

# NEW TESTAMENT SURVEY

## THE LETTERS OF PAUL HEBREWS

### LESSON 24

#### LESSON OUTLINE

- I. INTRODUCTION TO HEBREWS
- II. OUTLINE OF HEBREWS
- III. LESSONS IN HEBREWS
  - A. Jesus Christ is better.
  - B. Jesus made the way to God.
  - C. The new agreement is better than the old agreement.
  - D. The sacrifice of Jesus Christ is better than the sacrifices of the old way of worship.
  - E. The greatness of faith.
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  - H. Christian living.
  - I. The work of Jesus Christ now.
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- IV. WORDS TO LEARN
- V. ASSIGNMENT

#### HEBREWS

##### I. INTRODUCTION TO HEBREWS

###### **Who wrote the letter to the Hebrews.**

The name of the writer of Hebrews is not given in the letter. Some Bibles say Paul was the writer. Other Bibles do not give any name for the writer of Hebrews. If Paul was the writer, he could not use his name. Many Jewish Christians still wanted to follow the ways of Judaism. They prayed in the temple and in the synagogues. They thought they must keep the Jewish rules and traditions. Paul preached to the Gentiles.

Paul told the Gentiles they need not keep the Jewish ways. If the Jews had known Paul was writing, they would not have wanted to listen to the writing.

Some say Barnabas wrote the letter to the Hebrews.

The writer of Hebrews knew the Jewish ways well. He knew the Old Testament well. The writer was a friend of Timothy.

### **To whom Hebrews was written.**

The letter to the Hebrews was written to the Jewish Christians. We are not told where these Jews lived. They may have been the Christians at Jerusalem. The Christians knew the Old Testament well. They had been Christians for some time. They had suffered for Christ.

### **Why Hebrews was written.**

Hebrews shows what the offerings and the work of the priests really meant. Jesus fulfilled all these types or pictures of the Old Testament. We need to know the Old Testament to really understand Hebrews. Also we need to know Hebrews to understand the Old Testament.

For many years the Jews had prayed in the temple and in the synagogues. They had offered animal sacrifices. This is the way their fathers had done it. It was hard for many to give up these ways to take the way of Jesus Christ.

The writer shows that all the old ways of worship changed: the priests died; the animal sacrifices could not take away the guilty feeling of sin. He shows that Jesus Christ can be trusted and does not change. He shows that Jesus Christ fulfilled the laws of the Jews.

