

Hebrews (January 17, 2021)

OPENING QUESTION:

SERMON DISCUSSION: How were you impacted by the sermon? What new thoughts or lessons did you discover? In what ways did you find yourself challenged and/or encouraged?

READ Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:1-4

1. The authorship of Hebrews is unknown. "Earliest suggestions include such noteworthy people as Paul, Luke, Clement of Rome, and Barnabas. More recent proposals set forth Priscilla, Jude, Apollos, Philip, and Silvanus. As with matters of background we are almost entirely dependent on evidence internal to the book. So, what does the work reveal of its maker? The author of Hebrews was a dynamic preacher...was knowledgeable of the Old Testament and its interpretation...was highly educated...was a committed minister of Jesus Christ and deeply concerned about the spiritual state of the group of believers he addressed." (NIV Life Application Commentary-Hebrews by George H. Guthrie)

What additional things might you find about the author of Hebrews from the following verses?
Hebrews 2:3

Hebrews 13:19

Hebrews 13:23

2. How does Hebrews 1:1-2 reveal the progression of God's revelation regarding:

Time of revelation

Agent of revelation

Recipients of revelation

3. List affirmations concerning the Son evident in Hebrews 1:2; Psalm 2:7-8; John 1:1-3,10; Colossians 1:16).

4. What further declarations concerning the Son are evident in Hebrews 1:3-4; Mark 14:62; John 1:14,14:9; Romans 8:34; Col. 1:15-20; 1 Peter 3:22?

5. In what ways does Hebrews 1:1-4 illustrate the Son as Prophet, Priest and King?

6. **NOTE:** “Jesus is superior to angels. Angels were objects of much speculation in first-century Judaism. Certainly they were known to appear in human form, to minister before the very throne of God, to guide and protect humans, and to have revealed the Mosaic Law.”

(ESV Crossway Study Bible regarding Hebrews 1:4)

From Hebrews 1:1-2:4, what is the rationale used for Christ being superior to angels?

7. Discuss the definition of “drift away”. According to Hebrews 2:1 how might drifting away be avoided? Share ways you have found helpful to be more “attentive to what you have heard”.

8. What was the message declared by the angels (Deuteronomy 33:1-4; Galatians 3:19)? What were the consequences of not heeding the message according to Hebrews 2:2? How did their message prove to be reliable?

9. What was the message declared by the Lord (Hebrews 2:3; John 3:16)? How did God validate this message? What are the consequences of not heeding the message?

Hebrews (January 24, 2021)

OPENING QUESTION:

SERMON DISCUSSION: How were you impacted by the sermon? What new thoughts or lessons did you discover? In what ways did you find yourself challenged and/or encouraged?

READ Hebrews 2:5-18

1. Read Genesis 1:27-30 and describe God's destiny for mankind. How did Adam's fall (Genesis 3:17-24) impact this plan?
2. What did God do to ensure mankind's destiny was restored (Romans 5:12-15, 1 Corinthians 15:21-22, 45-49)?
3. How is man's destiny, the fall and God's plan of restoration disclosed in Hebrews 2:5-18?

4. Share your thoughts concerning the following statements (especially those in bold):
“You made him **for a little while** lower” (2:7,9) and “We do **not yet** see everything” (2:8).
What common themes do they share with 2 Cor. 4:17 and 1 John 3:2-3?
List any encouragements or applicable principles for us today.

5. Hebrews 2:8b states “Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him.”
Discuss the meaning of subjection/subjected. What is revealed regarding this topic that might be surprising to many in the world from Hebrews 2:5-18; Romans 14:11-12; Phil. 2:9-11; 1 Peter 3:22?

6. List the various ways or names used to describe believers in this passage. What does each of these convey about God’s view of you?

7. Consider the various ways or names made in reference to Christ in this passage. What does each of these references mean to you?

Hebrews (January 31, 2021)

OPENING QUESTION:

SERMON DISCUSSION: How were you impacted by the sermon? What new thoughts or lessons did you discover? In what ways did you find yourself challenged and/or encouraged?

READ Hebrews 4:1-13

1. What is the warning concerning the good news in Hebrews 4:1-3? How does it parallel the response of those who died in the wilderness (Hebrews 3:7-19)?

2. “The scope of the promise of entering into God’s rest extends far beyond the historical event of the entry of the Israelites into Canaan under Joshua’s leadership.”

([A Commentary on the Epistle to the Hebrews](#) pg. 155 by Philip Edgcumbe Hughes)

Find the various references to “rest” in Hebrews 4:1-13 and share what this rest might be and if this is a present and/or future rest.

3. Name some of the things that keep us from “resting” in God?

4. Define the word “strive”. Explain how we can “strive to enter that rest.” (Hebrews 4:11; 10:36; John 6:29; Philippians 3:13-14)

5. From Hebrews 4:12 expound upon the characteristics describing the word of God being “living and active” (Genesis 1:3; Isaiah 55:10-11; 2 Cor. 4:6; 1 Peter 1:23).

6. “Calvin says, there is nothing so hard or firm in a man, nothing so deeply hidden that the efficacy of the word does not penetrate through to it.”

