

Hebrews

BIBLE STUDY

Jesus Christ –
King, Redeemer,
High Priest

Darlene Schacht,
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TIMEWARPWIFE.COM



All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the King James Version of the Bible

Hebrews Bible Study
Jesus Christ--King, Redeemer, High Priest

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

HOW TO USE THIS STUDY	3
INTRODUCTION	5
CHRIST IS BETTER THAN THE ANGELS	7
CROWNED WITH GLORY AND HONOR	11
JESUS IS GREATER THAN MOSES.....	15
A SABBATH REST FOR HIS PEOPLE.....	19
JESUS, OUR ETERNAL PRIEST	23
A WARNING NOT TO FALL AWAY	27
JESUS LIKENED TO MELCHIZEDEK	31
A NEW AND BETTER COVENANT.....	33
A PERFECT TABERNACLE.....	37
THE FINAL SACRIFICE.....	41
THE WALL OF FAITH	45
RUNNING THE RACE	49
OUTSIDE THE CAMP	53

HOW TO USE THIS STUDY

PART 1 – SCRATCHING THE SURFACE

I have provided questions for you in this study guide. The questions are designed to get you thinking and to keep you focused. Some may be easy and other questions may prompt you to do a little digging and cross referencing. All of my answers will be posted on my blog while we're going through this study together. I'll also be posting throughout the week on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/timewarwife>

As you're going through this book, ask yourself these kinds of questions:

What is the main concept, or what is God telling me here?
How can I apply this to my life?
Is there sin I need to examine?

PART 2 – DIGGING DEEP INTO THE WORD

If you are looking for ways to dig deeper into the Word, here are a few ways to do that:

Consider the questions I provide in this study guide. Perhaps you can discuss them with a friend, do a little research online, or, better yet—do both!

Look up the scripture in a commentary like *Matthew Henry's* or grab a different translation and read it again. Is there anything that you missed the first time?

Is a commentary too much for you? Try *Matthew Henry's Concise Commentary* which is an abbreviated version.

Research the names mentioned—you'll find several of them in Chapter 11. What else can you learn about them?

Look for other verses in the Bible that talk about the same topic, what can you learn from them?

Cross reference key verses that stand out to you. You can cross reference any verse online at: <http://www.openbible.info/labs/cross-references>

STUDY TIPS

In each chapter, you'll find a section called Study Tips. It might be wise to flip through and check all of them out before you embark on this study.

INTRODUCTION

Authorship of this book is unknown, although many scholars attribute the writing to Paul. In Acts 24, Luke described Apollos as “eloquent and mighty in scripture,” so he’s also a possible candidate for authorship. It may have been Luke or another associate of theirs, but then again no one knows for sure. What we do know is that the book is beautifully written and in fact often considered a literary masterpiece.

The words “better,” “greater,” and “more” appear frequently throughout the text as the author sets out to show the reader that Christ is better than the angels, higher than the priests, and greater than any Old Testament prophet. The new covenant through the blood of Jesus Christ is superior in every way to that under the Levitical law.

Due to the terminology in relation to the tabernacle, it appears to have been written just prior to the destruction of the temple in 70 AD. What’s interesting to note is that the temple hasn’t been rebuilt since then. Why? Because God knows that Jesus is enough. The blood of Jesus eliminates the need for the high priest to enter the Holy of Holies year after year to atone for both his sins and the sins of the people.

Because of its emphasis on Old Testament law and the Levitical priesthood, it’s believed to have been written to the Jews, thus given the name “Hebrews.” Although the primary audience is followers of Christ, it’s obvious by the arguments put forth by the author that many were still hedging on the idea of salvation through Christ alone. They knew who Jesus was, but had they truly understood the gospel of salvation by grace through faith?

This letter encourages them to grow, to press on in the face of affliction, and to grab hold of the gospel which they had been taught.

From front to back it explains who Christ is, what He’s done, and why He’s better than any earthly high priest.

CHAPTER 1

CHRIST IS BETTER THAN THE ANGELS

In the Old Testament God spoke through His prophets. In the New Testament, He spoke through His Son. How could they tell if a prophet was truly sent by God? See Deuteronomy 18:21-22

“God spoke in a spectrum in the Old Testament; Jesus is a prism that collects all those bands of light and focuses them into one pure beam.” – David Guzik



In much the same way, how do we know that Christ was sent by God? See Matthew 3:16-17. Also compare Matthew 16:21 with 1 Corinthians 15:3-8.

Did you know...

The theme of Hebrews is to show the superiority of Christ and His role as a mediator between God and Man. It also challenges readers to remain faithful.