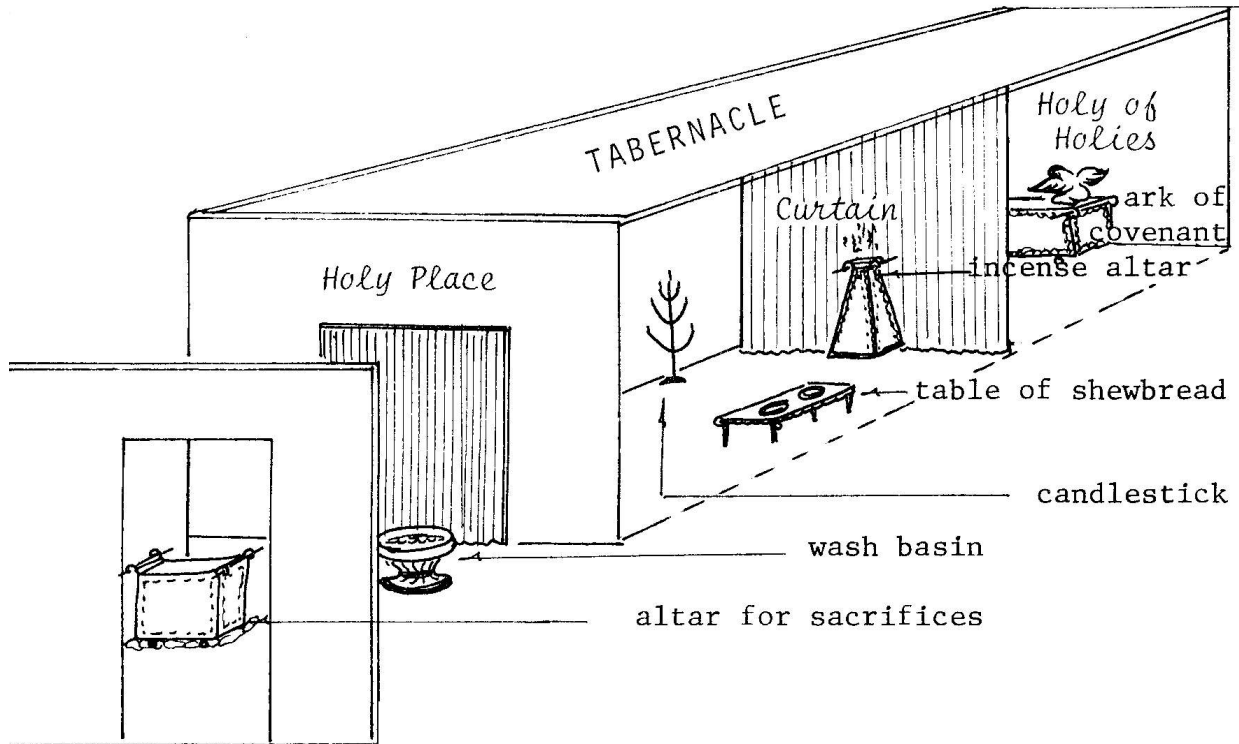
### **Main thought of Hebrews.**

When Jesus Christ died, the veil in the temple was torn open, Matthew 27:51. Everyone could go into the Holy of Holies. By this example the writer shows that Jesus Christ opened the way to God.

The key verses to Hebrews are Hebrews 10:19-20 (N.L.T.).

*“Christian brothers, now we know we can go into the Holiest Place of All because the blood of Jesus was given. We now come to God by the new and living way. Christ made this way for us. He opened the curtain, which was His own body.”*

The key word is **“better.”**



### When Hebrews was written.

The letter to the Hebrews was written before the temple was destroyed in Jerusalem. The temple was destroyed in A.D. 70. It was written before A.D. 70 because the writer wrote about the temple work still going on, Hebrews 10:11.

Timothy was still alive when the book was written, Hebrews 13:23.

It was written some time after the church started. Some people had known the gospel for a long time, Hebrews 2:1-4. Some church leaders had died, Hebrews 13:7.

## II. OUTLINE OF HEBREWS

- A. Jesus Christ is better than the early prophets, Hebrews 1:1-3.
- B. Jesus Christ is better than the angels, Hebrews 1:4-14.
- C. Warning - do not be careless about the truth, Hebrews 2:1-4.
- D. Jesus Christ made the way to God, Hebrews 2:5-18.
- E. Jesus Christ is better than Moses, Hebrews 3:1-6.
- F. Warning - do not make your heart hard, Hebrews 3:7 - 4:13.

- G. Jesus Christ is better than the priests of the family of Aaron, Hebrews 4:14 - 5:10; 6:20 - 8:5.
- H. Warning - do not go back into sin, Hebrews 5:11 - 6:19.
- I. The new agreement is better than the old agreement, Hebrews 8:6-13.
- J. The sacrifice of Jesus Christ is better than the sacrifices of the old way of worship, Hebrews 9:1 - 10:22.
- K. Warning - there is no other sacrifice for sin, Hebrews 10:23-39.
- L. The greatness of faith, Hebrews 11:1-40.
- M. Warning - turn away from sin, Hebrews 12:1-17.
- N. Jesus Christ, the Perfect One, Hebrews 12:18-29.
- O. Christian living, Hebrews 13:1-25.

