Class Schedule

Class: Hebrews  
Day & Time: Sundays from 11:00am to Noon  
Beginning: July 6, 2014  
Ending: Dec 28, 2014

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Steps for studying:
1. Read the whole section through once without stopping or taking any notes.
2. Read through the section a second time, writing down notes as you go.
3. Looking at your notes and the reading write down any questions that arise.
4. Look over your notes and write out a summary of what the section is teaching.

Lay out one page in a notebook or computer file as in the example below. Write your thoughts and any insights you discovered in the upper right portion of the page. Write any questions you think of on the upper left portion of the page. After you have filled in the upper two portions write out a summary of what the section is teaching.
THE LETTER TO THE HEBREWS

Hebrews stands alone among the New Testament epistles in its style and approach, and it is the only New Testament book whose authorship remains a real mystery. This profound work builds a case for the superiority of Christ through a cumulative argument in which Christ is presented as “better” in every respect.

Author
Despite many suggestions, the author of Hebrews remains unknown. Clement of Alexandria (c. A.D. 150–215) named Paul as the author but argued that Luke translated the book into Greek. Origen (c. A.D. 185–253) concluded that the thoughts were those of Paul but that the phraseology and composition were those of someone who was recalling the apostle’s teaching (e.g., Clement of Rome or Luke). Many others have been proposed as the possible author: Barnabas (suggested by Tertullian), Apollos (by Luther), Philip the evangelist (by William Ramsay), and Priscilla and Aquila (by Adolf von Harnack). Origen’s famous remark still stands: “Who the author of the epistle is, God only knows.”

Date
The place of writing is unknown, but a reasonable estimate of the date can be made. Hebrews was quoted c. A.D. 95 by Clement of Rome, but its failure to mention the cessation of the Old Testament sacrificial system with the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70 indicates that it was written prior to that date. Timothy was still alive (12:23), persecution was mounting, and the old Jewish system was about to be removed (12:26, 27). All of this suggests a date between A.D. 64 and 68.

The recipients of this work were believers (3:1) who had come to faith through the testimony of eyewitnesses to Christ (2:3). They had endured hardships because of their stand for the gospel (10:32–34), but were in danger of drifting away. The repeated arguments regarding the superiority of Christ and His sacrifice over Moses and the Old Testament sacrificial system indicate that the recipients were probably Jewish Christians in danger of lapsing back into the Jewish religion.

Themes and Literary Structure
The author calls his book a “word of exhortation” (13:22), leading many to view it more as a written sermon than a letter. Hebrews is actually an extended exposition of numerous Old Testament passages.

The basic theme of Hebrews is found in the word “better,” describing the superiority of Christ in His Person and work (1:4; 6:9; 7:7, 19, 22; 8:6; 9:23; 10:34; 11:16, 35, 40; 12:24). The words “perfect” and “heavenly” are also prominent. He offers a better revelation, position, priesthood, covenant, sacrifice, and power.

Hebrews presents Christ as the divine-human Prophet, Priest, and King. His deity (1:3, 8) and humanity (2:9, 14, 17, 18) are asserted with equal force, and over twenty titles are used to describe His attributes and accomplishments (e.g., “heir of all things,” “Apostle and High Priest,” “Mediator,” and “Author and Finisher of our faith”).
Outline of Hebrews

Christ Better Than Old Testament Economy, Chapters 1–10
A. Christ Is Superior to Prophets, Chapter 1:1–3
B. Christ Is Superior to Angels, Chapters 1:4–2:18
   1. Deity of Christ, Chapter 1:4–14
   2. Humanity of Christ, Chapter 2:1–18
   3. 1st Danger Signal: Peril of Drifting, Chapters 2:1–4
C. Christ Is Superior to Moses, Chapters 3:1–4:2
   1. 2nd Danger Signal: Peril of Doubting, Chapters 3:7–4:2
D. Christ Is Superior to Joshua, Chapter 4:3–13
E. Christ Is Superior to Levitical Priesthood, Chapters 4:14–7:28
   1. Our Great High Priest, Chapter 4:14–16
   2. Definition of a Priest, Chapters 5:1–10
   3. 3rd Danger Signal: Peril of Dull Hearing, Chapter 5:11–14
   4. 4th Danger Signal: Peril of Departing, Chapter 6:1–20
   3. Christ Our High Priest after Order of Melchizedek, Chapter 7:1–28
      a. Christ Is Perpetual Priest, Chapter 7:1–3
      b. Christ Is Perfect Priest, Chapter 7:4–22
      c. Christ in His Person Is Perpetual and Perfect Priest, Chapter 7:23–28
F. Christ as Our High Priest Ministers in Superior Sanctuary by Better Covenant Built upon Better Promises, Chapters 8:1–10:39
   1. True Tabernacle, Chapter 8:1–5
   2. New Covenant, Better than the Old, Chapter 8:6–13
   3. New Sanctuary, Better than the Old, Chapter 9:1–10
   4. Superior Sacrifice, Chapters 9:11–10:18
   5. Encouragement, Chapter 10:19–25
   6. 5th Danger Signal: Peril of Despising, Chapter 10:26–39

