



Hebrews 4:12 "For the word of God is living and effective and sharper than any double-edged sword, penetrating as far as the separation of soul and spirit, joints and marrow. It is able to judge the ideas and thoughts of the heart."

Course Text: Hebrews

The human author of the book of Hebrews is unknown. Scholars have suggested the apostle Paul; Silas, the companion of Paul (Acts 15:40); Aquila and Priscilla, fellow tent makers with Paul and his trusted friends (Acts 18:2); Luke, the faithful friend and traveling companion of Paul (Colossians 4:14; 2 Timothy 4:11); Barnabas, Paul's friend and fellow minister (Acts 13:2); Apollos, a gifted teacher and friend of Paul (Acts 18:23-28). The most frequently suggested are Paul, Barnabas and Apollos and more think it was Paul than any other. It is clearly written in his style, and the knowledge shown in it is certainly worthy of the most renowned student of the great rabbinical teacher Gamaliel (Acts 22:3).

The only reason to think it was anyone but Paul who wrote Hebrews is that he did not sign it. In every one of his other letters he starts out by identifying himself. He does not identify himself in Hebrews. Most troubling of all is what Paul said in 2 Thessalonians 3:16. Nevertheless the early church decided to include Hebrews in the New Testament. It had been in constant use in Christian churches across the Roman Empire for the centuries of persecution. Similarly, and independently, Christians outside the empire in places as diverse as Ethiopia and Mesopotamia came to the same decision. Hebrews is an important part of God's word to us.

The book shows, in terms that someone familiar with the Old Testament would understand, that Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior. It quotes from the Old Testament over thirty times. If you are using the New American Standard Bible you will see these quotations shown in all capital letters.

Suggested methodology:

1. Let the students have a copy of the lesson well before the class meets. (Perhaps the previous meeting)
2. The students read the Bible book and answer the questions in this lesson before the group meets.
3. At the class meeting allow time for greetings and fellowship. (Save most of this for the end)
4. Take prayer requests (Try to keep it from becoming a competition to see who has the most or the worst.)
5. Pray (The idea here is to leave our troubles with God so we can give His word our attention with a clear mind.)
6. Discuss the questions on page 7. Let those who prefer to listen, listen. My answers, when provided, are just one opinion; you may have a better answer. It might be good to establish the norm that only those who have actually read the book should discuss it aloud.
7. Discuss whatever other questions people have on their mind about the Hebrews.
8. Close in prayer (It is best to call on others to pray, but try to get their permission ahead of time.)
9. Fellowship (Leave this as open ended as possible for the time and place you meet.)

Depending on the number of people, this class is expected to take about two hours.

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Hebrews Chapters 1 to 4

Please read Hebrews chapter 1 and answer these questions.

[1A] How many times is Jesus called by name in this chapter? _____

In the first four verses the writer introduces the topics he will write about in more detail in the rest of the chapter, and to some extent the rest of the book.

(a) **Prophet** - God spoke thru His Son

(b) **Rightful Heir** - His Son is heir of all things

(c) **Creator** - Through His Son God made the world

(d) **God** - His radiant and glorious Son is the *exact* representation of God's nature

(e) **Omnipotent** - His Son holds the world together by His power

(f) **High Priest** - His Son has made purification of our sins

(g) **Most Honored** - His Son is at the right hand of the Majesty on high

(h) **Most Worthy, Most Deserving** - His Son is better than the angels

(i) **Most Exalted** - His Son has inherited a most excellent name

[1B] Which of these did he talk about most in Chapter 1?

However, it is clear the topics are interrelated. Verse 5 mentions angels but also alludes to him being the rightful heir. Verse 6 mentions angels but alludes to Him being God. Verse 7 mentions angels but alludes to Him being the creator of them, Verses 8 to 12 is still talking about His differences from being an angel without mentioning the word angels. Verse 8 alludes to his being most honored, verse 9 to his priesthood and worthiness, verse 10 to Him being Creator, verse 11 to His eternal existence and by that His divinity, verse 12 the same plus, it brings in His Omnipotence. Finally verse 13 mentions angels in relationship to Him being most honored by sitting on the right of God the Father. Notice how this is a kind of parallelism, perhaps making this a form of Hebrew poetry. Verse 14 concludes the chapter by speaking to the topic of the angels directly.