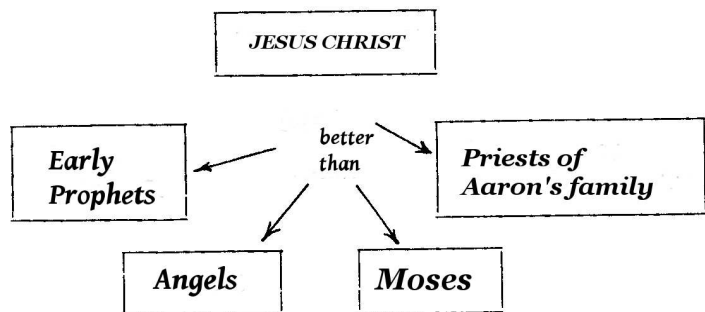
### III. LESSONS IN HEBREWS

#### A. Jesus Christ is better.

READ HEBREWS 1:1- 8:5.

#### 1. Jesus Christ is better than the early prophets, Hebrews 1:3.

The early prophets spoke the Word of God. They were the messengers of God in early times. Jesus Christ is as God is in every way. He made everything. God has given Him everything. Jesus Christ is sitting on the right side of God. Jesus Christ is better than the prophets.



#### 2. Jesus Christ is better than the angels, Hebrews 1:4-14.

The angels are spirits who work for God. They were created by God. Jesus Christ is the first-born Son of God. The angels worship Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is better than the angels.

#### 3. Jesus Christ is better than Moses, Hebrews 3:1-6.

Moses gave the Law to the Jewish people. Moses was a great worker in the house of God. Jesus Christ is the Head of the house of God. Jesus Christ is better than Moses.

**4. Jesus is better than the priests of the family of Aaron, Hebrews 4:14 - 5:10; 6:20 - 8:5.**

God chose men from the family of Aaron to be priests. These priests came from the family group of Levi. The priests offered sacrifices for the people. They prayed to God for the people. Yet, these priests sinned. They had to offer sacrifices for their own sin.

When Abraham lived, a priest named Melchizedek came to see him. Melchizedek was also the king of the city of Salem. Salem means peace. Nothing is said about the parents of Melchizedek. Nothing is said about his brothers and sisters. Nothing is said about the birth and death of Melchizedek. He was not even from the family of Abraham. Abraham gave one tenth of all he had to Melchizedek. See Genesis 14:1-20.

Jesus Christ is a priest like Melchizedek. Jesus did not come from the family group of Levi. Jesus came from the family group of Judah. Jesus is king and priest like Melchizedek. Jesus is the king of peace and righteousness like Melchizedek.

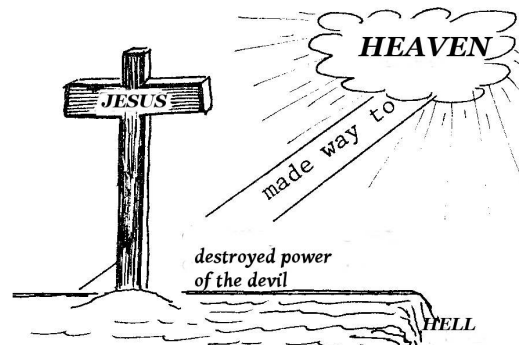
Jesus is better than the priests of the family of Aaron. The men of the family of Aaron died. They had to have many priests. Jesus is one priest forever. He did not need to offer a sacrifice for His own sin like the priests of the family of Aaron. Jesus Christ is perfect. Jesus Christ lives forever. He does not change.

The priests from the family of Aaron were here on earth. Jesus Christ is in heaven with God.

