



GRACE IN THE WORD

THE BOOK OF HEBREWS



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ABOUT THIS READING PLAN

THIS READING PLAN WALKS YOU THROUGH THE BOOK OF HEBREWS.

Each day's reading includes:

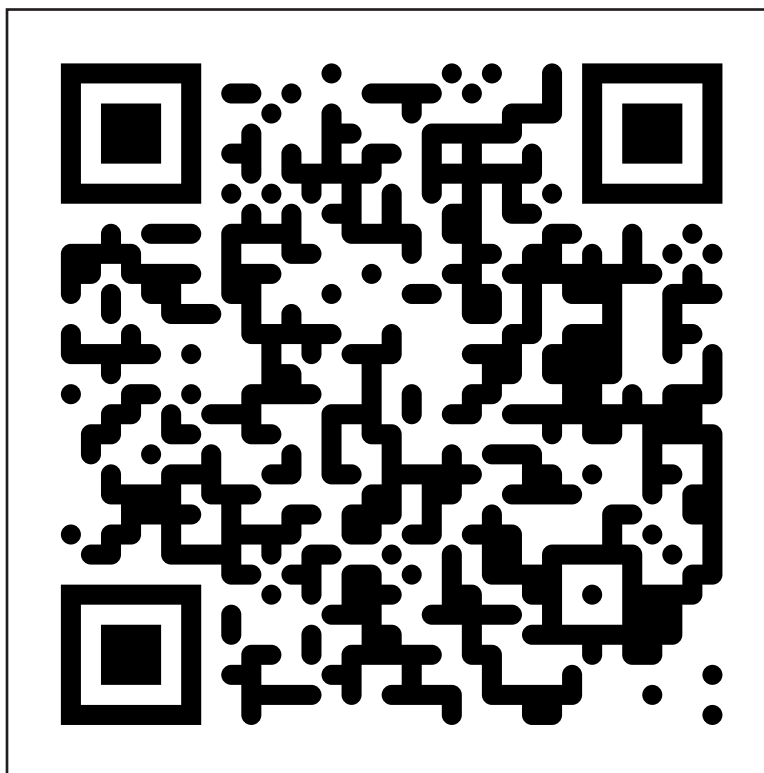
1. A passage from the Book of Hebrews.
2. A commentary.
3. A devotional, or a reflection thought to process the biblical reading more intentionally.
4. Space for you to write thoughts or questions from that day's corresponding scripture or reflection.

Check out graceclarksville.com/graceintheword for additional resources, and follow us on Instagram and Facebook [@GraceClarksville](https://www.facebook.com/GraceClarksville)

The study material in this guide was adapted from The BibleProject, *Hebrews* by Grant Osborne, *Enduring Word Commentary* by David Guzik, *From Pentecost to Patmos: An Introduction to Acts through Revelation* by Craig Blomberg, Darlene Seal, & Alicia DuPree, *Letter to Hebrews* by Madison Pierce from *The New Testament in Color*, *The NIV Application Commentary: Hebrews* by George Guthrie

GRACE IN THE WORD DIGITAL RESOURCES

Scan this code with your phone or type in the link below for additional digital resources and study.



bibleproject.com/videos/hebrews

THE BOOK OF HEBREWS

IMPORTANCE OF THE BOOK OF HEBREWS TODAY

- Hebrews anchors our faith in the **unchanging sufficiency of Christ**.
- Hebrews shows how all Scripture, both the Old Testament and New Testament, is centered on Jesus.
- Hebrews warns against casual Christianity and calls us to mature, enduring true faithfulness to God.
- Hebrews reminds us that **faith sometimes means waiting and hoping** in what we cannot yet see.

"Hebrews calls the church to spiritual maturity, to endurance, and to a deeper understanding of Jesus' role as our priest and sacrifice. It is a book for times of crisis and temptation to compromise."

- Craig Blomberg, Darlene Seal, and Alicia Duprée

Name & Contact Information

What is your hope for this study in God's Word?

THE BOOK OF HEBREWS

INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE OF HEBREWS

AUTHOR

The author of Hebrews is unknown; many early Christians speculated that it could be Barnabas, Apollos, or others, but no firm conclusion exists. Many scholars believe it is doubtful that Paul is the author since the writing style and content of Hebrews are vastly different from other Pauline letters. The author was likely a second-generation believer with deep knowledge of the Old Testament and Jewish traditions.

