke 22:41	Answered prayer	John 14:14
Was scourged and beaten	John 19:1-3	Healed the sick	Matthew 8:16-17 1 Peter 2:24
Died	Mark 15:37	Raised His own body from the dead	John 2:19-21 John 20:9
Was a sacrifice for sin	Hebrews 10:10-12	Forgave sin	Mark 2:5-7
Did not know all things	Mark 13:32	Knew all things	John 21:17
Had no power	John 5:30	Had all power	Matthew 28:18 Colossians 2:10
Was inferior to God	John 14:28	Was equal to God; was God	John 5:18
Was a servant	Philippians 2:7-8	Was King of kings	Revelation 19:16

Jesus knows exactly how you feel because He was tempted “in all points” just like you are – “YET WITHOUT SIN.” That means two things: (1) He can sympathize, and (2) He can do something about it!

**MERCY – God doesn’t give us what we deserve** (this is what God did for His people in the OT, but it had to be repeated over and over again)

**GRACE – God gives us what we do not deserve** (this is what God does for His people in the NT, and it doesn’t have to be repeated over and over because grace is “enabling power” – God helps us do it!)

**Hebrews 5:1-3** For every high priest taken from among men is ordained for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins: Who can have compassion on the ignorant, and on them that are out of the way; for that he himself also is compassed with infirmity. And by reason hereof he ought, as for the people, so also for himself, to offer for sins.

The reason an OT high priest could identify with sinners is because he WAS a sinner! However, one sinner isn’t always merciful with another sinner – but Jesus is always merciful precisely because He IS perfect!

**Hebrews 5:4-6** And no man taketh this honor unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron. So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, to day have I begotten thee. As he saith also in another place, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

**No man could appoint himself as a priest, let alone a high priest!** King Saul assumed Samuel’s place to make a burnt offering and God gave his kingdom to someone else (1 Samuel 13); Korah and his fellow rebels tried to appoint themselves as priests and God opened up the earth to swallow them alive (Numbers 16); King Uzziah entered the temple to burn incense and God smote him with leprosy (2 Chron. 26). **But Aaron was ordained by God (not himself) to be a High Priest.**

In the same way, Jesus was “ordained” not by seizing for Himself the role of high priest, but by being appointed by God to redeem us.

Verse 5 quotes **Psalms 2:7** – “I will declare the decree: the Lord hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.”

Paul explains that this is talking about Jesus’ resurrection, not His birth.

**Acts 13:33** God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that he hath raised up Jesus again; as it is also written in the second psalm, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee.

**Revelation 1:5** And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,

Verse 6 quotes **Psalms 110:4** – “The Lord hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.”

Jesus’ priesthood is BETTER because it is eternal (“for ever”) and because He belongs to a different order than Aaron. Aaron was just a priest, but Jesus (like Melchizedek) was BOTH a priest and a king.

We’ll talk about Melchizedek in more detail when we get to **chapter 7**.

**Hebrews 5:7** Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared;

In the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus was not praying to be delivered FROM death, He was praying to be delivered OUT OF death – and that prayer “was heard”! AND WE CAN PRAY THE SAME THING!

**Hebrews 5:8-10** Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him; Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec.

“OBEDIENCE” = “SUBMISSION”

“PERFECT” = “COMPLETE”

This is why Jesus lived on earth for 33 years before He was crucified for our sins! He wanted to have the same experience of “GROWING” that we do – learning to submit to suffering, and becoming complete in the process. In this way, He became not only a perfect and sympathetic High Priest but a perfect and saving Sacrifice as well.

**Hebrews 5:11-14** Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing. For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

**Growing OLD without growing UP is a tragedy!** It is natural that babies should desire only milk, and we expect them to be deficient in their maturity. But if these things are still happening years later there is a serious problem (and this applies both physically and spiritually).

There is a time in every Christian life when we must graduate from MILK to MEAT (solid food). It is at this stage that we become more than just BELIEVERS – we take on the responsibility of becoming DISCIPLES.

