

Hebrews—The Beauty of Christ Unveiled

This is a self-study course designed to help you discover for yourself, from the Bible, some important basic truths concerning the book of Hebrews.

how to study the lesson

1. Try to find a quiet spot free from distractions and noise.

2. Read each question carefully.

3. Look up the Scripture reference given after each question. Make sure you have found the correct Scripture passage. For example, sometimes you will find yourself looking up JOHN 1:1 instead of I JOHN 1:1.

4. Answer the question from the appropriate Bible passage. Write, in your own words, a phrase or sentence to answer the question. In questions that can be answered with a “yes” or “no” always give the reason for your answer . . . “Yes, because. . . .”

5. If possible, keep a dictionary handy in order to look up words you don’t understand.

6. Pray for God's help. You *need* God's help in order to understand what you study in the Bible. PSALM 119:18 would be an appropriate verse for you to take to God in prayer.

7. *Class teachers using this course for group study will find some helpful suggestions on page 63.*

how to take the self-check tests

Each lesson is concluded with a test designed to help you evaluate what you have learned.

1. Review the lesson carefully in the light of the self-check test questions.

2. If there are any questions in the self-check test you cannot answer, perhaps you have written into your lesson the wrong answer from your Bible. Go over your work carefully to make sure you have filled in the blanks correctly.

3. When you think you are ready to take the self-check test, do so without looking up the answers.

4. Check your answers to the self-check test carefully with the answer key given on page 64.

5. If you have any questions wrong, your answer key will tell you where to find the correct answer in your lesson. Go back and locate the right answers. Learn by your mistakes!

apply what you have learned to your own life

In this connection, read carefully JAMES 1:22-25. It is only as you apply your lessons to your own life that you will really grow in grace and increase in the knowledge of God.



The Son of God— Better than Prophets and Angels

1:1-14

“. . . so much better” (1:4)

No one knows who wrote Hebrews. Many arguments have been advanced to try to prove that Paul wrote it; many other arguments, that Paul did not write it. None is conclusive. The heading we now find in our Bibles, *The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Hebrews*, was almost certainly not on the autograph. However, the contents of the epistle are so evidently inspired by God that it makes little difference who the human author was. The book was written to Hebrew Christians, probably about A.D. 66, shortly before the destruction of Jerusalem (A.D. 70), for the Temple was still standing and the priests were still ministering there (10:11).

The key words are “faith” and “better.” “Faith” occurs thirty-two times; “better,” thirteen times. Christ is *better* than all others, and He is appropriated by *faith*. In addition, the exhortation “let us,” occurring thirteen times, is the key phrase. Hence, throughout the epistle we should expect an emphasis on the superiority of Jesus Christ, on our need for complete faith in Him, and on exhortations for us to obey Him in certain attitudes and deeds.

The Son of God—better than prophets (1:1-3)

1. What truth does the writer stress in the first two verses to show the unity between the Old and the New Testaments?

1:1, 2 _____

In the Greek, the words “at sundry times” mean “in many parts.” An English equivalent would be “fragmentarily.” It had not been God’s method to reveal much at a time, but to lift the veil fold by fold as humanity was able to receive it. The truth had been revealed “in divers manners”—by dreams, visions and direct inspiration.

2. But who now brings the full and final revelation of truth?

1:2 _____

3. Why is this One in a position to give the ultimate revelation?

1:2 _____

4. Why must the Lord Jesus Christ be the Heir of all things?

1:2 (last clause); JOHN 1:3 _____

5. What brought the Creator and Upholder of all things down to this small earth?

1:3 _____

6. What two words indicate the lonely and exclusive character of Christ’s redemptive work?

1:3 _____

7. Why could no one else in all the universe offer such a sacrifice for the sins of mankind?

9:12; I JOHN 1:7 _____

8. What expressions in verse 3 indicate the absolute deity of Jesus Christ?

1:3 "Being _____,
and _____,
and upholding _____
_____."

Going back before history, the writer sees Christ as the very outshining of the glory of the Godhead. Without Him God would be darkness to us by the very excess of His brightness. The light of the sun is so exceedingly bright that it is unbearable, but put a pan of water down and you can see its image reflected. Cast the eye of faith upon Jesus and you have a bearable reflex of the glory of God. The words rendered "express image" really mean "a stamp" or an impression left by a stamp or engraving instrument. Deity was stamped upon Him and He conveys that impression to men. It is interesting to know that the word "character" comes from "an engraving instrument" or "marks cut by such an instrument," later coming to mean "marks cut in personality." Christ is the Character of God.

The Son of God—better than angels (1:4-14)

In these verses, there are six quotations from the Old Testament which demonstrate the infinite superiority of this "better" One.

9. Because Jesus is the exalted, incarnate Son of God, what does He possess that sets Him above the angels of God?

1:4 _____.

10. What else does He possess—something He has “obtained”—that is “more excellent”?

8:6 _____

11. What does Paul say about His name?

PHILIPPIANS 2:9 _____

The words concerning the Son, quoted in HEBREWS 1:5a, were fulfilled “in that he [God] raised up Jesus” (ACTS 13:32, 33, American Standard Version¹).

12. What fact fully demonstrated that Jesus is “the Son of God with power”?

ROMANS 1:4 _____

13. What did the Son say to God at His incarnation?

10:7; 10:5-7 _____

14. What will God say to all the angels when He “again bringeth in the firstborn into the world” (1:6, A.S.V.)²?

1:6 _____

15. Who is the Son—irrefutable proof that He is superior to angels?

1:8 _____

¹In the pages that follow, quotations from this version, published in 1901, are indicated by the abbreviation, A.S.V.

²The quotation in HEBREWS 1:6 is from DEUTERONOMY 32:43, Septuagint Version, the Greek translation of the Old Testament used by Christ and His apostles. This verse is not in the King James Version.

16. What two things is Christ said to have created?

1:10; COLOSSIANS 1:16 _____

17. Regardless of what happens to earth and “the heavens,” what is certain about the Son?

1:10-12 _____

18. What did Jesus say about Himself?

REVELATION 1:17 _____

19. What did Jesus say as to His own eternal existence?

JOHN 8:58 _____

20. What is the function of angels?

1:14 _____

21. How many angelic creatures are there?

12:22 _____

22. Through whom, as His representatives, does Stephen say God gave the law to Israel?

ACTS 7:53 _____

23. Through whom does Paul say the law was given into the hand of a mediator (Moses)?

GALATIANS 3:19 _____

The first chapter of Hebrews makes it clear that the Son of God is infinitely superior to the prophets, through whom the Old Testament was given, and to the angels, through whom the law was given to Moses.