Why is it important to understand that Jesus is better than the angels?

Who created the heavens and the earth? What else can we learn about Jesus from John 1:1-3?

Did you know...

The Biblical term for the word “Hebrew” is “Ivri”, which means “to cross over” or “pass through.” (Wikipedia)

Why might this chapter be important to establishing the Hebrew’s faith in Christ? If you need help answering this, look up Matthew Henry’s Concise Commentary on Hebrews Chapter 1.

CHAPTER 2

CROWNED WITH GLORY AND HONOR

The word “therefore” or “for this reason” is used at the beginning of this chapter to show us how Chapter 1 backs up the next statement. With that in mind, complete the following sentences:

Because... (the point made in Chapter 1)

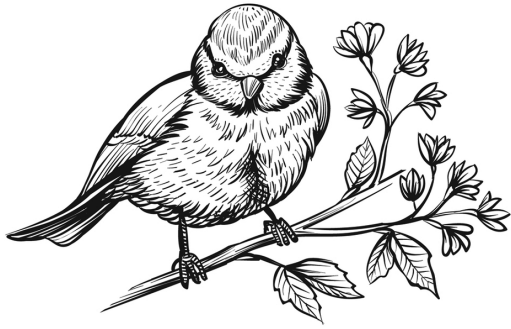
We must... (warning at the beginning of Chapter 2)

What is the “great salvation” we read about in Verse 3?

Did you know...

Verse 2 doesn't mean that God abolished the law, it reminds readers that they are held accountable by the same standards of the law that their forefathers were, and therefore in need of salvation. Christ is the fulfillment of the law, freely bestowing salvation upon those who believe.

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



How did God testify to the message of salvation that was passed on from Christ to the apostles?

Did you know...

Up until the destruction of the temple in 70 AD, the Jews relied upon the high priest to make a yearly atonement for their sins. The author of Hebrews sets out to prove that Jesus is a perfect sacrifice, the greatest High Priest, and the mediator of a better covenant.

What does Jesus call those who believe in Him?

Why was the death of Christ necessary?

Study Tip

Always read your Bible with a pen, a highlighter, and notebook by your side. Write down things you don't understand or need to study further. Highlight verses that speak to you.

Did you know...

One of the first heresies of the church was not only denying the 'deity' of Christ; strangely enough, it was denying the 'humanity' of Christ. The Gnostics had a twisted belief known as "docetism," which comes from the Greek word *dokein* meaning "to seem." They held the belief that Jesus was not fully man but rather a phantom spirit that *appeared* to be human. The scriptures teach us that Jesus was not half man/half God, but that He was fully man, and fully God.

Why was it important for Jesus to be human in every way?

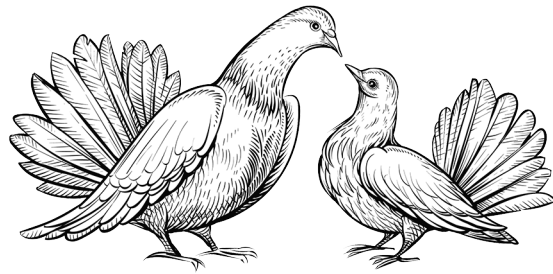
Did you know...

In verse 10, the word "perfect" is translated from the Greek word "teleioo" (Strong's G5046) which means to complete, accomplish, or fulfill. This word is similar to "teleo" (it is finished) the last word uttered by Jesus before He gave up His life on the cross.

Did you know...

In Verse 17, the word "reconciliation" (KJV) is translated from the Greek word "hilaskomai" (Strong's G2433) which means to conciliate or gain. When Christ died on the cross, He purchased our soul, thus bridging the gap between God and Man.

"I will declare thy name unto my brethren in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee."
- Hebrews 2:12



CHAPTER 3

JESUS IS GREATER THAN MOSES

Note: If you need help answering these questions, visit [Wikipedia](#) for background information.

Verse 1 says that Jesus is our apostle and High Priest. Briefly define what these titles are.

Apostle:

High Priest:

Approximately what year did the office of the Jewish high priest cease?

Why?

Study Tip

Pray before you start any Bible study asking that God would show you what He wants you to learn. It's amazing how God shows us new things each time we open our bibles, even if we've read the same passage many times before.



When was the book of Hebrews generally believed to have been written?

Who was the first high priest of Israel?

Did you know...

To understand this chapter, we must also understand the mindset of the Jews. In their minds, Moses was highly respected. The law came through Moses at Mt. Sinai and, in fact, his name is mentioned 828 times in the Bible.