(A Commentary on the Epistle to the Hebrews pg.165 by Philip Edgcumbe Hughes).

The word of God is described as being “sharper than a two-edged sword.” What is a sword’s purpose? What does this term reveal to you about God (John 12:48; Acts 1:24,15:8, 2:37; Eph. 6:17)?

7. How do Psalm 139:1-3, 7-8, 13 and 1 Corinthians 4:5 bring clarity to the statement, “And no creature is hidden from his sight but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account” (Hebrews 4:13)? What is your response to this knowledge of God?

8. What has impacted you the most from Hebrews 4:1-13?

Hebrews (February 7, 2021)

OPENING QUESTION:

SERMON DISCUSSION: How were you impacted by the sermon? What new thoughts or lessons did you discover? In what ways did you find yourself challenged and/or encouraged?

READ Hebrews 4:14-5:7

1. What is revealed about Jesus in Hebrews 4:14-15?

2. "Temptation itself is neutral: to be tempted indicates neither virtue nor sinfulness; for the proper connotation of temptation is testing, or proving, and virtue is in the resistance and overcoming of temptation, whereas sin is in yielding and capitulation. Our high priest's experience of temptation corresponded in every respect to ours."

(A Commentary on the Epistle to the Hebrews pg. 172 by Philip Edgcumbe Hughes)

Describe the various temptations Jesus experienced that correspond to humanity from Matthew 4:1-10, Matthew 26:36-42 and any others you may recall from His life on earth.

3. "Under the old covenant the only person allowed into God's presence was the high priest, who entered the Most Holy Place once a year on the Day of Atonement. Under the covenant the high-priestly offering on that day won forgiveness for the people. Yet they were still locked out of the presence of Yahweh."

(NIV Life Application Commentary-Hebrews pg. 176 by George H. Guthrie)

What is momentous about the message in Hebrews 4:16? How did this alter man's relationship with God (Genesis 3:8-11)?

Hebrews (February 14, 2021)

OPENING QUESTION:

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READ Hebrews 6:1-12

1. Read Hebrews 5:11-6:3 and explain the point the author is accentuating concerning the Christian walk?

2. "Reformed theology teaches the doctrine of the perseverance of the saints. This doctrine is sometimes called "eternal security." In essence the doctrine teaches that if you have saving faith you will never lose it, and if you lose it, you never had it."

(Essential Truths of The Christian Faith p. 197 by R.C. Sproul)

How do the following verses give justification for the "doctrine of eternal security"?

John 10:27-30

Romans 8:28-30

Philippians 1:6

1 John 2:19

3. Who do you think the author is referring to in Hebrews 6:4-8? Can you recall anyone in scripture who tasted God's goodness and yet fell away? (Note: The verb "tasted" is the Greek word "*geuomai*" which means, "to experience something.")

4. What is the apostasy mentioned in Hebrews 6:6 and how is it similar to the actions of those who put Jesus to death? How does this relate to the unforgivable sin (Mark 3:28-29)?

5. What are the types of crops mentioned in Hebrews 6:7-8? Who do you think the land and the crops represent (Matthew 5:45b)? What is inevitable according to Matthew 7:17-20; John 15:5-6; Ephesians 2:10; and James 2:17?

6. From Hebrews 6:10-12, how are believers commended, encouraged, and warned?

7. Rather than being “sluggish”, we are to be “imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises” (Hebrews 6:12). From scripture and/or in your own experience recall who has inspired you to imitate them?

Hebrews (February 21, 2021)

OPENING QUESTION:

SERMON DISCUSSION: How were you impacted by the sermon? What new thoughts or lessons did you discover? In what ways did you find yourself challenged and/or encouraged?

READ Hebrews 6:13-20

1. After exhorting believers to be “imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promise” (Hebrews 6:12) why does the author spotlight Abraham (Genesis 12:1-4, 13:16, 17:1-2, 19, 22:1-2, 9-12)?

2. According to Hebrews 6:15 what happened concerning the promise God made to Abraham? What do the following scriptures reveal about God’s promises?

2 Corinthians 1:20

2 Peter 1:3-4

3. Find the two unchangeable things to which the “heirs of the promise” can have confidence found in Hebrews 6:17-18.

4. In light of what we learn about God's promises and unchangeable things, what are the benefits for those who follow the example of Abraham according to Hebrews 6:18-20? If you are an "heir to the promise" how do these unchangeable things impact you right now?

5. Describe the purpose of an anchor? Why is an anchor a fitting illustration for believers regarding our hope?

6. "When the author notes that this hope enters the 'inner sanctuary behind the curtain' (v. 19), he refers to the Most Holy Place, that most sacred of space in the tabernacle, which was identified as the place of God's presence. Under the old covenant only the high priest could go behind the curtain separating the outer part of the Holy Place from the inner, and then only once a year on the Day of Atonement. This barrier keeping the broader people of God from entering into the presence of God, however, has been torn away in the new covenant..."
(NIV Life Application Commentary-Hebrews p. 244 by George H. Guthrie)

According to Hebrews 6:19-20, who is the "hope", what has "hope" done and what does this mean for us?