**B. Jesus Christ made the way to God, Hebrews 2:5-18.**

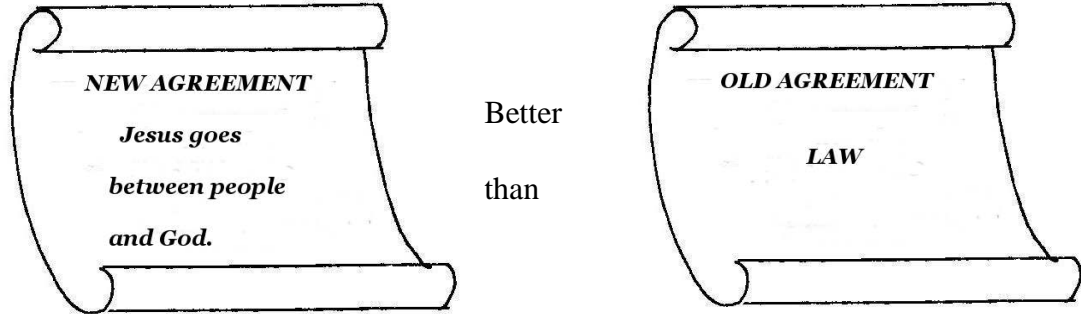
READ HEBREWS 2:5-18.

Jesus Christ became a man for awhile. He became a man so that He could suffer and die on the cross for us. God gave Him great honor for this. Because Jesus suffered for the sins of people, He can bring many to God. Also because Jesus Christ died on the cross He destroyed the power of the devil. Jesus did this to set people free from the devil. Jesus was tempted like people are tempted. He can understand people.



**C. The new agreement is better than the old agreement, Hebrews 8:6-13.**

READ HEBREWS 8:6-13.



God made an agreement with the people of Israel when they came out of Egypt. He made this agreement at Mount Sinai. God gave the people laws to keep. If they would keep the laws God would be with them. They would please God. This is called the old way of worship.

The people did not keep the agreement (covenant) with God. They did not keep the laws.

God made a new agreement (covenant). God wanted the people to worship Him in a new way. Jesus Christ goes between people and God. In the new way of worship, sins can be forgiven.

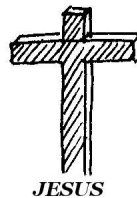
Some Bibles use the word "covenant" instead of "agreement." A covenant is something like a treaty.

**D. The sacrifice of Jesus Christ is better than the sacrifices of the old way of worship, Hebrews 9:1 - 10:22.**

READ HEBREWS 9:1 - 10:22.

In the old way of worship, God gave the people a tent (tabernacle). The tent had two rooms in it, the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies Place. Only the priests could go into the first room. Only the high priest could go into the

second room. He could do this only once a year. When the high priest went in, he had to have blood to cover his own sin and the sins of the people.



better  
than



The blood of animals was used to cover sin. These sacrifices could not take away the guilty feeling of sin. The priests had to keep making sacrifices until Jesus Christ came.

Jesus Christ was a greater and more perfect tent. The tent was His body. He was not made with human hands. He was not a part of this earth. God prepared His body, Hebrews 10:5. Yet, He was like a man in every way except that He did no sin. The blood of Jesus Christ is able to take away sin. The blood of animals could only cover sin. Therefore, the blood of Jesus Christ is better than the blood of animals.

*Jesus. . . "came once at the end of the Old Way of Worship. He gave Himself once for all time. He gave Himself to destroy sin. It is in the plan that all men die once. After that, they will stand before God and He will say if they are guilty. It is the same with Christ. He gave Himself once to take away the sins of many."* Hebrews 9:26-28 (N.L.T.).

*"Christ gave Himself once for sins and that is good forever. . ."* Hebrews 10:12 (N.L.T.).

The sacrifice of Jesus Christ is better than the sacrifices of the old way of worship.

#### **E. The greatness of faith, Hebrews 11:1-40.**

READ HEBREWS 11:1-40.

*"Now faith is being sure we will get what we hope for. It is being sure of what we cannot see."* Hebrews 11:1 (N.L.T.).

Faith - through faith we can understand that the world was made by the Word of God.

By faith many leaders of the people of Israel were true to God and were willing to suffer. God had planned something better for all these. Because they had faith, they would be made perfect.