Today we might ask ourselves 'What would Jesus do?' In those days, they considered the teachings of Moses passed down from generation to generation, which was then recorded in the Talmud. As they applied this, it became the oral law—the application of the old law, through the interpretation of the rabbis, according to what they believed Moses would do.

Because of the scripture in Deuteronomy 18:15, many Jews believed, and still do, that the coming Messiah would be nothing more than a prophet likened to Moses:

“The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken.”

Because of their faith in prophets like Moses, it was important that the Hebrews understood how Jesus was greater than them.

In this chapter we see that Jesus is better than Moses. What are some of the reasons the author gives us to back up this fact?

Did you know...

While God’s rest in the Old Testament was to physically enter the land of Canaan, entering into God’s rest in the New Testament is a spiritual rest by grace through faith.

Compare verses 1-11 with Numbers 13-14:35. What happened in the wilderness, and why was God angry?

Did you know...

Faith and faithfulness go hand in hand. If you truly have faith in Christ, you will also be faithful to Him. A faithful person is loyal, steadfast, and true to their word.

How might a person be “hardened by sin’s deceitfulness?” (verses 12-13)

The author tells us that we are partakers with Christ, but what condition do we find in Verse 14?

CHAPTER 4
A SABBATH REST FOR HIS PEOPLE

What is the promise we read about in Verse 1?

Study Tip

Discuss the things you've read with a friend or family member to solidify and expand on your thoughts. An even better idea is to get a study buddy to work alongside you.

Why didn't the word of God profit those that heard it?
(Verse 2)

What is the difference between knowing who Jesus is and having faith in Jesus?

Did you know...

God's rest isn't merely one thing. It's not simply a ticket to Heaven. It's peace on Earth, a rest from the works of the law, and confidence that we will be with Him in Heaven.

What is the difference between works as a basis of our faith, and works as a result of our faith?



Did you know...

The word “unbelief” in this chapter is translated from the Greek word, “apeitheia” (Strong’s G543) which also means, and is often translated as, “disobedient.” It’s root word “apeithes” means stubborn, rebellious, and willfully disobedient.

In this chapter we find five characteristics of the Word of God. What are they?

Did you know...

Some translations use the name “Jesus” in Verse 8, others translate it with the name Joshua. The author is clearly talking about the high priest of the Old Testament who was a shadow of the coming Messiah. Joshua was not able to offer the eternal rest that Jesus Christ did. He led the children of Israel into the promised land, but Jesus leads us into eternal rest.

What is the rest that we read about in Joshua 21:43-45? How does that compare to the rest we read about in this chapter?

Did you know...

The word for “rest” in Verse 9 is different than the word “rest” we see at the beginning of this chapter. The word we find here is “sabbatismos” which means that there is a sabbath rest for God’s people. Up until this point, many were still convinced that justification came by works of the law. The author is showing the Hebrews that we’re saved by grace through faith in Christ, and Him alone.

According to verses 14-15, why is Jesus greater than every other high priest?

Did you know...

The first time we hear about a priest in scripture is in Genesis Chapter 14 when Abraham was met by Melchizedek “priest of God Most High” on his return home from a mission to rescue his nephew Lot. We’re introduced again to the priesthood further on in scripture under the Levitical law. While the priests made daily intercessions for the people, a high priest was the only one permitted to enter the Holy of Holies. Every year, on the 10th day of the 7th month, the high priest entered into the Holy of Holies to make atonement for both his sins, and for the nation of Israel. It was also on this day that he atoned for the tabernacle as it was considered defiled throughout the year by the sins of the people who came to the temple daily to make sacrifices for their sins upon the altar. We’ll talk more about this in Chapters 5 & 7.

CHAPTER 5

JESUS, OUR ETERNAL PRIEST

Who did God appoint as the first high priest under the Levitical law? See Exodus 28:1

Hundreds of years earlier, we're introduced to Melchizedek in Genesis Chapter 14. Who appointed him as high priest? And who appointed Jesus as our High Priest?

Study Tip

Sometimes reading different versions of the same Bible passage helps you to see things you never noticed before. You can find several versions at Biblegateway.com. Some of my favorites include KJV, NIV, and NASV.

In Verse 10, what designation was given to Jesus?

Why was it hard for some readers to understand what the author was saying to the Hebrews?

Dig deeper...

Read Leviticus Chapter 16 to gain a deeper understanding of the duties of the high priest.

Again, the Greek word “teleioo” (Strong’s G5048) appears in this chapter, when in Verse 9 the author says that Christ was made “perfect.” What does this word mean?

Did you know...

There are approximately 613 commandments in the first five books of the Bible. By that measure, it would be impossible for anyone to attain righteousness on their strength alone.