II. Christ Brings Better Benefits and Duties, Chapters 11–13
A. Faith, Chapter 11:1–40
B. Hope, Chapter 12:1–29
   1. The Christian Race, Chapter 12:1–2
   2. Believers Are Now in Contest and Conflict, Chapter 12:3–14
   3. 6th Danger Signal: Peril of Denying, Chapter 12:15–29
C. Love, Chapter 13:1–25
   1. Secret Life of Believers, Chapter 13:1–6
   2. Social Life of Believers, Chapter 13:7–14
   3. Spiritual Life of Believers, Chapter 13:15–19
   4. Benediction, Chapter 13:20–25

The Superiority of Christ

The first chapter of Hebrews is one of the most important Christological passages in Scripture (see also John 1:1; Phil. 2:6–11; and Col. 1:15–20). Christ’s superiority over the Old Testament prophets and over the angels is portrayed through seven character affirmations and seven Scripture quotations.

**Jesus is Greater Than the Prophets**

1:1-3

Seven character affirmations:

- Heir of all things (v. 2)
- Creator (v. 2)
- Manifested of God’s Being (v. 3)
- Perfect representation of God (v. 3)
- Sustainer of all things (v. 3)
- Savior (v. 3)
- Exalted Lord (v. 3)

**Jesus is Greater Than the Angels**

1:4–14

Seven Scripture quotations:

- Psalm 2:7 (v. 5)
- 2 Samuel 7:14 (v. 3)
- Deuteronomy 32:43 or Psalm 97:7 (v. 6)
- Psalm 104:4 (v. 7)
- Psalm 45:6, 7 (vv. 8, 9)
- Psalm 102:25-27 (vv. 10–12)
- Psalm 110:1 (v. 13)

The Works of Faith

The faith that the readers must maintain is defined in Hebrews 11:1–3 and illustrated in 11:4–40. The triumphs and accomplishments of faith in the lives of Old Testament believers should encourage Christians to look “unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith” (12:2).

The Hall of Fame of Faith

The hall of fame of the Scriptures is located in Hebrews 11 and records those who willingly took God at His word even when there was nothing to cling to but His promise.

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<thead>
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<th>Person</th>
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<td>Jacob</td>
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<td>Moses’ parents</td>
<td>Exodus 2</td>
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<td>Moses</td>
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<td>Rahab</td>
<td>Joshua 2, 6</td>
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<td>Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah</td>
<td>Joshua 4, 6, 13, 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>David, Samuel, and the prophets</td>
<td>1 Samuel</td>
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Class Worksheets ~ Hebrews 1:1-4 ~ July 13, 2014

Research:
What are the different ways in which God spoke in the Old Testament through Prophets?

Over how long of a span did God speak through prophets before he sent the Son?

Chapter Questions:
1. How was the message that came from Jesus different than the one that came through prophets?

2. What are “these last days” that the Son has spoken in?

3. Who is the Son speaking to?

4. How does the work of the Son differ from that of a prophet?

5. Where is the Son now, and how does it differ from the prophets?

6. How has the Son become better than the angels?

Application:
Since Jesus didn’t write any of the words personally that we read, how are we spoken to by the Son today?
Class Worksheets ~ Hebrews 1:4-14 ~ July 20, 2014

Research:
How is a son different from an angel? You will need to know what the word angel means.

Chapter Questions:
1. What does it mean that He has obtained a more excellent name than the angels? What is the more excellent name?

2. How is it that God will again bring the Firstborn into the world?

3. What does it prove that God tells all angels to worship the Firstborn?

4. How is the Son referred to in the two quotations in verses 8-12?

5. What do we learn about the Son in verses 8-9?

6. What do we learn about the Son in verses 10-12?

7. If verse 13 was not written about angels who was it written about?

8. Angels must have some importance if the Son is being compared to them, so how are they important?

Application:
We need to see the difference in importance between the Son, Jesus who is Lord and Christ, and other important beings such as angels, Moses, or other spiritual leaders of any kind. So why do so many still elevate many of the others rather than the Son?


