

Studies in

HEBREWS

INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND:

Author:

The authorship of the epistle to the Hebrews is not known and it has been debated since the Apostolic days. Some believe that Apollos wrote this epistle because he was an eloquent Alexandrian Jew who knew the scriptures well (Acts 18:24). Barnabas has been considered as well because he was a Levite (Acts 4:36), but most scholars credit the writings to the apostle Paul, due to several topics in the epistle which seem to match that of those in Galatians 3-4 and 2 Corinthians 3. Some of these topics are, the superiority of Christianity over Judaism, the Gospel over the Mosaic Law, Christ over the Levitical priesthood, and the new covenant over the old.

Other evidence pointing to Paul, is the writer's personal knowledge of Timothy's present condition (Heb. 13:23). Although there is some doubt as to who wrote Hebrews, we certainly know that the Holy Spirit is the real author of this anointed epistle.

Date:

It is believed that the epistle to the Hebrews was written before 68 A. D., prior to the destruction of the temple in 70 A.D. by Titus the Roman General.

Some evidence of this is in Chapter 10:11 where the writer points out how the priest is currently making daily offerings in the Temple, suggesting that the Temple was in existence and that sacrifices were taking place.

Historical Setting:

The epistle to the Hebrews was written during the reign of Nero the Roman Emperor (54-68) A.D. . During this time Christians were blamed for the ills of society, for the burning of Rome (64 A.D.), and were greatly persecuted. Many were ripped apart by lions in the coliseum, others were covered with tar and used as human torches to light the Appian Way.

During this time many Jewish people had come to believe in Jesus as their Messiah and to avoid persecution, some of them went back into Judaism. Little did they know that a few years later (70 A.D.) Jerusalem would be completely destroyed by the Romans and the Jewish people themselves would be persecuted.

Hebrews at a glance:

The epistle to the Hebrews was directed at Christians of Jewish origin. Because of the terrible persecution and oppression of Christians during the reign of Nero, these Hebrews were tempted to forsake the faith and return to the old beliefs and practices of the Mosaic law. The author tries to persuade and exhort these believers to remain steadfast in Christ.

The central theme of Hebrews is the superiority of Christ as the definitive revelation of God, and is expressed in summary form at the beginning of the epistle (Heb. 1:1-3). From that point on, the author develops in an orderly fashion the following theme:

Jesus, the eternal Son of God, who through obedience and suffering is greater than the prophets (Heb. 1:1), greater than the angels (Heb 1:4-2:18), greater than Moses and Joshua (Heb 3:1- 4:13), and superior to the Levitical high priest since God has declared him to be the Eternal High Priest (Heb 4:14 - 7:28).

Through Jesus, God establishes a new and better covenant (Heb 8:1-9:28) with Christ's own sacrifice superior to that of bulls and goats becoming the true salvation that was foreshadowed in the rituals and sacrifices of animals in the Old Testament. (Heb 10:1 - 31)

Based on this true salvation which is to be received by faith, the author proceeds to declare with numerous examples of Jewish history the life of faith. Furthermore, he exhorts the believers to be steadfast and faithful to the end with their eyes fixed on Jesus the author and finisher of our faith. (Heb 11:1 - 13:25)

Important Observation:

It is important to note that the epistle to the Hebrews is an epistle of exhortation to action.

The writer exhorts the believers thirteen (13) times with the phrase “**Let us**”, indicating action on the part of the hearer. The author concludes the epistle to the Hebrews by saying:

Hebrews 13:22 *“And I beseech you, brethren, suffer the word of exhortation: for I have written a letter unto you in few words.”*

James exhorts us:

James 2:22-25 *“But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.²³ For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:²⁴ For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.²⁵ But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth [therein], he being not a forgetful hearer, **but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.**”*

Jesus said:

Matthew 7:24-27 *“Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, **and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:**²⁵ And the rain*

descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.²⁶ And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: 27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.”

The epistle to the Hebrews was God’s timely letter of exhortation to the Jewish Christians to hold fast to Christ, to rest in the finished work not their own work, to fellowship with believers, and to walk by faith.

STRUCTURE OF THE LESSONS

The theme of these lessons will be on how to better understand the place of superiority that our Lord Jesus Christ holds so that we may know and experience the grace and the mercy that is available through Christ our High Priest and walk by faith towards maturity and perfection as believers.

The emphasis is not only on the study of the passages and getting a clearer understanding of the principles it sets before us, but also on how to practically apply these principles in our lives today. Thus it is important to complete the entire lesson each week to gain the most from them.

The lesson is broken down into six days’ worth of study, each requiring you to set aside at least 30-45 minutes per day. In general, Days 1-4 are devoted to studying the passages and the principles it brings. Day 5 (spotlight) is a study of a key person, concept, or doctrine. Day 6 is designed for practical application questions. The lesson will then be discussed in a group that you will be assigned to. It is important for you to participate in sharing your answers. However, the leader will not require you to share if you don’t wish to share a particular answer for personal reasons.

One important feature of these lessons is Scripture memory. It is important to hide God’s Word in our hearts through memory. A simple system is used in these lessons to memorize one verse per week.

Finally, the lessons are designed for you to spend time alone with the Lord each day, learning from Him. Daily ask the Lord to speak to you and teach you through His Word, and then go about doing the lessons. If you wish to pursue further study of these passages on your own, that is great; you may find some helpful commentaries, such as J. Vernon McGee’s on Hebrews to assist you.

The lessons themselves are based on the King James Version of the Bible, but feel free to use any other translation when possible, but generally they are based on the King James/New King James translations.

Our prayer is that these lessons will be a blessing to you, and that they will stimulate further spiritual growth. His Word is our foundation. All others will fade away! Invest your life in those things that will count for eternity, not in those things that will pass away.

Studies in
Hebrews

Lesson 1 - Hebrews 1

Christ Superior to All

Day One

Thought for the day

Psalm 86:10 For thou [art] great, and doest wondrous things: thou [art] God alone.

The author of this epistle is addressing a group of Hebrew Christians that were under severe pressure to turn back to Judaism. Fierce persecution from orthodox Jewish leaders was undermining their commitment to Jesus Christ. In order to help them remain steadfast, the author reminds these believers of the deity and superiority of Christ and of His superior and complete revelation over that of the Old Covenant.

Someone has said that the entire theme of the epistle to the Hebrews could be summarized in the first three verses to the introduction of the book. Please read Hebrews 1:1-3 and in short, record the one theme you think the author of this epistle will reveal to us in the rest of this letter.

Theme:

Read Hebrews 1:1-2b and answer the following questions:

1. According to verse 1, who took the first step of communion between God and men?
2. Examining the first part of verse 1, what does this reveal about God to you?

3. The author tells us that God spoke to the Jewish people at many times or better translated "in many portions" and in various ways. God's revelation of the truth in the Old Testament was fragmentary through the prophets. Such revelation only contained portions of the truth. List some of the various ways that God spoke to men in days past.

Genesis 28:10-15

Exodus 3:1-6 (focus on verse 2)

Exodus 31:18

2 Peter 1:21

4. According to verse 1, who did God choose to use to speak to the Jewish people during Old Testament times? Who was the last of the Old Testament prophets to point people to Christ, according to our Lord?

Matthew 11:11-13

5. The one messenger the Jewish people looked to in times past was Moses. As a prophet of The Lord, what did Moses prophesy to the children of Israel concerning Christ and in what way does the passage below reveal the superiority of Christ?

Deuteronomy 18:15, 18-19

6. What things did God speak in times past through the prophets concerning Christ?

Isaiah 7:14

Micah 5:2

Zechariah 9:9

Isaiah 53:5

7. Having reminded the Hebrew believers (verse 1) of how the Old Covenant revelation had been given to their fathers in portions, through visions, dreams and angels, the author points out that in these last days, God has spoken through his own Son (Hebrews 1:2) the complete revelation of God. What are some of the things Christ proclaimed about himself?

John 8:56-58

John 10:30

John 14:6-9

8. According with the following scriptures, through what means does our Lord Jesus speak to us today?

John 6:63

Romans 10:14-15

John 14:26

2 Timothy 2:2

9. To better retain what you have learned in today's lesson and to help you start tomorrow's study, summarize in your own word what has been covered.

10. Scripture Memory: This week's verse is Romans 11:36. Repeat it several times each day, and by the end of the week, you'll be surprised how well you have it memorized.

Romans 11: 36 "For of him, and through him, and to him, [are] all things: to whom [be] glory for ever. Amen." ***Romans 11: 36***

Day Two

Thought for the day

Psalm 148:5 Let them praise the name of the LORD: for he commanded, and they were created.

These Hebrew believers were reminded that God had chosen His own Son as His messenger to reveal completely God's plan. To validate the superiority of Christ as God's spokesman, the author provides these Hebrew Christians with some of Christ's attributes.

Read Hebrews 1:1-3, review the passage again and answer the following questions:

1. What two major acknowledgements does the writer tell us about Jesus (V-2b)?

#1

#2

2. How did Jesus become heir of all things? Examine the passages below and write down your answers.

_____ John 3:35

Colossians 1:19-20

3. According with the following scripture, what did The Father say Jesus would inherit if He would ask Him for it ?

Psalm 2:7-8

4. The context of Psalm 2:7-8 reveals that God's desire was that Christ would inherit us ungodly people. What did Jesus have to do to inherit you and me?

Colossians 1:19-22

5. What benefits do we receive because Jesus is the "heir of all things?"

Romans 8:16-17

Galatians 4:4-7

6. The first thing that sets Jesus Christ's superiority and preeminence over all those who claim to be God's Messiah, is that He is the heir of all things. The second is that Jesus made (fashioned) the worlds. The Greek word for worlds is "aion" and, although it can mean universe, its primary meaning is eternity or the unbrokenness of time. What can we learn from the following passages of scripture to better understand the awesomeness of our Lord and His work of creation?

Psalm 90:2

Isaiah 40:12-15, 25-26

Micah 5:2

1 Timothy 1:17

7. There are five "proofs" in Hebrews 1:3 that Christ is fully God. List these in your own words.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

8. Scripture Memory: Insert the missing words or phrases below. By memory if possible review the verse several times today.

Romans 11: 36 "For of _____ and through _____, and to _____ [are] all things: to _____ [be] glory for ever. Amen." Romans 11: 36

Day Three

Thought for the day

Psalm 90:2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou [art] God. I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was.

The Jewish people knew that Messiah would be the Son of God. This was revealed to Peter by God (Mat 16:16-17). Now, although these Hebrew believers were Christians, the author had to remind them that this latest revelation had come through The Christ, Messiah Himself, the heir of all things and the creator of the world. In today's lesson we will examine two of five additional proofs the author gives to reveal the deity of Christ.

Read Hebrews 1:3 and answer the following questions:

1. The first proof declared by the author (verse 3) is that Jesus is the “Brightness of God’s Glory” or literally “the shinning forth.” Jesus Christ had come and shined forth the very character, attributes, and essence of God. What can we further learn from the following passages of scripture?

John 1:14

Colossians 2:9

John 12:45

2. These Hebrew believers, we are told later in this epistle, had been illuminated and had come to know Christ. What does John in his Gospel tell us about Christ as the Light of God and the Jewish people?

John 1:9-12

3. The Apostle John wrote in Revelation about the New Jerusalem, our future Heavenly city. What interesting fact about the city can you identify that validates Christ as the Brightness of God's Glory?

Revelation 21:23

4. The second proof declared by the author (verse 3) is that Jesus is the "Expressed Image of God." The Greek word for image is "charakter" which we know as character. It can also be translated "Icon" or the precise reproduction in every respect. We are familiar with computer terminology such as "Icon." The single icon we see on our computer screen precisely represents the entire software package that is stored in your computer's hard drive. Jesus Christ is the precise representation of all that God is, His being and character. What else can we glean from the following scriptures?

Colossians 1:15-19

John 14:9

5. God's will is that we also become the expressed image of Christ. According to the Bible, when did God first desire that? Read Genesis 1:26 and write down your answer.

6. As we examine the following passages of scripture, what are some of the necessary steps in the process of becoming like Christ?

Romans 12:1

1 Peter 1:23

Ephesians 4:11-14

Colossians 3:5-10

7. The third proof declared by the author (verse 3) is that Jesus upholds all things by the power of His own Word. We know from science that the Atom is the smallest building block of all matter.

If we carefully examine the atom, we find that its center (The nucleus) is made up of positive charged protons. Orbiting around these protons, we find negative charged electrons. According to the Laws of Physics, positive charges repel each other and opposites attract. How is it that these positive charged protons hold together instead of repelling each other and causing all matter to fall apart? Scientists call this force that defies the Laws of Physics "Gluons." According to verse 3 and Colossians 1:17, how is the universe and the atoms that form all known matter held together?

8. So then by the Word of The Lord all things are held together. According to 2 Peter 3:10 , what will happen when The Lord retracts His word?

9. What examples do we have in scripture of the power of His word?

Matthew 8:5-13

Mark 4:35-41

10. The fourth and fifth proof declared by the author (verse3) is that Jesus purged our sins and sat down at the right hand of God. Examine the following scriptures and record how they compliment the proofs declared by the author.

Luke 5:17-25

Matthew 26:63-64

11. Scripture Memory: Insert the missing words or phrases below. By memory if possible review the verse several times today.

Romans 11: 36 "For _____ and _____, and to _____ [are] all things: to _____ [be] _____ for ever Amen." Romans 11: 36

Day Four

Thought for the day

Proverbs 29:23 A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.

Having reminded these Hebrew believers of the superiority of Christ's revelation over that of the Old Testament prophets, and having briefly shown Christ's divine attributes, the author sets out to establish Christ's superiority over angels. The Jews considered angels to be extremely powerful and highly exalted beings because they were the intermediaries by whom God gave the Law to Moses on Mount Sinai (2 Sam 14:20, Psa 103:20, Heb 12:22)

Read Hebrews 1:4-7 and answer the following questions:

1. According to the following scripture, how did Christ obtain a more excellent name than the angels ?

Philippians 2:6-11

2. What does the name "Jesus" reveals that makes it more excellent than that of angels?

Matthew 1:20-21

3. What other of Christ's names indicate His superiority over angels?

Isaiah 9:6

4. In (verse 5 & 6) we notice the term "Begotten" or "Firstborn." Most of the pseudo Christian cults use the above terminology to deny the deity of Christ. They declare that Jesus was the first created being of God, therefore he is not Almighty God but a lesser God, equal to angels. The Greek word for Firstborn is (*prototokos*), which indicates positional preeminence or a higher position, not the first creation of God. How does (V-6b) indicate the superiority of Christ over the angels? What other facts can we draw from scripture that prove Christ's superiority over angels?

Psalms 148:2-5

5. To prove to these believers the superiority of Christ, the author uses the scriptural argument of worship. Who can receive worship according to the Bible? Compare the following scripture passages and write down your conclusion.

Isaiah 42:8

Matthew 4:8-10

Revelation 22:8-9

Acts 10:23-26

Philippians 2:5-11

Conclusion:

6. According to Hebrews 1:7, the angels are spirits. What else can we learn about the ministry of angels from the following scriptures?

Revelation 5:11

Psalms 34:7

Psalms 91:9-11

Matthew 13:41-42

7. To further solidify the superiority of Christ, the author recalls God The Father's quotation. Read Hebrews 1:8-14 and answer the questions below:

a. What does the Heavenly Father call his Son Jesus in verse 8?

b. The Greek word for God in verse 8 is "*theos*" which is the Hebrew word "Elohiym" which means (Godhead, The Divine One). What other attributes of God can you find in verses 11a and 12b ?

8. According to Hebrews 1:13, where is Christ today?

9. What can we learn about the right hand of God from the following scriptures?

Isaiah 41:10

Psalm 16:11

10. Scripture Memory: Insert the missing words or phrases below. By memory if possible review the verse several times today.

_____ 11: 36 "For _____ and _____, and to _____ [are] all things: to
_____ [be] _____ Amen." _____ 11: 36

Day Five & Six combined

Thought for the day

Proverbs 25:4 Take away the dross from the silver, and there shall come forth a vessel for the finer.

Spotlight= Being the brightness and the Image of Christ

1. Just like the moon reflects the light of the sun, we, too, are to reflect the presence of Christ to the world. Why is it important that we walk like Christ before men? Examine the scriptures below and answer the following questions:

2 Corinthians 3:2-3

Matthew 5:16

1 Thessalonians 5:4-5

2. According to 2 Corinthians 2:14-16, what kind of an effect does our reflection of Christ have upon the world?

3. It is said that "You cannot give what you don't have." In order for us to reflect the light of Christ, what must we be doing? Read the following scriptures and record your answer.

1 John 1:6-7

1 John 1:9-10

John 15:5

4. Sometimes we are amazed at the physiological resemblance between a father and son. It seems as if they had come out of the same mold. The Bible teaches that God wants to mold and shape us into the image or precise representation of Christ. Jeremiah learned of this when he went to the potter's house to check how the potter worked. Read Jeremiah 18:1-6 and answer the following questions:

a. Who does the potter represent (verse 6) ?

b. What does the marred or imperfect vessel represent (verse 4)? Do you think the clay the potter was working with had rights and a will of its own?

c. What did the potter want to do with the marred vessel (verse 4b)? What does this tell you about the interest of the potter concerning the vessel?

d. We know that God as the Master Potter allows circumstances to come into our lives . Just like the clay in the center of the wheel, we find ourselves in the center of circumstances that we don't like and do not understand. Does the potter have control of the wheel (our circumstances) (verse 3) ? When do you think he stops the wheel?

5. What are some areas in your life that you would want the Lord to reshape and change?

6. We know that clay alone has no great value, and it does not have a will of its own. Also, we understand that the potter uses his wheel, which is a type of circumstances , to shape us. List those circumstances that you seem to be facing right now, that God is allowing.

7. Since the day the Lord began the shaping process, what are the most radically changed areas in your life?

8. What scripture passage ministered to you the most and why?

Scripture Memory: By now you should pretty well know this week's verse by heart. Record it below by memory:

_____ “ _____
_____ ” _____

Studies in

Hebrews

Lesson 2 - Hebrews 2

Christ Assumes Humanity

From lesson #1, we have learned that Hebrews was written to Christians of Jewish background with strong traditions deeply rooted in the Mosaic Law.

We also recognized the superiority of Jesus Christ over all created beings, for he has received privileges and honor never before given to angels.

Through the message of angels given to Old Testament prophets, the road to God by man was rather difficult. Man had to come through a priest with sacrifices, offerings, and the obeying of commandments, ordinances and statues, which could at best, cover the transgressions of the people .

The Old Covenant practices, as imperfect as they were, held power over men, and it held life and death. As it was written "by the mouth of two or three witnesses" man would be put to death for breaking the Law. Although God spoke through the prophets, many people could neither understand the prophesies concerning Christ, nor the types and shadows within the Old Covenant system. Therefore, God had to, in these last days, speak to us by his Son in order for us to clearly understand the plan of salvation.

In Hebrews chapter 2, the writer addresses the consequences of neglecting the Gospel message in that it would bring greater judgment. One main reason for these Hebrews being in danger of neglecting the Gospel was that they questioned Christ's superiority because of His humanity. The author, understanding the Jewish mind, sets out to answer a question that a Jewish mind would contemplate regarding the superiority of Christ. The question would be: "If Christ is superior to angels and prophets, if Christ is God, why did he assume humanity? Should we Jews take heed to the words of Jesus the man?"

Earlier in the introduction to the Hebrews, we stated that Hebrews is a letter of exhortation. Hebrews also is a letter of warnings. There are a total of six major warnings, and in this lesson #2 we will confront the first one: "**The danger of drifting**" if we neglect so great a salvation.

Remember to pray for God's guidance and direction as you study each day. Write out your answers for each question, don't merely copy down a passage or rely on other resource books for your answers.

Day One

Thought for the Day

Proverbs 1:7 The fear of the LORD [is] the beginning of knowledge: [but] fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Read Hebrews 2:1-4, and in your own words summarize the author's main point and record a theme for this passage of scripture:

Summary:

Theme:

Read Hebrews 2:1-4 and answer the following questions:

1. What is the important thing we must do with God's word to prevent drifting away from the truth? (Verse 1)

2. In verse 1 the author uses the term "give the more earnest heed" speaking about the Word of God. The Greek word for "earnest " is *perissoteros* and indicates "to attend to something more frequently with a greater degree of attention." The other word used is "heed" which is the Greek word *prosecho* and speaks of "carefully bringing a ship close to the port or land." What can we learn from the following scripture about not taking heed as believers?

1 Timothy 1:18-20

3. What do you suppose is the one fundamental thing the Hebrews had heard in the past, by Jesus or the apostles according to the following scripture?

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

4. Examine 1 Corinthians 15:2. What is the main responsibility of the hearer?

5. Because the last revelation (Hebrews 1) was superior to the Old Testament dispensation and came through One who is superior to angels, we are to pay particular attention to the warning given. What consequence do we face for not listening to what God has said? (Verse 1b)

6. Hebrews 2:1-4 illustrates the principle that the more light one receives, the greater the responsibility and judgment for ignoring that light. Read Mark 4:24-25 and examine how this passage relates to and supports this principle in Hebrews. Record your answer below:

7. God gave us two ears and one mouth. Therefore, we ought to hear twice as much as we talk. We ought to carefully listen to what God is saying to us through His Word. We need not to rush through, but consider what is being said. What does James 1:16-19 exhort us to do and why?

8. Not considering what God says is the equivalent to neglect. Someone said "What must I do to be lost? Nothing." Examine the following scriptures and write down what took place upon hearing and considering the Word of God.

John 4:40-42

Acts 4:1-4

Acts 13:46-48

Romans 10:17

Ephesians 4:21-22

9. Scripture Memory: This week's verse is Isaiah 43:11. Repeat it several times each day, and by the end of the week, you'll be surprised how well you have it memorized.

Isaiah 43:11 "I, [even] I, [am] the LORD; and beside me [there is] no saviour. " Isaiah 43:11

Day Two

Thought for the Day

Proverbs 14:12 There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof [are] the ways of death.

Read Hebrews 2:2-4, review the passage and answer the following questions:

1. The writer tells us that the message that the angels delivered in times past was sure (verse 2). Examine Genesis 19:1-14 , 24-25. What was the angel's message in verse 13? What happened in verse 24?

2. According to verse 3-4, how was the message of salvation first announced to the Jewish people? How was the message confirmed to these Hebrew believers and how was the authority and validation of the message accomplished?

3. Hebrews 2:3 warns that those who neglect the great salvation that Christ offers will not be able to escape. What awaits those who neglect this salvation?

Hebrews 9:27

Revelation 20:11-15

4. In Old Testament times a person had to become a Jew to be saved. A person had to obey the Mosaic Law. The writer to the Hebrews points out that Jesus offers a "greater salvation" (verse 3). According to the following scriptures, what makes Jesus's salvation great?

John 3:16

Ephesians 2:8-13

2 Corinthians 5:17

Phillipians 1:6

5. Most certainly the one aspect that makes Christ's salvation a greater one is its simplicity and because it is predicated on what God did through Christ. What can we learn from the thief on the cross (Luke 23:39-43). What did he do to get saved (verse 42)?

6. Those who heard Christ and later confirmed the Gospel to us in (verses 3-4), is a reference to the apostles who were witnesses of his death and resurrection. These men went out proclaiming the Gospel, and God bore witness with signs and wonders. From the following scriptures, what were some of the amazing things God worked through the apostolic fathers?

Acts 3:1-8

Acts 5:12-16

Acts 9:36-42

Acts 16:16-18

7. The message of salvation had been validated and confirmed by the apostles and all those who had been born again. Just as these validated the message of salvation to the Hebrews, how was the message of the Gospel validated to you?

8. Scripture Memory: Insert the missing words or phrases below. By memory if possible, review the verse several times today.

Isaiah 43:11 "I, [even] I, [am] _____; and beside me [there is] _____."
Isaiah 43:11

Day Three

Thought for the Day

Proverbs 29:23 A man's pride shall bring him low: but honor shall uphold the humble in spirit.

In our previous studies, we examined the superiority of Christ's message over the message of angels and the importance of considering Christ's message because it carried a greater judgment if neglected.

We understand that God has chosen men and not angels to proclaim the Gospel message of salvation. He also has plans for men, and not angels, to rule and reign with Christ in the world to come. Today we will examine how, according to God, man holds a higher place than angels.

Read Hebrews 2:5-8 and answer the following questions:

1. Read Hebrews 2:5. God clearly states that angels will not reign in the world to come. The "world to come" is a reference to the millennial kingdom that is coming on this earth (Revelations 5:10). One Angel, known as Lucifer, who we call Satan, had attempted to rule everything. What can we learn about this from the following scriptures?

Isaiah 14:13-17

Ezekiel 28:12b-17

2. Verse 6 is a direct quotation from Psalm 8:4-6. Who is this "One" that testified in Psalm 8?

3. When we examine Psalm 8, we find David at night looking up at the stars and at the greatness of the universe. Immediately he compares the universe to man and asks "What is man that You are mindful of him and the son of man that You care for him." In Hebrews 2:7 what did God do for man?

4. What can we further learn from the following scripture regarding the honor and glory bestowed upon man by God?

Genesis 1:26-27

5. What was in subjection to man originally? Examine the scriptures below and write your answers:

Genesis 1:28-30

Genesis 2:15

Genesis 2:19-20

6. Hebrews 2:8b tells us that not all things are under man's feet. Why is it that we yet don't see the earth under the control of man? Examine the scripture below and write down your answer.

Genesis 3:6-8

7. The world we see today is not what God intended. We see fallen man today, unable to rule or solve all problems on his own. Therefore, we do not see all things under his feet as he once had before the fall. According to the following scriptures, who has been in control over this world since the fall of man?

Matthew 4:1-10

2 Corinthians 4:3-4

8. We know from the book of Job that Satan has access to the throne of God; that even though he is the god of this world, he cannot touch any of God's children unless God permits it. We also understand that God is allowing Satan to rule over the world until the return of Christ to establish the kingdom on earth. What can we learn about Satan's reign in the last days of the tribulation period?