To whom does the author say that Jesus is the source of salvation?

Did you know...

The word “obey” in this chapter comes from the Greek word “hypakouo” (Strong’s G5219) which refers to the duties of a porter who listens for a knock and answers the door. In Revelation 3:20 we read, “Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.” (KJV) And so, we see that obedience calls us to both listen and to act.

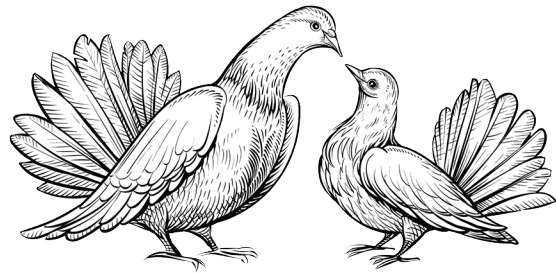
How did Christ’s suffering prepare Him for the office of the High Priest?

How does the author describe mature believers in the last verse?

Did you know...

Isaiah Chapter 53 describes the sacrifice and suffering of Christ in detail, and yet it was written approximately 700 years before the birth of Christ.

"Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;" - Hebrews 5:8



CHAPTER 6

A WARNING NOT TO FALL AWAY

What are the basic principles of the gospel that the author mentions at the beginning of this chapter?

What agricultural comparison does the author make to salvation? What parable might this remind you of?

Study Tip

A good reading strategy is to ask yourself questions as your moving along such as, “What is the author trying to convey here? What is God teaching me? Or, how would I convey this message to someone else? Sometimes a simple question can help clarify your thoughts and solidify your understanding of the text.

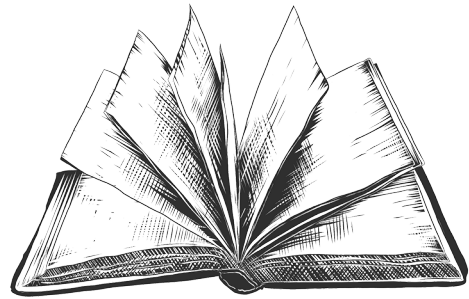
Did you know...

The thoughts in Chapter 6 are a continuation of Chapter 5, in which the author wrote, “But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.” The point the author is making in this chapter is that we need to be diligent and steadfast in our faith.

Who are the readers instructed to imitate?

Take Note...

In understanding this chapter, it's important that we rightly divide scripture taking God's Word in context with the rest of the Bible. You cannot look at Hebrews 6:4-6 apart from its context, its grammatical historical setting, or the unity of what the entire scripture teaches. You can't divorce all of the other principles from the meaning of the text.



Here we read that it's impossible for those who have tasted the Word of God and have fallen away to be brought back to repentance. And yet we see that in Luke 22, Peter denied Jesus not once but three times. In Luke 15 we read the parable of the prodigal son who left his father's home, squandered his wealth, and ate table scraps with the pigs. In both of these cases, the men repented and were restored.

This scripture does not teach that if somebody backslides, or blows it, that he can never come back to the Lord. The warning is to the Hebrews who had left the temple sacrifices, who had come into a relationship with Jesus, and who were now turning away. The writer is talking about those that had finally apostatized and permanently turned away. If you were to permanently turn away from faith in Jesus Christ and went back to trusting in the Jewish sacrifice for the covering of your sin, and the rituals; and if you should die in that state, those sacrifices and the blood covering could never atone for your sins.

We must take these words as a stern warning that turning away from God is a dangerous choice. Any time we step out of God's will, we put our soul in danger. 1 Timothy 4:2 talks about a conscience that's been seared with a hot iron, illustrating the dangers that come with ignoring our sin.

Many have different beliefs as to what this portion of scripture means. The eternal security issue is difficult and there are two sides to the coin:

- 1) One is the keeping power of God. That no one can pluck you out of God's hand. When you are in Christ, you are secure. You don't lose your salvation simply because you backslide. But the question would be, were you ever saved to begin with?
- 2) Beside the sovereignty of God, the other side is the free will of Man. Man has volition, or the right to choose. He continues to make choices after salvation, and just because we surrender our lives to Christ, God does not remove the ability to choose.

Both of those truths are woven together in the scripture. Why do we try to divide them? We do *know* that we are eternally secure as long as we abide in Christ and yet still *know* that we have a free will.

What does the author mean when he says "crucify the Son of God all over again?"

Why did God confirm His promise to Abraham with an oath?

What hope is the author talking about in Verse 19?

Did you know...

The Holy of Holies was exactly 15 feet wide, 15 feet long, 15 feet high, and divided from the rest of the temple by a veil. The only person permitted to enter this holy place was the high priest once a year on the day of atonement.