Research:
This section is a conclusion based on what has already been written, what is the teaching that this conclusion is being made from?

Chapter Questions:
1. There is a command given in verse 1, what is it?
2. What is the danger of not following this command?
3. What is the word spoken through angels?
4. What happened to people who violated the Old Testament commands?
5. What will happen to people who neglect the words of the Lord?
6. How does one neglect the great salvation of the Lord?
7. How has the message come to us from the Son (the Lord)?

Application:
Do these verses refute the doctrine of “once saved, always saved”?

When does the salvation spoken of here happen?

Research:
How do we know that the world to come was not subjected to angels? See 1:14

Chapter Questions:
1. What “world to come” is the author speaking of?

2. What does the quote from Ps 8 tell us God did with the Son of man?

3. Has this quote from Ps 8 been completely fulfilled? If so, when? If not, what is left to fulfill it?

4. Why is it fitting that the author of salvation be perfected through suffering?

5. Whose children are under consideration?

6. What was the goal of Jesus suffering and becoming flesh?

7. Who will Jesus give aid to?

8. What can Jesus do for us as our High Priest?

Application:
How is Jesus both the Son of God and the Son of man?

Chapter Questions:
1. Who are the holy brethren?

2. Why is Jesus considered an Apostle?

3. Explain the analogy that the builder has more glory than the house?

4. Who built the house Moses was in? What did that house consist of?

5. Who built Jesus’ house? What is His house made of?

6. How does someone become a part of Jesus’ house?

7. What is the evil heart that we are warned about? How do we keep from having this evil heart?

8. How do we become partakers with Christ?

9. Who was it that rebelled when God was building His house?

Application:
How is our life like the life of the Israelites who came out of Egypt?
Chapter Questions:
1. What promise of rest still remains?

2. How was the gospel preached to them? Who is “them”?

3. Who does enter that rest of which God speaks?

4. How do we know what the rest is that God speaks about?

5. Did Joshua give them rest, how do we know?

6. What do we need to do to enter that rest?

7. What does the word of God do to all creatures in God’s sight?

8. What does diligent mean and why is it important we are diligent?

Application:
How is it a double edged sword that God can discern the thoughts and intents of our heart?

Chapter Questions:
1. In the Old Testament, what would the High Priest pass through for God’s people?

2. Why can our great High Priest sympathize with the people he serves?

3. What should we do since Jesus has passed through the heavens?

4. What are the requirements for every High Priest?

5. Why was Jesus’ prayers heard by God when he was in the flesh?

6. For whom did Jesus originate salvation? How?

7. Why were all the teachings about Jesus priesthood hard to explain?

8. What had happened to the recipients of this letter?

9. How do we reach full age or in other words become perfect?

Application:
Is there a time when we “ought” to be teachers? When?
Chapter Questions:

1. What elementary principles of Christ does the writer mention here?

2. Which, if any, of these principles would you have a hard time explaining to another?

3. What is the writer telling us it is impossible to do?

4. What does an enlightened person experience?

5. Is it possible for an enlightened person to fall away? What do they do to the Son of God?

6. From the description of what the enlightened person is doing to Christ, what do you think it means to fall away in this passage?

7. Explain the analogy used in verses 7&8 about the person who falls away?

Application:

What are the readers being warned about in this passage?
Class Worksheets ~ Hebrews 6:9-20 ~ Sept 7, 2014

Chapter Questions:
1. What better things is the writer confident of about the readers?

2. What is it that God remembers about our work and labor?

3. What is the writer encouraging the readers to do?

4. When was this promise given to Abraham?

5. How did God show his promise to be immutable?

6. What are the two immutable things?

7. What does God's nature do for those who seek refuge?

8. How did our hope enter behind the veil to be anchored there?

Application:
How should this anchor of hope help us especially when we are weak from the struggles of life?
**Class Worksheets ~ Hebrews 7:1-10 ~ Sept 14, 2014**

**Chapter Questions:**

1. What point is the writer making comparing Jesus with Melchizedek in vss.1-3?

2. What did Melchizedek’s name mean? What does Salem mean? How does this fit Jesus?

3. What does “without father, without mother, without genealogy” mean?

4. How was Melchizedek made like the Son of God? How does he remain a priest forever?

5. What does it tell us that Abraham paid a tithe to Melchizedek?

6. What witness is there that Melchizedek lives?

7. What does it mean that Levi, so to speak, paid tithes to Melchizedek?

**Application:**

With the knowledge that Jesus’ priesthood is greater than the Levites, what would make a Jewish Christian turn back to follow the Levitical priesthood?
Class Worksheets ~ Hebrews 7:11-28 ~ Sept 21, 2014

Chapter Questions:
1. What is the perfection of which the author writes in vs. 11?