Revelation 12:7-9

Revelation 12:11-12

9. To better retain what you have learned in today's lesson and to help you start tomorrow's study, summarize in your own words what has been covered (Heb 2:5-9)

10. Scripture Memory: Insert the missing words or phrases below. By memory, if possible, review the verse several times today.

Isaiah 43:11 "I, _____; and beside me _____."
Isaiah 43:11

Day Four

Thought for the Day

Proverbs 22:4 By humility [and] the fear of the LORD [are] riches, and honor, and life.

Through our study of day 3, we observed that man is not able to rule on his own, because when man disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden he forfeited all dominion of the Earth. Christ has now recovered it and will take it over at the end of the tribulation period. Therefore, we cannot look to man to bring things back to the original order that God intended. In our study today we will examine the reasons why Christ assumed humanity.

1. Read Hebrews 2:9-13 and in your own word summarize the author's main point and record a theme for this passage of scripture:

Summary:

Theme:

Read Hebrews 2:9-13 and answer the following questions:

2. Who does the author say to look to in verse 9 to regain control and authority over the Earth?

3. The term "We see" in verse 9 does not mean to casually look at Jesus, but it means "to look upon, to study, to behold Him with understanding, with consideration." Compare the scriptures below and document what we are told to consider about Jesus.

Isaiah 45:22

Matthew 17:5

John 1:29

Hebrews 12:2

4. What were the main reasons for Christ assuming humanity in verse 9?

5. As God, Christ could not die. So He had to become for a little time, (thirty three years) lower than the angels. As we read Hebrews 2:10-13, we come across the term "it became him." This implies that it was in harmony with His person, nature and purpose. Examine (verse 10) and name three things that are in harmony with His nature and purpose.

6. Jesus is the Captain of our salvation. The Greek word used for captain is "*archegos*" which translates as "leader, pioneer, trail blazer." Jesus has marked the trail to salvation. What did Jesus say about the way to salvation in the following scriptures?

John 14:6

John 10:9

7. Christ's ultimate goal became complete through His death. What happened to us as the result of His suffering and death (verse 11)? What gracious title has the Lord Jesus given us?

Read Hebrews 2:14-18 and answer the following questions:

8. Examine verses 14-15. What two important accomplishments did Jesus make by becoming in the likeness of man?

a. Prophetically speaking, Jesus the Messiah would come from someone's seed. Look at verse 16. Whose seed was Messiah coming out of?

b. According to verse 17, Jesus took on humanity to fulfill what office?

c. Lastly, in verse 18, what was Christ's reason for suffering and being tempted?

9. Scripture Memory: Insert the missing words or phrases below. By memory, if possible, review the verse several times today.

Isaiah 43:11 "I, _____; and _____ me _____."
Isaiah 43:11

Day Five

Thought for the Day

Proverbs 9:9 Give [instruction] to a wise [man], and he will be yet wiser: teach a just [man], and he will increase in learning.

Spotlight= Being a pattern to follow

In Day 4 of our study, we learned that Christ is the pioneer of salvation, He is the pattern for fallen men to follow.

Just like Christ left us the pattern to follow, We are to be a pattern to fallen men and to all believers. Paul exhorted Timothy to do the same. Read 1 Timothy 4:12-16 and answer the following questions:

1. What does being an example in word mean to you? (verse 12) Compare your answer with the following scriptures.

Your answer:

Ephesians 4:29

Ephesians 5:3-4

Colossians 4:6

Titus 2:7-8

2. What are some aspects of good conduct (verse 12), according to the following scriptures?

James 3:13-16

1 Peter 2:12a-13

3. What can we learn about being an example in love? Examine the following passages and write down your answer.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

1 John 3:18-19

4. How can we be examples in spirit? (verse 12) What do you think this means? Compare your answer with the following scriptures.

Your answer:

Luke 9:51-56

Romans 8:5-8

Galatians 6:1, 7-8

5. According to Hebrews 11:6 , without faith it is impossible to please God. What do you think being an example in faith means? Compare your answer with the following scriptures.

Your answer:

Matthew 24:42-46

James 2:14-18

6. How can we be examples in purity? David said in Psalm 12:6 "The words of the LORD [are] pure words: [as] silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times." What can we glean from the following scriptures?

John 15:3

Hebrews 10:22

1 Peter 1:22-23

1 Timothy 5:21-22

7. Scripture Memory: Insert the missing words or phrases below. By memory if possible review the verse several times today.

Isaiah 43:11 "I, _____; and _____."

Day Six

Thought for the Day

Proverbs 10:32 The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable: but the mouth of the wicked [speaketh] frowardness.

Practical Application

We just learned in Day 4 that Christ is the Captain of our salvation and the example for fallen mankind to follow. In Day 5 we studied how to be an example, a pattern of Christ to the believer to follow.

Being an example involves choosing to exercise those principles that we've learned and putting them into practice. Paul exhorted us Christians to examine ourselves to make sure things are right spiritually; to put off the old man and to put on the new man.

1. With this in mind, identify certain things in your manner of speech that would cause you not to be an example in word. Perhaps these are not necessarily wrong, but they border in what would not be considered "speech seasoned with salt."

2. It is true that actions speak louder than words. We men whether we are aware of it or not, lead our families and friends by our example. How can we, as an example, tell or exhort our children to read the Bible, when they never see us reading it? Ask the Lord to reveal to you what things you could improve in the area of conduct. Write down those areas below.

3. We know that we stand righteous before God, because Christ paid for our sins and He has imputed His righteousness on our behalf. We also understand that we are made clean by His blood and His Word. God asked us to be pure, just as He is pure. He has called us to separation from things unclean (2 Cor 6:12-18). What are some things that perhaps you are involved in, allowing, or practicing that would not contribute to you being an example in purity?

4. What scripture passage ministered to you most from Day 5, and why?

5. Scripture Memory: By now you should pretty well know this week's verse by heart. Record it below by memory:

_____ “ _____
_____ ” _____

Studies in

Hebrews

Lesson 3 - Hebrews 3

Christ Superior to Moses

As we reflect on the previous lesson, we recognize that Christ's salvation is greater than that spoken by the angels. The main reason is that Christ humbled himself and took on humanity, that through His death He might redeem man back to his original position with God. Therefore, this salvation requires our most serious consideration, if we want to escape the judgment of God.

Now as we look back at the beginning of this epistle, we notice that the writer is establishing the superiority of Christ, as it would seem, in a downward progression, starting with the angels and ending up with Moses. But if we would understand the Jewish mind, we would realize that to the Jew, Moses held a closer place to God than angels.

It was Moses who God spoke with face to face; it was Moses who God used to deliver the children of Israel out of Egypt and it was Moses to whom God gave the Law and the priesthood. Therefore, it was necessary for the writer to the Hebrews to show Christ's position of superiority over Moses as the superior representative (Apostle), as mediator (High priest), and as the builder over God's house (those who would believe).

It is also important to note that the Jewish people understood that God had chosen them as His holy nation, a peculiar people through whom God would witness and proclaim His plan of redemption to the world. These Hebrews believed that everything would revolve around the nation of Israel. As we examine Hebrews chapter 3, we will notice that the Hebrews were reminded that they have been called with a heavenly calling, not an earthly calling, whereby they no longer had to put their faith in the Jewish system, in an earthly kingdom, but in Christ Jesus as the object of their belief.

The second of six major warnings is found in Hebrews chapter 3 as the "**Danger of doubting.**" Failing to put their faith in Jesus Christ but putting it into a religious system, would disqualify the Hebrews from becoming the house of God, true believers in Christ and entering into His rest.

Remember to pray for God's guidance and direction as you study each day. Write out your answers for each question, don't merely copy down a passage or rely on other resource books for your answers.

Day One

Thought for the Day

Proverbs 1:7 The fear of the LORD [is] the beginning of knowledge: [but] fools despise wisdom and instruction.

1. Read Hebrews 3:1-6 and in your own words summarize the author's main point and record a theme for this passage of scripture:

Summary:

Theme:

Read Hebrews 3:1 and answer the following questions:

2. What two things does the writer call these Hebrew believers and what does this reveal to you about their spiritual standing?

3. The word 'Holy' is the Greek word "*Hagios* ," and is translated "saints, to be separated, sanctified for God." When does this work of holiness begin, according to the following scriptures, and by whom?

Jeremiah 1:5

Ephesians 1:3-4

4. What had these Hebrews, as well as we believers today, been separated for, according to the scriptures?

Galatians 1:15-16a

2 Timothy 2:21

1 Peter 1:14-16

5. What can we learn about God's calling on our lives from the following scriptures?

Romans 8:28-30

1 Corinthians 1:9

1 Corinthians 1:26-29

Galatians 5:13

1 Thessalonians 4:7

2 Timothy 1:9

6. It is important to remember that these Hebrews were tempted to go back into the practices and sacrifices of the Law. They were fixing their hope on Moses, on their high priest and on the earthly temple. The author reminds them of their heavenly calling and of the Apostle and High Priest Jesus Christ. What does the Bible teach about only having hope in an earthly calling?

Ecclesiastes 9:9

Romans 8:20-23

1 Corinthians 15:19

7. Scripture Memory: This week's verse is John 17:3. Repeat it several times each day, and by the end of the week, you'll be surprised how well you have it memorized.

John 17:3 *"And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. "John 17:3*

Day Two

Thought for the Day

Proverbs 4:26 Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established.

1. As we further examine Hebrews 3:1, the Hebrew believers are exhorted to consider Christ Jesus. They were to consider everything the author had revealed about Christ in chapter 2. They were to consider Christ's great salvation, His superiority over angels and the reasons for Him assuming humanity. The word consider in verse 1 does not mean to casually look at, but to carefully study, seriously evaluate. What two offices do we need to consider about Jesus Christ?

2. Christ is called an Apostle and High Priest of our profession, or better translated, confession. The Greek meaning for the word Apostle is "one that has been sent, or an ambassador." In our world, an ambassador represents his own country, nation or kingdom while he resides in a foreign country. He speaks on behalf of his country and has the complete backing of authority of that country. What can we learn about Christ the Apostle from the following scriptures?

John 14:7-9

John 14:24

Matthew 28:18

3. As an Apostle, Christ was representing **God to man**. Everything that God wanted man to know about Himself and the kingdom of heaven was revealed by Jesus Christ. As a High Priest, Jesus Christ would represent **man to God**. Thus, Jesus became the go between, the mediator. According to the scripture below, how many mediators are between God and man?

1 Timothy 2:5

4. The Greek language defines mediator as "one who intervenes between two, either in order to make or restore peace and friendship, or for ratifying a covenant; A medium of communication, arbitrator or attorney." Job asked "*O that one might plead for a man with God, as a man [pleadeth] for his neighbour!*" We know from sports, that whenever the owners cannot agree on a contract salary with the players, they call for an arbitrator. What can we glean from the scriptures about our arbitrator?

Job 16:19

Hebrews 7:25

1John 2:1

Luke 22:31-32

CHRIST SUPERIOR TO MOSES

Read Hebrews 3:2-4 and answer the following questions:

5. In the original manuscript, the word Christ in verse 1 is omitted, leaving just Jesus, His human name. The writer to the Hebrews addresses Christ as "this man" in verse 3 in order to compare him with Moses. What common things do we find between Jesus and Moses in verse 2?
6. When we read through the Old Testament, we will find that Moses made mistakes and had lapses of faith. We know that he hit the Rock when God told him to speak to it. We know that he lost his temper a few times and thus, misrepresented God to the people of Israel. Although he made some mistakes, now that his life is past, God only remembers his faithfulness. According to the following scriptures, how will Jesus commend his own?

Matthew 25:21

7. As we examine verse 3, what reason does the writer give us for Jesus deserving more glory than Moses?

8. We understand that you can't have a house without a builder. Someone has to build the house. Verse 4 says that God builds all things. How do the scriptures further confirm this truth regarding the building of the church, His body?

Psalm 127:1

Ephesians 2:19-22

9. In nature, we notice the mountains, the sea, the beauty that God has created as an awesome thing. Even though sometimes we don't recognize it, the power behind the cause is always greater than the effect. The creator is always greater than the creation. What warnings do we find in the scriptures and what can happen when men begin to glorify or put their faith in the creation rather than on the creator?

Deuteronomy 4:15-20

Romans 1:20-25

10. Scripture Memory: Insert the missing words or phrases below. By memory, if possible, review the verse several times today.

John 17:3 "And this is life _____ that they might _____ thee the only true _____ and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast _____"

Day Three

Thought for the Day

Psalm 31:23 O love the LORD, all ye his saints: [for] the LORD preserveth the faithful, and plentifully rewardeth the proud doer.

The author has revealed to these Hebrews that, although Moses was faithful, like Christ, and was a person worthy of receiving honor, he could not be greater than Christ, because Christ is God, the builder of the house which Moses represented.

Read Hebrews 3:5-6 and answer the following questions:

1. What is the best thing that could be said about Moses in verse 5?

2. Christ is superior to Moses in that He is the Creator and Moses the creature. At best, Moses was a servant in God's house but never the Son of God in God's house. According to the scriptures below, what testimony was Moses faithful to give? Who was Moses talking about?

Deuteronomy 18:15, 18-19

John 5: 39-47

3. What does verse 6a say that we believers are?

4. What can we glean from the scriptures regarding God's dwelling place today?

John 14:17

1Corinthians 3:16

2 Corinthians 6:16

Ephesians 2:21-22

5. As we study the book of Hebrews, we are going to come across some difficult passages of scripture to understand, interpret and reconcile. We will find that verse 6 is one of these passages. As we read this verse, it will seem as though salvation was conditional upon us, "if we keep the faith until the end." But it is only until we compare scripture with scripture that we can understand that if eternal security was contingent on our strength to hang on, we would never enter into His eternal rest. The author, probably a Jewish scholar uses the "ifs," not as a condition, but as a method of argument and of logic. In other words, if we are the sons of God and we are partakers of the heavenly calling, we will be faithful and we will hold fast. This is the proof that we are of God's house. Examine the scriptures below and summarize what they are saying regarding eternal security and salvation.

John 17:11-13

Romans 8:37-39

Philippians 1:6

Philippians 2:13

1 Peter 1:3-5

Jude 24-25

Quote: "The proof that you are a child of God is that you hold to the faith. That doesn't make you a child of God, but it does prove that you are a child of God " J. Vernon McGee

6. As we consider the time this epistle was written, the Hebrew believers were tempted to put their faith back in the Jewish religious system. Christ had died about thirty five years before, the temple was still standing, and Levitical sacrifices were still taking place. A warning in verse 6 is given, to emphasize the importance of keeping our faith in Jesus Christ from the beginning. It is very possible for people to have faith in an organization or traditions and not on Christ. If the seed planted at the beginning didn't land on good soil, only time will tell if they are of God's house. What can we learn from the people in the following scriptures? Record the reasons for not continuing with the Lord even after having heard the word and the warnings.

2 Timothy 4:10

Genesis 19:15-26

7. What did Christ tell His disciples to remember as He exhorted them to hold fast and continue with Him? What further proof does John reveal about those that are not of God's house?

Luke 17:32-33

1John 2:18-19

8. The scriptures teach us that, although Christ is the Author and Finisher of our faith, God never relieves man of his responsibility towards being faithful. Although we hold fast to the faith, we know that He holds on to us even harder. If you've been saved, you will hold fast until the end. What can we learn from some of the Apostle's faith?

2 Timothy 4:6-8

1 Peter 1:12-15

9. Scripture Memory: Insert the missing words or phrases below. By memory, if possible, review the verse several times today.

John 17:3 "And this _____ that they might _____ the only true
_____ and _____ whom thou hast _____ "

Day Four

Thought for the Day

Proverbs 4:10 Hear, O my son, and receive my sayings; and the years of thy life shall be many.

In our study of day 3 we noticed how the author exhorted these Hebrews to hold fast to the faith. The scriptures clearly show that evidence of holding fast is to continue diligently to walk with Christ, not turning back to our old ways. In our lesson today, the writer reminds the Hebrews that the important thing in holding fast and continuing is taking heed to God's Word. He warns them not to make the same mistake that their forefathers made in the past, where they became hard hearted and refused to hear the words of God.

Read Hebrews 3:7-11 and answer the following questions:

1. This portion of scripture is a direct quotation from Psalm 95. Even though David wrote the Psalms, who does the writer tell us was the real author of the scriptures (verse 7)?
2. What are we to do today, when we hear God's word and directions in verse 8?
3. The Hebrew word for provocation in verse 8 is the Hebrew word "*mriybah*" which translates, "striving." Looking back at Israel's wilderness journey right after the Lord opened the Red Sea, how did Israel strive against the Lord?

Exodus 15:22-24

Exodus 16:1-3

4. We are told in verse 9 that, even though the children of Israel complained to the Lord, The Lord did works among them. What kind of works did they see the Lord do, according to the scriptures below ?

Exodus 15:25-27

Exodus 16:4-8

Nehemiah 9:21

5. What was the Lord's reaction towards Israel in the wilderness (verse 10)? Why was the Lord grieved with Israel? How did the Lord express his feelings for Israel thousands of years later (Matthew 23:37)?

6. How do we know the way of the Lord, or how do we get to know him better, according to the following scriptures?

Psalms 40:7

John 5:39

Isaiah 2:3

2 Timothy 3:14-17

7. In verse 11, what consequences did their striving with God have on Israel entering into the God's rest ?

Read Hebrews 3:12-19, and answer the following questions:

8. The writer to the Hebrews brings forth the second of the six major warnings in this epistle. What warning do we find in verse 12? What can we learn about "departing" in the lives of certain people after having heard and been exposed to true doctrine?

Matthew 19:16-22

2 Timothy 4:10

2 Peter 2:15-22

1 John 2:19

9. The writer warned the Hebrews about the danger of doubting. What does he exhort the believers to do with each other (in verse 13a) to help prevent hardening of their hearts?

10. The reason Israel did not enter into the Lord's rest, was not because they murdered, lied, or because they stole. What was the reason that most of Israel did not enter into the Promise Land, and into the spiritual rest that a true believer experiences in Christ? (verse 18-19)

11. Scripture Memory: Insert the missing words or phrases below. By memory, if possible, review the verse several times today.

John 17: ___ "And ___ that ___ might ___ the only
___ and ___ whom thou hast ___ "

Day Five

Thought for the Day

Psalm 66:10 For thou, O God, hast proved us: thou hast tried us, as silver is tried.

Spotlight= The wilderness trial

Looking back to our study of Day 4 at Hebrews 3:8, we noticed that the children of Israel were tempted, or better translated, "tried" by the Lord in the wilderness. In order for us to learn from their wilderness experience, we want to examine Exodus 15.

As we take a closer look at Exodus 15, we find the children of Israel singing and rejoicing as they had just witnessed the power of the Lord in parting the Red Sea and destroying the armies of Egypt (verse 1-21).

Read Exodus 15:22-27 and answer the following questions:

1. The Bible teaches that those things written in the Old Testament were shadows and types of things to come (Colossians 2:17). The children of Israel had just gone through the Red Sea. What is this a type of in the life of the believer?

1 Corinthians 10:1-2

2. Upon leaving the Red Sea, where did Moses lead the Children of Israel (verse 22)? What is this a type of according to the scriptures?

Matthew 3:17- 4:1

3. What did the children of Israel find in the wilderness of Shur (verse 2)? What is water a type of, according with the following scripture?

John 7:38-39

4. In verse 23, we are told that Israel came to a place called Marah. What does Marah mean?

5. Just like Israel arrived at bitter waters by the very leading of God through Moses, we too will encounter bitter waters in this life. What can we learn from the following scriptures?

Philippians 1:29

John 15:20

6. The Bible says that the Lord makes the rain to fall on the just and on the unjust alike. What are some reasons that we Christians experience trials?

Romans 5:3-4

Romans 8:28

James 1:2-4

1 Peter 5:10

Job 23:10

7. It is also said that "The same sun that melts the wax, hardens the clay." In verse 24, how did Israel react to their trial?

8. How we perceive trials in our Christian journey will make a big difference. We can get better or bitter in the face of trials. They can be stepping stones or stumbling stones. How should we believers react in the face of trials?

James 1:2

1 Peter 1:6

1 Peter 4:12-13

Philippians 4:11

Romans 8:6

9. In verse 25, what made the bitter water sweet? What is the tree a type of, according to the scriptures?

Galatians 3:13

Isaiah 53:4

10. The piece of wood that healed the waters should remind us Christians that the Lord is in the midst of the trials with us, to make those times the sweetest times of communion with Him. What can we learn from the following scriptures?

1 Peter 5:6-7

Philippians 4:13

1 Corinthians 10:13

2 Corinthians 1:3-5

Romans 8:31, 35-39

John 16:33

11. We notice from verses 25-26 that the Lord gave Israel a statute and ordinance, and told them to obey His words. What was the result of accepting a trial as God's will for their lives?

12. Scripture Memory: Insert the missing words or phrases below. By memory, if possible, review the verse several times today.

John _____ *"And* _____ *that* _____ *might* _____ *the*
_____ *and* _____ *whom* _____ *"*

Day Six

Thought for the Day

Proverbs 10:32 The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable: but the mouth of the wicked [speaketh] frowardness.

Practical Application

1. In day one of our study, we learned about holiness, sanctification and separation unto the Lord. What are some areas in your life that need to be sanctified or set apart for Him?

2. We have studied about Christ as the Ambassador of God to man. We, too, whether we like it or not, represent the Lord on earth. What areas of your life would you identify as those not quite representing the Lord yet?

3. Explain or justify in your own words why you say that you are saved?

4. We learn that complaining and murmuring was the sin that held Israel from entering into the Promise Land and will keep us from entering a spiritual life of blessing, and joy in Christ. What principle did you learn about confronting God's trials?

5. Scripture Memory: By now you should pretty well know this week's verse by heart. Record it below by memory:

_____ " _____

_____ " _____

Studies in

Hebrews

Lesson 4 - Hebrews 4

Christ Rest-Superior to Joshua's

The scriptures continually reemphasize the fact that privileges bring on responsibilities. The children of Israel were a very privileged people. God brought them out of bondage in Egypt. God promised them a land that would be theirs, where they would dwell in safety from their enemies, where they would eat of the fruit of the land and would live in comfort and abundance.

God led them through the Red Sea and worked miracles for forty years, yet because of their unbelief, a journey that would have taken two weeks took them forty years. The Bible teaches us that none of the generation that left Egypt entered the promised land, except for Joshua and Caleb. The people's unbelief robbed them of God's blessing.

Their unbelief came from getting their eyes off of God and onto the difficulties of taking the land. Instead of seeing God's greatness, they saw the greatness of their enemy; rather than seeing the power of God, they saw the power of the fortified city. Looking at the obstacles, they were filled with fear and unbelief.

Although Joshua led the new generation of Israel into the land of Canaan, the children of Israel never attained to the spiritual rest, that life of blessing that God had for them. In this fourth chapter of Hebrews, the warning continues to be emphasized to believers, that although we have the rest of salvation, we may not have entered the rest we have in the finished work of Christ .

This rest can be defined as the place where I recognize that God is not requiring anything more than simple believing and trusting in Him. As long as I am working to be accepted by God, as long as I am struggling and working to do the right thing, I am not resting. I have not entered His rest. This is the rest that we will be studying about.

Remember to pray for God's guidance and direction as you study each day. Write out your answers for each question, don't merely copy down a passage or rely on other resource books for your answers.

Day One

Thought for the Day

Psalm 31:19 [Oh] how great [is] thy goodness, which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee; [which] thou hast wrought for them that trust in thee before the sons of men!

Read Hebrews 4:1-2 and answer the following questions:

1. The children of Israel had received a promise of entering into a life of blessing represented by the promised land. They never entered it because of unbelief. What is the writer's warning and exhortation in verse 1?

2. The word fear in verse 1 exhorts us to take a closer look at our relationship with Christ. It is very possible to be saved, but still rely on our own efforts and works to merit God's approval and blessing. What can we learn about God's promise of rest from the following scriptures?

Matthew 11:28

Romans 4:5-6

Romans 9:30-10:4

3. The writer, speaking to Hebrew believers, points out in verse 2 that the same Gospel they had come to believe had been preached to Israel. Where, according to the following scriptures, was the Gospel preached?

Genesis 22:1-8

Numbers 21:8-9

Leviticus 16:5-10

1Corinthians 5:7

4. In your own words, define the Gospel, then compare your definition with the scripture passage below.

Your definition:

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

5. Showing Israel signs that He would save them (eternal rest) , sustain them, and give them a life of blessing (rest of faith in the finished work of Christ), although God was merciful and longsuffering, Israel disobeyed, and instead of believing in the simplicity of the Gospel, they went about to establish their own righteousness. What does Paul say about the reaction of Israel and the Jewish people towards the Gospel message?

1 Corinthians 1:18, 22-23

6. When the Pharisees approached Jesus looking for a sign, what did Jesus point out to them, according to the following scripture?

Luke 11:29-30

7. Scripture Memory: This week's verse is Matthew 11:28. Repeat it several times each day, and by the end of the week, you'll be surprised how well you have it memorized.

Matthew 11:28 "Come unto me, all [ye] that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28

Day Two

Thought for the Day

Psalm 116:7 Return unto thy rest, O my soul; for the LORD hath dealt bountifully with thee.

Read Hebrews 4:3-5 and answer the following questions:

1. As we examine Hebrews 4:3a, what does the writer assure those Hebrews to whom he is writing?
2. The middle part of verse 3 is a direct quote from Psalms 95:10-11. Why was the Lord grieved (the Hebrew word translates to abhorred) with Israel, and what did God promise as certain as he had finished all the works of creation?
3. From the beginning of creation, God left an example to the Jewish people to follow. What was that example in verse 4? What else can we learn from the following scriptures?

God's example:

Genesis 2:1-3

Exodus 16:23a, 29-30

4. We just learned how God provided for Israel on the sixth day so that they wouldn't have to do any work on the seventh day. God wanted Israel to enter into the same rest He had entered. God wanted them to know that He had done all the work in advance and that rest would not be found by their own unrighteous works, but by believing in the finished work of God. What two principles about the rest of God can we find hidden in the following passages of scripture?

