

Join us for

A STUDY IN

HEBREWS

COMPILED BY PASTOR WARREN JONES



A Study in Hebrews

God Has Spoken – Jesus is Better

In this marvelous book of Hebrews, we find many unknowns as to the writer, its audience, or the exact recipients. The focus appears to be that Hebrew-speaking believers under heavy persecution for their faith, are considering leaving the Christian faith only to return to Judaism. The writer presents "**a brief Word of exhortation**" (**Heb. 13:22**) for them to **remain with that which is "better."** Why return to the shadow of the faith when you already have the substance? Jesus proves to be superior to all of the historical entities they could ever hope to place their reliance on.

We will delve into reasons and incentives to 'hold to that which is good' (**1 Thess. 5:21**) and grasp the seriousness of leaving a sure faith with a sure foundation, for anything other than Jesus, "the author and perfecter of our faith" (**Heb. 12:2**).

May God enlighten and enrich our hearts and minds. Pray for each teacher as they deliver the Word from their hearts and bring to us the Word that '**God has spoken**'.

Pastor Warren Jones

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A Better Word Spoken Through God's Son

Heb. 1:1-3 AMP

Discussion Starter – Explore and describe the feeling you had when you received a ‘final notice’ for a debt you had yet to pay, or when you were given a final notice to leave, and you weren’t prepared to go.

God Speaks to Us with Finality

Heb. 1:1-2

¹ **God**, having spoken to the fathers long ago in [the voices and writings of] the prophets in many separate revelations [each of which set forth a portion of the truth], and in many ways, ² has in these last days spoken [with finality] to us in [the person of One who is by His character and nature] His Son [namely Jesus], whom He appointed heir *and* lawful owner of all things, through whom also He created the universe [that is, the universe as a space-time-matter continuum].

- **Question 1:** How hard is it to believe that one man who lived for 33 years has more to say than more than 20 prophets over 1500 years?
- **Question 2:** Does the use of “**finality**” in this translation rule out second chances? What else could this refer to?

See The Father's Glory In The Son

Heb. 1:3

³The Son is the radiance *and* only expression of the glory of [our awesome] God [reflecting God's Shekinah glory, the Light-being, the brilliant light of the

divine], and the exact representation *and* perfect imprint of His [Father's] essence and upholding *and* maintaining *and* propelling all things [the entire physical and spiritual universe] by His powerful word [carrying the universe along to its predetermined goal]. When He [Himself and no other] had [by offering Himself on the cross as a sacrifice for sin] accomplished purification from sins *and* established our freedom from guilt, He sat down [revealing His completed work] at the right hand of the Majesty on high [revealing His Divine authority].⁴ This shows that the Son is far greater than the angels, just as the name God gave him is greater than their names.

- **Question 3:** Compare and contrast the reality of the sun's rays emitting both light and heat, with the Son radiating His father's likeness.
- **Question 4:** How can Jesus sit down as if everything is done when the world is going Topsy Turvey?

Apply The Text

We are in awe of the thought that the Creator of everything, both visible and invisible, has desired to not just make himself known to us, but to speak to us 'nobodies'. Add to that a plan of his own doing, and through the completion of that plan, has provided forgiveness of sins – all because of love. That is a reason to shout with gratefulness!

Memory Verse

⁸But to the Son he says, “Your throne, O God, endures forever and ever. You rule with a scepter of justice. **Heb.1:8**

Jesus is Better than Moses

Heb. 3:1-6, 12-19; 4:6-7 AMP

Discussion Starter - Discuss and contrast the design of a city planner and the design of a building architect. Which design or designer's role carries the greater honor and why?

Moses A Faithful Servant, Jesus the Faithful Heir

Heb. 3:1-6

¹ Therefore, holy brothers and sisters, who share in the heavenly calling, [thoughtfully and attentively] consider the Apostle and High Priest whom we confessed [as ours when we accepted Him as Savior], namely, Jesus; ² He was faithful to Him who appointed Him [Apostle and High Priest], as Moses also was *faithful* in all God's house. ³ Yet Jesus has been considered worthy of much greater glory *and* honor than Moses, just as the builder of a house has more honor than the house. ⁴ For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God. ⁵ Now Moses was faithful in [the administration of] all God's house, [but only] as a *ministering* servant, [his ministry serving] as a testimony of the things which were to be spoken afterward [the revelation to come in Christ]; ⁶ but Christ is faithful as a Son over His [Father's] house. And we are His house if we hold fast our confidence and sense of triumph in our hope [in Christ].