What significance does the tearing of the veil in Matthew 27:51 have in relation to this chapter?

Did you know...

Although the Bible doesn't specify the thickness of the veil, it's believed to have been the thickness of the palm of one's hand:

"The veils before the Most Holy Place were 40 cubits (60 feet) long, and 20 cubits (30 feet) wide, of the thickness of the palm of the hand, and wrought in 72 squares, which were joined together; and these veils were so heavy, that, in the exaggerated language of the time, it needed 300 priests to manipulate each." (The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah, Alfred Edersheim)

CHAPTER 7

JESUS LIKENED TO MELCHIZEDEK

What similarities are there between Jesus and Melchizedek?



If Jesus wasn't from the tribe of Levi, what tribe was He from?

Why is our understanding of Melchizedek important in understanding this chapter?

Study Tip

According to a study by Edgar Dale, we retain:

- 10% of what we read
- 20% of what we hear
- 30% of what we see
- 50% of what we see and hear
- 70% of what we discuss with others
- 80% of what we personally experience
- 95% of what we teach others

This is why it's important to discuss what you learn with others.

If the priesthood was already established through the descendants of Aaron, why was it (and why is it still) necessary for Jesus to be our High Priest?

Did you know...

All priest under the Levitical law were descendants of Aaron (who was also a Levite). Since Jesus (a descendant of Judah) wasn't a descendant of Aaron or Levi, it was important that the author of Hebrews explained why Jesus had every right to be a High Priest in the same way that Melchizedek did.

By what oath was Jesus sworn in as High Priest? Also see Psalm 110:4.

According to verses 26-28, what sets Jesus apart from all other high priests?

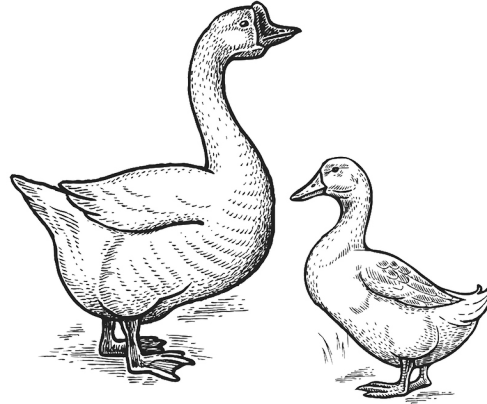
Wise Words...

"It is best to view Melchizedek as an actual historical human being, whose priestly ministry is a "type" of Christ's later ministry. In other words, Melchizedek was an ancient man whom God intended to serve as a picture of Jesus Christ. His life and ministry served as a very limited analogy of what Christ would do much later during His earthly ministry." – John MacArthur

CHAPTER 8

A NEW AND BETTER COVENANT

What is the main point of Hebrews according to this chapter?



Did you know...

John 1:14 says, "The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us." The Greek word for "made His dwelling" found in the original text is "skenoo," which when translated means, "to fix one's tabernacle, have one's tabernacle, abide (or live) in a tabernacle (or tent), tabernacle." (Strong's #G4637)

Why was it important for Moses to make everything in the tabernacle exactly as he was commanded? Also see Exodus 25:40.

What does the word "tabernacle" mean?

Did you know...

In Verse 8, the word “mediator” is translated from the Greek word “mesites” (Strong’s G3316) which means, “One who intervenes between two, either in order to make or restore peace and friendship.”

Why is the new covenant better than the old one?

Where has God written the laws of the new covenant?

Study Tip

You know the old saying, “practice makes perfect?” It’s especially true when studying the Bible. We retain far more information when we practice what we’ve learned.

Why did the old covenant become obsolete?

Did you know...

The old covenant was inferior to the new because it was incomplete. There was always one thing that was lacking, which was the life-giving blood of a perfect sacrifice that only Jesus Himself could provide.

Did you know...

God has always desired to dwell with His people. In fact, in Genesis 3:8 we see that God walked with Adam and Eve in the cool of the day. Once sin entered the world, Man was spiritually dead in that he was separated from God. The blood of Christ is the life-giving atonement that has bridged the gap between God and Man. The blood of bulls, and that of goats, which we read about in the Old Testament, didn't have the power to take away sin. They didn't have the life-giving power that would reconcile God and man. No, it simply pointed the way to Christ and illustrated the importance of the shedding of blood. The substitutionary sacrificial atonement of Christ is the only solution for Man and the only way to salvation.



For I will be merciful to their
unrighteousness, and their sins and
their iniquities will I remember no more.
- Hebrews 8:12

CHAPTER 9

A PERFECT TABERNACLE

What was in the first room of the tabernacle? And what was it called?