WHEN

Likely written between AD 60-70, before the destruction of the Jerusalem temple in AD 70, since temple sacrifices are referred to in the present tense.

WHAT

Hebrews falls in the genre of a general epistle. Although technically classified as a letter, it reads more like a sermon.

AUDIENCE

The recipients were likely Jewish Christians facing persecution and tempted to return to Judaism to escape suffering. They were familiar with the Levitical system, temple rituals, and the Mosaic Law.

MAIN PURPOSE OF THE BOOK

Hebrews urges believers to hold fast to their confession of faith in Christ. By drawing on rich imagery from Israel's history of priests, covenants, sacrifices, and the wilderness, Hebrews helps them (and us) see how Jesus fulfills and surpasses everything the old covenant anticipated. He is greater than what had come before Him.

"The principal design of the Epistle is to declare the absolute preeminence of Christ above all legal ordinances and institutions, showing that in Him alone is the perfection of all things spiritual and eternal."

- John Owen

The first 10 chapters explain Jesus' identity and work; the final 3 call us to respond in faith. Here's an overview of this 7-week study.

Jesus is **GREATER**

Week One: Introduction, Background, and Context of Hebrews

Week Two: Hebrews 1-2 - The Greater Message

Week Three: Hebrews 3-4:13 - The Greater Leader

Week Four: Hebrews 4:14-7 - The Greater Priest

Week Five: Hebrews 8-9:10 - The Greater Covenant

Week Six: Hebrews 9:11-10 - The Greater Sacrifice

Week Seven: Hebrews 11-13 - Encouragement to Live with Endurance and Hope

THE BOOK OF HEBREWS

PRAYERS & REFLECTIONS

BEFORE YOU READ GOD'S WORD TODAY, SEEK HIS HELP WITH THESE 5 PRAYERS

1. God, give me wisdom, knowledge, and understanding.
2. God, let any knowledge I gain help me love You and others more and not puff me up.
3. God, help me see something new about You I've never seen before.
4. God, correct any lies I believe about You or anything I misunderstand.
5. God, direct my steps according to Your Word.

**** Prayers from *The Bible Recap Reading Plan* by Tara-Leigh Cobble ****

TIPS FOR APPROACHING SCRIPTURE

- Pray before you read (use the prayers above)
- Read the words in proper context, taking into consideration when it was written, to whom it was written, and what was happening when it was written (a good study bible is helpful)
- Look for God's character and faithfulness to His people
- Look for themes that point to Jesus
- Look for anything repetitive, unusual, confusing, hopeful, comforting, or challenging
- Once you are finished reading, take a few minutes to meditate on what you have read:
 - ┆ Narrow down what you've read to just one or two main thoughts.
 - ┆ What did I learn about God in these passages?
 - ┆ How can I praise God for what this says about him?
 - ┆ What did I learn about the human heart in these passages?
 - ┆ What behavior/emotions come when I forget these things about God?
 - ┆ What is God revealing to me today that I need to listen to?
 - ┆ What sins do I need to confess in light of what God revealed today?
 - ┆ What next step can I take in light of what I have read today?

WEEKLY CHECKLIST

GRACE IN THE WORD

WEEK ONE

INTRODUCTION- HEBREWS

- ☐ **Day 1** - Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:1-4; 4:12-16; 6:19-20; 10:19-25; 12:1-3; 13:8
- ☐ **Day 2** - Hebrews 3:6-12, Numbers 14:1-25, 2 Timothy 4:9-10
- ☐ **Day 3** - Hebrews 2:1-4; 3:12-19; 4:8-13; 5:11-6:3; 10:26-39; 12:25-29
- ☐ **Day 4** - Hebrews 1:1-3, John 1:1-18, 29-34, Colossians 1:15-23
- ☐ **Day 5** - Genesis 14:18-20, Exodus 12:1-14, 25:8-9, Leviticus 16:15-33
- ☐ **Day 6** - Reflection Day
- ☐ **Day 7** - Rest Day

WEEK TWO

HEBREWS CH. 1 & 2

- ☐ **Day 1** - Hebrews 1:1-4, Genesis 1:1-2, John 1:1-3, 14, Matthew 17:1-5
- ☐ **Day 2** - Hebrews 1:1-14
- ☐ **Day 3** - Hebrews 2:5-10, Psalm 8:4-6, 1 Corinthians 15:27
- ☐ **Day 4** - Hebrews 2:11-18, Philippians 2:6-8, John 1:14, Hebrews 12:2
- ☐ **Day 5** - Hebrews 2:1-4
- ☐ **Day 6** - Reflection Day
- ☐ **Day 7** - Rest Day