Anything that refuses to grow and change will eventually die. In fact, a clinical definition of death is a body that does not change. If you are not moving forward in your Christian life, you are backsliding. **(This is what was wrong with the Jewish Christians addressed in Hebrews.)**

**What does the Bible mean when it makes this comparison between MILK and MEAT?**

**In other words, what are the characteristics of mature Christians as taught in the Scriptures?**

M I L K	M E A T
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Milk is given to the child by the mother (the church)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meat is hunted and prepared by oneself</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Milk is a comfort food (meet MY needs!)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meat is an energy or strength food (what can I do to HELP?)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Milk is a predigested food (Moses was the “voice of God” to Aaron)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meat must be digested, so it takes more “work” by the individual</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Milk builds up the bones (the framework of spiritual life)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meat builds up the muscles (the activity of spiritual life)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Milk is the truth of what Jesus did (salvation)</li> <li>• Gospels and Acts</li> <li>• We don’t throw out the milk once we start eating meat!</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meat is the truth of what Jesus is doing (sanctification)</li> <li>• Epistles, especially Hebrews</li> <li>• Milk can enhance the meat, giving us more nourishment</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nothing has to die to produce milk!</li> <li>• Milk, eggs and bacon for breakfast – the cow and the chicken were involved, but the pig was committed!</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Something has to die to produce meat!</li> <li>• The real mark of a carnal (fleshly, worldly) Christian is that they will not permit their old man to die!</li> </ul>

It is difficult to understand why these Christians would be tempted to go back to the religion of Judaism after having a relationship with Jesus, who was better than angels, better than Moses, and better than Aaron!

The ONLY reason this could happen is that they were not growing to maturity – and that is the ONLY reason you could ever be tempted to leave YOUR relationship with God because of something you face!

# The Book of Hebrews

## Lesson 5

Key words: better (13x), perfect (14x in Greek), eternal

What Jesus gives us is **better** because it gives us **perfect** standing before Him, and because it is **eternal**!

In chapter one, Paul gives us several quotations back-to-back from the Old Testament, in order to prove that Jesus is BETTER than angels.

In chapter two, Paul shows us that Jesus was made “a little LOWER than the angels” – God took on a human nature that He had never possessed so we could take on a divine nature that we had never possessed!

In chapter three, to show these Jewish Christians that going back to the Law would be futile, Paul proves that Jesus is BETTER than Moses.

In chapter four, Paul warns us against hardening our hearts – if we do, we will miss the REST God has for us, just like Israel did in the OT.

In chapter five, Paul proves that Jesus has an eternal (and surprisingly sympathetic!) priesthood that is BETTER than the priesthood of Aaron.

**In chapter six, Paul exhorts these believers to GROW UP and MOVE FORWARD, because if they don't they will go backwards spiritually**

**Growing OLD without growing UP is a tragedy!** It is natural that babies should desire only milk, and we expect them to be deficient in their maturity. But if these things are still happening years later there is a serious problem (and this applies both physically and spiritually).

There is a time in every Christian life when we must graduate from MILK to MEAT (solid food). It is at this stage that we become more than just BELIEVERS – we take on the responsibility of becoming DISCIPLES.

Anything that refuses to grow and change will eventually die. In fact, a clinical definition of death is a body that does not change. If you are not moving forward in your Christian life, you are backsliding.

**Hebrews 6:1-3** Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. And this will we do, if God permit.

“THEREFORE” – “what therefore is there for!” – we must do this because of all that Jesus has done for us (chapters 1-5)

“LEAVING” – not “leaving behind” but “moving beyond” the principles

“PERFECTION” = “maturity, completeness”

Foundational truths:

- Repentance from dead works
- Faith toward God
- The doctrine of baptisms (plural - water and Spirit baptism)
- Laying on of hands (healing, calling, gifting)
- Resurrection of the dead
- Eternal judgment

**Hebrews 6:4-6** For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.

**Is this the “unpardonable sin”? Yes and no.** In verse 6, the words “crucify” and “put” are present participles in the Greek ... “WHILE they are crucifying” and “WHILE they are putting” ... they refer to an ongoing action. In other words, no one who “falls away” (backslides) can be renewed WHILE they are continuing the same actions that took them away from God in the first place! They have to TURN AROUND.

**The “unpardonable sin” is not something you did in your PAST – it is an attitude toward God that you have in the PRESENT!** Think about the context of this chapter (and this book) – the “unpardonable sin” is to stop growing in God, because to stop growing is to start backsliding!

**Hebrews 6:7-8** For the earth which drinketh in the rain that cometh oft upon it, and bringeth forth herbs meet for them by whom it is dressed, receiveth blessing from God: But that which beareth thorns and briers is rejected, and is nigh unto cursing; whose end is to be burned.

The issue is your FRUITFULNESS as a Christian! The fruit of your life will either bring BLESSING or CURSING to you. And what is “FRUIT”?

- FRUIT indicates the “long term results” of your actions and attitudes
- FRUIT indicates “maturity” or “development” in your spiritual life
- FRUIT indicates a part of your life that can “nourish” someone else
- FRUIT indicates the “visible” result of a seed that is invisible (buried)

**Hebrews 6:9** But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak.

Just because it's not a "salvation issue" doesn't mean it isn't an issue!

