

The Bible Companion Series

HEBREWS

A BETTER HOPE

"The law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God."

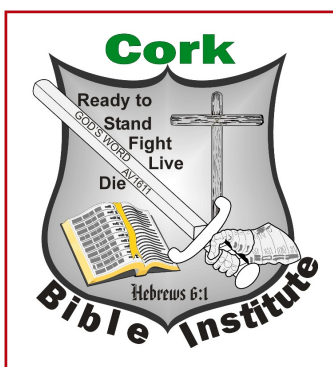
Hebrews 7:19

A Study of the Book of Hebrews

A Bible-Believing Study Guide

STUDENT'S NAME: _____

AV 1611 Bible Companion



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A Note Concerning the Cork Bible Institute

This study course is intended to be used in conjunction with the Cork Bible Institute and contains Chapter Quizzes and a Final Exam that can be applied towards credit in the Institute. If you want your participation in this course to be part of an overall course accreditation, please inform Pastor Ledbetter and he will make sure your records are retained. Your attendance will be recorded, and there will be a class project for you to complete by the end of the eleven week course.

Class Projects:

To pass this course, you will need to complete the following:

- 1. Read through Hebrews twice*
- 2. Fill-in all the following notes*
- 3. Attend 80% of the classes*
- 4. Write a 3 page Report on one of the following subjects*
 - a. The Authorship of the Book of Hebrews – Who wrote this Book?*
 - b. A summary description of all the “better things” in Hebrews*
 - c. A study of any one of the chapters in Hebrews – explaining things verse by verse*
 - d. A Study of all the differences between the first and second covenants*
- 5. Memorize the thirteen suggested Scripture verses that are key verses for each chapter. Or, you can memorise another verse from each chapter, just as long as it is only one verse for each, and you memorize 13 in total.*

The Book of Hebrews Introduction to the Book

I. Introduction

- A. The Letter to the Hebrews is an amazing book -- nothing like anything you see in the rest of the New Testament.
 - B. It's filled with high-grade nuggets of Christian truth that will stay with you all your life!
 - C. Hebrews is certainly a book for disciples. It stirs our faith and nips at our heels when we get lazy in our walk. It helps us see Jesus in a new way. And it enables us to understand the role of suffering to discipline and train us up as Jesus' disciples. Though
 - D. This Book is very "_____"
1. Throughout this Book you will wade through various tabernacle-related sacrificial rituals from the book of Leviticus. But as you take the time to understand what is being said, you'll be staggered by the present-tense implications.
 2. Even though Hebrews discusses at length the Old Testament themes of sacrifice, forgiveness, and Israel's high priest, it isn't about these things.
 3. Ultimately, the Letter to Hebrews ultimately focuses all our attention on Jesus Christ -- who he is in both his humanity and divinity, and what he has done for us now and forever.

II. Background to the Book of Hebrews

A. Author

1. All manuscripts with the title heading on them have the apostle _____ as the author.
2. But because Paul's customary _____ so common to his other works is missing from the letter (see 2Thes 3:17), people have questioned his authorship.
3. Some think _____ is its writer (because of the long-winded style)
4. Others suggest Hebrews may have been written by Apollos, Barnabas, Silas, Philip, or Aquila.
5. But the best guess is Paul because of the way chapter 13 is written – it is Paul through and through. Probably the reason why Paul refused to put his name to the letter was so that the Hebrew speaking people would read it instead of dismissing it because of Paul's traitorous conversion from Judaism. For a Jew to read a letter from a heretical Jew would be incomprehensible.

B. Date of Writing

The early church father Clement quoted from the Book of Hebrews in 95 A.D., and the fact that Timothy was alive at the time to epistle was written and the absence of any evidence showing the end of the Old Testament sacrificial system that occurred with Jerusalem's destruction in 70 A.D. indicates the book was written between ____ and ____ A.D.

C. Purpose of Writing

1. The late Dr. Walter Martin, founder of the Christian Research Institute and writer of the best selling Kingdom of the Cults, quipped in his usual tongue-in-cheek manner that the Book of Hebrews was written by a Hebrew to other Hebrews telling the Hebrews to stop acting like Hebrews.
2. Many of the early Jewish believers were slipping back into the rites and rituals of Judaism in order to escape the mounting persecution. This letter, is an exhortation for these persecuted believers to trust in the grace of Jesus Christ alone, and not turn back to a completed system of Old Testament faith. Remember, the New Testament was just being written so most everything Christian Jews knew was from the Old Testament, and without clear, strong preaching and teaching, they would easily slip back into Judaism.

3. Hebrews is also written to make sure people don't forget the link that exists between the Old Testament pattern and the New Testament reality. There is no New Testament without the Old Testament!