WEEK THREE

HEBREWS CH. 3 & 4

- ☐ **Day 1** - Hebrews 3:1-6, John 1:14-18, Colossians 1:15-20
- ☐ **Day 2** - Hebrews 3:7-19, Psalm 95, John 10:6-16
- ☐ **Day 3** - Hebrews 3:12-19, Isaiah 53, 1 Corinthians 10
- ☐ **Day 4** - Hebrews 4:1-13, Genesis 2:1-4, Joshua 21:43-45, Isaiah 26:3-8, Matthew 11:28-29, Revelation 14:12-13
- ☐ **Day 5** - Hebrews 4:12-16, Isaiah 55:8-13, Psalm 119:105-112, Ephesians 6:10-18
- ☐ **Day 6** - Reflection Day
- ☐ **Day 7** - Rest Day

WEEK FOUR

HEBREWS CH. 5, 6 & 7

- **Day 1** - Hebrews 5:1-6, Exodus 28:1-5
- **Day 2** - Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-10, Matthew 27:46, Psalm 2:7, Matthew 3:13-17, Psalm 110:4
- **Day 3** - Hebrews 5:11-6:12
- **Day 4** - Hebrews 6:13-20, Genesis 22:16-18
- **Extra** - Who is Melchizedek? - Hebrews 7:1-14, Genesis 14:18-20, John 2:1-11, Luke 22:14-20
- **Day 5** - Hebrews 7:15-28, Psalm 110:4, Hebrews 5:5-10
- **Day 6** - Reflection Day
- **Day 7** - Rest Day

WEEK FIVE

HEBREWS CH. 8 & 9:1-10

- **Day 1** - Hebrews 8:1-6, Psalm 110, Jeremiah 31:31-34
- **Day 2** - Hebrews 8-9:10, Exodus 24:1-8, 31:18, Leviticus 16:32-34, Jeremiah 31:33-34
- **Day 3** - Hebrews 8:6-13, Matthew 26:28; 1 Corinthians 11:25; 2 Corinthians 3:4-18
- **Day 4** - Hebrews 9:1-10
- **Day 5** - Hebrews 9:1-10, Revelation 21:3-7
- **Day 6** - Reflection Day
- **Day 7** - Rest Day

WEEK SIX

HEBREWS CH. 9:10 & 10

- **Day 1** - Hebrews 9:11-15
- **Day 2** - Hebrews 9:9-10, Hebrews 9:11-23, Leviticus 4:1-20, 2 Corinthians 5:21
- **Day 3** - Hebrews 9:23-28, Leviticus 16, Ephesians 2:18, Revelation 4:1-3
- **Day 4** - Hebrews 10:1-18, Psalm 40:6-8
- **Day 5** - Hebrews 10
- **Day 6** - Reflection Day
- **Day 7** - Rest Day

WEEK SEVEN

HEBREWS CH. 11, 12, & 13

- **Day 1** - Hebrews 11:1-38, 12:1
- **Day 2** - Hebrews 12:1-2, Hebrews 10:24-25, Ecclesiastes 4:9-12, Galatians 6:2
- **Day 3** - Hebrews 12:1-13, Proverbs 3:11-12, Hebrews 10:14
- **Day 4** - Hebrews 12:14-29, Romans 12:1-5
- **Day 5** - Hebrews 13
- **Day 6** - Reflection Day
- **Day 7** - Rest Day

WEEK 1

INTRODUCTION TO HEBREWS



Villa Jovis Roman palace on Capri, Southern Italy

"Have you ever traveled to a new city and felt disoriented until you started to find your way around, the lines and boxes on your GPS gradually morphing into real, three-dimensional places with which you were familiar? As we become familiar with the New Testament book of Hebrews, we may have a similar sense of disorientation until we begin to know our way around. It has been said that "Hebrews is a delight for the person who enjoys puzzles." But if you are willing to put the time in to walk through the fascinating twists and turns of this ancient Christian text, you will begin to discover its theological riches and relevance for today.