**Hebrews 6:10-12** For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister. And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end: That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

God doesn't forget your efforts for His kingdom – His payday isn't Friday! So don't be lazy ("slothful"), but follow good examples – not those who are "impressive" but those who continually show FAITH and PATIENCE. Why? Because BELIEVING in God and WAITING on God are worth it!

**Hebrews 6:13-15** For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he swore by himself, Saying, Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee. And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.

Abraham's promise was so big it was staggering. But he had such faith in God that he didn't waver, even when the process seemed to move in reverse! There is a difference between PROCESS and PROMISE – if we don't trust God in the PROCESS, we are not worthy of the PROMISE.

**Romans 4:20-21** He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.

God not only gave Abraham a promise, but He also confirmed that promise with an oath. (Genesis 22:15-18) When a witness takes an oath in court, he says the words "so help me God." We call on the greater to witness for the lesser. None is greater than God, so He swore by Himself! His promise and his oath are BOTH immutable.

**Hebrews 6:16-18** For men verily swear by the greater: and an oath for confirmation is to them an end of all strife. Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath: That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:

**God said to Abraham, "I swear I'm going to bless you." Why did He swear? To make a covenant that He was telling the truth!**

- Sometimes, it will look like I'm a liar.
- Sometimes, it will look like serving me doesn't work.
- Sometimes, things will get worse before they get better.
- Sometimes, it will look like you're going backward instead of forward.
- Sometimes, it will look like I'm trying to kill you instead of bless you.

**BUT I SWEAR I'M GOING TO BLESS YOU!**

You cannot get the PROMISE unless you go through the PROCESS!

David, Joseph, Paul, etc ... **I swear I'm going to bless you!**

“CONSOLATION” = “comfort” (from same root as the word “Comforter”) – WE HAVE A STRONG HOLY GHOST!

“FLED FOR REFUGE” – referring to OT cities of refuge

**Hebrews 6:19-20** Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

Our anchor is SOLID, but it is different from physical anchors on boats – we are anchored UPWARD, and we are anchored to MOVE AHEAD!

“FORERUNNER” – the OT high priest was not a forerunner, because no one could follow him into the Holy of Holies – but Jesus has gone to Heaven and we are able to follow Him there!

WE CAN HAVE SECURITY WHILE WE ARE WORKING ON MATURITY (it doesn't matter “where we are” – it matters “where we are headed”) ... THEREFORE, LET US GO ON UNTO MATURITY!

# **The Book of Hebrews**

## **Lesson 6**

Chapter one: Jesus is BETTER than angels

Chapter two: Jesus was made “a little LOWER than the angels”

Chapter three: Jesus is BETTER than Moses (law)

Chapter four: Don’t go back and miss out on the REST Jesus gives

Chapter five: Jesus is BETTER than Aaron (priesthood)

Chapter six: Don’t go back and miss out on the PROMISE Jesus gives

In chapter seven, we are introduced to a somewhat mysterious character that, other than the book of Hebrews, is only mentioned twice in the Bible. The author goes back almost 4000 years to make his next point:

**Genesis 14:18-20** And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God. And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all.

**Psalms 110:4** The Lord hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.

Long before there was a Law given by Moses, long before there was a Priesthood beginning with Aaron, long before there was a Tabernacle, or a Temple, or a Promised Land, or a Jerusalem, or a nation called Israel, there was a man named Melchizedek who was a type of Jesus Christ ...

**Hebrews 7:1-4** For this Melchisedec, king of Salem, priest of the most high God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him; To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace; Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually. Now consider how great this man was, unto whom even the patriarch Abraham gave the tenth of the spoils.

### **MELCHIZEDEK:**

- His name means “king of righteousness” AND “king of peace”
- Both a king AND a priest
- He received TITHES from Abraham

- No record of his genealogy (it looks like he is STILL SERVING!)
  - He was a MAN (v.4), but also a TYPE of Jesus (v.3 – “like unto”)
- What is the point of using this obscure OT character as a type of Christ?

**Hebrews 7:5-10** And verily they that are of the sons of Levi, who receive the office of the priesthood, have a commandment to take tithes of the people according to the law, that is, of their brethren, though they come out of the loins of Abraham: But he whose descent is not counted from them received tithes of Abraham, and blessed him that had the promises. And without all contradiction the less is blessed of the better. And here men that die receive tithes; but there he receiveth them, of whom it is witnessed that he liveth. And as I may so say, Levi also, who receiveth tithes, paid tithes in Abraham. For he was yet in the loins of his father, when Melchisedec met him.