What was in the second room of the tabernacle? And what was it called?

Did you know...

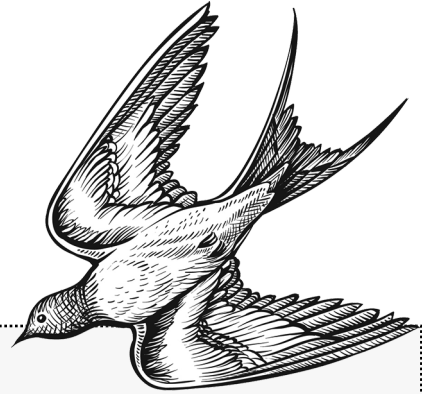
The high priest carried incense when he entered the Holy of Holies. The incense created a cloud-like veil, concealing the glory of God so that the high priest was able to enter the Holy of Holies without being face to face with the glory of God. Instead of simply walking out of the Holy of Holies and turning his back on the Lord, the high priest was careful to back out in the same way he came in, never looking directly at the mercy seat.

What was inside the Ark of the Covenant? And what was above the ark of the covenant?

Study Tip

After reading a chapter, follow up with an online Bible commentary such as Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Bible. Commentaries offer in-depth insight you might otherwise miss.

Who was permitted to enter The Most Holy Place, and when?



Did you know...

In his book, *The Temple: Its Ministry and Services*, Alfred Edersheim writes about the annual ceremony of the high priest on the Day of Atonement saying, "Altogether he changed his raiment and washed his whole body five times on that day, and his hands and feet ten times."

Originally this annual ceremony was performed at the tabernacle, but once the temple was built as a permanent structure, the ceremony on The Day of Atonement, as well as the daily sacrifices, were performed there.

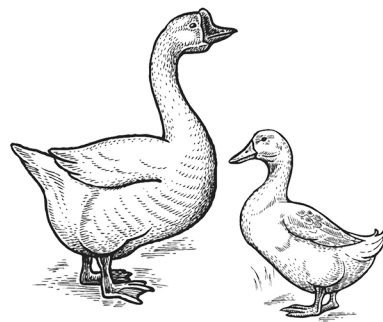
Verse 9 tells us that this tabernacle was a "figure" or an "illustration" of something yet to come. The original Greek word for figure was "parabole." (Strong's G3850). Can you find the definition of that word?

What did Jesus obtain for us when He entered The Most Holy Place (not made by human hands)?

Why was everything in the tabernacle sprinkled with blood? And why was it necessary for Christ to shed His blood?

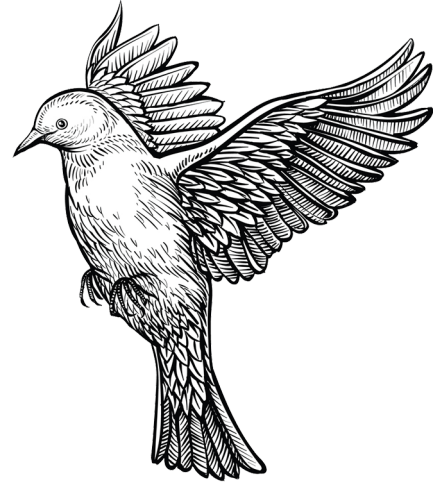
Can you find a verse in the New Testament that is comparable to this quote from Exodus 24:8? "Behold the blood of the covenant, which the Lord hath made with you concerning all these words."

"So Christ was once offered to bear The sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation." - Hebrews 9:28



CHAPTER 10
THE FINAL SACRIFICE

Verse 1 says that the law was only a shadow of good things that are coming. What does that mean?



Why was it necessary for the sacrifices to be made year after year?

Did you know...

Since the destruction of the temple in 70 AD, this annual ceremony can no longer be performed by the high priest. There is no temple, and therefore there is no ceremony for Yom Kippur (The Day of Atonement). So, what is God doing here? Either He's taken away the ability to atone for the sins of the people, or He's provided a much better sacrifice that atoned for our sin once and for all.

Study Tip

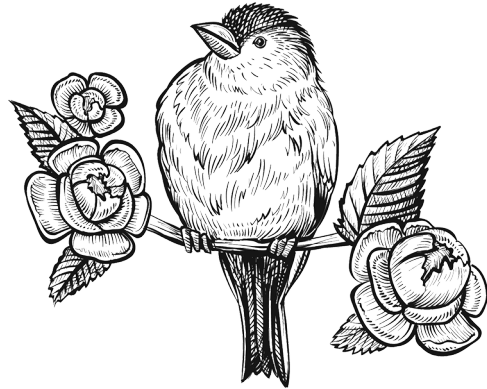
Look up cross references and read them in context, to gain a deeper understanding of the text. I find mine at Biblehub.com. Simply type in your Bible verse in the search box. Once the verse pops up, you'll see all of the cross references on the right-hand side.