- **Question 1** How do the attitudes of a hired servant differ from those of the owner or heir?

Hardened Hearts – Missed Blessings

Heb. 3:12-15

12 Be careful then, dear brothers and sisters. Make sure that your own hearts are not evil and unbelieving, turning you away from the living God. ¹³You must warn each other every day, while it is still “today,” so that none of you will be deceived by sin and hardened against God. ¹⁴For if we are faithful to the end, trusting God just as firmly as when we first believed, we will share in all that belongs to Christ. ¹⁵Remember what it says: “Today when you hear his voice, don’t harden your hearts as Israel did when they rebelled.”

- **Question 2:** What things might drive a person to purposely become hardened to someone who is there to help?

No Rest for the Rebellious

Heb: 3:16-19

16 And who was it who rebelled against God, even though they heard his voice? Wasn’t it the people Moses led out of Egypt? ¹⁷And who made God angry for forty years? Wasn’t it the people who sinned, whose corpses lay in the wilderness? ¹⁸And to whom was God speaking when he took an oath that they would never enter his rest? Wasn’t it the people who disobeyed him? ¹⁹So we see that because of their unbelief they were not able to enter his rest.

Question 3: The ‘rest’ for Israel was the promised land. What is the rest for saints today?

Rest Is Afforded in Christ

Heb. 4:6-7

⁶So God's rest is there for people to enter, but those who first heard this good news failed to enter because they disobeyed God. ⁷So God set another time for entering his rest, and that time is today. God announced this through David much later in the words already quoted: "Today when you hear his voice, don't harden your hearts."

- **Discussion 4: Describe** the 'rest' you have experienced since responding to the voice and call of God on your life Christ.

Apply the Text

God gave Moses the insurmountable task of leading the Hebrews out of Egypt, but because of their unbelief and rebellion, he was unable to go in himself or take them into the promised land. Jesus will not fail to take us into our inheritance as He has not only entered himself, but He rules beside His Father. What a blessed hope we have. We can rest in Jesus.

Memory Verse

⁷So God set another time for entering his rest, and that time is today. God announced this through David much later in the words already quoted: "Today when you hear his voice, don't harden your hearts." **Heb. 4:7**

Jesus Gave Us a Better Priesthood

Heb. 4:14-16, 5:1-10, 8:1-6 NLT

Discussion Starter - Compare the “royal priesthood” of saints today with the Biblical priesthood.

A Relatable High Priest

Heb. 4:14-16

¹⁴ So then, since we have a great High Priest who has entered heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to what we believe. ¹⁵ This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin. ¹⁶ So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.

- **Question 1:** How important is it to know that when we call on our Father for help, His son is beside Him also hearing our prayers?

Men Called by God Intercede for Other Men

Heb. 5:1-5

¹ Every high priest is a man chosen to represent other people in their dealings with God. He presents their gifts to God and offers sacrifices for their sins. ² And he is able to deal gently with ignorant and wayward people because he himself is subject to the same weaknesses. ³ That is why he must offer sacrifices for his own sins as well as theirs. ⁴ And no one can become a high priest simply

because he wants such an honor. He must be called by God for this work, just as Aaron was.⁵ That is why Christ did not honor himself by assuming he could become High Priest. No, he was chosen by God, who said to him, “You are my Son. Today I have become your Father.”

- **Question 2:** How do we relate as priests of God today to Jesus our High Priest”?

The Order of Melchizedek

Heb. 5:6-10

⁶And in another passage God said to him, “You are a priest forever in the order of Melchizedek.⁷ While Jesus was here on earth, he offered prayers and pleadings, with a loud cry and tears, to the one who could rescue him from death. And God heard his prayers because of his deep reverence for God.⁸ Even though Jesus was God’s Son, he learned obedience from the things he suffered.⁹ In this way, God qualified him as a perfect High Priest, and he became the source of eternal salvation for all those who obey him.¹⁰ And God designated him to be a High Priest in the order of Melchizedek.

- **Question 3:** What qualifies us to be a royal priesthood?