### **LEVITICAL PRIESTHOOD:**

- The OT system demanded “righteousness before God” but could never provide “peace with God”
- Aaron and his descendants were ONLY priests, never kings
- The OT priesthood received TITHES from the people of Israel
- Each of these OT priests came from the same lineage and DIED
- Aaron and his descendants were in the loins of Abraham (yet unborn) when their forefather paid tithes to Melchizedek

**v.7 – And without all contradiction the less is blessed of the better.**

Melchizedek blessed Abraham – the less is always blessed by the BETTER – Abraham acknowledged Melchizedek’s SUPERIORITY by paying tithes to him – by extension, ALL the unborn generations of Aaronic priests bowed with their ancestor before Melchizedek – Jesus is an High Priest after the ORDER of Melchizedek, not Aaron – so all the Aaronic priesthood of necessity must bow before HIS priesthood!

**NOT ONLY IS MELCHIZEDEK’S PRIESTHOOD GREATER THAN AARON’S, IT HAS ACTUALLY REPLACED AARON’S PRIESTHOOD!**

**Why did God make such a radical change?**

1. OT priesthood and law were imperfect so we needed another way

**Hebrews 7:11** If therefore perfection were by the Levitical priesthood, (for under it the people received the law,) what further need was there that another priest should rise after the order of Melchisedec, and not be called after the order of Aaron?

2. With law changed, someone from the tribe of Judah could be a priest

Levi = “joined” (Aaron from this tribe)  
Judah = “praise” (Jesus from this tribe)

**Hebrews 7:12-14** For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law. For he of whom these things are spoken pertaineth to another tribe, of which no man gave attendance at the altar. For it is evident that our Lord sprang out of Juda; of which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priesthood.

3. OT priesthood and law couldn't continue forever, but Jesus does!

**Hebrews 7:15-17** And it is yet far more evident: for that after the similitude of Melchisedec there ariseth another priest, Who is made, not after the law of a carnal commandment, but after the power of an endless life. For he testifieth, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

4. OT law couldn't change the heart of man, but Jesus does!

**Hebrews 7:18-19** For there is verily a disannulling of the commandment going before for the weakness and unprofitableness thereof. For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God.

5. Only Jesus' priesthood was ever established by God's own oath

**Hebrews 7:20-22** And inasmuch as not without an oath he was made priest: (For those priests were made without an oath; but this with an oath by him that said unto him, The Lord sware and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec:) By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament.

6. OT had many priests (they all died), but NT has only one – Jesus!

**Hebrews 7:23-25** And they truly were many priests, because they were not suffered to continue by reason of death: But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

7. OT high priests were sinners, but our high priest is God Himself!

**Hebrews 7:26-28** For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself. For the law maketh men high priests which have infirmity; but the word of the oath, which was since the law, maketh the Son, who is consecrated for evermore.

## CHAPTER EIGHT IS THE SUMMARY OF CHAPTER SEVEN'S POINTS

**Hebrews 8:1-3** Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens;

A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man. For every high priest is ordained to offer gifts and sacrifices: wherefore it is of necessity that this man have somewhat also to offer.

“RIGHT HAND” – not a physical position, but a place of power!

**Jesus is a high priest – what sacrifice did He offer? HIS OWN LIFE!**

If Jesus was still on earth, He could be a King (tribe of Judah) but not a priest (tribe of Levi) – but He ministers in a heavenly tabernacle of which the earthly one was just a shadow – and a different order governs there!

**Hebrews 8:4-6** For if he were on earth, he should not be a priest, seeing that there are priests that offer gifts according to the law: Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount. But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.

**The Old Covenant could DECLARE God’s standard but could not PROVIDE the power needed for us to live up to God’s standard!**

**Hebrews 8:7-12** For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second. For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: And they shall not teach every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest. For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.

The New Covenant can’t be ADDED to the Old Covenant – it must REPLACE it. The New Covenant is wrapped up in JESUS – to have its blessings you must have HIM! The old has gone, the new has come!

**Hebrews 8:13** In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.

# The Book of Hebrews

## Lesson 7

Chapter one: Jesus is BETTER than angels

Chapter two: Jesus was made “a little LOWER than the angels”

Chapter three: Jesus is BETTER than Moses (law)

Chapter four: Don't go back and miss out on the REST Jesus gives

Chapter five: Jesus is BETTER than Aaron (priesthood)

Chapter six: Don't go back and miss out on the PROMISE Jesus gives

Chapter seven: Jesus' priesthood is ETERNAL (order of Melchizedek)

Chapter eight: The old covenant has been REPLACED with a new one!