Hebrews is worth the effort for several reasons. First, Hebrews is unique among the New Testament writings... no other book focuses on the high priesthood of Jesus. In fact, the author's interaction with the Old Testament Scriptures shines a light on Christology that offers a unique perspective on both Jesus' identity and his sacrificial work in dealing with our sins. Second, unlike any other book in the New Testament... Hebrews originally was a sermon, which the author crafted for the congregations addressed... Third, Hebrews was written to address real-life, nitty-gritty challenges that believers faced at a critical time in the church's development. It is easy to approach Hebrews as a heady, theologically-oriented "lecture," meant to impress with deep theology and high-sounding rhetoric. But Hebrews is both pastoral and relevant for both the life of the individual believer and the church as a whole. The author uses solid teaching to address crying needs, especially the need to "hang in there" in following Jesus when life becomes difficult."

- Grant R. Osborne

DAY 1 – MONDAY

HEBREWS 1:1-4; 2:1-4; 4:12-16; 6:19-20; 10:19-25; 12:1-3; 13:8

WHY STUDY HEBREWS?

Studying Hebrews is a powerful reminder that God is not silent. From the opening verses, we're invited to see how God has always spoken: first through prophets like Moses, Isaiah, and David, and now, finally and fully, through His Son, Jesus Christ.

Hebrews is a theologically rich, bold call to perseverance. Drawing deeply from the Old Testament, the author shows that Jesus is not simply another leader; He is the fulfillment of every Old Testament promise, the better sacrifice, the better priest, the mediator of a better covenant. When our faith feels shaky, Hebrews steadies us. Like Israel in the wilderness, we are prone to drift, grow weary, or rebel, but this letter anchors us in the truth of Christ's finished work on the cross and His ongoing intercession and provision.

To study Hebrews is to be invited to draw near to God: freely, boldly, and by faith. We are inspired by the lives of those who've faithfully gone before us, from Abel and Abraham to Moses and Rahab. Still, we are ultimately called to fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who endured the cross for the joy set before Him. In a world full of distractions and doubts, Hebrews calls us to hold fast to Christ, who is greater in every way. Studying Hebrews lifts our eyes from distractions and difficulties to the One who has already run the race and sits victorious at God's right hand.

It is important to study Hebrews:

- Because it shows us Jesus as the fulfillment of the entire Old Testament story.
- Because it calls us to a mature faith rooted in grace and perseverance, not empty rituals
- Because it reminds us that Jesus is greater than angels, Moses, priests, or sacrifices.
- Because it helps us endure, stay anchored, and keep running the race with joy and hope.

REFLECTION

What do you hope to gain out of your time in the book of Hebrews? Pray about who should go on this journey with you. Ask a friend or family member to join you, or consider joining one of our Grace in the Word groups.

DAY 2 – TUESDAY

HEBREWS 3:6-12, NUMBERS 14:1-25, 2 TIMOTHY 4:9-10

THE AUTHOR AND AUDIENCE OF HEBREWS

The message of Hebrews was written long ago, in a different language, to a church located in the Greco-Roman world. For modern readers unfamiliar with ancient Jewish traditions, it can feel distant or difficult to understand. But to begin to understand what Hebrews has for us today, we must first consider what it meant to its original audience.

Who is the author?

The author of Hebrews is unknown, but the text reveals someone with deep knowledge of Jewish traditions and Greco-Roman literature. The author organizes the content persuasively and displays a pastoral heart for the audience, encouraging them to know and trust in Jesus.

Hebrews 13:23 mentions Timothy, leading to speculation that the author may be a co-worker of Paul, such as Barnabas or Apollos. The writing style, however, differs significantly from Paul's letters, suggesting this is likely not Paul. Still, the message is clear: the author wants the church to understand that Jesus offers something far greater than what is familiar and comfortable.

Who is the audience?

The title Hebrews was added later, and we can't know for certain who the original audience was. Most likely, it was a young church in Rome, shaped by Jewish history and Roman imperial power, with many members new to the faith. The author draws them into the grand story of God's people, fulfilled in Christ and still unfolding in their day, a story we, too, are part of.

Hebrews speaks with the language of family and belonging, calling believers "brothers and sisters" in God's household and heirs of Abraham's faith. But this invitation came at a cost. They faced persecution, pressure to return to familiar Jewish rituals, and the temptation to blend into Roman culture. Like the Israelites in the wilderness longing for Egypt, they felt the pull to turn back, whether to legalism, paganism, or whatever seemed easier than following Jesus.