What is the holy sacrifice of the new covenant?

Why is it no longer necessary to have annual sacrifices made on our behalf?

What four things are we instructed to do in verses 23-25?

What is the penalty for those who willfully reject God, trample the Son of God underfoot, and insult the Spirit of Grace?



Did you know...

Hebrews 9:7 tells us that the high priest went into the Holy of Holies every year to make sacrifices for the “ignorant sins” of the people. The deliberate or willful sin we read about in this chapter is more than a conscious awareness of sin or weakness that leads to sin, it’s unrepentant rebellion against God’s laws. John MacArthur writes, “Willfully (Hekousios) is habitual. It not only is deliberate but is an established way of thinking and believing. It is the permanent renunciation of the gospel, the permanent forsaking of God’s grace.”

If we are willfully sinning, we’re not walking according to the Spirit of God. The question then is this: have we ever really made that decision to follow Christ? Or could it be that we said one thing, yet lived contrary to the promise we made?

What are some of the hardships that the Hebrews experienced in the early church? See verses 32-34.

CHAPTER 11

THE WALL OF FAITH

What is faith?



Did you know...

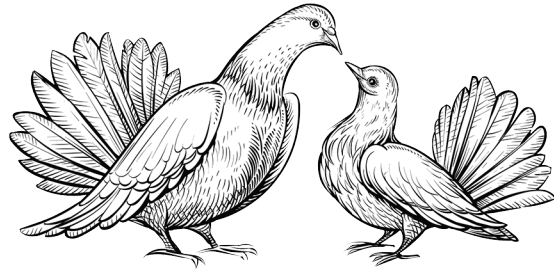
Although we aren't certain why Abel's sacrifice was better than Cain's, one theory is that Abel offered a blood sacrifice, while his brother Cain offered fruit. A blood sacrifice has always illustrated an awareness of sin and a willingness to repent. Another theory however, one I tend to lean more toward, is that Cain brought "some of the fruit" while Abel brought fat portions from "some of the firstborn" of his flock. I think this theory makes more sense because as we read in Genesis Chapter 4, Cain was a farmer, and Abel kept flocks and so they would naturally bring those offerings to the Lord. It wasn't Cain's offering itself that was the problem, it was his lack of faith. Here's the thing: Abel brought the "firstborn" of his flock. In other words, **he put God first**. He gave God his best. He was willing to give God the first born of the flock, because he had faith that God would provide again and again.

During Old Testament times, the first fruit of the season, also referred to as "bikkurim," were set apart. The way that a farmer would designate the first fruit was by tying a reed to it the moment it came to fruition. This allowed the farmer to recognize the first fruits upon harvest, and to designate them for the Lord.

"Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous." – 1 John 3:12

According to verse 6, what are two things every Christian must believe?

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



James 2:20 tells us that faith without works is dead. In what ways did Noah and Abraham's work illustrate their faith?

Did you know...

Hundreds of years after Abraham brought Isaac to the altar on Mount Moriah, King David purchased the property from Ornan the Jebusite. Later his son Solomon built the Temple on that very same spot. To this day the land is one of the most contested pieces of real estate on the face of the earth.

According to Verse 13, what two things do all of these people have in common? Can you give two examples?

Study Tip

Allow yourself ample time to pray and study the Bible. Don't try to squeeze God into an otherwise busy life. If you don't have time for the most important thing in your life, then your priorities may need to be reset.

By faith, Jacob blessed each of Joseph's sons. What were their names?

According to this chapter, how did Moses and his parents illustrate their faith?

Did you know...

In Exodus 2, Moses was afraid. He thought that Pharaoh might kill him and so he fled to Midian. This same man came back 40 years later to boldly lead God's people out of Egypt. In Hebrews 11:27, we see a faithful and brave man who was walking by faith.

When and how did Moses keep the first Passover?

Did you know...

After leading the Israelites through the desert for 40 years, Moses was forbidden from entering the promised land. The Lord led him to the top of a mountain in Moab where he was shown the land from afar before he died.

Did you know...