D. Brief Summary:

1. This is Paul's Letter to *his people* proving Jesus Christ is Better than all things Old – it is the Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Jews!
2. The writer of Hebrews continually makes mention of the superiority of Christ in both His personage and in His ministering work. In the writings of the Old Testament, we understand the rituals and ceremonies of Judaism symbolically pointed to the coming of Messiah--in other words, the rites of Judaism were but shadows of things to come. Hebrews tells us that Christ Jesus is better than anything mere religion has to offer. All the pomp and circumstance of religion (just take a look at Catholicism, and Hinduism, and Buddhism) pales in comparison to the person, work, and ministry of the Messiah Jesus. It is the superiority of our Lord Jesus, then, that remains the theme of this perfectly written epistle!
3. The book of Hebrews is _____ in character – it teaches truth.
4. It contains ____ chapters and 303 verses.
5. The emphasis of Hebrews is Jesus Christ who is someone better than, and his work something better than anything in Judaism.
6. The purpose of the book of Hebrews is to prove that the change from the Levitical to the Christian system was predicted by the Old Testament, particularly the change to a new priesthood, a new covenant, a new sacrifice and a new sanctuary.

E. Just WHO are the “Hebrews”?

1. Not “spiritual Israel” as some say (Cf Rom 9:6; 2:28,29; Gal 6:16). Not necessarily all born again believers
2. These HEBREWS are the Jewish nation – Hebrew speakers (read Rom 9:1-5)!
3. From _____ in Gen 10:21-25, Eber being the root word for the Eberews, Hebrews!
4. The Book of Hebrews is written to all Hebrew speaking Jews who believe in the God of the Old Testament, but were still stuck in the Old Testament

F. Key Words in the Book of Hebrews:

1. “_____” occurs thirteen times
2. “_____” or “_____” occurs fifteen times
3. “_____” or “_____” occurs nine times

G. All the *Better Things* listed in Hebrews!

1. Better Revelation 1:1-4
2. Better Rest 4:9
3. Better Things 6:9; 11:40
4. Better Hope 7:19
5. Better Covenant 7:22; 8:6
6. Better Priesthood 7:23-28
7. Better Promises 8:6
8. Better Sacrifice 9:23
9. Better Substance 10:34; 12:24
10. Better Country 11:16
11. Better Resurrection 11:35

H. In Summary – Jesus will be proven to be better than:

1. Angels – Jesus CANNOT be an angel and be better than angels!!!
2. All Old Testament Prophets

3. The Entire Old Testament
4. The Aaronic Priesthood
5. All Old Testament Promises and Covenants
6. All Old Testament Sacrifices
7. All Old Testament Resurrections
8. Life itself (Philp 3:10)
9. Solomon (Lk 11:31)
10. Jonah (Lk 11:32)
11. The Sabbath
12. Abraham (John 9:53)
13. Jacob (John 4:12)
14. Moses (Heb 3:3)

I. Old Testament References in Hebrews:

1. Thou art my son (1:5 / Psalm 2:7)
2. Let all the angels worship him (1:6 / Psalm 97:7)
3. Who maketh his angels spirits (1:7 / Psalm 104:4)
4. What is man (2:6-8 / Psalm 8:4-6)
5. I will declare thy name (2:12 / Psalm 22:22)
6. Today if you will hear his voice (3:7-11 / Psalm 95:7-11)
7. God rested on the seventy day (4:4 / Genesis 2:2)
8. Thou art my son (5:5 / Psalm 2:7)
9. Make all things according to the pattern (8:5 / Exodus 25:40)
10. To make a new covenant (8:8-12 / Jeremiah 31:31-34)
11. Sacrifice and offerings thou wouldest not (10:5-7 / Psalm 40:6-8)
12. Vengeance belongs to the lord (10:30 / Deuteronomy 32:35-36)
13. The just shall live by faith (10:38 / Habakkuk 2:4)
14. Despise not God's chastening (12:5-6 / Proverbs 3:11-12)
15. I will never leave thee nor forsake thee (13:5 / Deuteronomy 31:6)

J. The writer of Hebrews gives much encouragement to believers, but there are five solemn warnings we must heed:

1. Do not neglect spiritual things (Hebrews 2:1-4),
2. The danger of unbelief (Hebrews 3:7-4:13),
3. The danger of spiritual immaturity (Hebrews 5:11-6:20),
4. The danger of failing to endure (Hebrews 10:26-39),
5. And the inherent danger of refusing/resisting God (Hebrews 12:25-29).

K. Suggested Memory Verses:

1. Hebrews 1:8
2. Hebrews 2:3
3. Hebrews 3:12
4. Hebrews 4:12
5. Hebrews 5:9
6. Hebrews 6:19
7. Hebrews 7:19
8. Hebrews 8:1
9. Hebrews 9:27,28
10. Hebrews 10:10
11. Hebrews 11:6
12. Hebrews 12:2
13. Hebrews 13:5