2. Why did the law need to be changed along with the priesthood?

3. How is Jesus authority different than the law of fleshly commandments?

4. Why was the former law annulled?

5. What difference does the oath make in the priesthood of Jesus and Aaron?

6. How is Jesus priesthood different from Aaron’s?

7. Why is Jesus High Priesthood fitting for us?

8. What is the significance to the oath coming after the law (and Aaron’s priesthood)?

Application:
How is Jesus priesthood better for god’s people than Aaron’s priesthood?
Class Worksheets ~ Hebrews 8:1-13 ~ Sept 28, 2014

Chapter Questions:
1. What is the main point of the entire discussion of Jesus’ Priesthood?

2. What is the purpose of a High Priest?

3. Why would Jesus not be a priest on earth?

4. Why is Jesus ministry (his priestly service) better than the Levitical ministry?

5. What was the fault of the old covenant?

6. What is the old covenant under discussion by the author and the quote from Jeremiah?

7. What does a “new covenant” mean about the old one?

Application:
If the shadow tabernacle had to be made according to a detailed pattern what does that tell us about the real tabernacle?

Chapter Questions:
1. What kind of service did the first covenant have? What kind of Tabernacle?

2. What was in the first part of the earthly Tabernacle?

3. What was in the second part (Holiest of All) of the Tabernacle?

4. Where exactly was the golden censor that burned the incense? See Ex 30:1-6; Lev16:12

5. How often did the priests enter the first part of the tabernacle?

6. What was the blood offered for by the High Priest once a year?

7. What were the limitations of the services of the first tabernacle?

8. Why did Christ come as High Priest of a better tabernacle?

9. Did the blood of bulls and goats sanctify anything? If so, what?

10. What does the blood of Christ sanctify or purify?

Application:
Is it important for Christians to understand the tabernacle?
Class Worksheets ~ Hebrews 9:16-28 ~ Oct 12, 2014

Chapter Questions:
1. Why does a new covenant (testament) necessitate the death of the testator?

2. What death dedicated the first covenant?

3. What principle did the law teach about remission of sins? See Lev 17:11

4. The first tabernacle was purified with what blood?

5. Why did the true tabernacle need better sacrifices?

6. What is the true Most Holy place?

7. What did Christ do by his sacrifice?

8. What happens after men die?

9. Why does Christ appear a second time? What connection is there to 1:14, inheriting salvation?

Application:
If Christ is in the presence of God in the Most Holy Place, where are we, his priests in the true tabernacle of God?
Chapter Questions:
1. What does it mean that the law did not have the very image of the things to come?

2. What could the continual sacrifices not do?

3. What did the continual sacrifices do?

4. What passage does the author quote as the words of Jesus?

5. Who was the author of the quoted passage?

6. What differences do you see in the quote in Hebrews from the Ps 40:6-8?

7. Why is the author quoting this passage, what teaching does it have for us?

8. What does the offering of Jesus do for us?

9. Is sanctified the same thing as perfected?

Application:
How can we live with no consciousness of sins?

Chapter Questions:
1. How is Jesus different than all the priests ministering daily at the Temple?

2. What does Jesus one offering do for us?

3. What passage of scripture contains the Holy Spirit’s witness to us?

4. What is the conclusion of the passage quoted?

5. Why can we be bold to enter the Holiest Place?

6. How should we draw near to the house of God?

7. What should we do when we draw near to the house of God?

8. What does it mean to forsake something?

9. Why should we not forsake gathering together with other Christians?

Application:
How can we stir up love and good works in someone else?
Class Worksheets ~ Hebrews 10:26-39 ~ Nov 2, 2014

Research Question:
Read Numbers 15:22-31. Explain the difference between unintentional and presumptuous sin and how the priests were supposed to handle the sacrifices for them.

Read Romans 7:14-25. How did Paul do sinful things that were contrary to his will?

Chapter Questions:
1. How does someone sin willfully?