**The Old Covenant could DECLARE God's standard but could not PROVIDE the power needed for us to live up to God's standard!**

The New Covenant can't be ADDED to the Old Covenant – it must REPLACE it. The New Covenant is wrapped up in JESUS – to have its blessings you must have HIM! The old has gone, the new has come!

**Hebrews 9:1-5** Then verily the first covenant had also ordinances of divine service, and a worldly sanctuary. For there was a tabernacle made; the first, wherein was the candlestick, and the table, and the shewbread; which is called the sanctuary. And after the second veil, the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of all; Which had the golden censer, and the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein was the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant; And over it the cherubims of glory shadowing the mercyseat; of which we cannot now speak particularly.

The old covenant had ordinances and sacrifices that were ordained by God, but they were always inferior because they were observed in an EARTHLY sanctuary by HUMAN priests. And the Holy of Holies was OFF LIMITS to all but the High Priest, and just one time a year at that!

**Hebrews 9:6-7** Now when these things were thus ordained, the priests went always into the first tabernacle, accomplishing the service of God. But into the second went the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people:

What was God trying to teach us by setting up all these boundaries?

1. The Tabernacle was INACCESSIBLE to the people
2. Its ministry was only EXTERNAL, not INTERNAL
3. The Tabernacle was a TEMPORARY solution
4. It was LIMITED to the nation of Israel only
5. The Tabernacle pointed to something far GREATER

**Hebrews 9:8-10** The Holy Ghost this signifying, that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing: Which was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience; Which stood only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and carnal ordinances, imposed on them until the time of reformation.

**THANK GOD THAT THE “TIME OF REFORMATION” HAS COME!**

**Hebrews 9:11-14** But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

**WE NO LONGER NEED THE PATTERN – WE HAVE THE REALITY!**

- A greater and more PERFECT tabernacle
- The blood of CHRIST instead of the blood of animals
- ETERNAL redemption instead of a temporary covering
- Purging of our CONSCIENCE, not just purifying of our flesh

**Hebrews 9:15-17** And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance. For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth.

**Jesus DIED to put the provisions of His “Last Will and Testament” into effect, but He LIVES to function as Executor of His own estate!**

**Romans 5:10** For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

**Hebrews 9:18-23** Whereupon neither the first testament was dedicated without blood. For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law,

he took the blood of calves and of goats, with water, and scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book, and all the people, Saying, This is the blood of the testament which God hath enjoined unto you. Moreover he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle, and all the vessels of the ministry. And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission. It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.

The OT tabernacle was purified by the sprinkling of blood. That blood did not change the furniture and the building, but it changed GOD'S RELATIONSHIP to the furniture and the building. In the same way, blood must be involved in our NT relationship with God. The blood does not "change" our humanity – it REDEEMS our humanity. To say it another way, the blood changes the way God LOOKS at us! How can it do that? Because it is THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST – GOD'S BLOOD!

**Acts 20:28** Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

### **WITHOUT THE SHEDDING OF BLOOD IS NO REMISSION!**

The blood of animals in the OT was the only thing that could COVER sin.

The blood of Jesus in the NT is the only thing that can CURE sin.

**Hebrews 9:24-26** For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us: Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others; For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

**Calvary was so POWERFUL that it only had to happen ONCE!**

**Hebrews 9:27-28** And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

**IF WE ARE BORN ONCE, WE WILL DIE TWICE (SECOND DEATH).  
IF WE ARE BORN TWICE (NEW BIRTH), WE WILL ONLY DIE ONCE**

Jesus came the first time for ALL, but is coming the second time for US!

**Hebrews 10:1-4** For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins. But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year. For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.

**The whole point of the OT law was to CONSTANTLY remind us that it couldn't accomplish anything PERMANENT or PERFECT in us!**

It is very important to realize that the church was NOT "Plan B" in the mind of God – Jesus and the New Covenant were prophesied in the Old Testament! That's why at this point the writer quotes Psalm 40:6-8 ...

**Psalms 40:6-8** Sacrifice and offering thou didst not desire; mine ears hast thou opened: burnt offering and sin offering hast thou not required. Then said I, Lo, I come: in the volume of the book it is written of me, I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.

**Hebrews 10:5-10** Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me: In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure. Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God. Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law; Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second. By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

**EVERY SACRIFICE WAS SAYING "I'M COMING!"** Jesus took away the first covenant, not to destroy it, but to fulfill it with a second covenant!

**Matthew 5:17** Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

**Hebrews 10:11-14** And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.

**OT Priests always STOOD because their work was NEVER finished.  
Jesus SAT DOWN because on the cross He said "It is FINISHED!"**  
"henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool" ...  
**OUR TOTAL VICTORY IN CHRIST IS JUST A MATTER OF TIME!**

**Hebrews 10:15-18** Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before, This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin.