Luke 10:38-42

Luke 18:9-14

5. Part of the Mosaic Law was observing the Sabbath Day. According to the following scriptures, what was God's purpose for instituting the Law, and how did people feel under the Law?

Galatians 3:21-25

Romans 7:7-10

Galatians 3:10

6. Christ said, "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill." What does Paul tell us about the meaning and symbology of the Sabbath, festivals etc. according to the following scripture?

Colossians 2:16-17

7. The Sabbath Day is a shadow and a type of Christ, the perfect rest. In those days, Israel came to the Sabbath Day and rested. Christ is the true Sabbath of all those who believe, He is our Sabbath. As we examine Matthew 11:28-29 - 12:1a, who was the Lord addressing, and what did He propose to give, as He spoke this on the Sabbath day?

8. How does the Lord define the type of work we must do for God according with the following scripture?

John 6:28-29

9. Scripture Memory: Insert the missing words or phrases below. By memory if possible, review the verse several times today.

Matthew 11:28 "Come unto _____, all [ye] that _____ and are heavy _____ and I will give you _____"

Day Three

Thought for the Day

Psalm 119:60 I made haste, and delayed not to keep thy commandments.

Read Hebrews 4:6-10 and answer the following questions:

1. In day 2 of our study, we learned that there is a more spiritual and excellent Sabbath than that of the seventh day. Christ Jesus is the true Sabbath in which all who believe in His finished work enter into His rest of grace, the rest according to faith. As the writer addresses the Hebrew believers, what does he conclude in verse 6a about some of the believer's rest?

2. Examine Exodus 23:27-28 and list what the Lord promised Israel He would accomplish for them in the promised land? Compare with Israel's response in Numbers 13:25-33?

God's promise

Israel's response

3. After wandering for forty years in the wilderness, having now come to the edge of the Jordan River, with the promised land in sight, God's had appointed a certain day in which Israel would choose to believe in His finished work and enter into His rest. If Israel did not believe on that appointed day, they would not enter His rest and thus, Israel would presume once in the land, that they had entered when they never really had. What does the writer quoting David in verse 7 say to the Hebrew believers and us believers today?

4. It is quite possible to have salvation and not really have entered His rest. According to God's calendar, when does He want us believers to come to believe that we are righteous and complete because of Christ's finished work (enter His rest) (verse 7)? What else can we learn from the following scriptures?

Colossians 2:9-14

2 Peter 1:3-4

5. According to verses 8-10, did Joshua give Israel rest? Do you think Israel ceased to work for their righteousness?

6. We learned that God rested after His work of creation and now He is resting in the redemptive work of His Son. Why are God the Father and the Son resting according with the following scriptures? And where is Jesus resting at this present time?

John 19:30

Hebrews 1:3

7. What is the proof that a believer has entered God's rest, according to verse 10?

8. One of the main reasons that we don't cease to work for our own righteousness, is that we are desperately in need of acceptance by God and man. Paul once boasted of his own works of righteousness. According with Philippians 3:3-9, what did he boast in before, and how did he enter the Lord's rest?

9. Scripture Memory: Insert the missing words or phrases below. By memory if possible, review the verse several times today.

Matthew 11:28 "Come _____, all [ye] that _____ and are _____ and I _____ you _____"

Day Four

Thought for the Day

Jeremiah 17:10 I the LORD search the heart, [I] try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, [and] according to the fruit of his doings.

Read Hebrews 4:11-13 and answer the following questions:

1. As we look back into our study, we recognize that the rest we have access to, is based on the gracious relationship God has with us who believe. Satan tries constantly to bring us back into a legal relationship with God, always pointing out our faults, shortcomings and areas of weakness. Based on the above observation, what does the writer exhort the believers to do in verse 11?

2. Satan will do his best to rob us of God's rest and to keep us from walking in His grace. Satan will try to get us to consider how unworthy we are, and through accusation and condemnation, would cause us to put our eyes back on ourselves rather than on the finished work of Jesus Christ. If we believers want to work, we should work at resting. What things should we know to help us get our eyes on the Lord and bring us back into the realm of rest, according with the following scriptures?

James 4:7

2 Peter 1:4

Romans 8:1

Colossians 2:10

3. We have a great example in Matthew 4:3-11, where Satan tries to get Jesus to focus on Himself. What did Jesus do and use to disarm Satan?

4. What (5) things does the author of Hebrews tell us about the Word of God in verse 12?

5. The Word of God is a light and a mirror by which we can test and evaluate our true motives as believers, and the things we do in service for the Lord. Although people may identify our motives as good and perhaps humble, God's Word is able to discern and expose the true motives behind our works. According to verse 13, is God aware of our motives? What else can we glean from these scriptures?

1 Samuel 16:7

Psalms 90:8

Psalm 139:7-10

Proverbs 15:3

6. The latter portion of verse 13 points out that we will be accountable to God. What did Paul say to the Corinthian church?

1 Corinthians 4:5

1 Corinthians 3:11-15

2 Corinthians 5:9-10

7. Scripture Memory: Insert the missing words or phrases below. By memory if possible, review the verse several times today.

Matthew 11: _____ " _____ , all _____ and are _____
_____ and _____ you _____ "

Day Five

Thought for the Day

Psalm 34:8 O taste and see that the LORD [is] good: blessed [is] the man [that] trusteth in him.

Spotlight= Understanding who we are in Christ

God has finished all the necessary work so that those who believe may enter His rest, the life of grace that we previously studied.

In day four of our study, we learned that we need to labor to remain in His rest, because our adversary will try to get us to go back into a spiritual life of legalism and works. One important thing that will help our laboring to remain in His rest, is understanding who we are in Christ and how God perceives us.

1. Read the following scriptures and fill in the blanks:

I AM.....

Ephesians 2:8 _____

Romans 8:14 _____

2 Corinthians 5:21 _____

2 Peter 1:4 _____

Colossians 1:13-14 _____

Ephesians 1:3 _____

Romans 8:37 _____

Matthew 5:13 _____

Matthew 5:14 _____

Romans 8:17 _____

1 Corinthians 6:11 _____

1 Corinthians 1:5 _____

1 Corinthians 3:16 _____

1 Corinthians 3:9 _____

2. **Important:** Please meditate on the scripture passages above and begin to walk in the liberty that we can have as we enter His rest!

Galatians 5:1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

3. Scripture Memory: Insert the missing words or phrases below. By memory if possible, review the verse several times today.

Matthew _____ : _____ " _____ , all _____ are
_____ and _____ you _____ "

Day Six

Thought for the Day

Isaiah 26:3 Thou wilt keep [him] in perfect peace, [whose] mind [is] stayed [on thee]: because he trusteth in thee.

Practical Application

1. When was the first time you heard the Gospel? What effect did it have on your life?
2. What does entering into His rest mean to you?
3. What is the one area that Satan uses against you to keep you out of His rest?
4. As we studied about God's Word revealing our true motives and discerning the intents of the heart, did you recognize some motives in your life that weren't exactly true?
5. What passages of scripture ministered to you most about who you are in Christ?
6. Scripture Memory: Insert the missing words or phrases below. By memory, if possible, review the verse several times today.

_____ " _____
_____ " _____

Studies in

Hebrews

Lesson 5 - Hebrews 4:14-5:10

Christ the Great High Priest-Part 1

As we progress in the study of Hebrews, it is important to remember that this epistle was written to Hebrew believers who were deeply rooted in Jewish culture, traditions and practices.

The Jewish people, from the beginning of their history, were accustomed to approaching God through a high priest of the Levitical order. These were the priests who first served in the tabernacle during the wilderness travel and then in the temple. It was through these priests that Israel made their commitment to God and brought their sacrifices. Job, which lived before the Mosaic Law was instituted wrote:

Job 9:33 "If only there were someone to arbitrate between us, to lay his hand upon us both,."
(NIV)

Job 16:21 O that one might plead for a man with God, as a man [pleadeth] for his neighbour!

Job longed for a mediator or priest who would stand between him and God, who would put one hand in Job's hand and the other hand in God's hand, and thus bring them together. Christ is that mediator, that priest, through whom every believer has personal access to God.

As we learned from previous introductions, the temple was probably still standing at the time this epistle was written and the daily sacrifices were offered by the high priest. According to Jewish history, there were fourteen (14) high priests between the resurrection of our Lord and the destruction of the temple in 70 A.D. The last known high priest was Phinehas of Habta 67-70 A.D.

In this lesson, the writer to the Hebrews is exhorting and teaching that Christ is the Great High Priest. Christ's priesthood is greater than the Levitical order of priesthood (Aaronic priesthood), even though Christ was from the tribe of Judah and not from the priestly tribe of Levi. Later in lesson seven, the writer will develop the superiority of Christ's priesthood over the highest order of priesthood, that of the order of Melchizedek. Remember to pray for God's guidance and direction as you study each day. Write out your answers for each question, don't merely copy down a passage or rely on other resource books for your answers.

Day One

Thought for the Day

Psalm 84:11 For the LORD God [is] a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good [thing] will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.

1. Read Hebrews 4:14-16 and in your own word summarize the author's main point. Record a theme for this passage of scripture:

Summary:

Theme:

2. The writer of Hebrews was concerned that the Hebrew believers would go back to offering sacrifices through the High Priest of that time. According to verse 14a, what does the writer identify Jesus to be?

3. According to the Old Testament scriptures, the High Priest would enter once a year through a veil into the Most Holy Place to offer an atonement with the blood of animals for himself and for the people. Just like the High Priest had to come through the veil into the Most Holy Place, what is the veil separating the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place a type of, according to Hebrews 10:19-20?

4. Without the High Priest, the children of Israel did not have access to God for their yearly Day of Atonement. Affirming that Jesus Christ became a great High Priest as He passed through the heavens, and perhaps the writer recognizing by the Holy Spirit that the Temple would be destroyed, what are the believers exhorted to do in verse 14?

5. We know from the Gospels that the High Priest and the hierarchy of the Sanhedrin

(the religious ruling body) saw themselves above the people, and often times exemplified an inconsiderate and pious attitude towards the common man. According with the following scripture passages, how is Jesus, our High Priest, different?

Matthew 9:36

Luke 7:11-15

John 1:17

6. In our country we have the expression "Put yourself in his shoes." We cannot understand what some people go through in life unless we are in the same situation and experience the same circumstances. What is the reason that Christ our High Priest can be touched or be sympathetic toward us?

7. In the Old Testament, the High Priest would avoid touching any unclean person or thing, because he would become ceremonially unclean. According with the following scriptures, how is Jesus our High Priest different?

Matthew 8:1-3

Matthew 9:20-22

Matthew 14:34-36

Matthew 19:13-15

Matthew 20:29-34

7. Verse 15 tells us that Jesus our High Priest was tempted in all points as we are, yet without sin. What are some of the areas of temptation that Jesus faced and overcame, according to the following scriptures?

Matthew 4:5-6

Matthew 4:8-9

Luke 11:53-54

Luke 22:39-45

Isaiah 53:7

8. Scripture Memory: This week's verse is 1 Timothy 2:5. Repeat it several times each day, and by the end of the week, you'll be surprised how well you have it memorized.

1 Timothy 2:5 "For [there is] one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."

Day Two

Thought for the Day

Psalm 145:8 The LORD [is] gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy.

Read Hebrews 4:16-5:3 and answer the following questions:

1. Since Christ our High Priest died here on earth to save us and is now in heaven to keep us, what does the writer of Hebrews exhort the believers to do in verse 16?

2. In verse 16 we come across the word "boldly." It is the Greek word "*parrhesia*" and denotes the freedom of speech, the freedom to express one's feelings. It does not indicate force, or the attitude that says "I demand or have the right." But it points to action in the spirit of humility, anticipating grace, mercy and compassion. According to verse 16, what is Christ's throne recognized as?

3. In the Old Testament, the mercy seat over the Ark of the Covenant was a type of God's throne in heaven. The mercy seat was associated with a place of judgment, in that it was sprinkled with the blood of slain animals. In comparison, we recognize that the throne of Christ our High Priest is one of mercy and grace. What are some scriptural examples of the grace and mercy we find as we come boldly into His presence?

Jonah 3:6- 4:2

John 8:1-11

Luke 23:39-43

Matthew 20:29-34

Luke 17:11-19

4. According to Hebrews 5:1, what was one prerequisite for the office of the High Priest?

5. What was the High Priest appointed to do according to verse 1?

6. Verse 1 tells us that the High Priest's duty was to offer gifts and sacrifices for sin. According to the Mosaic Law, what constituted gifts and sacrifices?

Gifts

Numbers 18:26-29

Sacrifices

Leviticus 6:8-9

Leviticus 6:24-25

Leviticus 7:1-2

Leviticus 7:11-12

7. The High Priest was taken from among men, ordained for men and his responsibility included offering gifts and sacrifices in the temple. According to verse 2, what do you think was one main reason for the priest to be taken from men?

8. Verse 2 tells us that the High Priest was to have compassion on the ignorant, on those who did not know or did not have understanding. Also he was to have compassion on those who are out of the way, or have been deceived. Who are the people that fall under these categories?

Romans 3:9-12

9. Scripture Memory: Insert the missing words or phrases below. By memory, if possible, review the verse several times today.

1 Timothy 2:5 "For _____ God, and one _____ between God and _____, the _____ Christ Jesus."

Day Three

Thought for the Day

Proverbs 23:11 For their redeemer [is] mighty; he shall plead their cause with thee.

Read Hebrews 5:3-6 and answer the following questions:

1. What did the High Priest have to do for himself, because he was just as human as the rest of the people, according to verse 3?
2. According to Hebrews 5:4, how did a High Priest come into office?
3. Examine Numbers 18:1-2. How did Aaron become the High Priest? Other than Aaron and his immediate family, what tribe of the children of Israel was assigned by God to perform the office of priests in the Tabernacle?
4. In verse 4, we are told that men did not just take it upon themselves to become High Priests, but were called by God to that office. The priestly office was a serious and important calling. What can we learn from the life of King Saul from the following scriptures?

1 Samuel 13:1-14

5. The scriptures teach us that Christ has a threefold office of Prophet, Priest and King. According to verse 5, what was Christ's attitude toward His office as High Priest?

6. What else can we learn from the following scripture passages about Christ's attitude towards his threefold office?

John 5:30-31

John 8:54

Philippians 2:5-8

7. In verses 5 & 6, the writer quotes from Psalms. According to Psalm 110:1-4, who is testifying that Christ Jesus is a priest according to the order of Melchizedek?

8. The writer to the Hebrews is establishing the superiority of Christ's priesthood over that of the order of Aaron. According to verse 6, what makes Christ's priesthood greater than Aaron's?

9. Scripture Memory: Insert the missing words or phrases below. By memory if possible, review the verse several times today.

___ **Timothy 2:** ___ " ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ God, and ___ ___ ___
___ ___ ___ God and ___, the ___ ___ Christ ___."

Day Four

Thought for the Day

Psalm 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.

In our previous studies, we learned that the High Priest was called by God from man, to represent man before God. And because he was like those that he was mediating for, he was able to have compassion and sympathy. We understand that Christ our High Priest is able to be sympathetic towards us, because He became flesh and took on a body with the same physical limitations like ours, and thus experienced the same weaknesses and trials we experience.

Read Hebrews 5:7-10 and answer the following questions:

1. What kind of feelings do you think Jesus experienced in the garden just before His betrayal, as summarized in verse 7?
2. Jesus had a body like ours, with physical limitations. What do the following scriptures tell us about some of the limitations that Jesus experienced?

Matthew 26:36-38

John 4:5-6

John 11:32-36

John 19:28

Luke 19:41

Isaiah 53:3, 7a

3. In verse 7 we are told that Jesus offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears. The Greek word for strong crying indicated a cry so deep that no noise comes forth but only an ache is left in the throat. We are also told in the Gospels of Jesus sweating great drops of blood, a physical sign of great suffering. According to verse 8, how did Jesus learn obedience?

4. According with the following scriptures, what are some of the fruits or benefits of the suffering that God allows in our lives?

1Peter 4:16

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

5. In your own words, why do you think Christ had to learn obedience as stated in verse 8?

6. Other than learning obedience, what did suffering produce in Christ's life, and will also in ours, according with verse 9a?

7. Unlike Aaron, Christ suffered in that He became the Lamb sacrificed for the sins of the world. In the garden, we notice that Christ asked His Father if the cup He was going to drink could pass from Him. According with the scripture below, when did Christ become matured in His suffering as stated in verse 9?

Luke 22:41-42

8. Upon choosing to do the will of the Father in the garden, what did Jesus Christ become according to verse 9?

9. What title does God the Father give Christ in verse 10?

10. Scripture Memory: Insert the missing words or phrases below. By memory if possible review the verse several times today.

_____ *Timothy* _____: _____ " _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ *God*, _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ *and* _____ _____, *the* _____ _____ *Christ* _____ _____."

Day Five

Thought for the Day

Psalm 141:2 Let my prayer be set forth before thee [as] incense; [and] the lifting up of my hands [as] the evening sacrifice.

Spotlight= Understanding our own priesthood

Until the Mosaic Law was given, the head of each family was the family's priest (Gen. 8:20-21). When the Law was proposed, God wanted Israel to become a kingdom of priests (Exodus 19:5-6). Israel violated the Law, so God closed the priestly office to everyone except Aaron's family and the tribe of Levi.

Since the church age, Christians are unconditionally constituted as kings and priests (1 Peter 2:5,9) (Revelation 1:6). With this in mind, answer the following questions:

1. According with the Mosaic Law, men became priests because of birthright into the priestly tribe. How do Christians become priests?

John 3:3

1 Peter 1:22-23

2. As we read Exodus 25:22, we find that God told Moses that He would meet with him from above the mercy seat on top of the Ark of the Covenant in the Holiest of All. How do Christians have access to the Holiest of All to meet God according with the following scripture?

Hebrews 10:19-22

3. As we previously studied, one of the responsibilities of the high priest was to offer sacrifices. As believers-priests, we offer a four-fold sacrifice. Read the following scriptures and identify our sacrifices.

A. Romans 12:1

Philippians 2:17

2 Timothy 4:6

James 1:27

1 John 3:16

B. Hebrews 13:15

C. Romans 12:13

Galatians 6:6,10

Titus 3:14

3 John 5-8

D. Hebrews 13:16

4. What is our other priestly responsibility?

Colossians 4:12

1 Timothy 2:1

5. Scripture Memory: Insert the missing words or phrases below. By memory, if possible, review the verse several times today.

1 Timothy 2:5

Day Six

Thought for the Day

Proverbs 23:12 Apply thine heart unto instruction, and thine ears to the words of knowledge.

Practical Application

1. We learned that the High Priest had compassion on the people. We believers-priests should be sympathetic to people in the same way as Jesus our High Priest. Identify those people in your life that, for some reason or other, you have not been sympathetic towards, and intercede this week in prayer for them. As the Lord would lead you, show compassion.

2. We know from our study that our Lord Jesus Christ understands us when we face temptations and trials. Identify those temptations and trials that are giving you difficulty and at the end of tonight's meeting share them with you group and approach the Throne of Grace to find help in the time of need.

3. Jesus suffered in order that He might learn obedience and become matured. What are you learning from the difficulties and trials you have recently experienced?

4. As believers-priests, we offer up sacrifices, just like the priest in the Old Testament tabernacle. What are the areas of sacrifices we learned in day 5 that could improve in your priestly office?

5. Scripture Memory: By now you should pretty well know this week's verse by heart. Record it below by memory:

Studies in

Hebrews

Lesson 7 - Hebrews 7:1- 8:6

Christ's Superior Priesthood- Part 2

In chapter 5 of Hebrews, the writer was about to teach the Hebrew believers of the greatness of Christ as a High Priest after the order of Melchizedek. Unfortunately, because of their spiritual immaturity, he could not teach them about Melchizedek.

After a severe warning against remaining in an arrested state of spiritual growth, the author in chapter 7 of Hebrews decides to teach these believers of the superior priesthood of Christ after the order of Melchizedek

Not much is known about Melchizedek, but from what the scriptures tell us about him, we see that he is a type of Christ in areas such as 1) his genealogy without beginning and ending) 2) his kingly titles ("King of Salem" (peace), "King of Righteousness") and his priesthood, (not belonging to the priestly tribe of Levi.)

Some scholars think of Melchizedek as a "Theophany" (Christ's bodily appearance in the Old Testament). For background on Melchizedek, please read Genesis chapter 14 before studying Hebrews chapter 7.

In this lesson, we will study the superior priesthood of Christ after the order of Melchizedek, over the Aaronic (Levitical priesthood). We will consider the weakness of the Levitical priesthood, in that it could make nothing perfect, in that the Levitical priests died, and because Christ our High Priest mediates a better covenant.

Remember to pray for God's guidance and direction as you study each day. Write out your answers for each question, don't merely copy down a passage or rely on other resource books for your answers.

Day One

Thought for the Day

Psalm 90:2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou [art] God.

Read Hebrews 7:1-10 and answer the following questions:

1. When did Abraham meet Melchizedek and what did Melchizedek do (verse 1)?

2. Abraham had just rescued his nephew Lot from the hands of the four kings of the East, when he met Melchizedek. After Melchizedek blessed Abraham, what did Abraham do to show the greatness of Melchizedek (verse 2)?

3. In verses 2 & 3, what are Melchizedek's credentials? List them and discuss how they compare to Christ's. If you want to use your Bible's concordance to assist you, please do so.

4. It is interesting that verse 3 tells us that Melchizedek was made after the similitude of the Son of God. What does this fact reveal about Christ? How does the following passage of scripture shed light on the above fact?

John 8:53-58

5. In verse 4 we are told to consider or think about the greatness of Melchizedek. How does verses 4-10 show Melchizedek's greatness?

7:4-6a

7:6b-7

7:8

7:9-10

6. Levi was Abraham's great-grandson and was yet unborn when Abraham met Melchizedek. An ancestor is regarded in biblical thought as containing within himself all of his descendants. Also, the Hebrews held that no son (or descendant) could be greater than his father (or ancestor). What does this fact, as indicated in verses 9-10, reveal about the priesthood of Melchizedek over the Levitical one?

7. Scripture Memory: This week's verse is Ephesians 2:13. Repeat it several times each day, and by the end of the week, you'll be surprised how well you have it memorized.

Ephesians 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

Day Two

Thought for the Day

Psalm 145:3 Great [is] the LORD, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness [is] unsearchable.

We understand the superiority of the priesthood of Melchizedek over the Levitical priesthood by the actions of Abraham and by God's own proclamation that Christ was to be a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek. Read Hebrews 7:11-22 and answer the following questions to discover other reasons for the superiority of Melchizedek's priesthood and Christ's.

1. According to verse 11, what did the Levitical priesthood fail to accomplish? What other input can we glean from the following scriptures?

Hebrews 9:11-15

Romans 8:3-4

Galatians 3:11

2. How do we know that the Levitical priesthood failed according to Hebrews 7:11b?

3. Why would the Mosaic Law have to change in order for Jesus to become a priest of the order of Melchizedek (verse 12-14)?

4. In verses 15-17, what is and is not the basis of Christ's priesthood?

Is _____

Is not _____

5. We understand that the priesthood of Melchizedek which Christ holds is an everlasting priesthood. According to verse 17 & 20, which is a quotation from Psalm 110:4, who testifies and swears that Christ is a priest forever?

6. What effect does the superiority of Melchizedek's priesthood have on the commandment of the Law concerning the office of the Levitical priesthood (verse 18-19)?

7. According to verse 18-19, why did the Law and the Levitical priesthood make nothing perfect?

8. In verse 19, because of the weakness of the Law and its priesthood, there is for us a better hope. What is this hope according to the following scriptures?

John 1:17

Hebrews 7:22

9. Scripture Memory: Insert the missing words or phrases below. By memory if possible review the verse several times today.

Ephesians 2:13 But now in _____ ye who sometimes were _____ are made nigh by _____ Christ.

Day Three

Thought for the Day

Psalm 119:154 Plead my cause, and deliver me: quicken me according to thy word.

Read Hebrews 7:23-25 and answer the following questions:

1. Jewish history indicates that from about 350 BC to 70 AD the Jewish people had fifty high priests. According to verse 23, why were there so many?

2. According to verse 24, what important characteristic do we find about Christ's priesthood?

3. The Levitical priesthood was passed down usually to the High Priest's son by reason of death. Today's Mormon Church claims that the priesthood of Melchizedek has been passed down, through time, to them, making some of the church elders priests after the order of Melchizedek. Why is this impossible according to verse 24 and 1 Corinthians 15:4?

4. What does Christ's permanent priesthood enable Him to do (verse 25)?

5. Christ is able to save to the uttermost. This word can be translated (completely and eternally) including those people that we would label unredeemable. According to the following scriptures, what is the prerequisite for man's salvation?

Isaiah 55:3

John 6:37

6. What else is Christ doing for us eternally in verse 25?

7. What does Christ's intercession mean to you? Write down your response and compare with what the scriptures teach us regarding Christ's intercession for us.

Your response:

Jude 24

Luke 22:31-32

Luke 23:33-34

Romans 8:34

1 John 2:1-2

8. Scripture Memory: Insert the missing words or phrases below. By memory if possible review the verse several times today.

*Ephesians 2: _____ But now in _____ ye who _____
_____ are made nigh by _____ Christ.*

Day Four

Thought for the Day

Psalm 94:17 Unless the LORD [had been] my help, my soul had almost dwelt in silence.

From our previous studies of lesson 7, we learned that the priesthood of Melchizedek is superior to that of Aaron (Levitical), because 1) Aaron in Abraham paid tithes, 2) the Levitical priesthood made nothing perfect, and 3) the Levitical priests died but Christ lives forever, and as we study further in lesson 7, 4) Christ mediates a superior covenant.