#### **F. Christ, the Perfect One.**

God is holy. God is in heaven. Heaven is a holy place. Jesus Christ is perfect. He made a way for people to come to heaven. All those who put their trust in God will be perfect in heaven, Hebrews 12:23.

## G. Warnings.

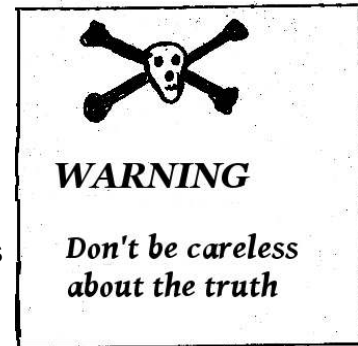
The writer of Hebrews has a pattern in his writing. He tells about one part of the old way of worship. Next he shows that Jesus Christ is better than that part of the old way of worship. Next, he gives a warning to the reader. The writer of Hebrews sees the danger of not fully trusting Jesus Christ. Some people say they are Christians, but trust in their old way of worship. Last, the writer says "Let us . . ." Hebrews 6:1.

### 1. Warning - do not be careless about the truth, Hebrews 2:1-4.

READ HEBREWS 2:1-4.

The early prophets spoke the truth. What they said came true. The angels are spirits working for God. What they said came true.

Jesus is greater than the prophets and the angels. His words are sure to come true. Jesus made the way to God. If a person neglects this way to God, he will go to hell.

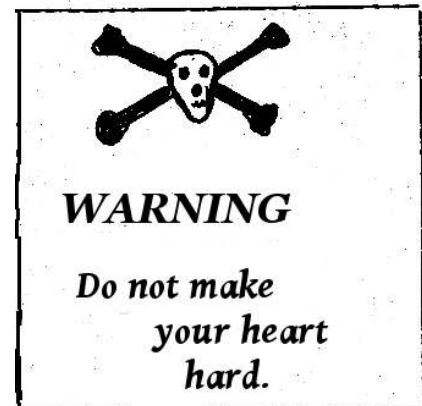


### 2. Warning - do not make your heart hard, Hebrews 3:7 - 4:13.

READ HEBREWS 3:7 - 4:13.

The people of Israel did not obey God in the wilderness. They tempted God and tried God. They made their hearts hard against God. They did not put their trust in God. Because of this they could not go into the land God promised them. They had to wander in the wilderness. They could not find rest.

People hear the good news today. This good news does not help them if they do not put their trust in Jesus Christ. If a person does not put his trust in Jesus Christ, he will not go into that rest which is heaven.



The writer says,

*"Let us do our best to go into that rest or we will be like the people who did not go in."* Hebrews 4:11 (N.L.T.).



### 3. Warning - do not go back into sin, Hebrews 5:11 - 6:19.

READ HEBREWS 5:11 - 6:19.

Some people knew about the first things of salvation - repenting, having faith in God, baptism, rising from the dead. These people did not try to learn more about God and the things of God. They stayed and lived like babies in Christ. The writer says they should learn more about God or they would fall back into sin.

Some people who knew all these things **willfully** turned away from God. They put Jesus on the cross again. They hold Jesus up in shame before the people. The danger is that they cannot be sorry for sin anymore.

The writer says,

*“Be like those who have faith and have not given up. They will receive what God has promised them.”* Hebrews 6:12 (N.L.T.).