Look for this interrelatedness to continue in the rest of the book, but also look for one of these 9 characteristics to be focused on more than the others.

Read Hebrews chapters 2 through 4 and answer these questions:

[2A] Who was made powerless by Jesus? _____

[2B] Look again at the 9 characteristics of Jesus listed in the first 4 verses of the book. In this chapter it talks about Jesus being fully human in order for Him to be able to fulfill which of these 9 characteristics? _____

[3A] Look again at the 9 characteristics of Jesus mentioned in the first 4 verses of the book. This chapter compares Jesus with Moses in regard to one of these characteristics. Which one? _____

[3B] What was it that kept the Israelites from being able to enter the promised land? _____

[4A] What is sharper than a two-edged sword? _____

[4B] Which of the 9 characteristics of Jesus mentioned in the first four verses is talked about the most in this chapter? _____

[1A] How many times is Jesus called by name in this chapter? None The name Jesus is used only 15 times in the whole book of 13 chapters, and yet the entire book is about Him.

[1B] Which of these did he talk about most in Chapter 1?

(h) Most Deserving - His Son is better than the angels Hb 1:5-14

[2A] Who was made powerless by Jesus? the Devil Hb 2:14

[2B] Look again at the 9 characteristics of Jesus listed in the first 4 verses of the book. In this chapter it talks about Jesus being fully human in order for Him to be able to fulfill which of these nine characteristics? (f) High Priest Hb 2:17

[3A] Look again at the 9 characteristics of Jesus mentioned in the first 4 verses of the book. This chapter compares Jesus with Moses in regard to one of these characteristics. Which one?

(h) Worthiness Hb 3:3 (g or i might also be correct.)

[3B] What was it that kept the Israelites from being able to enter the promised land?

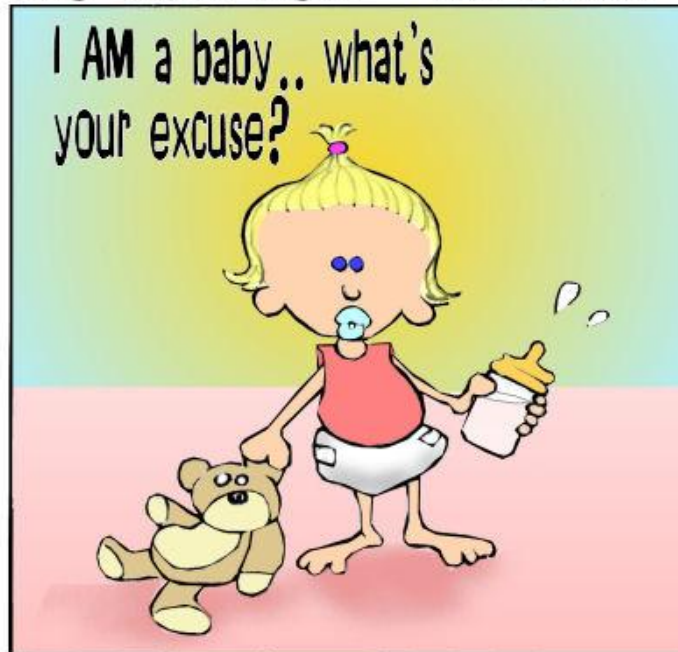
Unbelief Hb 3:19 (their unbelief led them to disobey)

[4A] What is sharper than a two-edged sword? The Word of God Hb 4:12

[4B] Which of the 9 characteristics of Jesus mentioned in the first four verses is talked about the most in this chapter?