Read Hebrews 7:26-8:6 and answer the following questions:

1. What characteristics set our High Priest Jesus Christ apart from the previous Levitical High Priests (verse 26-28)?

2. Verse 26 tells us that Christ is the right or fitting High Priest for us believers because he is able to save and intercedes (verse 25) on our behalf. What other important reason can we find in verse 27 that further indicates that Christ is the perfect High Priest for us?

3. Under the Old Covenant, the Levitical priests had to offer daily sacrifices in the morning and evening. Once a year, on the Day of Atonement, the High Priest would offer a sacrifice for Himself and then for the people (verse 27). According to verse 28, what kind of High Priest did the Law make?

4. The word infirmity or weakness in verse 28 is the Greek word "astheneia" and it describes a person that is too weak in body and soul to do things great and glorious, to restrain corrupt desires and to bear trials and troubles. Because of this, what message did God convey to the Jewish people in Psalm 110:4 hundreds of years after the Law was given? What did this mean to the Levitical priesthood?

5. The author of Hebrews recognized the possibility that these Hebrew believers might go back to offering sacrifices through the Jewish High Priest of that time. Therefore, he summarized everything he had talked about in Hebrews 8:1-2. What is the summary or main point the author delivered?

6. What proof do we have that the Temple was standing and that offerings were taking place at the time Hebrews was written (Hebrews 8:4)?

7. According to Hebrews 8:5, what was the earthy tabernacle a copy or shadow of?

8. According to scripture, everything in and around the Old Testament tabernacle, the Jewish feasts, the furniture in the tabernacle and the sacrifice, pointed to Christ. Because Christ offered Himself once for all as a sacrifice (Heb 7:27), what effect did this have on the Levitical priestly ministry and the Old Testament covenant according to Hebrews 8:6?

9. Scripture Memory: Insert the missing words or phrases below. By memory if possible review the verse several times today.

Ephesians 2: _____ *But* _____ *ye*
_____ *are* _____ *by* _____ *Christ*.

Day Five

Thought for the Day

Psalm 51:17 The sacrifices of God [are] a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

Spotlight= Understanding the purpose of the Law

In Hebrews 7:19, the author tells us that the Law of God (the Mosaic Law) made nothing perfect or right in order to draw man to God. In this spotlight study, we will examine why the Law made nothing perfect. But first of all we'll need to understand what the Law constituted.

The Mosaic Law includes the first five books of the Bible (Genesis- Deuteronomy). It is also called The Pentateuch, a Greek term meaning "five volumes." The Hebrew word for this collection is "Torah" meaning instruction, teaching, or doctrine.

Within the Law, we find the Ten Commandments, testimonies, ordinances, statutes, judgments and ceremonies for the Jewish people to follow. Christ our High Priest was the fulfillment of the Law.

Please answer the following questions:

1. According to the scriptures below, what are some of the characteristics of the Law?

Psalm 19:9-10

Psalm 119:129,137-138

Romans 7:12

2. If the Law of God is perfect, holy and righteous, why couldn't the Law make man right before God?

Romans 3:23

Romans 7:14, 18-19

3. What were some of the purposes of the Law?

Romans 3:20

Romans 7:7-13

4. What is the chief purpose of the Law?

Galatians 3:24

5. Why aren't believers today under the Mosaic Law?

Galatians 3:25-26

6. Read the story of the young rich ruler in Luke 18:18-27. What message was our Lord communicating apart from the difficulty of a rich man entering into the kingdom of God?

7. What can we learn about the following scripture passage in light of the Law?

Matthew 9:13

8. Scripture Memory: Insert the missing words or phrases below. By memory if possible review the verse several times today.

Ephesians ____: ____ *But* _____ *ye* _____
_____ *are* _____.

Day Six

Practical Application

Thought for the Day

Psalm 32:1-2 Blessed [is he whose] transgression [is] forgiven, [whose] sin [is] covered. Blessed [is] the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit [there is] no guile.

Please answer the following questions:

1. What does having Jesus as your High Priest mean to you?

2. Our High Priest is our advocate or lawyer. He pleads and intercedes for us to God the Father. He wants us to come to Him, to confess our sins to Him. Is there anything in your heart that needs to be cleansed and made right by The Lord today?

3. Our High Priest made it simple for us to enter into a relationship with God. There is no need for us to think that we could do anything good to win God's approval. Are you falling back into doing righteous works thinking that it will make things right with The Lord?

4. These Hebrew believers, having accepted Christ, were going back to the Law by offering sacrifices at the Temple. Do you find yourself floating in and out between grace and legalism in your life? If so, why?

5. What scripture from Hebrews 7:1-28 ministered to you the most this week?

6. Scripture Memory: By now you should pretty well know this week's verse by heart. Record it below by memory:

Studies in

Hebrews

Lesson 8 - Hebrews 8:7-13

New Covenant Superior to Old

In our previous studies, we've seen the superior excellence of the priesthood of Christ above that of Aaron, in that Christ is the mediator of the covenant of grace. In this study, we will examine the superiority of the new covenant over the old.

The word "covenant" comes from the root that means "to bind." Among the Israelites, a covenant was a relationship between two parties wherein each bound himself to perform a certain service or duty for the other. When two men made such a covenant, they invoked divine retribution if either one tried to avoid fulfilling the covenant obligations.

The old covenant was a unilateral covenant in which one party (God) declared the terms and conditions. Although the old covenant terms were holy and just, it only brought condemnation to those that tried to live by it. The old covenant could not remove sin or guilt, nor could it clear one's conscience.

God originally wrote His Law to the Jewish people on tablets of stone. Now under the new covenant, God will write His Law in them on the tablets of their hearts. He will give the Jewish believer understanding of the Law, courage to profess the Law, power to practice the Law, and the outpouring of His Holy Spirit to minister the Gospel effectually so that all will know the Lord. This is the foundation of the new covenant.

This new covenant has not yet been fulfilled and realized by the Jewish people. This will take place once the church is removed from the world.

Remember to pray for God's guidance and direction as you study each day. Take time and allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you as you answer the study questions.

Day One

Thought for the Day

Hosea 6:6 For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.

Read Hebrews 8:7-9 and answer the following questions:

1. According to verse 7, the old covenant did not work in bringing man into a relationship with God. What were some of the reasons per the scriptures below?

Galatians 2:16

Galatians 3:10-11

Hebrews 7:11

2. According to the scriptures below, what was the old covenant predicated on?

Exodus 19:3-8

Leviticus 26:3-39

Acts 15:5-11

3. In verse 8, what did God find fault with?

4. According to verse 8, which is a quote from Jeremiah 31:31, who are the parties involved in this new covenant?

5. Seven hundred years before Christ, Jeremiah spoke about this new covenant and pointed to a time that this covenant would be realized by Israel and Judah. According to Romans 11:25-27, why hasn't Israel realized the covenant yet? When will they?

6. Although the new covenant had not been realized by Israel at the time Hebrews was written, it was realized by the church. According to the scriptures below, how did the church realize or become partakers of the new covenant?

Galatians 3:6-9

Romans 4:5-10

7. Scripture Memory: This week's verse is John 1:17. Repeat it several times each day, and by the end of the week, you'll be surprised how well you have it memorized.

John 1:17 For the law was given by Moses, [but] grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

Day Two

Thought for the Day

Psalm 89:34 My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips.

Lesson summary: The time, place and reasons for the old covenant failing.

Read Hebrews 8:9 and answer the following questions:

1. In light of the old covenant, what message was God sending to the Jewish people when He spoke about the new covenant in Jeremiah 31:31-32?

2. According with verse 9, when did God make the old covenant with the nation of Israel?

3. According with verse 9, who broke the covenant, and what was the reason why?

4. What does the term "they did not continue" in verse 9 tell us about the old covenant?

5. Because the children of Israel could not continue to walk in the statues and ordinances of the old covenant, they were not able to enter into a relationship with God. What did God do in verse 9 to the children of Israel?

6. Examine the terms of the new covenant in Jeremiah 31:31-34 and list some of the benefits which make it a better covenant.

7. According to Jeremiah 31:31-34 and the scriptures below, what is the new covenant predicated on?

Matthew 11:28

Jude 24

Titus 3:5

1 Peter 2:24

8. Scripture Memory: Insert the missing words or phrases below. By memory if possible review the verse several times today.

John 1:17 For the law was given by _____, [but] grace and truth came by _____

Day Three

Thought for the Day

Psalm 103:10-11 He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. 11 For as the heaven is high above the earth, [so] great is his mercy toward them that fear him.

Lesson summary: The time of the new covenant, the way it would be instituted and the fruit of the new covenant.

Read Hebrews 8:10-11 and answer the following questions:

1. In verse 10, the writer tells us that God would make a new covenant with the house of Israel "after those days." What does "after those days" mean according to the scriptures below?

Romans 11:25-27

Zechariah 12:10

Zechariah 14:3-4

2. According to verse 10 (the new covenant), where is God going to put and write His law so that man could walk in it?

3. What else can we learn from researching the idea of God's law being written on the human heart?

Psalm 37:30-31

Psalm 40:6-8

Romans 2:13-15

2 Corinthians 3:2-3

4. What is the result of having God's laws in our minds and in our hearts according to the end of verse 10?

5. In the old covenant times, the Jewish priest taught the people about God. Christ referred to the Pharisees as teachers of Israel during His brief ministry on earth. According to verse 11, what will the fruit be of having the Law written in the hearts of the Jewish people?

6. Per the scriptures below, how do believers get to know the Lord under the new covenant?

John 14:26

1 Corinthians 2:12-13

1 John 2:26-27

7. What is eternal life to you? Compare your answer against the scripture below

Your answer:

John 17:3

8. Was a true knowledge of God lacking among Israel under the old covenant? How did they show it?

Judges 2:10

Jeremiah 4:22

Jeremiah 5:5

Hosea 4:1-6

8. From the time of the Apostle Paul's conversion, how is Israel reacting to the Gospel which is the heart of the new covenant?

Romans 10:14-16

9. Scripture Memory: Insert the missing words or phrases below. By memory if possible review the verse several times today.

John 1:17 For the _____ was given by _____, [but] _____ and truth came by _____

Day Four

Thought for the Day

Psalm 130:3-4 If thou, LORD, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? But [there is] forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared.

Lesson Summary: God's mercy and forgiveness revealed in the new covenant. The old covenant becoming obsolete.

As we review the previous lessons, we discover that this new covenant with Israel and Judah is superior to the old covenant because of better promises. So far we noticed that God would put His Laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. God would also give them understanding to know and believe His Laws, and above all Israel and Judah would know the Lord and have a personal relationship with Him.

The remaining promise, as we will examine in this lesson, is His never-ending mercy and the forgiveness of sins toward Israel, Judah and those who have accepted the new covenant promise.

Mercy and forgiveness are always found to accompany the true knowledge of God. It is through this new covenant that the Jewish people can turn from religion to relationship, from legalism and bondage to liberty and peace with God.

Read Hebrews 8:12-13 and answer the following questions:

1. According to verse 12, what is one identifiable attribute of God?
2. The word "mercy" in the New Testament can also be translated "the place of propitiation" (the Mercy Seat). The word is also used for the gift which procures propitiation. What was God saying to the Jewish people through Jeremiah when He spoke of being merciful to their unrighteousness in verse 12?
3. What can we learn about our Lord's mercy in light of the old covenant by the scriptures below?

Judges 3:5-15

Judges 10:6-16

John 8:1-11

4. What (3) things will God be merciful to (verse 12)?

5. The writer of Hebrews quotes Jeremiah 31:34 in verse 12. Although he tells us about God's mercy, what does Jeremiah 31:34 say instead?

6. What will God do, besides forgiving the sin of Israel? See verse 12b

7. According to David in Psalm 103, how has God dealt with our sins?

verses 2-3

verse 8

verse 10-11

verse 12

verse 13-14

8. According to verse 13, who has made the old covenant obsolete?

9. In what way has God made the old covenant obsolete?

Matthew 5:17-18

10. Scripture Memory: Insert the missing words or phrases below. By memory if possible review the verse several times today.

John 1: _____ *For the* _____ *was* _____ *by* _____, [*but*] _____ *and* _____ *came by* _____

Day Five

Thought for the Day

Psalm 51:7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Spotlight = *Understanding the importance of the blood within the covenants*

Both the old and new covenants that we have been studying, revolve around a blood sacrifice. In this spotlight study, we will examine the importance of blood within the covenant and its benefits.

Please answer the following questions:

1. According to the scriptures below, where did the first blood sacrifice take place and why?

Genesis 3:21

2. What did the blood sacrifice of animals provide to hide Adam and Eve's nakedness?

3. What is the most important reason for the involvement of blood in God's covenants with mankind?

_____ Hebrews 9:22

4. We understand that the blood of sacrificed animals under the old covenant only covered the sin, but it did not wash sin away. What are the benefits of Christ's own blood?

Romans 5:9

Colossians 1:14

Ephesians 1:7

Ephesians 2:13

Hebrews 9:14

Hebrews 13:12

5. What did Jesus say His blood was of, according to Matthew 26:28?

6. Whose responsibility was it to keep the ordinances of the old covenant?

7. Scripture Memory: By now you should pretty well know this week's verse by heart. Record it below by memory:

John ____: ____ *For* _____ *was* _____ *by* _____, [*but*] _____ *and*
_____ *by* _____

Day Six

Practical Application **Thought for the Day**

Psalm 103:10-12 He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. 11 For as the heaven is high above the earth, [so] great is his mercy toward them that fear him. 12 As far as the east is from the west, [so] far hath he removed our transgressions from us.

Please answer the following questions:

1. We have learned that the new covenant is predicated on God alone. How does that truth affect your life and your walk with the Lord?

2. Although all the terms of the new covenant are great, which one, of the ones listed in Jeremiah 31:31-34, has ministered to you the most, and why?

3. We learned in this lesson that Israel did not know The Lord. Under the new covenant God has given us His Word and His Spirit to get to know Him. Do you feel that your knowledge of Him is greater now, than when you first received Him? What is the one thing you can do to strengthen your knowledge of Him?

4. We noticed that God is merciful and full of compassion. He will forgive our sins and our unrighteousness. Likewise God wants us to be merciful to others. Is there someone in your life that you need to forgive, to show compassion and mercy on?

5. In day five of our study, we examined some of the benefits of the blood of Christ. Which two ministered to you the most?

6. Scripture Memory: By now you should have this week's verse memorized. Record it below by memory:

John __: ____ _____

Studies in

Hebrews

Lesson 9 - Hebrews 9

New Sanctuary superior to Old

The writer to the Hebrews has been systematically showing the overall superiority of Christ above Moses, Aaron, and Melchizedek, and the new covenant over the old. In this lesson, the author of Hebrews sets out to establish the superiority of the Heavenly Sanctuary over the wilderness sanctuary, of which everything from the tent to the articles of furniture were a picture and shadow of the person and redemptive work of Christ.

It is interesting that in Hebrews 9, the writer uses the wilderness tabernacle to make his comparisons rather than the temple of Herod which was currently standing. From the beginning of time, God has desired to dwell with man and have a place to fellowship. Originally God chose the Garden of Eden as the place of meeting, but because of man's disobedience, the fellowship could not continue. God very much desiring to dwell with man, commanded Moses to build Him a tabernacle of meeting or "tent" that would resemble the true Sanctuary in Heaven.

The portion of the tabernacle that the writer of Hebrews refers to in Hebrews 9 was called "The Sanctuary" or "The Holy Place" and "The Most Holy Place." The first section "The Holy Place" was approximately 30 ft. x 15 ft. x 15 ft. and "The Most Holy Place" was a 15 foot cube and very beautiful to behold. Although it represented the beauty of the Lord and the glory of His temple in heaven, it also showed the unapproachableness of God by anyone except the High Priest, who once a year went into The Most Holy Place.

To the Hebrew people, the tabernacle, and centuries later the temple, were very important since it was where intercession was made, as well as where they prayed and worshipped. We notice this from Peter and John in Acts 3:1 going to the temple to pray shortly after our Lord's ascension. The wilderness tabernacle is the finest portrait of Christ and His redemption in the Old Testament. God sent a picture before He sent the person. The wilderness tabernacle was theology pre-written.

Remember to pray for God's guidance and direction as you study each day. Write out your answers for each question, don't merely copy down a passage or rely on other resource books for you answers.

Day One

Thought for the Day

Psalm 90:1 Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations.

Read Hebrews 9:1-2 and answer the following questions:

1. How does the writer of Hebrews identify the wilderness sanctuary under the first covenant (verse 1)?

2. In verse 1 we are told that the tabernacle was prepared for divine service. The Greek word for tabernacle is "dwelling place." Although in verse 2 we are told the tabernacle had two parts to it, in actuality, the tabernacle had three parts to it. The court of the tabernacle, the Holy Place and The Most Holy Place. According with Exodus 25:1-9, how did Moses go about the construction of this tabernacle?

3. The wilderness tabernacle was constructed from earthly materials. The tabernacle, as we will see is a portrait of coming Messiah, our Lord Jesus Christ. How do the following scriptures shed light to the above fact?

John 1:14

Philippians 2:5-8

4. In Exodus 26:1-37, we are given a blueprint of the actual "tent" and perimeter tent walls (see drawing of tabernacle) . What Biblical types can we draw from the scriptures below?

Exodus 26:1 (*Curtains of fine woven linen*)

Biblical type : Revelation 19:7-8

Exodus 26:15 (*Boards of acacia wood, a desert plant*)

Biblical type: Isaiah 53:2-3

Exodus 26:26-30 (*Bars and Boards of acacia wood coupled together
and overlaid with gold*)

Biblical type: John 17:21-23

5. In verse 2 we are told that the first part of the tabernacle was called "The Sanctuary." According with the scripture below, what is another name for both parts of the sanctuary?

Exodus 26:33

6. Examine verse 2 and list the articles of furniture located in the first part of the sanctuary, "The Holy Place." Examine the drawing of the Tabernacle to help you locate these within the Sanctuary.

7. The tent that made up the sanctuary did not have any windows for natural light to shine in. As we immediately enter the Holy Place, we find a Lampstand or Candlestick. In Exodus 25:31-40 God gave Moses a description of it. What is the lampstand a type of, according to the scriptures below?

Revelation 21:22-23

Revelation 22:5

8. Upon review of the construction of the Lampstand, we find that it had six branches or shafts, three on each side of the center shaft, which supported all others. What New Testament truth does this reveal to us?

John 15:4

John 1:4

Revelation 1:20

9. Further examination of the construction of the Lampstand reveals that the actual shafts were fashioned in the shape of almond blossoms, and at the top of each shaft we find an opened almond blossom in which olive oil lamps were placed. We know from Numbers 16:41-17:10 that when Aaron's priestly authority was called into question by the murmuring children of Israel, the budding of his dead almond rod established it. How was Christ's priesthood established, and us as believers priests, as part of the candlestick?

1 Corinthians 15:20-22

Romans 6:4-8

Romans 8:10-11

10. We know from Exodus 27:20-21 that the priest would keep the top of the Lampstand filled with oil every day to keep it continually lit. Without the oil, the lamp would go out. What does this speak of, according to the scriptures below?

John 14:16-17

Ephesian 5:18

1 Corinthians 1:6

1 Corinthians 3:16

2 Corinthians 3:6

11. Scripture Memory: This week's verse is John 1:14 . Repeat it several times each day, and by the end of the week, you'll be surprised how well you have it memorized.

John 1:14 *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*

Day Two

Thought for the Day

Psalm 26:8 LORD, I have loved the habitation of thy house, and the place where thine honour dwelleth.

Read Hebrews 9:2-3 and answer the following questions:

1. So far in our study of the tabernacle, we have examined the tent and the lampstand or candlestick. Now in verse 2, what are the next two articles introduced by the writer to the Hebrews?

2. In Exodus 25:23-30 God gave Moses the blueprint for the table of shewbread. The table of shewbread speaks to us of sustenance, provision, supply, fellowship and oneness. What important principles do the following scriptures reveal about the table and the shewbread?

Luke 14:15-24

Luke 22:14-19

3. On the table there were placed twelve loaves of unleavened baked bread, six in a row. The table and the shewbread were considered as one. The twelve loaves, one for each tribe of Israel, were all the same size. Little Benjamin had the same kind of loaf as big Judah and outcast Reuben had the same as priestly Levi. What truth has been revealed for us in the following New Testament scriptures?

Romans 10:12-13

Galatians 3:28

4. The table was the center of union and communion for the priestly family. They were instructed to abide in the Holy Place and eat at the table (Lev 24:9). The table, as we know, is a type of Christ. We believers also belong to the priestly family (1John 3:1). What truth has been revealed for us in the following New Testament Scriptures?

2 Corinthians 3:4-7

1 John 1:3

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

5. In Leviticus 24:5 we are given a description of the shewbread. The shewbread was made of grain ground into fine flour, unleavened, made into bread, and baked. The shewbread spoke not of the life giving bread like the manna in the wilderness, but of sustenance. What does John tell us about Christ? In what way was Christ a type of grain that was ground into flour?

John 12:24, 33

John 18:10-11

6. What separated the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place (verse 3)?

7. God gave Moses a description of this veil or curtain between the Holy and Most Holy Place. What is this veil a type of, according with the following scriptures?

Hebrews 10:19-20

8. What happened to the veil as the result of Jesus dying on the cross (Matthew 27:50-53)? We are told in Hebrews that only the High Priest could go into The Most Holy Place, which was behind the veil. Based on your first answer, what does this allow common man to do?

9. In Exodus 26:31, God told Moses what colors to use for the veil. What were these colors?

10. What do the colors of the Veil signify according with the following scriptures?

Scarlet (Isaiah 1:18)

(Joshua 2:1-21)

Blue (Psalm 19:1)

(Ephesians 1:3)

Purple (Mark 15:15-19)

11. Scripture Memory: Insert the missing words or phrases below. By memory if possible review the verse several times today.

John 1:14 And the _____ was made _____ and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only _____ of the Father,) full of _____ and truth.

Day Three

Thought for the Day

Psalm 18:6 In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, [even] into his ears.

In our study of day two, we looked at all of the articles of furniture in the Holy Place and their significance. In today's study, we will concentrate on the articles within the Most Holy Place.

Read Hebrews 9:3-5 and answer the following questions:

1. What was the room behind the second curtain or veil called (verse 3)?
2. What were the articles of furniture found in the Most Holy Place (verse 4-5)?
3. In Exodus 30:1-10 God gave Moses a description of the Altar of Incense or Golden Altar. According to the account in Exodus, where was the Golden Altar to be placed? Also, look at the attached drawing to help you visualize the layout of the tabernacle.
4. Why do you suppose the writer places the Altar of Incense in the Most Holy Place rather than in the Holy Place? Compare your answer against the following scriptures.

Your answer:

Matthew 27:50-51

Hebrews 10:19-22

5. According to scripture, what does the incense coming from the Altar of Incense signify?

Revelation 5:8

Revelation 8:3, 4

6. What does David refer to prayer as, in Psalm 141:2?

7. We understand then that the incense coming from the altar is the prayers of the saints. According to Exodus 30:1-10, Aaron the High Priest was the only one who could burn incense once a year before God. How do the following scriptures reveal our Lord Jesus as the Altar of Incense and our High Priest?

Romans 8:34

Hebrews 7:25

John 17:8-9

8. According to John 14:13-14 and the scripture below, how should our prayers be directed to God The Father?

Hebrews 13:15

9. After the close of the giving of the Old Testament canon, heaven was silent for about four hundred years. When and where was the silence broken and a new dispensation begun by God?

Luke 1:5-13

10. How did we believers enter into this new dispensation?

Romans 10:8-13

11. Aaron was reminded in Exodus 30:1-10 to offer a "perpetual incense" upon it. He also was not allowed to offer strange incense thereon. Strange incense speaks of any attempts to worship God which is contrary to His Word. What does a "perpetual incense" reminds us of?

Philippians 1:3-5

Colossians 1:3-4

1 Thessalonians 5:16

Luke 18:1

12. The Altar of Incense in the Holy Place speaks of our worship to Christ. Aaron was reminded by The Lord to burn incense every morning. What does this suggests to you? What can we learn from David and Daniel about this?

Your thought:

Psalm 55:16-17

Daniel 6:10

13. Scripture Memory: Insert the missing words or phrases below. By memory if possible review the verse several times today.

John 1:14 *And the _____ was made _____ and dwelt _____ us, (and we _____ his glory, the glory as of the only _____ of the Father,) full of _____ and truth.*

Day Four

Thought for the Day

Psalm 5:7 But as for me, I will come [into] thy house in the multitude of thy mercy: [and] in thy fear will I worship toward thy holy temple.

As we move through the sanctuary and come into the Most Holy Place, we come closer to the dwelling place of God. In the Holy Place we saw the work of Christ as the sustenance and mediator of the believer. As we move closer into the Most Holy Place we will look at the Person of Christ.

Read Hebrews 9:4-5 and answer the following questions:

1. In day three of our study, the writer of Hebrews identified the Golden Altar or the Altar of Incense as one of the articles belonging to the Most Holy Place. What is the next, and one of the most important articles of furniture identified in verse 4 ?

2. In Exodus 25:10-16, God gave Moses the blueprint by which to build the Ark of the Covenant. (Please refer to the attached drawings). It is interesting that the instructions to build the Ark of the Covenant were given before the instructions to build the Tent of the Tabernacle, the Table of Shewbread and the Candlestick. The Ark was constructed of wood and overlaid with gold inside and out. What does the wood construction overlaid with gold inside and out signify, according with the following scriptures?

Philippians 2:5-7 (*Wood*)

Colossians 2:9 (*Gold*)

Colossians 1:19 (*Gold*)

Hebrews 1:2-3 (*Gold*)

3. The Ark was thus a true symbol of The Lord Jesus Christ, setting forth His Deity, represented by the gold, and His humanity, represented by the wood. The ark was not merely an empty box. According to verse 4, what do we find inside the ark?

4. According to the following scriptures, what do the tablets of the covenant, Aaron's rod that budded, and the golden pot with manna inside the ark signify?