Jesus Priesthood – A Seated Position

Heb. 8:1-6

¹ Here is the main point: We have a High Priest who sat down in the place of honor beside the throne of the majestic God in heaven. ² There he ministers in the heavenly Tabernacle, the true place of worship that was built by the Lord and not by human hands. ³ And since every high priest is required to offer gifts and sacrifices, our High Priest must make an offering, too. ⁴ If he were here on earth, he would not even be a priest, since there already are priests who offer the gifts required by the law. ⁵ They serve in a system of worship that is only a copy, a shadow of the real one in heaven. For when Moses was getting ready to build the Tabernacle, God gave him this warning: “Be sure that you make everything according to the pattern I have shown you here on the mountain.” ⁶ But now Jesus, our High Priest, has been given a ministry that is far superior to the old priesthood, for he is the one who mediates for us a far better covenant with God, based on better promises.

- **Question 4:** How would a prayerful world ruler change the present world conditions?

Apply the Text

Jesus' eternal priesthood encapsulates not just the sacrifice and pain required to atone for sin, but the love and concern that God the Son and his Father, will continue to express toward those who believe, eternally.

Memory Verse

¹⁴ Inasmuch then as we [believers] have a great High Priest who has [already ascended and] passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession [of faith and cling tenaciously to our absolute trust in Him as Savior]. **Heb. 4:14** AMP

Jesus Gave Us a Better Covenant

Heb.8:7-13, 9:15-18, 20-24,28 NKJV

Discussion Starter -There was a time when a man's word and a handshake were enough to form a binding agreement. Speak to the world's need for integrity, truth, honesty, and unselfishness.

A New Covenant of Mercy

Heb.8:7-9

⁷ For if that first *covenant* had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a second. ⁸ Because finding fault with them, He says: “Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah— ⁹ not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they did not continue in My covenant, and I disregarded them, says the Lord.

- **Question 1:** What was wrong with the first (Mosaic) covenant?

A Covenant of Forgotten Sins

Heb.8:10-13,

¹⁰ For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. ¹¹ None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them. ¹² For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.” ¹³ In that He says, “A new covenant,” He has made the first obsolete. Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.

- **Question 2:** Why do so many people **not** ‘know the Lord’?

Jesus’ Death Brought a Better Covenant

Heb. 9:15-18, 20-22

¹⁵ That is why he is the one who mediates a new covenant between God and people, so that all who are called can receive the eternal inheritance God has promised them. For Christ died to set them free from the penalty of the sins they had committed under that first covenant. ¹⁶ Now when someone leaves a will, it is necessary to prove that the person who made it is dead. ¹⁷ The will goes into effect only after the person’s death. While the person who made it is still alive, the will cannot be put into effect. ¹⁸ That is why even the first covenant was put into effect with the blood of an animal.

²⁰Then he said, “This blood confirms the covenant God has made with you.” ²¹And in the same way, he sprinkled blood on the Tabernacle and on everything used for worship. ²²In fact, according to the law of Moses, nearly everything was purified with blood. For without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness.

- **Question 3:** Why so much blood?

Earthly Copies of Heavenly Things

Heb. 9:23-24,28 (AMP)

²³Therefore it was necessary for the [earthly] copies of the heavenly things to be cleansed with these, but the heavenly things themselves required far better sacrifices than these. ²⁴For Christ did not enter into a holy place made with hands, a mere copy of the true one, but [He entered] into heaven itself, now to appear in the very presence of God on our behalf;

²⁸so Christ, having been offered once *and* once for all to bear [as a burden] the sins of many, will appear a second time [when he returns to earth], not to deal with sin, but to bring salvation to those who are eagerly *and* confidently waiting for Him.

- **Question 4:** If saints are already saved, what salvation is Jesus bringing when He returns?

Apply the Text

The Mosaic covenant, a covenant conditioned on the laws and the sacrificial blood offerings, while prominent in the hearts of Hebrews and others even today, has been superseded by the New Covenant, one that places the Law in us; Christ's Spirit living the perfect Law through us. Jesus' blood was sufficient for all people for all time. Now we are welcomed into the family of God!

Memory Verse

¹⁰ For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. **Heb. 8:10**

Jesus' New and Living Way is Better

Heb. 10:19-25, 32-36 NLT

Discussion Starter - Backstage passes are great perks given to the family and friends of celebrities, allowing temporary access to tours, food, (and other non-essentials). How does it feel to know that we have permanent access to Heaven itself?

Enter into the Most Holy Place

Heb. 10:19-23

¹⁹ And so, dear brothers and sisters, we can boldly enter heaven's Most Holy Place because of the blood of Jesus. ²⁰ By his death, Jesus opened a new and life-giving way through the curtain into the Most Holy Place. ²¹ And since we have a great High Priest who rules over God's house, ²² let us go right into the presence of God with sincere hearts fully trusting him. For our guilty consciences have been sprinkled with Christ's blood to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise.