(f) High Priest Hb 4:14-15 or (g) Most Honored Hb 4:16

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



You have been Christians a long time, but you are like babies who drink only milk and cannot eat solid food. A person living on milk doesn't know much about doing right. Solid food is for the mature, trained to recognize the difference between right and wrong and then do right. **Hebrews 5:12-14**

Hebrews Chapters 5 to 13

- (a) **Prophet** - God spoke thru His Son
- (b) **Rightful Heir** - His Son is heir of all things
- (c) **Creator** - Through His Son God made the world
- (d) **God** - His radiant and glorious Son is the *exact* representation of God's nature
- (e) **Omnipotent** - His Son holds the world together by His power
- (f) **High Priest** - His Son has made purification of our sins
- (g) **Most Honored** - His Son is at the right hand of the Majesty on high
- (h) **Most Worthy, Most Deserving** - His Son is better than the angels
- (i) **Most Exalted** - His Son has inherited a most excellent name

[5A] From what did the Son learn obedience? _____

[5B] Which of the 9 characteristics of Jesus mentioned in the first four verses is talked about the most in this chapter? _____

[6A] What is it impossible for God to do? _____

[6B] Which of the 9 characteristics of Jesus mentioned in the first four verses is talked about the most in this chapter? _____

[7A] What did the Law make perfect? _____

[7B] How long will Jesus be our High Priest? _____

[8A] Which of the 9 characteristics of Jesus mentioned in the first four verses is talked about the most in this chapter? _____

[8B] The earthly priestly activities are a copy or shadow of what? _____

[9A] What is behind the second veil of the temple. _____

[9B] For what will Jesus appear the second time? _____

[10A] What is it impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to do? _____

[10B] Where does God write His law in the New Covenant? _____

[11A] What is the assurance of things hoped for and the conviction of things not seen? _____

[11B] What is it impossible to do without faith? _____

[12A] Who is the author and perfecter of our faith? _____

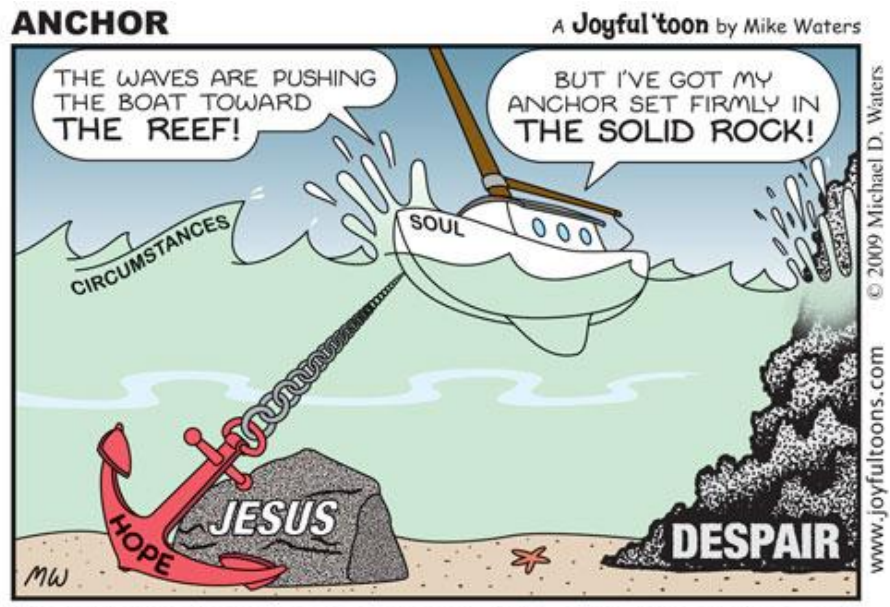
[12B] Who is the mediator of the New Covenant? _____