2. Who is under consideration in verses 26-27?

3. What person under the law is the person who sins willfully compared?

4. What is a person really doing when they sin willfully?

5. Why is it a fearful thing to fall into the hands of God?

6. What does the author ask the readers to remember?

7. What is the author encouraging the readers to do?

8. What happens to those who draw back?

Application:
How can we endure while in the midst of suffering attacks, tribulations and reproach?
Chapter Questions:
1. How does faith relate to things we cannot see?

2. Who are the elders mentioned in verse 2?

3. What is the good testimony they received?

4. How did they receive a good testimony?

5. What does faith teach us about the worlds?

6. Why were Abel’s offerings to God more excellent than Cain’s? See Gen 4:1-5

7. What was God’s testimony of Enoch?

8. What did Enoch have to have in order to please God?

9. What did Noah’s faith accomplish?

Application:
What does the faith of the elders mean to us?
Chapter Questions:

1. Why did it take faith for Abraham to obey God when he left Ur?

2. Why did Abraham live as a traveler for his lifetime?

3. What did Sarah’s faith do for her?

4. What promise were the elders assured of?

5. What did they confess and declare?

6. Were they seeking to return to the land in which they were born?

7. Why is God not ashamed of them?

8. What has God prepared for them?

Application:

What does the heavenly city mean to us?
Chapter Questions:
1. How did Abraham respond to the testing of his faith?

2. Is our faith tested? If so, how should we respond?

3. Why does God test our faith? See James 1

4. How was faith involved in the blessings of Isaac and Jacob?

5. How did Joseph’s faith impact his final instructions to Israel?

6. How were the actions of Moses’ parents faithful to God?

7. Why was Moses faithful to God?

8. How was Moses faithful to God?

9. How did Moses faith affect Israel?

Application:
How does faith in God impact our lives while on earth and in heaven?
Chapter Questions:
1. How did faith make the walls of Jericho fall down?

2. Where did Rahab’s faith come from?

3. What kinds of things did people do through faith in God?

4. What kinds of things have people endured for their faith?

5. What is a “better resurrection” that some looked for?

6. What is the good testimony that all these obtained?

7. What is the promise that they did not receive apart from us?

Application:
What does every mention of “by faith” in chapter 11 have in common?
Class Worksheets ~ Hebrews 12:1-17 ~ Dec 7, 2014

Chapter Questions:
1. What are the cloud of witnesses that surround us?

2. What warning is given to those who would run the race of the Christian life?

3. Who should be the focus of those who are running this race?

4. What is the benefit of remembering what Christ has done?

5. What do we learn about God from the fact that He disciplines us?

6. What happens to those who never experience the discipline of God?

7. Why does God discipline His children?

8. What is the desired effect of discipline?

9. To what extent are Christians supposed to try to resolve conflicts? Why?

10. What does Esau’s example teach us to avoid?

Application:
What is dangerous about bitterness?
Class Worksheets ~ Hebrews 12:18-29 ~ Dec 14, 2014

Chapter Questions:
1. How were the events at Mount Sinai more terrifying than those at Mount Zion?
2. How is Mount Sinai described—the place where the old covenant was revealed?
3. What is different about Mount Zion compared with Mount Sinai?
4. Who is gathered at Mount Zion?
5. In what way was God’s thunderous voice at Sinai only a foreshadowing of what is to come?
6. Of what kind of kingdom are Christians a part?
7. How should God’s heavenly kingdom affect believers?
8. Why should we understand that our God is a consuming fire?

Application:
What does it mean to serve God with reverence and godly fear?
Chapter Questions:
1. What kind of love are Christians to demonstrate?

2. Why did the author encourage his readers to entertain strangers?

3. What kinds of people does God want Christians to try to help?

4. Why is sexual purity important?

5. What attitude toward money ought Christians to have? Why?

6. What fact about God can foster a contented spirit?

7. How can we learn to be content?

8. How should Christians view their spiritual leaders?

9. What illustration did the author use to urge his readers to leave the temple behind?

Application:
What is significant to you about the fact that Jesus never changes?

Chapter Questions:
1. What city should we be seeking?

2. What kind of sacrifices should we offer to God?

3. How should Christians behave towards their spiritual leaders?

4. What are the benefits of obeying one’s spiritual leaders?

5. What prayer request does the author make of his readers?

6. What did the author pray would happen to his readers?

7. What is the author’s final appeal?

8. What do we learn about the author in his final words?

Application:
How can you help spiritual leaders serve with joy?