**THE WORK THE HOLY GHOST DOES IN OUR HEART IS A WITNESS THAT THE POWER OF THE NEW COVENANT IS WORKING!**

Where sins and iniquities are remitted, we don't need an OT sacrifice! This is the message Paul is giving to these Jewish Christians.

**Hebrews 10:19-22** Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; And having an high priest over the house of God; Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

“BOLDNESS” = “freedom of speech”

**The temple veil was torn at the crucifixion to let the priests inside.  
But Jesus' flesh was torn at the crucifixion to let US into His body!**

**The OT High Priest VISITED God's presence once a year  
But WE are invited to DWELL in God's presence every day!**

**Hebrews 10:23-25** Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Let us HOLD FAST and NOT WAVER in our faith ...

Let us CONSIDER and PROVOKE (“INCITE”) one another ...

AND HOW DO WE DO THAT? THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY ...

ASSEMBLE (“COMPLETE COLLECTION”) YOURSELVES TOGETHER!

**ATTENDING CHURCH IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER BEFORE!**

# The Book of Hebrews

## Lesson 8

The book of Hebrews could be roughly divided into three sections:

1. JESUS IS A BETTER PERSON
  - Better than prophets
  - Better than angels
  - Better than Moses
  - Better than Aaron
2. JESUS HAS A BETTER PRIESTHOOD
  - A better order (Melchizedek vs. Aaron)
  - A better covenant (eternal vs. temporary)
  - A better sanctuary (heavenly vs. earthly)
  - A better sacrifice (once vs. continual)
3. JESUS' KINGDOM OPERATES ON A BETTER PRINCIPLE
  - Faith!

We are about to enter the third and final section of the book, but first the author gives his strongest exhortation yet to these Jewish Christians who were being tempted to go back to the “safety” of the Jewish religion ...

**Hebrews 10:26-31** For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

**The verb tense in v. 26 indicates not just one ACT of sin, but a callous, careless ATTITUDE leading to repeated sinful actions.**

Under OT law there were no sacrifices for deliberate, willful sins ...

**Numbers 15:27** And if any soul sin through ignorance, then he shall bring a she goat of the first year for a sin offering.

**Numbers 15:30-31** But the soul that doeth ought presumptuously, whether he be born in the land, or a stranger, the same reproacheth the Lord; and that soul shall be cut off from among his people. Because he hath despised the word of the Lord, and hath broken his commandment, that soul shall utterly be cut off; his iniquity shall be upon him.

That is why King David knew that no amount of sacrifices could save him – all he could offer was the sacrifice of a broken heart and ask for mercy!

**Psalms 51:16-17** For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

**We should thank God every day that we live in the New Testament!**

If the penalties under OT law were so severe for sinning presumptuously, how much more severe is the penalty for a “believer” who develops such arrogance against the grace and love of God that they would willfully sin?

The image is severe – trampling Jesus and His blood underfoot!  
The penalty is severe – “judgment and fiery indignation” (v. 27).

Only a small percentage of those saved out of Egypt by the blood of the lamb ever entered into the Promised Land! Nearly all of them died in the wilderness because of their rebellion. God is not obligated to us if we choose not to obey His Word – especially in the New Testament!

Hebrews 10:30 quotes Deuteronomy 32:35 which amplifies the meaning:

**Deuteronomy 32:35** To me belongeth vengeance, and recompence; their foot shall slide in due time: for the day of their calamity is at hand, and the things that shall come upon them make haste.

**I am not afraid of the devil, I am not afraid of the world or of people ... but I have a healthy fear of God! (v. 31)**

**Hebrews 10:32-39** But call to remembrance the former days, in which, after ye were illuminated, ye endured a great fight of afflictions; Partly, whilst ye were made a gazing stock both by reproaches and afflictions; and partly, whilst ye became companions of them that were so used. For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance. Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

If we “draw back” we will be LOST (“perdition” = “eternal damnation”)!

**Galatians 5:7** Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth? The Jewish religion is “SEEN” and our relationship with Jesus is “UNSEEN” – but it is still BETTER because faith is a higher principle!

**Hebrews 11:1-3** Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report. Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

**This is not so much a DEFINITION of faith (what it IS), but a DESCRIPTION of faith (how it WORKS).**

Noah Webster: “Faith is firm belief in something for which there is no proof.”

Warren Wiersbe: “True Bible faith is confident obedience to God’s Word in spite of circumstances and consequences.”

Tim Rutledge: “Faith is the willingness to look foolish!”