[13A] What are we to do about prisoners? _____

[13B] How many times is **Jesus** called by name in this chapter? _____

----- HEBREWS ANSWERS -----

- [5A] From what did the Son learn obedience? The things which He suffered Hb 5:8
[5B] Which of the 9 characteristics of Jesus mentioned in the first four verses is talked about the most in this chapter? (f) High Priest Hb 5:1-10
- [6A] What is it impossible for God to do? Lie Hb 6:18
[6B] Which of the 9 characteristics of Jesus mentioned in the first four verses is talked about the most in this chapter? (f) High Priest Hb 6:20
- [7A] What did the Law make perfect? Nothing Hb 7:19
[7B] How long will Jesus be our High Priest? Forever Hb 7:24
- [8A] Which of the 9 characteristics of Jesus mentioned in the first four verses is talked about the most in this chapter? (f) High Priest Hb 8:1-6 or (g) Most Honored Hb 8:1
[8B] The earthly priestly activities are a copy or shadow of what? Heavenly things Hb 8:5
- [9A] What is behind the second veil of the temple. The Holy of Holies Hb 9:3
[9B] For what will Jesus appear the second time? For salvation with out reference to sin Hb 9:28
- [10A] What is it impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to do? Take away sins Hb 10:4
[10B] Where does God write His law in the New Covenant? On our hearts and minds Hb 10:16
- [11A] What is the assurance of things hoped for and the conviction of things not seen? Faith Hb 11:1
[11B] What is it impossible to do without faith? Please God Hb 11:6
- [12A] Who is the author and perfecter of our faith? Jesus Hb 12:2
[12B] Who is the mediator of the New Covenant? Jesus Hb 12:24
- [13A] What are we to do about prisoners? Remember them as if we were in there with them. Hb 13:3
[13B] How many times is **Jesus** called by name in this chapter? Four Hb 13:8, 12, 20, 21



We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.
— HEBREWS 6:19 NIV

(1) How does Hebrews 4:12 apply to our daily Christian walk?

Think & Pray _____

(2) Please explain Hebrews 9:13-14 as if you were speaking to someone who did not know Jesus Christ?

Think & Pray _____

(3) Hebrews 13:8 says, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." In the past he walked the earth and was crucified and resurrected. Right now He is at the right hand of the father. In the future He will return at the head of a magnificent heavenly army. So, what does Hebrews 13:8 mean?

Think & Pray _____

(4) If someone asked you what Hebrews was about what would you say?

Think & Pray _____

(5) How can the lessons of Hebrews be applied to our own life?

Think & Pray _____

(6) Which verse or passage would you select to memorize from Hebrews? Why?

Think & Pray _____

If you have any questions about Hebrews, now is the time to discuss them with your classmates.

(1) DAILY WALK The answer is in the context. We should be diligent and careful to be as obedient to God's word as we possibly can. We understand that this is not humanly possible, but God can see our heart. We can fool others with half-hearted efforts and by claiming we had good intentions, but God can see the truth. No matter what we do wrong, and how many times we fail, the truth should be that we are doing our very best for God.

(2) TO AN UNBELIEVER For me it would depend on the unbeliever. If he was Jewish I would talk about verse 13 and try to make him see how Jesus Christ is the replacement for all the Old Testament sacrifices and offerings. Anyone else, I would pretty much ignore verse 13 and talk about how Jesus Christ, the sinless One, died for sinners like you and me, so that we could have a saving relationship with Our Lord and Savior.

(3) TIMELESS The answer is in the context. Hebrews is not talking about thing Jesus did, is doing, or will do. Hebrews is talking about His nature and His character. When people start teaching weird stuff about Jesus Christ we are to rely on the Bible as our guide and not get carried of into some kind of cultish nonsense.

(4) Hebrews Summary Hebrews is about Jesus Christ, who He is, and what He has done for us. Although it gives a fairly complete description of Him including His Divine nature and other admirable traits, the focus is on Him being our High Priest and our final Sacrifice for sin.

(5) Hebrews Life Application Following Jesus Christ with all our might is what we are encouraged to do in this book. Even when we sin and fail, our heart should remain His.

(6) Something to Remember Hebrews 4:12 "For the word of God is living and effective and sharper than any double-edged sword, penetrating as far as the separation of soul and spirit, joints and marrow. It is able to judge the ideas and thoughts of the heart."