John 1:14 (*The tablets of the covenant*)

John 11:25 (*Aaron's dead rod that budded*)

John 6:30-35 (*The golden pot with manna*)

5. The Ark of the Covenant had two parts to it. According to verse 5, what was the other part called?

6. In Exodus 25:17-22, we find the blueprint for the mercy seat following the blueprint for the Ark of the Covenant. As we stated in the beginning of lesson 9, the tabernacle is a portrait of Christ and shadow of the heavenly sanctuary. What did Isaiah and John see in their visions of heaven that would remind us of the Ark of the Covenant and the mercy seat?

Isaiah 6:1-3

Revelation 4:1-8

7. According to Exodus 25:22 and Numbers 7:89, why is the mercy seat perhaps the most important article of furniture in the tabernacle?

8. According with Leviticus 16:5-16, what made the mercy seat a mercy sea?

9. We believers have become the "scapegoat" and Christ the goat which the lot of The Lord fell on. The blood of the latter goat was sprinkled on the mercy seat so that atonement could be made for the sins of the people. The word atonement can be translated "propitiation" which in the Greek language can be translated "mercy seat." Based on this, what do the following scriptures further reveal about Christ?

Romans 3:23-25

1John 2:1-2

1John 4:10

10. Scripture Memory: Insert the missing words or phrases below. By memory if possible review the verse several times today.

John 1: _____ And the _____ was made _____ and dwelt _____ us, (and we _____ his glory, as _____ only _____ of the Father,) full of _____ and _____

Day Five & Six combined

Thought for the Day

Psalm 16:11 Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence [is] fulness of joy; at thy right hand [there are] pleasures for evermore.

Spotlight= Walking in the steps of the tabernacle priest

As we review our lesson 9 study, we conclude that the wilderness sanctuary was inferior to the heavenly one due to the following reasons:

1. It was on earth. It was made of earthly materials.
2. It was but a shadow of things to come.
3. It was inaccessible to the people.
4. It was temporary.
5. It was ineffective to change the heart and conscience of the people.

Although the wilderness tabernacle was inferior to the one in heaven, it is by far the best portrait of Christ, and His redemptive work and fellowship with His believers in Old Testament scripture. As we examine the drawing of the tabernacle, from the Outer Court to the Most Holy Place, the articles of furniture constitute the steps in the life of a believer. Please read the following scriptures within the table below and fill in the blanks to reveal what those steps are.

2. Scripture Memory: By now you should pretty well know this week's verse by heart. Record it below by memory:

*John*__: _____

Studies in

Hebrews

Lesson 10 - Hebrews 9:6-28

The Superior Sacrifice

In our study of lesson 9, we learned of the inferiority of the wilderness tabernacle sanctuary to the heavenly one. It was inferior in many ways 1) it was made of earthly materials, 2) it was only a shadow of things to come, 3) it was inaccessible to the common man, 4) it was only temporary and most important, 5) its rituals and sacrifices could not make right or perfect the conscience of the people.

From the beginning of time, even in the Garden of Eden, God sacrificed an animal to provide a covering or atonement for the sin of Adam and Eve. God, through this, was indicating that a blood sacrifice would be required for sin. Thus we see how blood paid an important part in the Levitical rituals and ordinances.

The Jewish people believed that the blood was sacred because the life of a creature is in the blood (Leviticus 17:11-14). Because blood was considered sacred, murder was punishable by death, eating blood was forbidden, and the blood of an animal could atone for a human sin.

The Jews accordingly believed that the blood of a sacrifice was a divine provision (Leviticus 17:11) , that shedding of a blood sacrifice was a payment, and it was a substitutionary act. These Hebrew believers were in danger of going back to the practices of The Law and into offering animal sacrifices to atone for their sins. In this lesson, the writer reminds the Hebrews and us today, that through Christ's own substitutionary superior sacrifice, man's heart and conscience would be made right, and only through His blood could man be redeemed back to God.

As we approach our daily studies, remember to pray for God's guidance and direction. Write out your answers for each question, don't merely copy down a passage or rely on other resource books for you answers.

Day One

Thought for the Day

Psalm 51:17 The sacrifices of God [are] a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

Read Hebrews 9:6-12 and answer the following questions:

1. According to verse 6-8, what part of the Tabernacle could the priests always enter into? What part could only the High Priest enter once a year on the Day of Atonement? What did he have to take in with him in order to provide an offering for himself and the people?

2. As long as these offerings were taking place, what was the Holy Spirit signifying (verse 8)?

3. In verses 9-10, how effective were these gifts and sacrifices in dealing with a guilty conscience? According to verse 10, How long would these rituals last?

4. What four things does the writer of Hebrews mention about the superiority of the heavenly sanctuary, in which Jesus, our Great High Priest, is ministering in today (verse 11)?

5. In verse 12, what blood did our High Priest take into the heavenly Most Holy Place? Looking back into history, how did Abraham look forward to the above event, according to the following scripture passage?

Genesis 22:1-8

6. We are told in Hebrews and in the Law that every day the priests would have to go into the Holy Place to render their services to the Lord. Only once every year on the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) the high priest would enter with the blood of animals into The Most Holy Place to make atonement for his sins and the sins of the people. According with verse 12, how many times did our High Priest, Jesus, enter into the heavenly Most Holy Place with His own sacrifice and blood?

7. The Hebrew word for "atonement" is "kaphar", where we get our English word, "to cover." At best, the blood of animal sacrifices could only cover the sins of the people. What does verse 12 tell us that Christ's blood sacrifice is able to accomplish for us? What else can we learn from the power of the blood of Christ, according with the following scriptures?

Romans 5:9

Ephesians 1:7

Ephesians 2:13

Colossians 1:19-20

Revelation 12:10-11

8. Scripture Memory: This week's verse is Psalm 40:6. Repeat it several times each day, and by the end of the week, you'll be surprised how well you have it memorized.

Psalm 40:6 *Sacrifice and offering thou didst not desire; mine ears hast thou opened: burnt offering and sin offering hast thou not required.* **Psalm 40:6**

Day Two

Thought for the Day

Psalm 107:21-22 Oh that [men] would praise the LORD [for] his goodness, and [for] his wonderful works to the children of men! 22 And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare his works with rejoicing.

In our study of Day one, we observed how, under the old covenant, God required a blood sacrifice to atone or cover for the sins of the people. The blood of animals allowed the high priest once a year to enter into the presence of God in the Most Holy Place.

Although the blood of animals sanctified him to enter into the presence of God, the blood of animals could not put away sin, remove the guilty conscience, and cleanse the heart of man.

Read Hebrews 9:13-14 and answer the following questions:

1. According to verse 13, what was cleansed or purified under the old covenant and what was used to do the purification?

2. In Numbers 19, we are given an account of the ordinance of the sacrificial red heifer. The heifer was burned completely and its ashes kept in a clean place. When a man became ceremonially defiled, the priest would take the ashes mingled with water and would sprinkle the offender. This served to purify him so that the offender could be restored to fellowship. Read Numbers 19:1-3 and identify those areas in which the red heifer resembles Christ.

3. What is the significance of "How much more" in verse 14?

4. The blood of bulls, goats and the ashes of the red heifer cleansed or purified the flesh. What is the blood of Jesus Christ able to purify and cleanse (verse 14)?

5. Every time a sacrifice was offered, it would remind the people, and especially the priest, of their guilt. Because the blood of Christ is able to cleanse, change our hearts, and make us right before God, what should our attitude be according to Paul's writings?

Romans 8:1-4

Galatians 5:1

6. What did Christ make possible for believers by cleansing their consciences (verse 14)?

7. What would constitute the dead works of verse 14, according to the following scriptures?

Romans 3:20

Galatians 2:16

Proverbs 14:12

8. Scripture Memory: Insert the missing words or phrases below. By memory if possible review the verse several times today.

Psalm 40:6 *Sacrifice and _____ thou didst not desire; mine ears hast thou opened: burnt
_____ and sin _____ hast thou not _____*

Day Three

Thought for the Day

Psalm 27:6 And now shall mine head be lifted up above mine enemies round about me: therefore will I offer in his tabernacle sacrifices of joy; I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the LORD.

In our study of Day two, we learned that the blood of Jesus Christ was able to do what the blood of animal sacrifices could not do, for they were but a shadow of the superior sacrifice of Christ. Christ's superior sacrifice was able to justify, cleanse and reconcile man to God. This superior sacrifice and all of its benefits could not have been made possible except through Christ's own death. Just like the death of an animal and its blood ratified or brought into effect the old will and testament, Christ has ratified and become the mediator or testator of a new and better will or testament, in which those who heed His call will receive His eternal inheritance.

Read Hebrews 9:15-22 and answer the following questions:

1. How did Christ become the mediator of the new covenant (verse 15)?

2. Please paraphrase Hebrews 9:15 in your own words to sum up the benefits to those that have been redeemed.

3. In verse 15, we are told that by means of death Christ was able to redeem all those who had transgressed under the first or old covenant. All the Old Testament saints up to the time of Christ who obeyed in faith by offering sacrifices to cover for their sins, all died without having received the promises and inheritance of the new will or testament. a) Having died in faith under the Old Testament, where did they go after they died? How about those who did not believe?
b) According to the following scripture, how were the believing Old Testament saints introduced to the eternal inheritance?

a) Luke 16:19-26

b) Ephesians 4:7-10

4. The covenant is like a will that passes down our eternal inheritance. What was necessary to bring His covenant or will into force (verse 16-17)?

5. Examine how Moses ratified the old covenant (verses 18-28). How was the ratification of the new covenant like or unlike? Compare your answer to Matthew 26:27-28.

Like

Unlike

6. Why was the shedding of blood necessary for forgiveness of sins? See Leviticus 17:11.

7. Hebrews 9:19-20 is the account documented in Exodus 24. By sprinkling the articles of furniture and the tabernacle, Moses was sanctifying and purifying everything for service. By what example does Peter confirm the real significance of what Moses had done?

1 Peter 1:1-2, 18-19

8. In verse 20, we are reminded that without the shedding of blood there is no remission or forgiveness of sins. What other key requirement goes along with forgiveness, per the scriptures below?

1 John 1:9-10

Proverbs 28:13

9. Scripture Memory: Insert the missing words or phrases below. By memory if possible review the verse several times today.

Psalm 40:6 *Sacrifice and _____ thou didst _____ desire; mine ears hast thou opened: burnt _____ and sin _____ hast _____ not _____*

Day Four

Thought for the Day

Psalm 54:6 I will freely sacrifice unto thee: I will praise thy name, O LORD; for [it is] good.

In our study of Day three, we examined how, through Christ's death and the shedding of His blood, the New Testament became enforced, making possible the complete and final sanctification and forgiveness of sins to all who come to Christ. In our study today, we will look at how, just like the Old Testament high priest went into the Holy Places to atone for the people, Christ our Great High Priest had to do the same (but with a superior blood sacrifice) into heaven's sanctuary itself.

Read Hebrews 9:23-28 and answer the following questions:

1. In verse 23, we are told that it was necessary for things in the heavenly sanctuary to be purified in the same way Moses did in the wilderness tabernacle. Why do you suppose heaven itself had to be purified? Compare your answer with the scriptures in question #2.

2. Where do you think sin began and by whom, according with the following scriptures?

1 John 3:8

Luke 10:18

Isaiah 14:12-15

Revelation 12:7-12

3. According to verse 23-24, did Christ enter into the earthly sanctuary or the heavenly one? What was His reason for entering in?

4. In verses 25-26 we are told that Christ didn't have to offer Himself every year as the high priest would. According to verse 26, how many times did Christ offer Himself at the end of the old covenant age?

5. What was Christ's purpose in appearing in heaven with His own sacrifice (verse 26)? What does this mean to you? Compare your answer with the scripture below:

Your Answer:

Romans 6:14

6. We are told that Christ didn't have to die every year like the animals in the yearly sacrifices, but only once and for all at the end of the old covenant age. Just like Christ died once and faced God, what about mankind (verse 27)? What does that tell you about reincarnation or no life after death?

7. Verse 27 says that it is appointed for man to die once. Why does mankind have to die according to scripture?

Romans 5:12

8. Since all mankind will have to face judgment someday by appearing before God, what shall the judgment of the believers be? What is the keyword at the end of 1 Cor 3:14?

1 Corinthians 3:11-15

9. The Jewish people looked forward to the Day of Atonement in which the High Priest would go into the Most Holy Place to atone and mediate on their behalf. Just like they waited with expectation and hope for the High Priest to come out of the Most Holy Place, having offered the sacrifice pleasing to God, what shall our attitude be as we wait for our Lord's return, having appeared for us before God? What else can we learn from the following scripture?

Your answer:

Matthew 24:42-46

10. What is the wrong attitude to have as believers waiting for the Lord's return? Examine the example of the evil servant and the five foolish virgins.

Matthew 24:48-51

Matthew 25:1-13

11. Scripture Memory: Insert the missing words or phrases below. By memory if possible review the verse several times today.

Psalm 40: *Sacrifice* *thou* *desire; mine* *hast thou*
 burnt *and sin* *hast* *not*

Day Five & Six combined

Thought for the Day

Psalm 135:13-14 Your name, O LORD, endures forever, your renown, O LORD, through all generations.¹⁴ For the LORD will vindicate his people and have compassion on his servants. (NIV)

1. Summarize the basic message of Hebrews 9:6-28
2. What one truth from 9:11-28 seems most personally significant to you?
3. What can you do to respond to this truth in a way that will begin letting it affect your life in concrete ways?
4. Scripture Memory: By now you should pretty well know this week's verse by heart. Record it below by memory:

Studies in

Hebrews

Lesson 11 - Hebrews 10:1-18

The Benefits of Christ's Sacrifice

In lesson 10, we learned that the sacrifice of Christ was infinitely better than those of the law which could neither pardon for sin, nor impart power against it, and most importantly, they could not deliver a sinner from being condemned at the day of judgment. Except for the atoning sacrifice of Christ, no one could be saved from eternal punishment.

In this lesson, we will examine:

1. How the law was only a shadow of the better things to come, revealing in an obscure way, how Christ would come as an obedient servant, taking on a body of flesh to become that one acceptable and final sacrifice that would meet The Father's will (Heb 10:1-7).
2. How, through the one sacrifice of Christ, the old Levitical system of sacrifices by which the Jewish people related to God, would be done away with. (Heb 10:9)
3. Finally, how through Christ's one sacrifice, God would perfect or make righteous forever all those who believe. This fulfilled what the Holy Spirit had revealed to the prophets during the Old Testament period: that a New Covenant based on God performing all the work would replace the old one given to Moses. (Heb 10:10-18)

As we approach our daily studies, remember to pray for God's guidance and direction. Write out your answers for each question as the Holy Spirit reveals it to you.

Day One

Thought for the Day

Psalm 27:6 And now shall mine head be lifted up above mine enemies round about me: therefore will I offer in his tabernacle sacrifices of joy; I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the LORD.

Read Hebrews 10:1-4 and answer the following questions:

1. List four things we are told in verse 1 about the law.

1.

2.

3.

4.

2. The Greek word for "shadow" in verse 1 implies a pale shadow, not a sharp distinct image. The law never revealed Christ in minute details, but it only provided a sketch. What does Paul tell us about the purpose of the law according to the following scriptures?

Galatians 3:23-26

Colossians 2:16-17

3. How do we know that the animal sacrifices were unable to make perfect those who worshipped under the old covenant (verse 2)?

4. Contrast what the sacrificial system under the law was not able to do (Heb 10:2), with what Christ's sacrifice was able to do (Heb 9:14).

5. What then, was one purpose of the annual sacrifices (verse 3)?

6. How would the answer in question 5 be beneficial?

7. What is the author's summary in (verse 4) about the power or benefits of old covenant sacrifices? What would happen to these Hebrew Christians and any believer today if Christ had not provided the sacrifice and had not risen to appear before God for us? Compare your answer against the following scripture passage.

Your answer:

1 Corinthians 15:16-19

8. Scripture Memory: This week's verse is Romans 3:20. Repeat it several times each day, and by the end of the week, you'll be surprised how well you have it memorized.

***Romans 3:20** Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law [is] the knowledge of sin.*

Day Two

Thought for the Day

Psalm 116:17 I will offer to thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the LORD.

In our study of Day One, the writer pointed out to the Hebrew believers that the law with its sacrificial system, to which they were tempted to go back, was but a shadow of the better sacrifice of Christ that was to come. Furthermore, he revealed to them the weakness of the Levitical sacrifices, in that they could **never** make those who approached God right, because the blood of animals could not remove sin and clear the guilty conscience. The writer concluded by showing that the Jewish people would always be reminded of the insufficiency of their sacrifices by the continual day after day offerings for sins.

In our study today, the writer will explain with Old Testament scriptures, that God was not pleased with sacrifices and burnt offerings, but with obedience, especially the obedience of Christ becoming the one all-sufficient and final sacrifice.

Read Hebrews 10:5-6 and answer the following questions:

1. Hebrews 10:5-6 is a quote from Psalms 40:6-8, which expresses what Jesus said to His Father when He came into the world. Hebrews 10:5 says that the Father provided a body for Jesus. Why was it necessary for Him to have a body in order to accomplish His father's will? (See verse 10)

2. The passage of scripture in Hebrews 10:5-6, is not a direct quotation from Psalms 40:6-8. The passage in Hebrews 10 quoted by the writer is from the Septuagint, (a translation of the Hebrew Old Testament scriptures into Greek by seventy scholars) . Where in Hebrews 10:5 it says "a body you have prepared," in Psalm 40:6 the Hebrew scripture reads " My ears you have opened." Examine the following scriptures which will shed light on both of these passages and explain what it reveals.

For Psalm 40:6 see Exodus 21:1-6

For Hebrews 10:5 (see Philippians 2:5-8)

3. What does the writer tell us in verse 6 about how God feels about burnt offerings and sacrifices?

4. We all know about David's sin with Bathsheba and the murdering of her husband Uriah. What did David record in Psalms 51 about his experience that reveals to us and the Hebrew believers of the way David and God felt about the Levitical sacrifices?

Psalm 51:1-2

Psalm 51:16-17

5. In verse 6 we are told that God had no pleasure in burnt offerings and sacrifices. Why was God displeased with burnt offerings and sacrifices according to Isaiah and Jeremiah?

Isaiah 1:11-16

Jeremiah 7:21-28

6. To better understand what God delights in, let us examine an incident in the life of King Saul. Please read 1 Samuel 15:2, 3-4, 12-22 and record what the Holy Spirit reveals to you about empty ritual and going through the motions.

7. Scripture Memory: Insert the missing words or phrases below. By memory if possible review the verse several times today.

Romans 3:20 Therefore by the _____ of the _____ there shall no flesh be _____ in his sight: for by the _____ [is] the knowledge of _____

Day Three

Thought for the Day

Psalm 119:100 I understand more than the ancients, because I keep thy precepts.

It is interesting that even at the time of Samuel the prophet, God was revealing to His people that He would much rather have obedience from them, than sacrifices (1 Samuel 15:22). During David's reign, God showed him that He had no pleasure in the many burnt offerings and sacrifices, but in showing mercy.

Without a doubt, the continual offering of sacrifices under the Levitical system had an effect on the quality of the worship of God. Worship and the approach to God had become a mechanical, empty ritual, where people would go through the motions without obedience and submission to God's Word.

The writer points out that Christ satisfied the will of God The Father by submitting Himself according to everything that was written in the Old Testament scriptures, so that through Christ's own offering those who believe would be sanctified once and for all to God.

Read Hebrews 10:7-10 and answer the following questions:

1. We are told in verse 7 that before Christ stepped into the world, He said that the Old Testament scriptures would reveal God's plan. Examine the following scripture passages and document what the volume of the book reveals about Christ's first coming.

Isaiah 7:14

Micah 5:2

Zechariah 9:9

Zechariah 11:12-13

Psalms 55:12-14

Isaiah 53:4-9

2. By the time Christ's ministry began on earth, the Jewish people had interpreted the simple Ten Commandments given by God into the Mishnah, approximately six hundred and thirty commandments. What did Christ tell the Jews about the scriptures?

John 5:37-40

John 5:45-47

3. Based on the scriptures in question #2, what do you think was the real reason for the Jewish religious leaders not coming to Jesus?

4. Under the Old Covenant, people related to God through offerings and animal sacrifices. Because Christ came to satisfy the will of The Father (verse 9) and to become that supreme sacrifice whereby people could relate to God according to His mercy and grace, what happened to the Old Covenant sacrificial system?

5. What effect has this new will or testament on all who believe (verse 10)?

6. According to verse 10, is our sanctification to God through Christ's sacrifice something that needs to be repeated?

7. In your own words write down the definition for the term "Sanctified." What does this mean to you?

8. Scripture Memory: Insert the missing words or phrases below. By memory if possible review the verse several times today.

Romans 3: _____ Therefore by the _____ of the _____ there shall _____ be _____ in his _____ for by the _____ [is] the _____ of _____

Day Four

Thought for the Day

Psalm 138:8 The LORD will perfect [that which] concerneth me: thy mercy, O LORD, [endureth] forever: forsake not the works of thine own hands.

Christ's sacrifice is so complete, that it satisfied God's will to provide sanctification and a new way by which man could relate to God. Man's endeavours under the Old Covenant to approach God always fell short. The tabernacle itself in which sacrifices were offered, left man on the outside looking in. The weakness of the sacrifice and of the high priest offering the sacrifices, no matter how often they offered it, is that it could never satisfy God's will.

Please read Hebrews 10:11-18 and answer the following questions:

1. Think about the treadmill routine of the Levitical priest (verse 11). In contrast to this, what phrases in verses 12-14 emphasize the adequacy and finality of Christ's sacrifice?

Verse 12

Verse 13

Verse 14

2. We know from studying Hebrews chapter 9, that there was no chair inside The Most Holy Place for the high priest to sit on after offering the sacrifice. What can we find in verse 12 that indicates Christ's final and complete sacrifice for sin?

3. What does the sacrifice of Jesus body accomplished for those who believe (verses 14, 16-17)?

4. What does it mean that "we have been made perfect forever, "yet" are being made holy or sanctified" (verse14)?

5. Christ is now sitting at the right hand of God, not because He is tired, but because He is resting from all His work of redemption. He is now observing His plan and purpose unfold upon the world. What are we told Christ is waiting for in verse 13?

6. To summarize Hebrews 10:1-18, look back at the absolute statement the author makes repeatedly, and complete the following in your own words.

a. The Old Covenant

"it can never" (10:1) _____

"it is impossible" (10:4) _____

b. The New Testament

"once for all" (10:10) _____

"forever" (10:14) _____

"no more" (10:17) _____

7. Because of Christ's sacrifice, we are told in (verse 14) that we have been made perfect. The Greek word {tel-i-o'-o} indicates that we have been made complete, and in God's eyes, He sees us finished and perfect. According to verses 16-17, what are some of the blessings that God has provided for us through Christ's sacrifice in this New Covenant?

8. In verse 17, the New Covenant blessing is that God will forgive and forget our sins and iniquities forever. What impact has this on the sacrifices that the Hebrew believers were tempted to go back to, according to verse 18?

9. Scripture Memory: Insert the missing words or phrases below. By memory if possible review the verse several times today.

Romans ____ : _____ by the _____ of the _____ there _____ flesh
be _____ in his _____ for by the _____ [is] the _____ of _____

Day Five & Six combined

Thought for the Day

Psalm 50:14 Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the most High:

Spotlight: *Understanding what sacrifices please God*

We understand from our previous studies, that God is not pleased with burnt offerings, animal sacrifices, and empty rituals. At one point in the history of Israel God said that their offerings were an abomination unto Him (Isa 1:13). As you know by now, the sacrifice for salvation and for sanctification to make every believer perfect and righteous before God, has been offered by Christ.

The question we want to examine today is what sacrifices are pleasing and acceptable to God? Please review the following scriptures and record in your own words what are sacrifices are pleasing to God. As you are recording these below, allow the Holy Spirit to show you which of these sacrifices you need to begin to offer to the Lord in your own life, and ask Him to help you be mindful of these things.

Psalm 51:17

Romans 12:1

Philippians 4:16-18

1Timothy 2:1-3

Psalm 27:6

Psalm 116:17

Hosea 6:6

1. Scripture Memory: By now you should pretty well know this week's verse by heart. Record it below by memory:

Romans _____:_____

An argument for holy boldness in the believer's access to God through Jesus Christ, And for steadfastness in faith, and mutual love and duty. (19-25) The danger of apostasy. (26-31) The sufferings of believers, and encouragement to maintain their holy profession. (32-39)

Verses 11-18 Under the new covenant, or gospel dispensation, full and final pardon is to be had. This makes a vast difference between the new covenant and the old one. Under the old, sacrifices must be often repeated, and after all, only pardon as to this world was to be obtained by them. Under the new, one Sacrifice is enough to procure for all nations and ages, spiritual pardon, or being freed from punishment in the world to come. Well might this be called a new covenant. Let none suppose that human inventions can avail those who put them in the place of the sacrifice of the Son of God. What then remains, but that we seek an interest in this Sacrifice by faith; and the seal of it to our souls, by the sanctification of the Spirit unto obedience? So that by the law being written in our hearts, we may know that we are justified, and that God will no more remember our sins.

Verses 19-25 The apostle having closed the first part of the epistle, the doctrine is applied to practical purposes. As believers had an open way to the presence of God, it became them to use this privilege. The way and means by which Christians enjoy such privileges, is by the blood of Jesus, by the merit of that blood which he offered up as an atoning sacrifice. The agreement of infinite holiness with pardoning mercy, was not clearly understood till the human nature of Christ, the Son of God, was wounded and bruised for our sins. Our way to heaven is by a crucified Saviour; his death is to us the way of life, and to those who believe this, he will be precious. They must draw near to God; it would be contempt of Christ, still to keep at a distance. Their bodies were to be washed with pure water, alluding to the cleansings directed under the law: thus the use of water in baptism, was to remind Christians that their conduct should be pure and holy. While they derived comfort and grace from their reconciled Father to their own souls, they would adorn the doctrine of God their Saviour in all things. Believers are to consider how they can be of service to each other, especially stirring up each other to the more vigorous and abundant exercise of love, and the practice of good works. The communion of saints is a great help and privilege, and a means of steadfastness and perseverance. We should observe the coming of times of trial, and be thereby quickened to greater diligence. There is a trying day coming on all men, the day of our death.