### 4. Warning - there is no other sacrifice for sin, Hebrews 10:23-39.

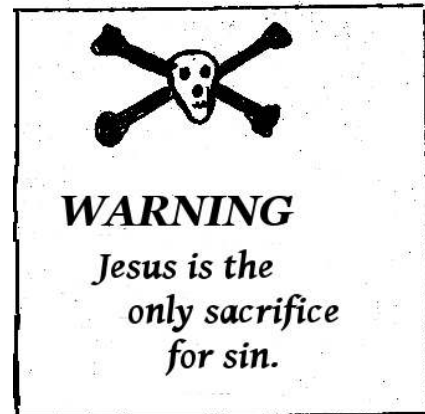
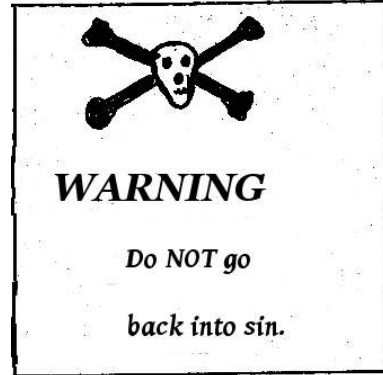
READ HEBREWS 10:23-39.

In the old way of worship (covenant) a person was punished when he did not obey the law. A person was punished when two or three people said he was guilty of a sin. Often the person was killed. Example: Exodus 35:2; Leviticus 20:10; Leviticus 5:17-18. If a person sinned, he had to pay for his sin.

Now Jesus Christ has made the way to God. He paid for the sins of the people with His own blood. He gave His life so people could come back to God. Jesus is greater than everyone else. He is God. When a person rejects Jesus Christ he will be punished.

The writer says,

*“How much more will a man have to be punished if he walks on and hates the Son of God?”* Hebrews 10:29 (N.L.T.).



*“How much more will he be punished if he acts as if the blood of God’s New Way of Worship is worth nothing?” Hebrews 10:29 (N.L.T.).*

*“How much more will he be punished if he laughs at the Holy Spirit Who wanted to show him loving favor?” Hebrews 10:29 (N.L.T.).*

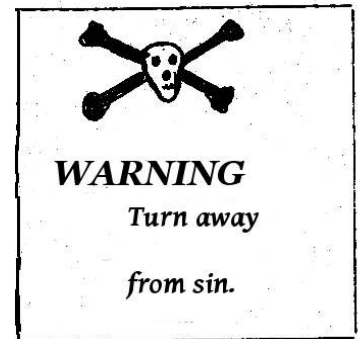
If the person does not accept the sacrifice Jesus made for him, there is no other sacrifice for that person. He will have to pay for his own sin.

## **5. Warning - turn away from sin, Hebrews 12:1-17.**

READ HEBREWS 12:1-17.

Many people had faith. Even before Christ was born many people had faith. They believed God - they believed that He would give them better things. They did not give up in their faith.

When people made it hard for Jesus, He did not give up. Even when He was put on the cross He did not give up. He finished the payment for our sin on the cross.



The writer says,

*“. . . Let us put everything out of our lives that keeps us from doing what we should.” Hebrews 12:1 (N.L.T.).*

*“Let us keep running in the race that God has planned for us.” Hebrews 12:1 (N.L.T.).*

*“Let us keep looking to Jesus. Our faith comes from Him and He is the One Who makes it perfect.” Hebrews 12:2 (N.L.T.).*

*“In your fight against sin, you have not yet had to stand against sin with your blood.” Hebrews 12:4 (N.L.T.).*

God wants us to keep going on in faith. Sometimes he punishes us to teach us the right way. He does this because He loves us.

## **H. Christian living, Hebrews 13:1-25.**

READ HEBREWS 13:1-25.

The writer shows how great Jesus Christ is. He is God. The writer also warns us not to reject Jesus Christ. He shows what will happen to those who reject Jesus Christ.

Because Jesus Christ is great and because He died for sin, a Christian should live to please God.

*“ . . . Let us please God and worship Him with honor and fear.”* Hebrews 12:28 (N.L.T.).

The last chapter of Hebrews tells how a Christian can live to please God. God will not leave a Christian. God will help him live right. The Christian should thank God all the time for what Christ has done.

**I. The work of Jesus Christ now.**

The letter of Hebrews shows what work Jesus Christ is doing now.

