

Introduction

One of the key theological themes in Hebrews is that all believers now have direct access to God under the New Covenant and, therefore, may approach the throne of God boldly...The book of Hebrews may briefly be summarized in this way: Believers in Jesus Christ, God's perfect sacrifice for sin, have the perfect High Priest through whose ministry everything is new and better than under the covenant of the law.

John MacArthur

MacArthur Bible Studies: Hebrews, p. 3

This year we are memorizing Ephesians 2. This week's verse is Ephesians 2:19...
"So then you are no longer strangers and aliens,
but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household..."

Day One

Read Hebrews 4:14–5:10; Jesus Our Great High Priest

1. From last week's lesson or lecture on Hebrews 1–4, what made the greatest impact on your thinking and life?

2. Hebrews 4:14–16 is an important turning point in this epistle, moving the focus from Jesus, the Son of God, to Jesus, the Great High Priest. From this text, Hebrews 9:6–8, and Numbers 8:5–25, what was the role of the priest for the Jewish people?
 - a. How does the encouragement in 4:16 connect with the character of Christ as described in verses 14–15?

 - b. How can these verses and Hebrews 2:18 help you in a time of temptation?

3. From Hebrews 4:14–16 and 10:19–22, what benefit is there for believers that Christ is our High Priest?
 - a. How can this understanding motivate a greater reverence for Christ and gratitude for His work?

4. From Hebrews 5:1–10, what qualifications or characteristics are given for the office of high priest? How was Christ more qualified than any man to be high priest?

Day Two

Read Hebrews 6:13–7:28; A Priest of the Order of Melchizedek

Note: The Bible gives very little historical information about Melchizedek, whose name meant "righteous king." All that we know is located in Genesis 14, Psalm 110, and Hebrews 5–7 with the most detailed information in 7:1–2. He was a king-priest over ancient Jerusalem, and a type of Christ...He was not the pre-incarnate Christ...but was similar to Christ in that his priesthood was universal, royal, righteous, peaceful, personal, and unending.

John MacArthur

The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: Hebrews, pp.

172–173, 178

1. According to Hebrews 5:10 and 6:20, to whom was the lineage of Jesus' High Priestly office connected?
 - a. From these texts and Genesis 14:17–20 and Psalm 110:4, list ways that the life and ministry of this high priest foreshadow the life and ministry of Jesus Christ.

2. Chapter 7 is the primary focus of the book of Hebrews, which was written to describe the superiority of Christ's priesthood over the office of the Jewish High Priest. Using the chart below, compare the office of the Levitical High Priest with Jesus as the High Priest.

Scripture Reference	Levitical High Priests	Jesus the High Priest
<i>Number of Priests</i> Hebrews 7:23–24		
<i>Duration of Service</i> Hebrews 7:23–24		
<i>Offered Sacrifices for Whom?</i> Hebrews 7:26–27		
<i>Frequency of Sacrifices</i> Hebrews 7:27		
<i>Nature of Sacrifice</i> Hebrews 7:27; 9:11–14		
<i>How Holy Place Was Entered</i> Hebrews 9:11–12		

3. In light of why the book of Hebrews was written, why do you think the recipients of this letter needed to hear the message in chapter 7? What do you think is the relevance of Christ's superiority for believers today?

Day Three

Read Hebrews 8:1–9:14; The Superiority of the New Covenant, Part One

1. In Hebrews 8:6–9, which covenant has been replaced by the new covenant which Christ mediates? From this text and Deuteronomy 26:16–19 and Galatians 3:10–14, why was the new covenant necessary?

2. From 8:10–12, what three promises of the new covenant are given?

3. How does understanding the new covenant, with the ability to now draw near to God because of the intercessory work of Christ, motivate you to greater worship? How does it relate to your contentment and encourage you in your own walk with the Lord?
4. Hebrews 9 begins with a description of the tabernacle and elements of the High Priest's duty, designed to foreshadow Christ and help believers better worship Him when He comes. According to 9:9–10, what was the limitation of Old Testament worship?
5. According to 9:14, what did Christ's sacrifice accomplish? What do you think that means?
 - a. What service to the living God are *you* doing, by His grace, in your home, church, work, or community?

Day Four

Read Hebrews 9:1–10:25; The Superiority of the New Covenant, Part Two

1. Hebrews 9:24–26 once again lists some elements of Jesus' superiority over the Levitical system of sacrifice. In verse 28, how are those described who await Christ's return? Is this true of you? Explain your answer.
2. In Hebrews 10:1–10, of what is the author reminding his readers, culminating in verse 10?
3. According to Hebrews 10:18, why is there is no longer a need for any offering for sin?
 - a. Are there ways in which you try to give God a type of "offering for sin" to appease a sense of guilt? How you might be tempted to justify your sin rather than rely on God's provision in Christ?
4. In Hebrews 10:19–25, the writer reiterates the reasons for Christ's superiority. From verses 22–25, list the exhortations the author gives in response to that truth, and how you could practically apply them in your own life.

Day Five

Read Hebrews 11:1–13:18; The Response of God's People

1. In Hebrews 11:1, how does the author define "faith?" In your own words, how would *you* define faith?

2. Hebrews 11 is often called “Heroes of the Faith” because of the example of believers who lived by faith. Choose one example from this honor roll of Old Testament saints and explain why he or she is particularly encouraging to you.

3. In Hebrews 12:1–3, what instructions are given to run the race of faith successfully?
 - a. From this text, how is Jesus an example for believers to follow?

4. From 12:4–11, what benefits are there to God’s discipline? How does that encourage you?

5. From 12:12–17, what actions are believers to take in order to persevere in difficult times?

6. In Hebrews 12:28, what promise is given to believers, and how does this encourage you?

7. In Hebrews 13:1–18, identify one or two concluding practical exhortations that the author gives, and a specific way you can put each into practice in your life this week.

I. Faith

II. Salvation by Faith

III. Heroes of the Faith

IV. Neglected & Rejected Faith