Verses 26-31 The exhortations against apostasy and to perseverance, are urged by many strong reasons. The sin here mentioned is a total and final falling away, when men, with a full and fixed will and resolution, despise and reject Christ, the only Saviour; despise and resist the Spirit, the only Sanctifier; and despise and renounce the gospel, the only way of salvation, and the words of eternal life. Of this destruction God gives some notorious sinners, while on earth, a fearful foreboding in their consciences, with despair of being able to endure or to escape it. But what punishment can be sorer than to die without mercy? We answer, to die by mercy, by the mercy and grace which they have despised. How dreadful is the case, when not only the justice of God, but his abused grace and mercy call for vengeance! All this does not in the least mean that any souls who sorrow for sin will be shut out from mercy, or that any will be refused the benefit of Christ's sacrifice, who are willing to accept these blessings. Him that cometh unto Christ, he will in no wise cast out.

Verses 32-39 Many and various afflictions united against the early Christians, and they had a great conflict. The Christian spirit is not a selfish spirit; it puts us upon pitying others, visiting them, helping them, and pleading for them. All things here are but shadows. The happiness of the saints in heaven will last forever; enemies can never take it away as earthly goods. This will

make rich amends for all we may lose and suffer here. The greatest part of the saints' happiness, as yet, is in promise. It is a trial of the patience of Christians, to be content to live after their work is done, and to stay for their reward till God's time to give it is come. He will soon come to them at death, to end all their sufferings, and to give them a crown of life. The Christian's present conflict may be sharp, but will be soon over. God never is pleased with the formal profession and outward duties and services of such as do not persevere; but he beholds them with great displeasure. And those who have been kept faithful in great trials for the time past, have reason to hope for the same grace to help them still to live by faith, till they receive the end of their faith and patience, even the salvation of their souls. Living by faith, and dying in faith, our souls are safe for ever.

The author having laid down the important doctrines (Heb 1-10:18), now from Hebrews 10:19 to the end of the book exhorts the Hebrew believers to practical application of the new way to enter into the presence of God, with full assurance in faith, together with all those who have accepted the perfect sacrifice.

3. Finally, the exhortation of the danger of falling into apostasy, of wondering back into the powerless sacrificial system of the old covenant, recognizing that a choice must be made between Christ which brings us to God or the law which brings us to eternal judgment.

Studies in

Hebrews

Lesson 12 - Hebrews 10:19-39

Perseverance Based on Assurance

Having laid down the important doctrines of the superiority of Jesus Christ over angels, Moses, the ministry of Jesus as the supreme high priest and of the privileges of the New Covenant (Heb 1-10:18), the author now exhorts the Hebrew believers (Heb 10:19-39) to approach God freely and openly with boldness and confidence. The author's intentions are for the Hebrew believers to recognize that this New Covenant provided by Christ is predicated on God's mercy, forgiveness and grace, and would allow them to come into intimate fellowship with God.

The author therefore reminds them to keep walking as Christians in fellowship with other believers (Heb 10:24-25), not wandering back into the powerless sacrificial system of the Old Covenant. He warns the Hebrews that by going back to offer animal sacrifices for sin, they would be in danger of falling into apostasy, which would bring eternal judgment and separation from God (Heb 10:26-31).

Finally, the author counsels the believers to reflect back to the time when they were first illuminated, to remember the faith in Christ which they demonstrated upon their conversion during their first persecutions, and to keep the faith (Heb 10:32-39).

Looking back into history, we recognize the importance of the writer's exhortation. We are told that not many years after this epistle was written, the Roman general Titus in 70 AD sieged Jerusalem. Encircling the city with an impenetrable wall of soldiers to prevent anyone from reaching those within, Titus launched his attack.

Historical accounts reveal that the last structure to be destroyed was the Temple. Roman soldiers tossed firebrands through a window into one of the side chambers and into the Holy Place. The entire sanctuary burst into flames. The Jewish sacrificial system was no more. Since 70 AD the Jewish people have not been able to offer a sacrifice.

As we approach our daily studies, remember to pray for God's guidance and direction. Write out your answers for each question, don't merely copy down a passage or rely on other resource books for your answers.

Day One

Thought for the Day

Psalms 73:28 But [it is] good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, that I may declare all thy works.

In our previous studies, the author to the Hebrews revealed that Christ's sacrifice satisfied God's will to redeem man to God. Because of this, people would now relate to God by a New Covenant on the basis of God's mercy and grace, and not on the basis of works and human devotions. Under this New Covenant, God would perform all the work. All that God desires is that men would come to Him, trusting in faith in the finished work of Christ.

In this next section, the author wants the Hebrew believers to understand the privileges that they are entitled to because of Christ's sacrifice, and to remain in these privileges through perseverance, diligence and fellowship.

1. Read Hebrews 10:19-25 and in your own words summarize the author's main point and record a theme for this passage of scripture:

Summary:

Theme:

Read Hebrews 10:19-25 and answer the following :

2. Examine verses 19 and record what privilege the Hebrew believers would now have as the result of the New Covenant, whereby God would perform all of the sanctifying and regenerating work.

3. According to verse 19, what is the way and means by which Christians enjoy such privileges?

4. In verses 19 & 20, the author exhorts the believers to have boldness. The Greek word for boldness is (*parrhesia*) and it indicates freedom in speaking, unreservedness in communicating and entering into the presence of God. What does this reveal about God's feelings and desire for you?

5. Under the Old Covenant, the only time a man felt sanctified and close to God was while the sacrifice was being offered. As a man would lay his hand on the head of the animal, confess his sins and watch the blood of the animal being poured out for his sins, at that time, the man's conscience felt clean. But when the sacrifice ended, and the man would walk away from the tabernacle, he would still feel guilty and condemned again, until the next time he brought a sacrifice. In verse 20, the author describes our approach to God by the term "new and living way." This term originally meant "freshly slaughtered" or "newly slain." Because Christ's sacrifice is an everlasting freshly slaughtered sacrifice, how should the Hebrew believers and Christians today feel about approaching God?

6. Because of the great privileges that Christ, our everlasting High Priest, has consecrated for us, what are four important exhortations given in verses 22-25?

Let us (10:22)

Let us (10:23)

Let us (10:24)

Let us not (10:25)

7. The triad of faith, hope and love is mentioned over and over in the scriptures. How does the author use this triad to address the needs of his readers under present and future persecution?

Faith (10:22)

Hope (10:23)

Love (10:24)

8. Having the great privilege to draw near to God and having been forgiven and washed by His words into sanctification, the author exhorts the believers to retain their profession as Christians (verse 23). According to this verse and the following scriptures, how do we maintain our Christian walk from wavering or staggering?

Verse 23

1 John 2:28

Romans 4:20-21

Hebrews 13:9

1 Corinthians 15:58

2 Peter 1:5-10

9. Persevering and maintaining a Christian witness is not just taking care of yourself. According to verse 24, what does it also involve doing?

10. The term "considering one another" (verse 24) in the Greek language indicates to take someone under your wings. According to verse 25, how does the author recommend that these Hebrew believers consider each other, in light of future persecutions and the soon coming of the Lord?

11. Scripture Memory: This week's verse is John 14:6. Repeat it several times each day, and by the end of the week, you'll be surprised how well you have it memorized.

John 14:6 *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

Day Two

Thought for the Day

Psalm 76:7 You alone are to be feared. Who can stand before you when you are angry?

Because of the wonderful privileges procured by Christ in the New Covenant, the Hebrew believers must now draw near to God. Everything has been provided for them. It would be contempt of Christ to wander back to the Old Covenant practices and sacrifices.

In this section, we will examine the warning and consequences of falling into apostasy, of rejecting Christ, of resisting His Spirit and the only way of salvation.

1. Read Hebrews 10:26-31 and in your own words summarize the author's main point and record a theme for this passage of scripture:

Summary:

Theme:

Read Hebrews 10:26-31 and answer the following questions:

2. In the context of Hebrews 10:19-39, what sin do you think the author is talking about in verse 26?

3. According to Mark 3:28-29, what did Jesus identify this sin as?

4. What is your definition of sinning willfully? Compare your answer against the following scripture.

Your answer:

James 4:17

5. What is the knowledge of the truth referred to in verse 26? Compare your answer with the following scriptures.

Your answer:

John 1:14, 17

John 14:6

2 Peter 2:20-21

6. What does the end of verse 26 reveal about the sacrifice of Christ?

7. Christ's sacrifice is the only provision made by God for man, for removing sin and for inheriting eternal life. If the Hebrew Christians or any of us today rejects Christ's provision for sin, what can we expect (verse 26-27)?

8. Do you think it is possible a) for people to have heard the Gospel, to have been exposed to Christ and the truth and suddenly reject Him willfully? b) According to scripture, what are some examples of this and what caused these to willfully reject Christ?

a) Your answer:

b) 2 Peter 2:1-3

Cause:

Matthew 26:14-16, Psalm 55:12-14

Cause:

Luke 18:18-24

Cause:

9. The judgment of God is what all those who reject Christ will receive (verse 27). According to verses 28-29, why should they expect this?

10. What aspect of God's character should motivate us to think twice before disregarding Christ (verses 30-31)?

11. Scripture Memory: Insert the missing words or phrases below. By memory if possible review the verse several times today.

John 14:6 *Jesus saith unto him, I am the _____, the _____ and the _____ no man cometh unto the _____, but by _____.*

Day Three

Thought for the Day

Psalm 119:100 I understand more than the ancients, because I keep thy precepts.

In day 2 of our study, the author warned the Hebrew Christians of the danger of falling into apostasy and of God's greater judgment to come if they rejected Christ's sacrifice for sin. The author has been encouraging these believers to remain focused on Christ and not to drift back to the powerless sacrificial system of the Old Covenant. To help them to remain steadfast in Christ, the author exhorts these believers to call to remembrance the days right after their conversion, when they had displayed great zeal, endurance, perseverance and love while experiencing much persecution by their own families and the Jewish people.

In today's lesson, we will examine the importance of going back to basics when our walk seems to veer from Christ, and the role of persecution in the life of the believer.

1. Read Hebrews 10:32-34 and in your own word summarize the author's main point and record a theme for this passage of Scripture:

Summary:

Theme:

Read Hebrews 10:32-34 and answer the following questions:

2. The Greek word for remembrance in verse 32 means to carefully think back and reconstruct in the mind. The present tense in the Greek means that this should be a continuous action or habit. The Hebrews were exhorted to recall the former days as new believers to draw encouragement in their walk with Christ. This was nothing new for the Jewish people. According to the following scripture, how did the Jewish people remind themselves in God, and what did David do when he felt discouraged because of trials and persecutions?

Joshua 4:1-7

Psalm 77:10-11

Psalm 143:3-5

3. Recalling our former days helps us to go back to basics. It allows us to examine our walks from the time of illumination until now, and helps us evaluate where we are spiritually. Examine the Scriptures below and record in what way Paul encouraged the early church?

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

Colossians 3:1-7

4. The Lord Jesus Himself, speaking to the church of Ephesus in the book of Revelation, exhorted them to do three things to correct their spiritual walk. Read Revelation 2:5 and record them in order. (Hint 3 R's)

a.

b.

c.

5. What do verses 32-33 reveal about the previous experiences of this group of Hebrew Christians?

6. These Hebrew believers had experienced persecution because of their conversion to Christianity. In the Middle East new Christians from Jewish or Arabic families are faced with severe persecution even today. What did our Lord say would happen to some of these Hebrews, and what effect do you think persecution had on them?

Matthew 10:16-22

7. How did these Hebrews respond in the face of persecution, in verse 34?

8. For what purpose did the Lord allow persecution in the early church, as well as in His church today?

Acts 8:1-4

9. What made it easier for these believers to endure persecution and the loss of their properties, according to the end of verse 34?

10. What does the author tell us in Hebrews 12:2 about how Christ endured persecution?

11. Scripture Memory: Insert the missing words or phrases below. By memory if possible review the verse several times today.

John 14:6 *Jesus _____ unto him, I _____ the _____, the _____ and the _____ no _____ unto the _____, but by _____.*

Day Four

Thought for the Day

Psalm 118:8 [It is] better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man.

1. Read Hebrews 10:35-39 and in your own words, summarize what the author would like these Hebrews to do and the reason why. Provide a theme or title for this portion of the study.

Summary:

Theme:

2. What kind of "confidence" is the author referring to in verse 35? (Recall Heb. 10:19)

3. In verse 35 the author tells us that there is going to be a reward for those who remain steadfast in faith. According to Peter, Paul and John, what is the reward?

1 Peter 5:4

2 Timothy 4:8

Revelation 2:8-10

4. What was the great reward of Abraham, "The Father of Faith?"

Genesis 15:1

5. According to verse 36, what were these Hebrew Christians in need of, and what does "the will of God" in the same verse refer to, as we consider the context of lesson 12?

Their need:

The will of God (Philippians 1:29)

6. Why were they encouraged to endure (verse 37)?

7. It had been just over thirty years since Christ had ascended to heaven when the Hebrews received this epistle. Many had by then disregarded the hope of Christ's second coming. What exhortation did our Lord give us in Matthew 24:45-51 and what does looking for His appearing do for us believers according to 1 John 3:1-3 ?

8. Verse 38 is a quotation from Habakkuk 2:2-4. According to verse 38, how should those that have been justified live while waiting for the Lord's return?

9. Living by faith does not mean just believing. James tells us that if we do that we have "devil's faith" (James 3:19). In the latter part of verse 38, the author uses the term "draws back." Its Greek meaning is for a sailor to take in the sails, not allowing his ship to go forward. If we reject Christ and take in our sails, how does God feel about that? Based on the above, what do you think living by faith means?

10. According to verse 39, what does the author think about the Hebrew's spiritual condition?

11. Scripture Memory: Insert the missing words or phrases below. By memory if possible review the verse several times today.

John 14: Jesus _____ unto _____, I _____ the _____, the _____ and the _____ no
_____ unto _____, but by _____.

Day Five & Six combined

Thought for the Day

Psalm 119:63 I [am] a companion of all [them] that fear thee, and of them that keep thy precepts.

Spotlight: Understanding the importance of fellowship (Hebrews 10:25)

In our study of day 4 we examined how important it is for Christians to go forward, never letting down the sails. "Let us go" has been the exhortation of this epistle. Fellowship with the body of Christ is essential for Christian maturity and healthy spiritual growth. These Hebrews had experienced good solid fellowship in the past, but to avoid persecution, they had forsaken fellowship with believers and began to compromise by going back into Judaism. In our spotlight study, we will examine why fellowship is important in the life of Christians.

Fellowship is the Greek word "koinonia." It means to have communion, communication, association, joint participation, and intimacy with one another.

1. Read Hebrews 10:24-25 and record three reasons for having fellowship.

- a.
- b.
- c.

2. In your own words define the following by using a practical application:

- a) To consider one another:
- b) To stir up love & good works:
- c) To exhort one another:

3. In order for fellowship to bring edification to other Christians, what must the prerequisite be, according to 1 John 1:7?

The Bible is full of great examples of what fellowship is. The early church's example provides us with valuable insight. Examine Acts 2:41-47 and answer the following questions:

4. As we examine verse 42, what activity preceded fellowship?

5. According to verse 42, with what attitude did the church approach fellowship?

6. What three things accompanied fellowship in verse 42?

7. What was the result of continued fellowship, study of the Word, communion and prayer according to verse 43?

8. What were the results of persecution in the early church according to verse 44-45?

9. According to verse 46, in what two places did the early church have fellowship?

10. What other activities constituted fellowship according to verses 46-47?

11. When fellowship is good, as in verse 47, what does the Lord do for the church according to Matthew 18:20?

12. Read the Lord's Prayer in John 17:20-23 and record why fellowship is important according to our Lord:
Verse 21:

Verse 22:

Verse 23:

13. Scripture Memory: By now you should pretty well know this week's verse by heart. Record it below by memory:

John ____: ____

Verses 26-31 The exhortations against apostasy and to perseverance, are urged by many strong reasons. The sin here mentioned is a total and final falling away, when men, with a full and fixed will and resolution, despise and reject Christ, the only Saviour; despise and resist the Spirit, the only Sanctifier; and despise and renounce the gospel, the only way of salvation, and the words of eternal life. Of this destruction God gives some notorious sinners, while on earth, a fearful foreboding in their consciences, with despair of being able to endure or to escape it. But what punishment can be sorer than to die without mercy? We answer, to die by mercy, by the mercy and grace which they have despised. How dreadful is the case, when not only the justice of God, but his abused grace and mercy call for vengeance! All this does not in the least mean that any souls who sorrow for sin will be shut out from mercy, or that any will be refused the benefit of Christ's sacrifice, who are willing to accept these blessings. Him that cometh unto Christ, he will in no wise cast out.

Verses 32-39 Many and various afflictions united against the early Christians, and they had a great conflict. The Christian spirit is not a selfish spirit; it puts us upon pitying others, visiting them, helping them, and pleading for them. All things here are but shadows. The happiness of the saints in heaven will last forever; enemies can never take it away as earthly goods. This will make rich amends for all we may lose and suffer here. The greatest part of the saints' happiness, as yet, is in promise. It is a trial of the patience of Christians, to be content to live after their work is done, and to stay for their reward till God's time to give it is come. He will soon come to them at death, to end all their sufferings, and to give them a crown of life. The Christian's present conflict may be sharp, but will be soon over. God never is pleased with the formal profession and outward duties and services of such as do not persevere; but he beholds them with great displeasure. And those who have been kept faithful in great trials for the time past, have reason to hope for the same grace to help them still to live by faith, till they receive the end of their faith and patience, even the salvation of their souls. Living by faith, and dying in faith, our souls are safe forever.

Studies in

Hebrews

Lesson 13 - Hebrews 11:1-22

Examples of Heroes of Faith Part #1

As we look back to lesson twelve, the author had reminded the Hebrew believers to approach God on the basis of faith. The author quoted the exhortation of Habakuk saying, "The just shall live by faith." He also revealed that because of Jesus Christ, the Great High Priest, they could now approach God with full assurance of faith, having been justified before God (Heb 10:22).

Walking by faith did not come easy for these Hebrew believers. The Jewish people had been for centuries following the structure of the Mosaic Law. These Hebrews were accustomed to following a set direction, dictated by the commandments and by traditions.

In our study of lesson thirteen (Heb 11), we will examine the superiority of the way of faith, what faith is, the superiority of the man of faith over the natural man, and the examples of the Jewish forefathers, who lived by faith and pleased God.

Faith pleases God. Without faith it is impossible to please Him. As we study this lesson carefully consider the practical examples of those listed in the "Hall of Faith." Remember to pray for God's guidance and direction. Write out your answers for each question as the Holy Spirit teaches you.

Day One

Thought for the Day

Psalms 101:6 Mine eyes [shall be] upon the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with me: he that walketh in a perfect way, he shall serve me.

Read Hebrews 11:1-3 and answer the following questions:

1. Carefully examine Hebrews 11:1, and in your own words define what faith is to you.

Faith:

2. What are the key elements of faith, according to verse 1?

3. "Faith is the substance of things hoped for." The Greek word for substance is "*Hypotasis*." It is the scientific term opposite of hypothesis or theory. Therefore, faith is that which rests on facts. According to scripture, how does faith come about?

Romans 10:17

Romans 12:3

4. Faith is also "the evidence of things not seen" (Heb 1:1b). The Greek word for evidence is "*elegchos*." It is a legal term indicating evidence that is accepted for conviction in a court of law. Faith enables the believing soul to treat the future as present and the invisible as seen. Compare Hebrews 11:1 with 2 Cor. 4:16-18 and record any additional insights you gain about living by faith.

5. Examine our Lord's examples in the scriptures below, and record what did our Lord do that could help us understand "the evidence of things unseen?"

Mark 5:35-42

Luke 7:11-15

John 11:33-44

6. Read Hebrews 11:1-2 again, and record the effect of faith in the lives of the Jewish elders or forefathers.

7. In verse 3, the author begins listing those that belong to the hall of faith. Who does the author list at the head of the list and why? Take time and think about the answer.

8. What statement in verse 3 indicates the superiority of the man of faith, over the man of science today?

9. Scripture Memory: This week's verse is Romans 10:17. Repeat it several times each day, and by the end of the week, you'll be surprised how well you have it memorized.

Rom 10:17 *So then faith [cometh] by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

Day Two

Thought for the Day

Psalm 31:23 O love the LORD, all ye his saints: [for] the LORD preserveth the faithful

In our study of day one, we looked at the author's definition of faith, and how faith that is based on the Word of God helped the forefathers obtain a good witness and testimony.

In our study today, the author shows the Hebrew believers that God Himself operates in the sphere of faith, and God cannot be approached or pleased apart from faith. We will examine the example of Abel, the first of three antediluvians, who the author inducted in the so called "hall of faith." Through Abel, the Hebrews were reminded of **the way of faith**, the only way to come to God.

ABEL

Read Hebrews 11:4 and Genesis 4:1-7 and answer the following questions:

1. The author tells us that Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, his brother (Heb 11:4). According to Genesis 3:21, God had previously instructed Adam and Eve of the proper offering for sin. Comparing Genesis 3:21 with both Abel and Cain's offering in Genesis 4:3-5, why do you think Abel's offering was a more excellent one?

2. In Hebrews 11:4, the author reveals that Abel was counted righteous. We know that no sacrifice in itself can make one righteous, for even a grain or meal offering was acceptable to the Lord when the Law was instituted. What did Abel have, along with the sacrifice that accounted to him for righteousness?

3. By faith, Abel believed in the coming saviour, based on what God had said to the serpent and Eve (Gen. 3:15). Why do you think Cain's offering was rejected, according to Genesis 4:6-7, and what did Cain fail to do, according to 1 Samuel 15:22 and Matthew 5:23-24?

4. The author tells us in Hebrews 11:4 that God testified in approval of Abel's offering. According to Old Testament scripture, how did God approve of a good sacrifice, as in the case of Abel?

1 Kings 18:38

5. What do you think Abel's sacrifice has been able to communicate to believers across the span of time, according to verse 4? See Hebrews 12:24 for insight.

Something to Consider

Offering sacrifices to God can become a religious routine, in which our prayers and worship are not offered in faith. There are those who draw close to God with their lips, rattling prayers, and singing songs without thinking or considering what they are saying.

There are those who are offering sacrifices, while having hatred or bitterness in their hearts against a brother, and those who approach God with conditions. "If you give me this, then I will serve you." That is the type of offering that Cain made, and God rejected it. As Christians, let's carefully consider this.

ENOCH

In day one of our study, the author revealed Abel as the way of faith. In contrast, we learned from Cain the type of offering that God will not accept. In our study today, the author reveals Enoch as the walk of faith.

Enoch was the great grandfather of Noah. He lived before the flood in a world so corrupt, that God was sorry He had made man on the earth, and wanted to destroy it all. The author wanted to show these Hebrews that it was possible to live by faith in the midst of a corrupt world and persecution, as in the case of Enoch, and as we will later see, Noah.

6. Read Hebrews 11:5 and explain why Enoch did not see death.

7. According with the following scriptures, what are the two ways in which believers will someday see God?

Hebrews 9:27

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

8. By faith, Enoch was raptured up to God (verse 5). The word in verse 5 indicating Enoch's rapture is the word "translated." It is to take something from one sphere into another. What is Enoch a type of, considering 1 Thess 4:16-17, 1 Cor. 15:31-53 and 1 Thess 5:9?

9. According to Genesis 5:24, what was Enoch doing before God took him?

10. What does walking with God means to you? Compare your answer with the following scriptures.

Your answer:

1 John 2:3-6

Colossians 2:6-7

1 Thessalonians 4:1-7

11. According to our Lord's example, how should we be walking, knowing that at any time we can face God?

Luke 19:13

Luke 12:35-40

John 13:3-15

12. Enoch walked with God knowing that at any time God would judge the world for its wickedness. Enoch's son, Methuselah, served as a sign and a reminder of God's certain coming judgment. Methuselah's name indicates "when he dies, then the judgment." The Hebrews were about to face Roman persecution, the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple. What important signs of the last days, given in Matthew 24:3-12, should encourage us to walk like Enoch?

13. According to verse 6, what is the essential thing to please God and receive His blessings?

14. What does to "diligently seek Him" mean to you (verse 6)?

15. Scripture Memory: Insert the missing words or phrases below. By memory, if possible, review the verse several times today.

Rom 10:17 *So then _____ [cometh] by _____, and hearing by the word of _____.*

Day Three

Thought for the Day

Proverbs 14:25 A true witness delivereth souls: but a deceitful [witness] speaketh lies.

In our previous studies, the author showed the Hebrew believers the example of the way of faith exhibited by Abel, and the walk of faith illustrated by Enoch.

In today's lesson, we will examine the example of the last antediluvian, Noah. Noah exemplified the witness of faith, in the midst of a perverse world. Just like Enoch was a type of the raptured church, Noah is a type of the sealed one hundred and forty-four thousand Jews, who will preach the Gospel during the tribulation period.

It is important to closely examine the example of Noah, for the Lord Himself said the the days in which Noah lived would resemble the last days in which we live today.

NOAH

Read Hebrews 11:7 and Genesis 6:1-9 and answer the following questions:

1. Examine Genesis 6:4-5, 11-13, Matthew 24:37-39 and summarize the condition of mankind at the time Noah lived.

2. In contrast to the condition of mankind in Genesis 6, what are three things that characterized Noah as a witness for God in Gen 6:9?

3. According to Heb 11:7, what do you think "things not yet seen" is talking about?

4. Upon hearing the warning of God of the coming judgment, what was Noah's attitude (Heb 11:7)?

5. Godly fear (Heb 11:7) comes as the result of recognizing God as supreme and absolute. Godly fear is not being terrified of God to where we cannot approach Him. According to Genesis 6:8 and Romans 2:4, what could have caused Noah to move with godly fear?