1) Jesus is at the right hand (side) of God in heaven, Hebrews 1:3; 8:1; 10:12. He upholds all things by the power of His Word, Hebrews 1:3. God has given Jesus a place of great honor and shining greatness (glory), Hebrews 2:9.

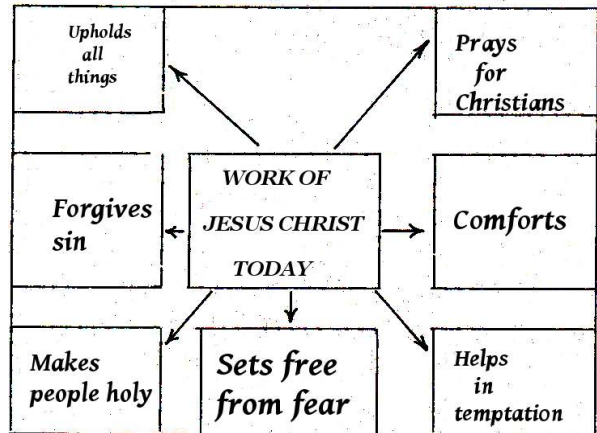
2) Jesus bought us with His blood. Because of this He forgives our sin. Jesus takes away our sin. He made the way for us to go to God, Hebrews 2:11; 9:12; 10:10; 10:20; 13:12.

Jesus saves from the penalty of sin all those who put their trust in Him, Hebrews 7:25.

3) Jesus makes men holy, (sanctifies them), Hebrews 2:11. He makes people free from sin forever, Hebrews 9:12. All those who live God-like, He makes perfect, Hebrews 10:14. Sometimes Jesus punishes (chastens) the Christians to help them live holy lives, Hebrews 12:5-11.

4) Jesus destroyed the power of the devil. By destroying this power He makes Christians free from the fear of death, Hebrews 2:14,15.

5) Jesus helps us when we are tempted. He was tempted and He



knows we need help in temptation. Jesus understands us, Hebrews 2:18; 4:15.

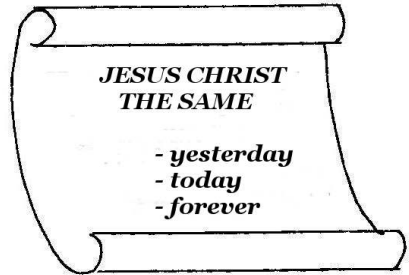
6) Jesus comforts Christians. He keeps His promises. Jesus never leaves Christians, Hebrews 6:18,19; 13:5,6.

7) Jesus prays to God for Christians, Hebrews 7:25; 9:24. Jesus is the One Who goes between God and the people (mediator), Hebrews 8:6.

#### **J. Jesus Christ does not change.**

The book of Hebrews shows that great men died. Abraham died. Moses died. The priests died.

The book shows that the old way of worship was finished. Changes had to be made.



**BUT, JESUS CHRIST IS GOD, Hebrews 1:8. HE DOES NOT CHANGE.**

*" . . . You are always the same."* Hebrews 1:12 (N.L.T.).

*" . . . He would never change His mind."* Hebrews 6:17 (N.L.T.).

*"But Jesus lives forever. He is the Religious Leader forever. It (this work) will never change."* Hebrews 7:24 (N.L.T.).

*"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."* Hebrews 13:8 (N.L.T.).

#### **IV. WORDS TO LEARN**

1. covenant - agreement, something like a treaty; Old Way of Worship, New Way of Worship.
2. high priest - head religious leader - mediator between man and God
3. Jesus Christ the high priest - Religious Leader Who made the way for man to go to God.
4. mediator - one who goes between two people, or the One Who goes between God and people.
5. sacrifice - an offering; something given to God that costs much to the giver.
8. sanctify - to make holy.

9. tempt - to try to make someone do wrong.
10. tradition - that which is handed down from parents to children. This may be in the way of thinking about things or in the way of doing things. Usually the thoughts and acts are not written down.
11. temptation - that which wants to make us do something wrong.
12. type - a picture of a thing which is like another.