- **Question 1:** How does hope strengthen us to hold on in tough times?

Let's Get Together

Heb. 10:24-25

²⁴ Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. ²⁵ And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

- **Question 2:** Besides encouraging and motivating one another to love, why else do we meet with one another?
- **Question 3:** Why do so many stay home?

Remember and Do the Will of God

Heb. 10:32-36

³² Think back on those early days when you first learned about Christ. Remember how you remained faithful even though it meant terrible suffering. ³³ Sometimes you were exposed to public ridicule and were beaten, and sometimes you helped others who were suffering the same things. ³⁴ You suffered along with those who were thrown into jail, and when all you owned was taken from you, you accepted it with joy. You knew there were better things waiting for you that will last forever. ³⁵ So do not throw away this confident trust in the Lord. Remember the great reward it brings you! ³⁶ Patient endurance is what you need now, so that you will continue to do God's will. Then you will receive all that he has promised.

- **Questions 4:** What are some things that hinder us from trusting God?

- **Question 5:** How can we overcome these hindrances?

Apply the Text

God alone provides better hope in our lives because He sees past time and circumstances and into eternity and the world to come. What a blessing to know that we are afforded a direct line to our eternal Father, in heaven when troubles come our way. Let's remind others to make assembling to honor and worship the Lord a priority.

Memory Verse

²⁰ By his death, Jesus opened a new and life-giving way through the curtain into the Most Holy Place. **Heb. 10:20**

Look to Jesus to Run a Better Race

Heb. 11:1-3, 5-6; 12:1-3, 25, 28-29 NLT

Discussion Starter - If you've ever competed in sports, describe some of the attributes of faith that you understand now, that you used then when the object of your faith wasn't God.

Understanding Faith

Heb. 11:1-3, 5-6

¹ Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see. ² Through their faith, the people in days of old earned a good reputation. ³ By faith we understand that the entire universe was formed at God's command, that what we now see did not come from anything that can be seen.

⁵ It was by faith that Enoch was taken up to heaven without dying—"he disappeared, because God took him." For before he was taken up, he was known as a person who pleased God. ⁶ And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.

- **Question 1:** How has your relationship with the Lord changed because of the faith you've needed to exercise over the years?

Accountable to Finish Well

Heb. 12:1-3

¹ Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. ² We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne. ³ Think of all the hostility he endured from sinful people; then you won't become weary and give up.

- **Question 2:** In his last week of ministry, Jesus kept His eyes on the goal of purchasing our pardon on the cross, despite the suffering He saw beforehand. What should be the goals in our Christian walk?

Listen Carefully, Be Thankful, and Worship God

Heb. 12:25,28-29

²⁵ Be careful that you do not refuse to listen to the One who is speaking. For if the people of Israel did not escape when they refused to listen to Moses, the earthly messenger, we will certainly not escape if we reject the One who speaks to us from heaven!

²⁸ Since we are receiving a Kingdom that is unshakable, let us be thankful and please God by worshiping him with holy fear and awe. ²⁹ For our God is a consuming fire.

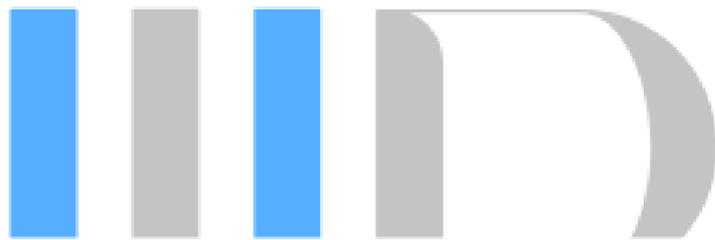
Discussion: Describe the difference between when we were told to behave by our mothers, from how we behaved when we heard it from our fathers.

Apply the Text

Like any great coach or trainer of athletes competing, whether in a race, or climbing Mount Everest, the goal is for them to finish - no quitting, and finish well. When we decide to trust our father, listen, and obey his voice, our walk of faith will please him and we can finish strong, the race of life.

Memory Verse

Be careful that you do not refuse to listen to the One who is speaking. For if the people of Israel did not escape when they refused to listen to Moses, the earthly messenger, we will certainly not escape if we reject the One who speaks to us from heaven! **Heb. 12:25**



C H R I S T I A N M I N I S T R I E S