6. What did God command Noah to build and why (Heb 11:7)?

7. Noah was a preacher of righteousness. For over one hundred years, he preached salvation. For one hundred years, he walked by faith and trusted God. According to Hebrews 11:7, who was Noah's primary ministry to, and how did Noah condemn the world?

8. Imagine, it had never rained before, and God commands Noah to to build an ark as big as the Queen Mary in the middle of the desert. Certainly, people in Noah's time thought the building of the ark was foolishness. According to 1 Cor 1:18, why did people think it was foolish?

9. What are the most important things that have ministered to you about Noah?

10. Scripture Memory: Insert the missing words or phrases below. By memory, if possible, review the verse several times today.

Rom 10:17 So _____ [cometh] by _____, and _____ by
the _____ of _____.

Day Four

Thought for the Day

Psalm 27:14 Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

ABRAHAM & SARAH

Now we come to Abraham, the man known as the "Father of Faith." That is the way he is identified in the Word of God. Abraham is the supreme illustration of faith in the epistles to the Romans and Galatians. He is also referred to as the father of all those who would attain righteousness through faith.

In Abel we saw the way of faith, in Enoch we saw the walk of faith, through Noah the witness of faith, and now through Abraham we will see the worship of faith.

Read Hebrews 11:8-19 and answer the following questions.

1. In verse 8, what things did Abraham do upon hearing from God?
2. Obedience is the by-product of surrendering one's will for God's will. As you examine Abraham's account in Genesis 12:7-8, what did Abraham do on a regular basis on his way to the promised land, that was proof of his faith toward God?
3. True faith is validated by action. Abraham "went out" upon being called by God. What other insight can we draw from the following scriptures regarding true faith?

James 1:22-25

James 2:14-22

Titus 2:6-10

4. In verse 9, how did Abraham live while in the land of Canaan, and how does his lifestyle relate to the way believers should live today?

5. Abraham is referred to in scripture as "The Father of all those who would attain the righteousness of God which is by faith." Although Abel and Enoch had inherited this righteousness before Abraham was born, why do you think Abraham was acknowledged as the father of faith instead? Compare your answer with the following scriptures.

Your answer:

Genesis 12:1-3

6. We noticed that the life of faith exemplified through Abraham required humility, obedience, and action (Heb. 11: 8). The life of faith is lived by recognizing that our time on earth is temporary (Heb. 11:6) . According to verse 10, what is another key part of living by faith?

7. Waiting and enduring was one thing the Hebrew believers were lacking in their walk. The author reveals to them the example of Sarah. Sarah had leaned to her own understanding instead of trusting in the Lord. As a result, Ishmael was born to Hagar. According to verse 11, how was it possible for Sarah to conceive at her old age? What other insight can we draw from the following scripture?

Galatians 2:20

8. We are told in scripture, that Sarah was past the age being able to conceive. What does verse 12 tell us of Abraham's physical condition?

9. How were Abraham and Sarah rewarded for their faith, according to verse 12?

10. What important thing, with regards to faith, should we avoid, according to the example of the children of Israel in the wilderness?

Psalm 78:40-41

11. Scripture Memory: Insert the missing words or phrases below. By memory if possible review the verse several times today.

Rom 10: So _____ by _____, and _____ by
the _____ of _____.

Day five

Thought for the Day

Psalm 119:19 I [am] a stranger in the earth: hide not thy commandments from me.

So far, the author of Hebrews has shown to us the examples of those heroes of faith, who endured in a world with problems similar to ours today. These Old Testament saints were saved by believing the promises of God, looking ahead to their fulfillment. In our study today, we will examine how all these saints persevered to the end, having seen God's promise of the Savior, and of the heavenly dwelling place through the eyes of faith.

Read Hebrews 11:13-22 and answer the following questions.

1. According to verse 13, in what condition did all these saints die in, and what can we learn about the death of a saint from the passage below?

Psalm 116:15

2. Verse 13 tells us that these heroes of faith all died in faith, not having received the promises of the coming Savior, of the heavenly dwelling place, and of their descendants becoming as many as the sands of the sea. What four things did these faithful ones do with the promises of God, that helped them endure?

3. What did our Lord Jesus say in John 8:56 about Abraham that pertains to verse 13?

4. According to verse 13, what did these men's lives confess or profess? What does this relate to us today? Review the following scriptures to help you gain additional insight.

John 17:14-16

1 John 2:15-17

1 Timothy 6:6-12

5. What message did the lives of these in the "hall of faith" declare to those of the world, according to verses 14-16? What additional insight can we draw from Philippians 4:17-21 that is relevant to the above passage in Hebrews?

6. Read Heb. 11:17-19 and Gen. 22:1-14 detailed account of Abraham's supreme test of faith. What two (2) verses in the Genesis account reveal to us that Abraham had by faith seen Christ's sacrifice (John 8:56)?

7. Isaac was approximately thirty years of age at the time God asked Abraham to sacrifice his son. Isaac could have easily overpowered his father and said "no way Jose!" According to verse 17, what was the promise that Abraham had already believed, and what two (2) things in verses 18-19 boosted Abraham's trust in God?

ISAAC, JACOB & JOSEPH

This follows the family line. The faith of the father Abraham is passed on to Isaac; who by faith, blessed his two sons and prophesied of the things to come. In turn, Jacob blessed his sons and the two sons of Joseph, Ephraim and Manasseh. Joseph, while still in Egypt, knowing that the land that God had promised them was to be theirs someday, gave commandment to the children of Israel to carry his bones back to the land for burial. Three hundred years later, when the children of Israel left Egypt, they carried the bones of Joseph with them.

Read Hebrews 11:20-23 and answer the following questions:

ISAAC

8. Verse 20 tells us that by faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come. In Genesis 27:27-29, we find Isaac's blessing to Jacob. How were verses 28 & 29 fulfilled according to the following scriptures?

Genesis 41:-39-44

Genesis 41:47-49

Genesis 41:53-57

JACOB

9. Read verse 21 and the account in Genesis 48:8-21 of Jacobs's blessing of his sons. Examine verses 14 & 19 of the Genesis account and record what Jacob had regarding faith that we find in the definition of faith in Hebrews 11:1.

10. Jacob could have looked at the best looking or the strongest of the two sons of Joseph before blessing them. What prevented Jacob from leaning on his natural choice according to Genesis 48:10?

JOSEPH

11. Read verse 22 and the same account in Genesis 50:22-26. What two important events did Joseph prophesy by faith regarding the children of Israel?

12. Scripture Memory: Insert the missing words or phrases below. By memory if possible review the verse several times today.

Rom : So _____ by _____,
the _____ of _____.

Day Six

Practical Application

Thought for the Day

Psalm 39:12 Hear my prayer, O LORD, and give ear unto my cry; hold not thy peace at my tears: for I [am] a stranger with thee, [and] a sojourner, as all my fathers [were].

1. Can a Hebrew Christian have faith and still conform to Jewish rituals? Can a Gentile Christian have faith and live like a pagan? What do you think? Please explain.

2. Enoch walked with God and God raptured him out of this world. God is also going to rapture His church. In your own words, what constitutes walking with God, and what part of your walk would you consider in need of improvement or commitment?

3. Noah saved his household in the midst of a perverse and corrupt world. Is your family being ministered to by your life? Is your household saved? Are you salt to those who don't know The Lord? Reflect on these things and spend some time in prayer to find guidance, strength and forgiveness.

4. These heroes of faith considered themselves pilgrims and strangers on the earth. Do you consider yourself a stranger in this world? Do you find yourself at home in this world and can people notice a difference in your life? What does it mean to be a pilgrim?

5. Scripture Memory: By now you should pretty well know this week's verse by heart. Record it below by memory:

_____ “ _____ ” _____

Studies in

Hebrews

Lesson 14 - Hebrews 11:23-40

Examples of Heroes of Faith Part #2

In our study of lesson thirteen (13), we looked at the definition of faith and the examples of Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph.

Now we will look at the examples of faith in the lives of those who lived during the slavery in Egypt and beyond. In this lesson we will examine the examples of the godly parents of Moses, of Moses himself, whom the Jewish people considered their deliverer and the example of those heroes who, along with Joshua, entered and conquered the Promised Land.

As we study this lesson, carefully consider the practical examples of those listed in the "Hall of faith." Remember to pray for God's guidance and direction. Write out your answers for each question as the Holy Spirit teaches you.

Day One

Thought for the Day

Proverbs 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

MOSES PARENTS

Read Hebrews 11:23 and the account in Exodus 1:8-2:3 and answer the following question:

1. According to the account in Exodus, what caused Moses' parents to trust the Lord and walk by faith concerning the future of their son Moses?
2. It is said that faithful men come from faithful and godly parents. How do the following scriptures validate this point?

2 Timothy 1:5

2 Timothy 3:14-15

Proverbs 22:6

Ephesians 6:4

3. What does Hebrews 11:23 and Exodus 2:2 tell us about the child Moses?

4. The term "beautiful" in Hebrews 11:23 not only indicates to be physically attractive and good looking, but the same word used in Exodus reveals foreseen greatness. Moses' parents believed that Moses would be used mightily by God someday. What do you think encouraged Moses' parents' faith as you consider the following scriptures?

Genesis 15:12-14

Genesis 50:22-24

5. According to the Bible, we believers need to be law-abiding citizens, submitting to those in authority. Moses' parents did not comply with Pharaoh's decree. According with the following scriptures, when should believers not comply with the law or decree of the land?

Exodus 1:15-17

Daniel 3:1-12

Acts 5:25-29

5. In Hebrews 11:23, we are told that Moses' parents were not afraid of the king's decree. Why do you think they did not fear? What additional insight can we glean from the scriptures below?

Luke 12:4-5

6. Scripture Memory: This week's verse is Psalm 37:5. Repeat it several times each day, and by the end of the week, you'll be surprised how well you have it memorized.

Psalm 37:5 Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring [it] to pass.

Day Two

Thought for the Day

Psalm 22:4 Our fathers trusted in thee: they trusted, and thou didst deliver them.

MOSES:

Having declared and shown how Moses' parents walked by faith, the author of Hebrews moves to reveal that Moses' their deliverer and lawgiver, walked by faith.

Read Hebrews 11:24-26 and Exodus 2:11-15 and answer the following questions:

1. According to the Exodus account, what circumstances caused Moses to refuse to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter and to begin to walk by faith?

2. Moses was in line to become the next Pharaoh of Egypt. Moses had power, prestige and all the wealth of Egypt. According to Hebrews 11:24, at what period in Moses' life was he confronted with God's calling on his life?

3. Confronted with God's calling on his life, what was Moses faced with, according to verse 25?

4. What was Moses' choice in verse 25?

5. Moses could have chosen to become the next Pharaoh and would have inherited the fortune of Egypt. Moses chose instead to suffer affliction with the people of God. According with the following scriptures, what were "the people of God" like, that Moses chose to align himself with them?

Deuteronomy 31:24-27

6. In verse 25, the author to the Hebrews compares the worst that God offered to Moses with the best Egypt or the world can offer. What does the writer call the best the world can offer? What other insight can we draw from the following scripture?

Your answer:

1 John 2:15-17

7. Moses chose to suffer with people that complained and murmured against him and the Lord. According with verse 26, what strengthened Moses' faith, or what encouraged him to choose to suffer?

8. What are the benefits and rewards of suffering as believers, compared with the temporary benefits the world has to offer?

2 Corinthians 4:7-11

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

1 Peter 5:10

9. In verse 26 we are told that Moses esteemed the reproach of Christ greater than the treasure of Egypt. How was he able to do that? What other insight can we draw from the following scriptures?

John 5:39-47

Deuteronomy 18:15, 18-19

10. What did Moses, Paul the apostle, and our Lord Jesus have in common as we compare verse 26 with the following scriptures?

Moses (verse 26)

Paul (2 Tim 4:6-8)

Jesus (Heb 12:2)

11. What is the reproach of Christ in verse 26 to you? How is this exemplified in the scriptures below? What should our attitude be according to 1 Peter 4:14?

Acts 4:13

Acts 5:40-41

Acts 16:16-18

Acts 26:24-25

12. Scripture Memory: Insert the missing words or phrases below. By memory, if possible, review the verse several times today.

Psalm 37:5 Commit thy _____ unto the LORD; trust also in _____ and he shall bring [it] to pass.

Day Three

Thought for the Day

Psalm 101:6 Mine eyes [shall be] upon the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with me: he that walketh in a perfect way, he shall serve me.

Read Hebrews 11:27-29 and answer the following questions:

1. What acts of faith in the life of Moses and Israel can you find between verses 27-29?

2. In verse 27, the author reminds the Hebrews that by faith Moses forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the King. According with the passage below, what helped Moses faith in forsaking Egypt, and what does the passage reveal about God and you in the midst of difficult circumstances?

Exodus 12:29-36

3. Image the time, the planning and the provisions required for about one million people crossing the Egyptian desert on the way to the Promised Land. To make things more challenging, imagine not knowing what day or month you would start the journey. That would take a tremendous step of faith. According to verse 27b, how was Moses able to endure the pressure and stress of this enormous endeavor?

4. In verse 27 we are told that Moses did not fear the wrath of Pharaoh, the most powerful leader of the known world. What key truth can we find in the scriptures below, that reminds us that we shouldn't fear the world and tough circumstances?

Exodus 7:2-5

Job 1:6-12 (emphasis v-12)

Proverbs 5:21

Proverbs 16:9

Daniel 2:20-21

5. According to verse 28, what did Moses put his faith in, believing for protection against the judgment of God? What is the blood of the lamb a type of?

6. Considering the answer to question 5, what do believers and Moses have in common?

In verse 29, we are told that the children of Israel, including Moses, passed through the Red Sea on dry land. Please examine the account in Exodus 14:1-4 and answer the following questions:

7. What did the Lord direct Israel to do in verse 2? Geographically, where was God placing Israel?

8. Israel was told to camp in a valley with hills on each side, with the Red Sea in front of them and the Egyptian army behind them. For what purpose did God set and allow this situation to happen in verse 4?

9. Just like God was to receive the glory through the deliverance of Israel, God is going to be glorified in and through our lives. God will allow certain circumstances in our lives as a means through which He can be glorified. What else can we learn from the following scriptures?

John 9:1-3

John 11:1-4

2 Corinthians 1:8-10

10. In Hebrews 11:29, the children of Israel were victorious against the pursuing army of Egypt. Egypt in the Bible is a type of the world. According with the passage below, how are we believers able to overcome the world?

1 John 5:4-5

11. Scripture Memory: Insert the missing words or phrases below. By memory, if possible, review the verse several times today.

Psalm 37:5 Commit thy _____ unto _____; trust also in _____ and he _____ bring [it] to pass. *Psalm 37:5*

Day Four

Thought for the Day

Psalm 9:10 And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou, LORD, hast not forsaken them that seek thee.

Having shown the examples of faith in the life of Moses, whom the Jewish people considered their hero, the author moves on chronologically to show the example of Joshua and Rahab's faith.

Please read Hebrews 11:30.

JOSHUA'S EXAMPLE OF FAITH

Hebrews 11:30 is a summary of the conquest of Jericho, the first stronghold into the promise land. For a details preceding this conquest, examine Joshua 1:1-9 and answer the following questions:

1. What boosted Joshua's faith to take over the leadership of Moses as recorded in Joshua 1:1-9?

Verse 2:

Verse 3:

Verse 5:

Verse 9:

2. What important thing along with being courageous did the Lord command Joshua to do, to insure prosperity, strength and good success?

Verse 7:

Verse 8:

3. What did the above passage reveal to you about what the man of God requires to be equipped for marching into enemy territory?

4. As the Hebrew believers found themselves in the midst of persecution, and being reminded by the author of Joshua's faith, what statement in verse 5 and 9 would they be encouraged by?

5. In Joshua 1:5, the Lord promised that He would be with Joshua and that He would not leave him nor forsake him. How did the Lord begin to fulfill this promise just prior to the march around Jericho?

Joshua 5:13-15

6. As we too face challenges and trials, how do we experience His presence, power and strength?

John 14:16-18

Acts 1:8

2 Timothy 1:6-7

7. Joshua was now ready to conquer Jericho. According with Joshua 6:1-2, why was Jericho all shut up? What did this indicate to Joshua?

8. Jericho was a fortress of a city. Its walls were so thick, that chariots and equipment of war could be mobilized on them around the city. What method were Joshua and the children of Israel to use to bring down the walls of the city?

Joshua 6:3-5

9. Certainly, the men of Jericho were laughing at the Israelites for the ridiculous military strategy. What else can we learn from the following scripture, concerning the ways of the man of faith in the eyes of the natural man?

1 Corinthians 1:25-29

10. What happened on the seventh day of marching around the city?

Joshua 6:15-16, 20

11. Scripture Memory: Insert the missing words or phrases below. By memory if possible review the verse several times today.

Psalm 37: ___ Commit ___ unto ___; trust ___ in ___ and he ___ bring [it] to ___.

Day Five & Six combined

Thought for the Day

Psalm 20:7 Some [trust] in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God.

RAHAB'S EXAMPLE OF FAITH

Rahab's story is in connection with the story of the conquest of Jericho. Jericho was the last place in the world you would have looked for faith. Rahab lived in that wicked, pagan city and she practiced the oldest profession there. Rahab was a prostitute.

In our study today, we want to closely examine the faith of this woman Rahab, because she expressed faith in a definite way.

Read Hebrews 11:31 and the detailed account in Joshua 2:1-21 and answer the following questions:

1. It had been just over forty years since the Lord delivered the children of Israel out of Egypt. During this time, the people of Jericho had heard of the mighty works the Lord had wrought. According with Hebrews 11:31, what was the difference between Rahab and the rest of thousands of Jericho's residents?

2. The salvation of Rahab illustrates that even in a doomed city, a wicked individual could find grace by turning to God in faith. According with Joshua 2:3-6, how did Rahab show her faith in the Lord?

3. Rahab had faith in the Lord, but her faith was incomplete. What proof of that can we find in Joshua 2:4?

4. Rahab's lying is not the example of faith that we should follow. Even though she lied to protect the spies, her intent and heart's desire was salvation from the Lord. What additional insight can we glean from the following scriptures?

Psalms 103:8-14

Psalms 139:1-4

Romans 5:8

5. According with Joshua 2:18-19, what is the scarlet cord that Rahab used as a sign of deliverance and protection a type of? Compare your answer with the following scriptures?

Your answer:

Exodus 12:13

1 Peter 1:18-20

6. Faith is contagious, just as unbelief is too. Being around people of faith will have a direct effect on our lives. What effect did Rahab's faith have upon her immediate family? Share the particular effect someone you know has made in your life.

Joshua 2:13

Joshua 6:20-23

7. Faith involves trusting in God. Trusting in God involves humbling ourselves before God. According with the following scriptures, how did God use Rahab?

Matthew 1:1, 5-6, 16

8. What do we gentiles have in common with Rahab?

Ephesians 1:3

Ephesians 2:19

9. Scripture Memory: By now you should pretty well know this week's verse by heart. Record it below by memory:

Psalm 37: _____ unto _____; _____ in _____ and
_____ bring [it] to _____.

Studies in

Hebrews

Lesson 15 - Hebrews 11:32-35

Examples of Heroes of Faith Part #3

Having shown that faith is the basis through which man is able to approach God, and having reminded the Hebrew believers of how faith was active in the lives of their early forefathers, the author now moves on to describe how faith was evident in the lives of those who lived and judged Israel, after the death and leadership of Joshua.

In our study of lesson 15, we will examine without going into much detail, the examples of the different characters mentioned in Hebrews 11:32, who lived by faith in a period of Israel's history known for its defeats. These heroes, through faith, delivered and guided the nation out of defeat.

Many of these heroes are very well known to us. Others we will get to know in this lesson. As we study this lesson carefully consider the practical examples of those listed in the "Hall of Faith." Remember to pray for God's guidance and direction. Write out your answers for each question as the Holy Spirit teaches you.

Day One

Thought for the Day

Psalm 34:18 The LORD [is] nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.

Read Hebrews 11:32 and the Old Testament account as indicated below, and answer the following questions.

1. What did some of these men listed in verse 32 have in common with regards to their family's background?

Gideon (Judges 6:12-15)

Jephthah (Judges 11:1-3)

Samson (Judges 13:1-3)

Samuel (1 Samuel 1:1-6)

2. What were some of these men like, and what qualified them to be used by God?

Gideon (Judges 6:11, 15)

Barak (Judges 4:1-8)

Jephthah (Judges 11:1-3)

Samuel (1 Samuel 1:24-27)

David (1 Samuel 17:12-14, 23-26,33-36)

Jeremiah (Jeremiah 1:1-6)

Isaiah (Isaiah 6:1-8)

Amos (Amos 7:12-14)

3. What else do the scriptures tell us about the kind of men that God chooses?

1 Corinthians 1:26-29

4. What did these men trust in for strength and encouragement?

Gideon (Judges 6:16)

Barak (Judges 4:4-7)

David (1 Samuel 17:45-46)

Jeremiah (Jeremiah 1:7-8)

5. Scripture Memory: This week's verse is Psalm 20:7. Repeat it several times each day, and by the end of the week, you'll be surprised how well you have it memorized.

Psalm 20:7 Some [trust] in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God.

Day Two

Thought for the Day

Psalm 9:10 And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou, LORD, hast not forsaken them that seek thee.

Read Hebrews 11:32-35 and answer the following questions:

1. What did these men of faith experience as they stepped out, obeying and trusting the Lord?

Gideon (Judges 6:34)

Samson (Judges 13:5-6, 15:14-15)

Elijah (James 5:17)

Joshua (Joshua 11:12-14)

2. What other common things did these men of faith experience?

Gideon (Judges 6:36-40)

Samson (Judges 14:1-2, 16:1)

David (2 Samuel 11:1-5)

Jephthah (Judges 11:29-40)

3. What gracious titles did the Lord give these men, despite their weaknesses and lapses of faith?

Gideon (Judges 6:12)

David (1 Samuel 13:14)

4. In Hebrews 11:32 we find Barak as a hero of faith. Examining Barak's account in Judges 4:4-7, we know that God had put in Barak's heart the thought of going to war against the enemy. According to the Judges account, how are men of faith reminded of the calling on their lives?

5. God had put in Barak's heart the thought of going to war against the enemy. How do ventures of faith begin in the heart of faithful men?

1 Kings 19:11-13

Proverbs 16:3, 9

1 Corinthians 2:9-12

6. Most of the time, God will speak to us through His Word, by pastors, or other Christians to reveal to us whether we should venture in faith or not. What encouraging promise did the Lord have for Barak in Judges 4:7?

7. God is always in control of whatever circumstances come against us. What comforting encouragement to our faith can we get from the scriptures below?

Psalms 139:1-5

Zechariah 2:8

Psalm 145:18

8. Men of faith often need reassurance from the Lord before stepping out in faith. Barak needed Deborah by his side, maybe because he was fearful, or maybe because he wanted someone with strong faith to go with him. What else can we learn from the following scriptures?

Luke 10:1

2 Timothy 1:16-18

2 Timothy 4: 9-11

Colossians 4:7-9

Romans 16:3-4

9. Scripture Memory: Insert the missing words or phrases below. By memory, if possible, review the verse several times today.

Psalm 20:7 Some [trust] in _____, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the _____ our _____.

Day Three

Thought for the Day

Proverbs 11:2 [When] pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly [is] wisdom.

In our previous studies, we learned about the men the Lord used to lead, judge and guide Israel. These men came from broken homes, poor families, they experienced fears, trials, temptations, but most importantly, they all experienced God's Spirit, power and grace.

In our lesson today the author to the Hebrews will remind these believers of the exploits, blessings and results of living by faith.

Read Hebrews 11:35-37 and answer the following questions:

1. Upon reading the above text, you may ask "why do the righteous suffer?" Compare your answer with the following scriptures.

Your answer:

Philippians 1:29

John 15:20

2 Timothy 3:12

Matthew 5:45

2. In verse 35b, why do you think those tortured, did not accept deliverance? Compare your answer with the clue given in the following scripture.

Your answer:

Daniel 3:8-18

3. In verse 36, we are told that others were mocked, scourged and imprisoned. Based on the scriptures below, what Old and New Testament faithful experienced the above? Record the reasons why and by whom they experienced those things.

Judges 16:25 (Samson)

Jeremiah 20:1-2, 37:14-19 (Jeremiah)

Acts 5:17-28, 40-42 (Peter)

Acts 6:7-7:13, 54-60 (Stephen)

4. According to our Lord in Luke 21:12-19, referring to Daniel's seventieth week, or the last seven years of world history, what will the reason be for Hebrews then being imprisoned and facing possible death? What does this reveal to you about the spiritual condition true believers will have to have during the last days?

5. In verse 36-37, faith brought mocking, imprisonments and stonings by the hand of religious leaders and others who professed to know God. Examine the scripture below and record one reason our Lord said these things would happen to some of the faithful.

John 16:1-2

6. Do you think all these heroes suffered and died for their lack of faith, as some faith teachers would have you believe today? What important insight about God's character and plan for us here on earth can we glean from the following scriptures?

John 21:18-23

7. Examine the scripture below and record your thoughts concerning God's two witnesses of Revelation (Moses and Elijah) as it relates to the life of faith.

Revelation 11:3-12

8. Scripture Memory: Insert the missing words or phrases below. By memory, if possible, review the verse several times today.

Psalm 20:7 Some _____ in _____, and some in _____ but we will remember the _____ of the _____ our _____.

Day Four

Thought for the Day

Psalm 37:23-24 The steps of a [good] man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.²⁴ Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth [him with] his hand.

From our previous studies, we understand that faith brings victory, blessings, as well as suffering and death. God does not guarantee deliverance from trials, but He does guarantee to go through trials with us, and to never leave us nor forsake us.

Read Hebrews 11:37-40 and answer the following questions:

1. The writer of Hebrews reminds believers of the cost that some faithful pay for living by faith. What does verse 37b and verse 38 reveal to you about the social injustice these faithful experienced?