## V. ASSIGNMENT

1. Who wrote the letter of Hebrews?
2. When was the letter to the Hebrews written?
3. To whom was the letter to the Hebrews written?
4. Tell three things about those to whom the letter was written.
  - 1) Hebrews 5:11-14
  - 2) Hebrews 10:32-34
  - 3)
5. How does Hebrews help us understand the Old Testament?
6. Why was Hebrews written?
7. What is the main thought in Hebrews?
8. What is the key word in Hebrews?
9. What are the key verses in Hebrews?

### Hebrews 1:1 - 2:18.

10. Jesus Christ is better than Hebrews 1:1-3.
11. Jesus Christ is better than Hebrews 1:4.
12. What is the work of angels?
13. In which verses is Jesus Christ called God?
14. What is the warning in Hebrews 2:1-4

15. What did Jesus do for us?
  - 1) Hebrews 2:9
  - 2) Hebrews 2:11
  - 3) Hebrews 2:14,15
  - 4) Hebrews 2:17
  - 5) Hebrews 2:18

**Hebrews 3:1 - 4:13.**

16. Jesus Christ is better than \_\_\_\_\_, Hebrews 3:3.
17. Why was God angry with the people of Israel in the wilderness? Hebrews 3:9-11
18. How did God punish the people of Israel?
19. What is the warning in this part? Hebrews 3:15; 4:7
20. Hebrews 4:11 says, "Let us

."

**Hebrews 4:14 - 8:5.**

21. Jesus is better than \_\_\_\_\_
22. Why is Jesus better than the priests from the family of Aaron?
  - 1) Hebrews 5:2
  - 2) Hebrews 5:9,10
  - 3) Hebrews 7:11
  - 4) Hebrews 7:23
  - 5) Hebrews 7:27
  - 6) Hebrews 7:28
23. Who was Melchizedek?
24. Why is Jesus like Melchizedek?
25. What is the warning in Hebrews 5:11 - 6:19

26. Who cannot be sorry for his sin? Hebrews 6:4-6

27. The writer of Hebrews asks that (Hebrews 6:12)

**Hebrews 8:6-13.**

28. Why is the new agreement better than the old agreement? Hebrews 8:12

**Hebrews 9:1 - 10:39.**

29. What was the work of the priests? Hebrews 9:6

30. What did the high priest do once a year? Hebrews 9:7

31. For whom did the high priest take blood into the Holy of Holies?

32. Tell four things Jesus Christ did as a High Priest for us. Hebrews 9:11-15

1)

2)

3)

4)

33. The blood of animals \_\_\_\_\_ sin. The blood of Jesus Christ  
\_\_\_\_\_ sin.

34. Why is the sacrifice of Jesus Christ better than the sacrifices of the old way of worship?

35. What is the warning in Hebrews 10:23-39?

36. A person who disobeyed the laws of the old way of worship was punished. How will a person be punished who the blood of Jesus Christ, Hebrews 10:29.

**Hebrews 11:1-40; 12:1-17.**

37. What is faith?
  
38. Why did many of the leaders of the people of Israel keep faith? Hebrews 11:39,40
  
39. What is the warning in Hebrews 12:1-17?
  
40. How does God show us that He loves us? Hebrews 12:5-11

**Hebrews 13:1-25.**

41. Rules for Christian living:
  - 1) Hebrews 13:1
  - 2) Hebrews 13:4
  - 3) Hebrews 13:5
  - 4) Hebrews 13:9
  - 5) Hebrews 13:15
  - 6) Hebrews 13:17
  
42. What is the work of Jesus Christ now? Tell of seven things.
  - 1)
  - 2)
  - 3)
  - 4)
  - 5)
  - 6)
  - 7)
  
43. Write out the verses that tell us that Jesus does not change.
  - 1)
  - 2)
  - 3)
  - 4)



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