**F.A.I.T.H. = “Forsaking All I Trust Him”**

Faith is the SUBSTANCE (“support”) of things hoped for.  
Faith is the EVIDENCE (“proof”) of things not seen.

v.3 – creation teaches us that everything that can be seen was made from things that can’t be seen – and God’s kingdom still works that way!

**THE REST OF CHAPTER 11 IS THE DEMONSTRATION OF FAITH:**

**ABEL – FAITH WORSHIPPING**

**Hebrews 11:4** By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.

**ENOCH – FAITH WALKING**

**Hebrews 11:5** By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

**Hebrews 11:6** But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

**We must believe that God EXISTS (answer to atheism)**

**We must believe that God REWARDS (answer to agnosticism)**

**NOAH – FAITH WORKING**

**Hebrews 11:7** By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.

**ABRAHAM & THE PATRIARCHS – FAITH WAITING**

**Hebrews 11:8-22** By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God. Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised. Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, so many as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable. These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city. By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure. By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come. By faith Jacob, when he was a dying, blessed both the sons of Joseph; and worshipped, leaning upon the top of his staff. By faith Joseph, when he died, made mention of the departing of the children of Israel; and gave commandment concerning his bones.

**MOSES & JOSHUA – FAITH WARRING**

**Hebrews 11:23-31** By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, because they saw he was a proper child; and they were not afraid of the king's commandment. By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward. By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible. Through faith he kept the passover, and the sprinkling of blood, lest he that destroyed the firstborn should touch them. By faith they passed through the Red sea as by dry land: which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned.

By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days. By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace.

**The rest of chapter 11 lists some lesser-known heroes of the faith:**

**Hebrews 11:32-35a** And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets: Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again:

**THE TRANSITION IN VERSE 35 IS VERY IMPORTANT!**

- Not all men and women of faith experienced miraculous deliverance.
- These “others” had faith but God chose to deal differently with them.
- It takes more faith to ENDURE than it does to ESCAPE.

**Hebrews 11:35b-38** ... and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection: And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

**Daniel 3:16-18** Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter. If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

It was when Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were willing to enter the fire – without any assurance of deliverance – that the miracle happened! The men who threw them into the furnace were slain – but the fire didn't touch them! **In Heaven**, God said, "Those are brave boys; I think I'll go down and stand by their side." **On earth**, Nebuchadnezzar said, "I see four men ... and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God." And they came out of the fire without their bonds! The only thing they lost when they stood up for God was their bonds! **There is freedom even in the furnace when God is there with you!** They were loosed in the flames!

**God did not save them FROM the fire – He saved them IN the fire!**

**Hebrews 11:39-40** And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.

**Today, we enjoy what all these faithful people could only anticipate!**

# **The Book of Hebrews**

## **Lesson 9**

The book of Hebrews could be roughly divided into three sections:

1. JESUS IS A BETTER PERSON
2. JESUS HAS A BETTER PRIESTHOOD
3. JESUS' KINGDOM OPERATES ON A BETTER PRINCIPLE

The principle that God's kingdom operates on is FAITH. The author states that the Jewish religion is "SEEN" and our relationship with Jesus is "UNSEEN" – but it is still BETTER because faith is a higher principle!

**Hebrews 11:1** Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

**Hebrews 11:6** But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

**Chapter 11 is "Faith's Hall of Fame" – people who lived by faith!**

**Hebrews 12:1-2** Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

"WITNESSES" – not witnesses OF us, but witnesses TO us

"WEIGHT" – a good athlete doesn't choose between the good and the BAD, but between the good and the BEST (weights are not sins)

"THE SIN" – a specific sin, most likely UNBELIEF

LOOK AT JESUS! He endured suffering because of a future hope!

**Hebrews 12:3-8** For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds. Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin. And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what

son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.

Verses 5-6 quote Proverbs 3:11-12 ...

**Proverbs 3:11-12** My son, despise not the chastening of the Lord; neither be weary of his correction: For whom the Lord loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.

The words “son, children, sons” in chapter 12 refer to ADULT children – the chastening (discipline) we go through is proof that we are maturing! Remember that a father disciplines only his OWN children, so the fact that our faith goes through trials should encourage, not discourage us.

### **There are three reactions to God’s discipline ...**

- Despising it (v.5) – a WRONG response
- Fainting in it (v.5) – a WRONG response
- Submitting to it (v. 9) – a RIGHT response!

**Hebrews 12:9-13** Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby. Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed.

### **YOU BE STRONG FOR OTHERS WHO ARE FOLLOWING YOU!**

**Hebrews 12:14-17** Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled; Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright. For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.