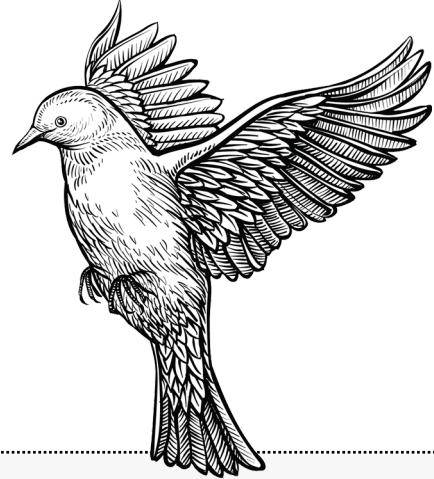
The prostitute Rahab mentioned in Verse 31 was the mother of Boaz and the great-grandmother of King David. This goes to show us that regardless of where we have been or what we have done, God is able to use us in powerful ways.

Who were the women who received back their dead? See 1 Kings 17:17-24 and 2 Kings 4:8-37.

According to verses 35-38 what are some of the ways believers were persecuted for their faith?

CHAPTER 12
RUNNING THE RACE

Who is the great cloud of witnesses mentioned in Verse 1?



Verse 1 says to lay aside every “weight” and “sin” that easily besets us. What is the difference between the two?

Did you know...

The Greek word for “race” in Verse 1 is “agon” (Strong’s G73). The original word was a place of assembly where Greek’s met to watch sporting games such as the Olympics. And so, the word encompasses the struggle between the Spiritual and the physical world where believers struggle against temptation and run the race set before them.

What lesson can we glean from verses 2-4?

What else can we learn about patience through suffering from Romans 5:3-4?

Study Tip

Study the Bible consistently rather than in bursts. Daily study gives our minds the time it needs to process the information rather than simply reading it.

Did you know...

The word for “chastisement” in this chapter comes from the Greek word “paideia” (Strong’s G3809) which is defined as “the whole training and education of children (which relates to the cultivation of mind and morals).”

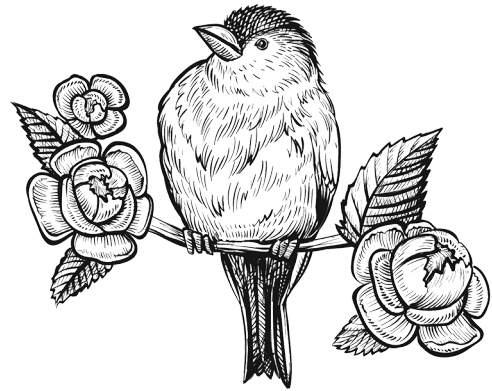
What does this chapter teach us about the chastening of God, and the trials we experience?

Did you know...

The Greek word for “exercised” in Verse 11 is “gymnazo.” (Strong’s G1128) This word is interesting in that both of definitions of the original word are packed with power. The first definition is to exercise naked, like a gymnast who is stripped of any clothing that could potentially weigh him down. According to Forbes Magazine, some ancient Greek Olympians did indeed exercise naked. The point however, is the idea of laying aside every weight in order to run the race well. The second definition is vigorous exercise. It’s more than doing a few push ups each day. It’s pushing yourself to give all that you have.

What is another reason that God allows us to go through difficult times?
See 2 Corinthians 1:3-7.

“In the Christian life we have a means. That means is steadfast endurance. The word is “hupomone” which does not mean the patience which sits down and accepts things but the patience which masters them. It is not some romantic thing which lends us wings to fly over the difficulties and the hard places. It is a determination, unhurrying and yet undelaying, which goes steadily on and refuses to be deflected.”
– William Barclay



Did you know...

On the annual Day of Atonement, the remains (including the hides, the flesh, and the intestines) of both the bull and the goat that were sacrificed for the sin offering and whose blood was brought into the Holy of Holies, were taken outside the camp to be burned.

What does Verse 13 mean, when the author says to go with Christ outside the camp?

Did you know...

“Outside the camp” can best be understood when we consider scripture like that found in Numbers chapter 12. Because Miriam opposed Moses and disgraced God, she was sent outside the camp for 7 days. When Jesus was rejected by the Jews, He was sent outside the camp both literally and figuratively bearing His disgrace. Here the author was telling the church that they were stepping away from institutional Judaism and as a result would bear the disgrace. For us, going outside the camp with Christ is a step out of our comfort zone. It’s a step away from the traditions and comforts of this world to a place of sacrifice where we lay down our lives for the sake of the gospel.

What is a sacrifice of praise?

Study Tip

Set aside a space that is free from outside distractions like television, Facebook, and food. When you have a regular place to study, your mind associates that place with learning.

What is a sacrifice in the context of Verse 16?

Why is it important to submit to our spiritual leaders?

"I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."
- Hebrews 13:5