2. Elijah could qualify as one of the faithful described in verses 37b and 38. Examine 1 Kings 19:1-12 and record the different ways in which the Lord encouraged him. In addition, what does Paul testify (2 Ti 4:16-17) when he was in a similar situation?

3. In verse 38, the word "world" is the Greek word "*kosmos*." Sometimes, this word means world as in earth. In the context of verse 38, the word world means "world system" or "organized humanity." What does this verse reveal about the relationship between the world system and faithful men?

4. According with the following scriptures, what character or attitude sets the faithful as not being worthy of this world?

Galatians 1:10

1 Thessalonians 2:4-5

Romans 12:2

2 Corinthians 6:14-18

5. According to verse 39, what did all these slain heroes attain through faith?

6. Considering your own walk of faith, if you were to die today, what kind of testimony would you leave behind?

7. In verse 39, the Hebrews are told that all these heroes died in faith without receiving the promise. What was the promise? According with the scriptures below, when and where did the Old Testament faithful receive the promise?

Luke 16:19-26

Ephesians 4:8-10

8. Scripture Memory: Insert the missing words or phrases below. By memory, if possible, review the verse several times today.

Psalm 20:7 Some _____ in _____, and _____ in _____ but _____ will
_____ the _____ of the _____ our _____.

Day Five & Six combined

Thought for the Day

Psalm 20:7 Some [trust] in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God.

1. Read how the people described in Hebrews 11:32-38 show faith. Why were their faith and suffering worthwhile, even though they never received what was promised (11:39-40)?

2. In what sense could the Old Testament saints "be made perfect" only together with New Testament believers (Hebrews 11:40)?

3. How does this chapter on faith contribute to the author's overall purpose of convincing his Hebrew readers not to lapse away from Christianity when under pressure?

4. What have you learned from Hebrews 11:1-40 about faith that is especially relevant to your current situation?

5. Is there any circumstance in your life in which you need to trust in God, even though you can't see where it is all going to lead? What have you learned from chapter 11 that makes it easier for you to do this?

6. Scripture Memory: By now you should pretty well know this week's verse by heart. Record it below by memory:

Psalm ____ : _____, _____
_____.

Studies in

Hebrews

Lesson 16 - Hebrews 12:1-29

Walk of the Believer-Priest

In our study of lesson 15, the author of Hebrews reminded believers that the Christian life is to be lived by faith. The author pointed out that through faith, the Jewish forefathers pleased God, led Israel into victory, defeated the enemy, and through faith were able to endure trials, suffering and death.

Early in the introduction of Hebrews, we were reminded of the many exhortations, especially of the danger of drifting from the life of faith back into the life of works under the law.

In our study today, we are exhorted to run, to move forward in the faith. The author will reveal to believers how to run the Christian race, focusing on Christ Jesus the originator and perfecter of our faith, recognizing Christ's sovereignty and accepting His correction when we don't go on to run the race.

Remember to pray for God's guidance and direction. Write out your answers for each question as the Holy Spirit teaches you.

Day One

Thought for the Day

Psalm 18:29 For by thee I have run through a troop; and by my God have I leaped over a wall.

Read Hebrews 12:1-2 and answer the following questions.

1. It is always easier to run a race in which many have participated before. The person running in today's race can check the record books or watch videos of how the previous athletes performed. Whose previous performance does the author of Hebrews suggest believers examine in verse 1, prior to running their race?

2. To what does the writer of Hebrews like the Christian life to, in verse 1?

3. What kind of race does the word endurance suggest in verse 1?

4. Examine the scriptures below and record Paul's insight as to how to run the Christian race?

1 Corinthians 9

Verse 24

Verse 25

Verse 26

Verse 27

Philippians 3:13-14

5. Many Christians just get saved, but do not go on with God. In verse 1, what does the author tell the Hebrews they must lay aside or put off in order to go on with God or run the long distance race? With what kind of attitude must a Christian run the race?

6. What would you consider to be weights in one's life?

7. What sin was the author referring to in verse 1, in the lives of these Hebrew believers that would cause them to be disqualified, according with Hebrews 10:39?

8. After examining 1 Corinthians 6:12, what is a good question to ask ourselves regarding weights in our lives?

9. In long distance racing, the runners often look to different mile markers along the road to pace themselves correctly. According to verse 2, who are we to look to for our example?

10. What encouraging promise do we find in verse 2 about our faith, to run the race? What additional insight can we draw from the following scriptures?

Verse 2

Philippians 2:13

Romans 12:3

11. What should be our perspective when the going gets rough and we begin to get weary during our race according to verse 2?

12. When the going gets rough, we can remember that those times of suffering and trials are for our benefit. We can use those hard times as stepping stones rather than stumbling stones. According to verse 2, the word finisher indicates Christ the "perfecter" of our faith. How does Christ perfect our faith?

Hebrews 2:10

13. Scripture Memory: This week's verse is Psalm 34:15. Repeat it several times each day, and by the end of the week, you'll be surprised how well you have it memorized.

Psalm 34:15 The eyes of the LORD [are] upon the righteous, and his ears [are open] unto their cry. Psalm 34:15

Day Two

Thought for the Day

Proverbs 15:10 ¶ Correction [is] grievous unto him that forsaketh the way: [and] he that hateth reproof shall die.

These Hebrew believers were saved, but like a lot of Christians today, had not gone on with God. They had stopped at salvation and lacked endurance in their walk. These Hebrews were tempted to become spectators rather than participants. Believers are reminded that endurance and patience only come through suffering that God allows sometimes in the form of chastening that corrects idleness and a stubborn attitude.

Read Hebrews 12:3-11 and answer the following questions:

1. The believers were told to run the race with patience. How does patience come about, according with the following scriptures?

Romans 5:3

Hebrews 6:12

James 1:3-4

2. Who are believers exhorted to consider as an example of endurance according with the following scriptures?

verse 3

James 5:10-11

3. The Hebrew believers were experiencing persecution as Christians and pressure from the Jews to conform back to Judaism. What are believers encouraged to do in the midst of suffering or experiencing difficulties, according to verses 3-4? What other helpful insight can we draw from the scriptures below?

Verses 3-4

Philippians 2:4

4. When we compare our problems or sufferings against our Lord's, they become miniscule. Why will our suffering never compare with our Lord's suffering, according with verse 4?

5. It is very possible that these Hebrews were wondering and asking, "why are we suffering and going through these hard times?" It is common to get our eyes on our problems and forget to have a spiritual perspective as to why we are suffering. According to verse 5-6, what did these Hebrews fail to remember as a possible reason for their difficulties?

6. Most of us think that chastening is punishment. In verses 5-6 the Greek word "*paideou*" for chastening literally means child training. Also the Greek word "*huios*" for son literally means full-grown son. What can you determine from the above facts about who receives chastening?

7. What is the Lord's chastening motivated by, according to verse 6?

8. In verse 7, the author asks the question, "what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?" From this we understand that it is God's desire for us parents to discipline our children as well. Contrary to what the world says today, what else can we learn from the following Scriptures?

Proverbs 13:24

Proverbs 19:18

Proverbs 22:15

Proverbs 23:14

Proverbs 29:15, 17

9. Scripture Memory: Insert the missing words or phrases below. By memory, if possible, review the verse several times today.

Psalm 34:15 The eyes of the _____ [are] upon the _____, and his ears [are open] unto their _____.

Day Three

Thought for the Day

Proverbs 15:32 He that refuseth instruction despiseth his own soul: but he that heareth reproof getteth understanding.

These Hebrew believers were exhorted to participate in the Christian race, looking at Jesus for their example. They needed endurance and patience in their walk. The author reveals that these fruits would come through God's correction.

In our lesson today, we will examine the reasons for the Lord's chastening, the results of chastening and the attitude of believers towards God's chastening.

Read Hebrews 12:7-13 and answer the following questions:

1. According to verses 7 and 8, what is the proof of our sonship?
2. Why do the ungodly seem to get away with doing evil things and get by with it according to verse 7?
3. Looking back at verses 5 and 7, what (3) three attitudes should believers have toward the Lord's correction?
4. God as the wise Father knows the beginning from the end. He sees and is aware of the dangers that His children can get into. God has our eternal welfare in mind when He disciplines us. What additional insight can we draw from the Scriptures below regarding the correct perspective towards chastening?

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Romans 8:18-19

5. As children, sometimes we did not understand why we received discipline from our parents. Some children are more obedient and submissive than others, and require only a gentle chastening. Others require more severe disciplining. What can we learn from the following Scriptures about the way in which God would like to guide us? What kind of correction will we receive if we don't submit or become stubborn?

Psalm 32:8-9

Proverbs 26:3

6. Examine verse 9 and 11, and list (4) four purposes for chastening and correction.

1.

2.

3.

4.

7. According to the Scriptures below, what are the fruits and benefits of chastisement?

Isaiah 26:16

Exodus 1:12

Psalm 119:67

Proverbs 17:3

1 Peter 5:10

8. These Hebrews were receiving the Lord's chastening in the type of persecution and pressure from the Roman government and the Jewish leadership. It is clear that chastening is for our good. According to verses 12-13, how should we respond after receiving correction from the Lord and what is the result of accepting His chastening and going on with God in verse 13?

9. What important thing can we learn from Job 2:6-10?

10. Scripture Memory: Insert the missing words or phrases below. By memory, if possible, review the verse several times today.

Psalm 34:15 The _____ of the _____ [are] _____ the _____, and his ears are _____ unto their _____.

Day Four

Thought for the Day

Psalm 103:8 The LORD [is] merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.

The Hebrew believers were reminded that their suffering and trials were part of God's discipline for them because they were His children. Believers are encouraged to accept God's discipline in order to be partakers of His holiness and of the fruits of righteousness.

In our study today, these Hebrews are warned about becoming bitter against correction. They are reminded that they have come to know the God of grace, the approachable mediator, Jesus Christ. Therefore, they should not refuse His chastening.

Read Hebrews 12:14-29 and answer the following questions:

1. What could happen if we refuse to receive the Lord's chastening according to verse 15?

2. Who does the writer use in verse 16 as an example of one who was not concerned with the value of spiritual things? What danger can we face in verse 17 if we value God's chastenings a common thing not worthy of our consideration?

Verse 16

Verse 17

3. Esau, the son of Isaac cried to late when there wasn't an inheritance left for him. Esau had forfeited God's blessing for being indifferent towards spiritual things. What can we learn from the Scriptures below if we become bitter towards God's chastening?

Job 9:4

4. According with verses 18-21, why shouldn't the Hebrews become bitter and heart-hardened against the Lord's chastening? What do these verses describe about some people's perception of God under the old covenant today?

5. Summarizing verses 22-24, why should believers accept God's chastening and, with patience, go on with God?

6. Verse 13 is a reference to Mount Sinai (a type of the Law). It depicts the unapproachableness of God through the Law. What do you think Mount Zion represents, according to the scriptures below?

Romans 1:16-17

Romans 8:1-2

7. What interesting facts can we gather as we compare the results of the giving of the Law at Sinai and the giving of the Gospel at the day of Pentecost?

Exodus 32:27-28

Acts 2:38-41

8. Believers are reminded that they should accept God's correction because they have come into a spiritual relationship with God. These Hebrews were used to approaching a priest that they could see, but now because of persecution, they could not go up to Jerusalem for the feasts to worship. How are these believers encouraged to worship, according with verse 22 and the scripture below?

Verse 22

John 4:21-24

9. In verse 23 and 24, the writer reminds us that we have been called out as part of the church of Christ. According with the scriptures below, why does the blood of Christ speak better things than that of Abel's?

Genesis 4:8-11

Galatians 3:13-14

10. Examine verse 25-29 and list (4) four reasons why these believers should go on with God.

Verse 25

Verse 28

Verse 29

11. Scripture Memory: Insert the missing words or phrases below. By memory, if possible, review the verse several times today.

Psalm 34:15 The _____ of the _____ [are] _____ the _____, and his _____ are _____ unto _____.

Day Five & Six combined

Spotlight Study: *Causes for chastening, methods of chastening and the results chastening.*

Thought for the Day

Psalm 32:8-9 I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.⁹ Be ye not as the horse, [or] as the mule, [which] have no understanding: whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle, lest they come near unto thee.

We believers, as children of God will receive correction. In this study, we will examine the causes, methods in which God chooses to implement correction on His children.

1. Examine the Scriptures below and record the different causes for chastening, the different ways in which God decided to correct, and the results of His correction?

Jonah:

Causes: (Jonah 1:1-3)

Method of correction (Jonah 1:4, 12-17)

Results of correction (Jonah 2:1-7)

David:

Causes: (2 Samuel 11:1-15)

Method of correction (2 Samuel 12:7-19)

Results of correction (2 Samuel 12:20)

Children of Israel:

Causes: (Judges 2:10-13) (Judges 3:5-7)

Method of correction (Judges 2:14-15) (Judges 3:8)

Results of correction (Judges 2:17) (Judges 3:9)

Paul the Apostle:

Causes: (2 Cor 12:6-7)

Method of correction (2 Cor 12:7)

Results of correction (2 Cor 12:8-10)

Believers in Corinth:

Causes: (1 Cor 5:1)

Method of correction (1 Cor 5:4-5)

Results of correction (1 Cor 5:5b, 7)

2. Have you experienced God's correction since you became a Christian? Share your experience with your group.

3. What ministered to you the most from Lesson 16?

4. Scripture Memory: By now you should pretty well know this week's verse by heart. Record it below by memory:

Psalm ____:____ _____
_____, _____.

Studies in

Hebrews

Lesson 17 - Hebrews 13:1-25

Christ the Changeless - The Believer's Worship

Throughout the study of Hebrews, the writer revealed to us the superiority of Christ, His superior covenant, sacrifice and priesthood over all that the old covenant could offer.

We also learned about the dangers of going back into the sacrificial practices of the Law, of remaining in a state of arrested spiritual growth, of stopping at salvation and not going on with God, and finally, of not being willing to accept the Lord's correction for our lives.

Overall, we've learned that faith alone is the basis by which mankind is able to approach God and find justification, forgiveness and grace.

In our final study of Hebrews, we will examine various exhortations to practical Christian living. These exhortations were to be practiced by Hebrew believers in the face of coming trials, persecutions and pressure to conform to the things of the world.

Remember to pray for God's guidance and direction. Write out your answers for each question as the Holy Spirit teaches you.

Day One

Thought for the Day

Psalm 9:10 And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou, LORD, hast not forsaken them that seek thee.

Read Hebrews 13:1-25 and answer the following questions.

1. In chapter 12 of Hebrews, believers were exhorted to run the race with perseverance (12:1) and upon accepting God's chastening and grace, to be thankful and worship God acceptably (12:28). Examine verses 1-25 and list some practical ways in which this group of Hebrew believers could run and worship God.

Verse 1

Verse 15

Verse 2

Verse 16

Verse 3

Verse 17

Verse 7

Verse 18

Verse 9

Verse 22

Verse 10-14

2. During times of persecutions, many believers tend to think about themselves. These Hebrews were about to face persecution. What primary thing does the writer exhort believers to do in verse 1?

3. According to verses 2 and 3, how are believers to manifest genuine love, identified in verse 1?

4. Why is it necessary for brotherly love to continue, according with the following scriptures?

1 John 3:10, 14,19

Matthew 25:31-40

5. Apart from the ways identified in verses 2 and 3, how should our love be manifested towards our Christians brothers?

1 John 3:16-18

James 2:1-9

6. In verse 2, entertaining or being hospitable to others is one way of manifesting love for the brethren. Examining Abraham's example in Genesis 18:1-8, how did Abraham entertain strangers, and who were the strangers he entertained?

7. The Greek word for angels can also be translated "messengers." Verse 2 could indicate that many unknowingly have entertained messengers of the Gospel. What else can we learn from the following scripture references to the New Testament church and from our Lord concerning hospitality?

Philippians 2:25-30

1 Corinthians 16:10-11

Romans 16:1-2

Matthew 10:40-42

8. Scripture Memory: This week's verse is Psalm 34:15. Repeat it several times each day, and by the end of the week, you'll be surprised how well you have it memorized.

Psalm 3:3 *But thou, O LORD, [art] a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head.*

Day Two

Thought for the Day

Psalm 102:19-20 For he hath looked down from the height of his sanctuary; from heaven did the LORD behold the earth; 20 To hear the groaning of the prisoner; to lose those that are appointed to death;

In our study of day one, we looked at being hospitable as one way in which believers can manifest brotherly love. In our study today, we will examine another practical way to manifest love for the brothers: remembering those believers in prison and those being mistreated. In other words showing Christian sympathy.

Read Hebrews 13:4 and answer the following questions:

The Call to Sympathy

1. It is very easy for us Christians to become self-centered and to mind those things that concern us and our immediate families. What important exhortation do we find at the beginning of verses 2 and 3 that, unless considered, would hinder exercising brotherly love?

2. According with verse 2, why should we believers remember and think about other believers in prison and those being mistreated? What else can we draw from the scripture below?

Your answer:

1 Corinthians 12:25-27

3. In what way does the writer suggest that believers remember those Christians in prison? List some practical examples found in the lives of those mentioned in the scriptures below.

Colossians 4:18

2 Timothy 1:16-18

Acts 12:7-16

4. Why is it important to remember those in prison by visiting them or praying for them?

Philemon 1, 10-13

Acts 16:22-34

Something to Consider: God has allowed, at various time throughout church history, for part of the body of Christ to experience persecution and imprisonment. At the same time, God has allowed others in the church to experience freedom in order to pray, visit and encourage those that are hurting.

5. Scripture Memory: Insert the missing words or phrases below. By memory, if possible, review the verse several times today.

Psalm 3:3 But thou, ____ ____, [art] a ____ for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head.

Day Three

Thought for the Day

Proverbs 21:2 Every way of a man [is] right in his own eyes: but the LORD pondereth the hearts.

Having shown practical ways in which to exercise brotherly love, hospitality and sympathy, the writer of Hebrews moves on to exhort believers to practice purity and contentment.

Read Hebrews 13:4-6 and answer the following questions:

The call to Purity

1. The author stressed throwing off hindrances, living at peace, and being holy (Heb. 12:1, 14). What two examples of holiness and avoiding hindrances does he single out for mention in verses 4 and 5?

Verse 4

Verse 5

2. According with the following scripture, why is marriage between a man and a woman honorable to all?

Genesis 2:18, 21-24

3. According with verse 4, under what condition is a sexual relationship honorable to God?

4. These Hebrew believers were living in the midst of a corrupt environment. Single believers were tempted to commit fornication and those married were tempted to commit adultery. What does Paul exhort believers to do?

1 Corinthians 7:1-5

1 Corinthians 7:8-9

5. Why is it so important to honor marriage and keep the marriage bed pure, in verse 4? What reasons for keeping marriage pure can we find in the following scriptures?

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Ephesians 5:25-32

6. According with verse 5, what is at the root of sexual immorality and adultery? How does the scripture below validate this point?

Exodus 20:17

The call to contentment

7. The writer's next exhortation for these Hebrew believers is to contentment. According with verse 5a, why do you think it is important for a Christian life to be without covetousness? Compare your answer with the scripture below.

Your answer:

1 Timothy 6:6-11

8. Examine the Bible characters below and record the areas in which they coveted and the results of coveting, even though they had God's blessings.

Achan (Joshua 7:1-26)

King Uzziah (2 Chronicles 26:13-21)

Eve (Genesis 3:1-7)

9. We just examined some examples of covetousness for possession, position and power in the lives of people who had the Lord's blessings. What wisdom can we get from Solomon, probably the richest man that ever lived?

Ecclesiastes 2:1-11

10. What does our Lord and Paul tell us regarding contentment?

Luke 12:15

1 Timothy 6:6

11. Scripture Memory: Insert the missing words or phrases below. By memory, if possible, review the verse several times today.

Psalm 3:3 *But thou, ____ ____, [art] a _____ for me; my _____, and the lifter up of mine _____.*

Day Four

Thought for the Day

Psalm 19:7 The law of the LORD [is] perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD [is] sure, making wise the simple.

In our study today, we will examine the author's next exhortation for these Hebrew believers. The writer exhorts them to follow the faith and example of their spiritual leaders and to submit to them, since from them the Hebrews had received sound doctrine.

Read Hebrews 13:7-9 and answer the following questions:

1. What (3) three exhortations in verse 7 does the author give regarding these former leaders?
2. What is another way of paraphrasing the last half of verse 7?
3. These Hebrews were to follow their spiritual leaders in the Lord with caution, making sure that their talk match their walk. What insight can we gain from the following scripture regarding the above?

Matthew 7:15-20

4. How does the assertion in verse 8 relate to verse 7?
5. As believers, we need to carefully consider those that rule over us in the faith. Using a Bible dictionary or a commentary, examine the doctrine of the Nicolaitans in Revelation 2:6, 15 in order to understand how God feels about it, and to make sure that as believers we don't submit to Nicolaitism.

6. In verse 8, the writer reminds believers that Jesus Christ is the example to follow because He changes not. Compare Old Testament scriptures with New Testament scriptures and record those areas in which Jesus Christ remains the same.

<u>Old Testament</u>	<u>New Testament</u>	<u>Christ's constant attribute</u>
Exodus 3:14	John 8:52-58	
Isaiah 43:3, 11	1 John 4:14	
2 Sam 22:32	1 Cor 10:1-4	
Psalms 103:3	John 8:9-11, Matt 9:1-8	
Psalms 103:8	Luke 18:35-43	
Psalms 103:9	Matthew 21:12-13	

7. In verse 7, believers were exhorted to carefully follow the faith of those brothers that were over them spiritually. Why is it important, according to verse 9, to carefully follow the faith and doctrine of those who are spiritually overseeing the flock?

8. What strange doctrine or teaching in verse 9 were these Hebrews warned against, as they would submit to their spiritual leadership?

9. There were strange teachings that suggested that eating certain foods would be beneficial for consecrating oneself unto God. According with verse 9, how does the author suggest that believers establish their hearts toward God?

10. We believers do not need a "new truth." The sound doctrine of God's Word is good enough. Our standing with Christ is based upon grace, not upon outward observances, such as eating or abstaining from meats, which are unprofitable for spiritual growth. What is a good sign to you that someone you know has not had their heart established by grace? Compare your answer with the scripture below:

Ephesians 4:14

11. Scripture Memory: Insert the missing words or phrases below. By memory, if possible, review the verse several times today.

Psalm 3:3 But _____, _____, [art] a _____ for _____; my _____, and the _____ up of mine _____.

Day Five

Thought for the Day

Psalm 43:3 O send out thy light and thy truth: let them lead me; let them bring me unto thy holy hill, and to thy tabernacles

Having declared the importance of living a life of contentment without covetousness, and having warned of the dangers of slipping back into legalistic practices, the author finally exhorts these Hebrew believers in the spiritual direction of worship they are to follow.

Read Hebrews 13:10-19 and answer the following questions:

1. To shed some light on verse 10, 1 Corinthians 10:18 reveals that those priests who served in the tabernacle and ate of the sacrifices, became partakers of the altar. According with the scriptures below, what is the altar of which believers are partakers, and what is the sacrifice which Christians have eaten or been partaking of?

Hebrews 4:16

John 6:48-51

2. As long as Hebrew believers were continuing to go back to the sacrificial practices of the law, they could not be partakers of Christ. Examine verses 11-14 and record the reasons the author gives as justification to leave Judaism.

3. Under the Levitical system, a sin offering was burned outside of the camp or city away from the Holy Place (Lev 16:27-28). How was Jesus the fulfillment of the sin offering?

Matthew 27:33-35

4. What does the fact that Jesus was killed outside Jerusalem tell us about Him?

5. What does "let us, then go to Him outside the camp" in verse 13 mean to you? What does this say about Judaism and the world?

6. Why should Christians do this (13:14)?

7. As opposed to animal sacrifices offered under the old covenant, what two sacrifices are Christians not to offer God?

Verse 15

Verse 16

8. According with the following scripture, why should we remember to do good (verse 16)?

Ephesians 2:10

9. Many believers perhaps thought they were mature and strong in Christ and needed not to submit to their pastors. What reasons does the author give believers for obeying those who are in spiritual leadership?

10. In verse 18, the writer points out that as a spiritual leader, he believes he has a good conscience and has exercised honesty. According to Revelation 2:15, Christ was addressing the compromising church of Pergamos because they were submitting to those who practiced the teaching of Nicolaitism. Using a Bible dictionary define Nicolaitism, compare your answer against 1 Peter 5:1-4.

Your answer:

11. For contrast and description of corrupt overseers, examine Ezekiel 34:1-5 and record their character.

12. Scripture Memory: Insert the missing words or phrases below. By memory, if possible, review the verse several times today.

Psalm 3: ___ *But* _____, ___ _____, [*art*] *a* _____ *for* _____; *my* _____, *and the* _____ *up of* _____.

Day Six

Thought for the Day

Psalm 23:1 The LORD [is] my shepherd; I shall not want.

Read Hebrews 13:20-15 and answer the following questions:

1. In our study of day five, we learned about how the Hebrews were exhorted to come away from Judaism, to come away outside of religion unto Christ. In contrast to those corrupt shepherds we learned about, what final reason does the writer give, in verses 20-21, for coming to Christ?
2. According with verse 22, What would be important for the spiritual growth of these believers?
3. We have been studying Hebrews for the last seventeen weeks. According to the author, in verse 22, what did he consider the epistle of Hebrews to be?
4. Having been tempted to slip back into Judaism, what does the author conclude this epistle with, in verse 25, that is at the root of Christianity?
5. Finally, reviewing and looking back at this wonderful epistle, what things have you learned that have helped you to know Christ a little more. What things have you learned that concern you as a believer? Please record five things.

About Christ

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

About me as a believer

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

6. Scripture Memory: By now you should pretty well know this week's verse by heart. Record it below by memory:

_____ : _____, _____, _____ : _____
_____, _____ . _____ :

*Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, [be] honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen. **1 Timothy 1:17***