Follow PEACE WITH MEN, and HOLINESS BEFORE GOD. Why are they mentioned together? Because sometimes living holy before God will cause conflict with men! But ultimately, without holiness WE will not see God, and OTHERS will not see God (“NO MAN shall see the Lord”).

**Romans 12:18** If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.

Bitterness is a ROOT – it grows into MANY other spiritual problems and ends up defiling MANY other people!

Don't get bitter in your trials, or you might end up like ESAU – he traded his spiritual birthright for something trivial and temporary, and by the time he regretted his actions he couldn't get his birthright back!

**Hebrews 12:16 (MES)** Watch out for the Esau syndrome: trading away God's lifelong gift in order to satisfy a short-term appetite.

**AND YOU HAVE AN INHERITANCE MUCH BETTER THAN ESAU'S!**

**Hebrews 12:18-24** For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest, And the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words; which voice they that heard intreated that the word should not be spoken to them any more: (For they could not endure that which was commanded, And if so much as a beast touch the mountain, it shall be stoned, or thrust through with a dart: And so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, I exceedingly fear and quake:) But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.

Our covenant is not from Mount Sinai, but from Mount Zion – it is not earthly, but heavenly. The manifestation of God's power in the OT was terrifying for the people – they respected God out of FEAR. But how much more should we respect God out of LOVE in the NT?

**Galatians 4:26** But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all.

**GOD IS OUR FATHER AND THE CHURCH IS OUR MOTHER –  
AND YOU CAN'T BE BORN WITHOUT BOTH!**

This new covenant is made possible by the BLOOD of Jesus Christ – and, like Abel's blood crying from the ground, His blood still speaks!

As long as the blood is "IN" we can't hear it speak, but when they pierced Jesus body on the cross, the blood flowed "OUT" and started speaking!

**THE BLOOD STILL SPEAKS! I HEAR THE BLOOD!** If the blood hadn't gotten between you and judgment ... you and your enemies ... you and your sickness ... you and your trials ... you wouldn't even be here today!

**Hebrews 12:25-29** See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven: Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven. And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. Wherefore

we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: For our God is a consuming fire.

If God punished OT disobedience, He will also punish NT disobedience! His voice shook Mount Sinai then, but it shakes EVERYTHING now!

God wants to remove the temporal things in our lives that can be shaken and replace them with eternal things that cannot be shaken!

The implication for these believers is: **Faith that CAN be shaken and still stand firm is faith that already HAS been shaken and survived.**

**Don't give up when trials come – our Kingdom cannot be moved!**

**OUR GOD IS A CONSUMING FIRE!** He won't give up until He burns everything out of our lives that is not of Him.

In chapter 11, Paul gives us EXAMPLES of people who lived by faith  
In chapter 12, Paul gives us ENCOURAGEMENT to live in faith  
In chapter 13, Paul gives us EVIDENCE of what living in faith looks like

#### **EVIDENCE #1 – LOVE FOR OTHERS**

**Hebrews 13:1-6** Let brotherly love continue. Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body. Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge. Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

Love will give us right relationships to fellow Christians, to those that are in trials, to our spouses and families, and even to MATERIAL THINGS.

“CONVERSATION” = “lifestyle”

“COVETOUSNESS” = “an intense desire that is not based on a need”

#### **EVIDENCE #2 – SUBMISSION TO OTHERS**

**Hebrews 13:7-17** Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation. Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever. Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein. We have an altar, whereof they have no right to eat which serve the tabernacle. For the bodies of those beasts, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned without the camp. Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the

people with his own blood, suffered without the gate. Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach. For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come. By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name. But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

“RULE” = “governmental authority” (in a spiritual sense)

Jesus Christ is the same always, so don't let a change in spiritual leadership ever change your loyalty to Bible doctrine!

Jesus suffered OUTSIDE the city of Jerusalem for us, and these believers were OUTSIDE the accepted religion of Judaism – THERE IS ALWAYS A “REPROACH FACTOR” IN LIVING FOR GOD.

**Galatians 5:11** And I, brethren, if I yet preach circumcision, why do I yet suffer persecution? then is the offence of the cross ceased.

**Hebrews 13:18-25** Pray for us: for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly. But I beseech you the rather to do this, that I may be restored to you the sooner. Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. And I beseech you, brethren, suffer the word of exhortation: for I have written a letter unto you in few words. Know ye that our brother Timothy is set at liberty; with whom, if he come shortly, I will see you. Salute all them that have the rule over you, and all the saints. They of Italy salute you. Grace be with you all. Amen.

**Paul concludes by saying, “I’m praying that you grow up!”**