7. Review Hebrews 6:13-20 and identify all the descriptions concerning God/Jesus character and actions.

Hebrews (February 28, 2021)

OPENING QUESTION:

SERMON DISCUSSION: How were you impacted by the sermon? What new thoughts or lessons did you discover? In what ways did you find yourself challenged and/or encouraged?

READ Hebrews 7:18-28

1. What is “the one hand” and what is “the other hand” mentioned in Hebrews 7:18-19 (read Hebrews 7:11-17)?

2. Why was the former commandment rendered weak and useless (Hebrews 7:18-19; Romans 3:10, 7:10-12, 10:5)?

3. “...a better hope is introduced through which we draw near to God” (Hebrews 7:19). What do the following scriptures disclose about drawing near to God?

Exodus 24:2

Psalms 145:18

Zephaniah 3:2

Hebrews 4:16

James 4:8

4. "The inauguration of the Aaronic priesthood rested on a divine command: 'bring near to you Aaron your brother,' said God to Moses, 'and his sons with him, from among the people of Israel, to serve me as priests' (Exodus 28:1). But there is no mention of a divine oath in the record of their appointment as there is in Ps. 110:4, where a new priest 'after the order of Melchizedek' is introduced." (The Epistle to the Hebrews p.170 by F.F. Bruce)

What is the difference between a priesthood resting on a command versus on an oath by God (Hebrews 7:11, 20-22; Psalm 110:4)? How does this make Jesus the guarantor of a better covenant?

5. Contrast the details concerning the Levitical High Priests with Jesus the High Priest from Hebrews 7:23-28, 9:12.

Levitical High Priests

Jesus the High Priest

6. Hebrews 7:26 gives Jesus qualifications that make Him fitting as a superior High Priest. Give definitions of those qualifications and how they epitomize Jesus.

Holy:

Innocent:

Unstained:

Separated (from Sinners):

Exalted (above the Heavens):

7. What is revealed about God, Jesus and humanity from Hebrews 7:26 & Romans 8:33-34?

Hebrews (March 7, 2021)

OPENING QUESTION:

SERMON DISCUSSION: How were you impacted by the sermon? What new thoughts or lessons did you discover? In what ways did you find yourself challenged and/or encouraged?

READ Hebrews 8:1-2, 7-13

1. What is “the true tent”? How does it differ from the earthly one (Hebrews 8:2, Exodus 33:7, Joshua 18:1)? Was the earthly “tent” counterfeit? What was the purpose of the earthly “tent”?

2. Explain the fault found in the first covenant that exposed the need for the second (Hebrews 8:7-9; Jeremiah 7:23-26).

3. Why is it significant that the author of Hebrews referenced Jeremiah’s prophecy (Hebrews 8:6-13; Jeremiah 31:31-34)? (Hint: what is true about God’s Word?)
What does this mean to you personally?

4. Note the profound difference in God's relationship with the people between the old and new covenants (Hebrews 8:8-12). Do you think you are included in this covenant?

5. Why is the second covenant more successful than the first (Hebrews 8:10; Ezekiel 11:19)?

6. From Hebrews 8:10-12; Philippians 2:12b-13; Galatians 5:22 and any other applicable Scripture, describe some of the benefits resulting from the new covenant.

7. How does John 6:44-45 relate to the new covenant?
What do you appreciate especially about being "taught by God"?

8. Compare and contrast the issue of sin and how it is dealt with under the old and new covenants (Hebrews 5:1, 7:27, 8:12, Matthew 26:28).

Hebrews (March 14, 2021)

OPENING QUESTION:

SERMON DISCUSSION: How were you impacted by the sermon? What new thoughts or lessons did you discover? In what ways did you find yourself challenged and/or encouraged?

READ Hebrews 9:11-14, 10:11-18

1. Read Hebrews 9 and identify some of the ways the first covenant's tent/tabernacle and sacrificial system pointed to the age of the new covenant.

2. Explain what the following scriptures say about the "perfect tent" (Hebrews 9:11)?

Mark 14:58

John 2:19-22

Acts 17:24

Isaiah 66:1

3. Examine the differences between the sacrifices of the blood of Christ versus the blood of animals (Hebrews 7:27, 9:12, 10:11, 10:18). Envision what your daily focus would be if you had to rely on the sacrifices of animals for your sin.

4. What does Christ's blood purify that the animal's blood did not (Hebrews 9:13-14)?
What does this purification enable us to do?

5. What verb in Hebrews 9:14 reveals Christ's willingness to fulfill the purpose of His incarnation? Describe His purpose and determination (Mark 10:45; Luke 9:51; John 12:27; 1 Tim. 1:15).

6. Describe the daily position, location and status of the priest in Hebrews 10:11 compared to the position, location and status of Christ (Hebrews 10:11-13; Psalm 8:6, 110:1).
What does this indicate concerning today and the future?

7. "Sanctification means the impartation of the holy qualities of Jesus to me...Sanctification is an impartation, not an imitation." (My Utmost for His Highest (July 23) by Oswald Chambers)
Explain the ministry of the Holy Spirit in "those who are being sanctified" (Hebrews 10:14-17; John 14:26, 16:13; 2 Corinthians 3:16-18)?