The message then and now is clear: **Jesus is worth following.** Though written to a specific people in a particular time, Hebrews still urges us to resist the lure of what is familiar, accepted, or comfortable. We belong to a bigger story, a family marked by faith, perseverance, and grace, and we follow a Savior greater than anything we leave behind.

REFLECTION

Why might early Jewish Christians have been tempted to abandon Christ? Have you ever felt pressure to turn back from following Jesus?

DAY 3 – WEDNESDAY

HEBREWS 2:1-4; 3:12-19; 4:8-13; 5:11-6:3; 10:26-39; 12:25-29

THE COMPLEX STRUCTURE OF HEBREWS

"The author of Hebrews utilizes a masterful mix of warnings, promised rewards, and human examples in encouraging his hearers to persevere in the Christian faith...Hebrews does not develop in a neat outline from point A to point Z. Rather, the author switches back and forth between exposition (expounds the person and work of Christ) and exhortation (seeks to motivate the congregation to a positive response)... These subjects are woven together in a complex of warnings, encouragement, and the portrayal of both positive and negative examples, all of which offer the hearers a dichotomy of decision. Therefore, with his appeals, the author repeatedly returns to the same themes, reemphasizing both the positive possibilities and the potential dangers of the hearers' next step."

-George Guthrie

Each section of Hebrews comes with both a reminder of the greatness and supremacy of Jesus, but also warnings for the readers to heed. The warnings appear at key turning points in the letter, growing in intensity. The sequence moves from mild to severe: drifting → hardening → dullness → willful sin → outright refusal of God's voice. These warnings seek **to produce perseverance, not despair**. The warnings are like guardrails: severe because the stakes are high, but given to keep believers on the road.

"The warnings in Hebrews are some of the most severe in the New Testament, but they are pastoral in nature. They serve to wake up those drifting from the faith, not to terrify those who are sincerely clinging to Christ despite weakness...They are addressed to believers in real danger of falling away from the faith—not by isolated sins, but by a hardened, willful, and persistent rejection of Christ. These warnings function pastorally. They are meant to awaken slothful or spiritually dull Christians to the seriousness of apostasy."

- Craig Blomberg, Darlene Seal, and Alicia Duprée

REFLECTION

The book of Hebrews includes strong warnings, but also deep encouragement. It's a good reminder that God's warnings are always invitations back to His grace. Look for this pattern as we go through our study of Hebrews. Which of these passages stood out to you today and why?

DAY 4 – THURSDAY

HEBREWS 1:1-3, JOHN 1:1-18, 29-34, COLOSSIANS 1:15-23

JESUS IS GREATER

The central theme of Hebrews is the supremacy of Jesus. He brings a greater message, serves as a greater leader and High Priest, and offers a greater covenant and sacrifice than all who came before Him.

Hebrews opens with seven distinct statements about how Jesus is GREATER:

Jesus is the heir of all things - Hebrews 1:2

- He is greater because all creation ultimately belongs to Him as its rightful heir.

All things in the universe are made through Jesus - Hebrews 1:2

- He is greater because everything in the universe was made through Him.

Jesus is the radiance of God's glory - Hebrews 1:3

- He is greater because He perfectly shines forth the brilliance of God's glory.

Jesus is the exact representation of God's being and His character - Hebrews 1:3

- He is greater because He reveals God's very nature & character without flaw.

Jesus sustains all things by the power of His Word - Hebrews 1:3

- He is greater because He upholds and carries all creation toward its intended purpose by His powerful Word.

Jesus provides purification of sins - Hebrews 1:3

- He is greater because He alone provides complete cleansing from sin.

Jesus sat down at the right hand of the majesty in heaven - Hebrews 1:3

- He is greater because He reigns in the highest place of honor & authority in heaven.

"The opening verses of Hebrews may be the most exalted Christology in the New Testament. The Son is not merely a messenger of God's Word, He is the Word, the radiance of God's glory, and the exact representation of His being."

- Craig Blomberg, Darlene Seal, and Alicia Duprée

REFLECTION

Reflect today on each of these ways that Jesus is greater. How does understanding these passages help us have a better appreciation of Jesus?

DAY 5 – FRIDAY

GENESIS 14:18-20, EXODUS 12:1-14, 25:8-9, LEVITICUS 16:15-33

JESUS IS GREATER

“The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming—not the realities themselves.”

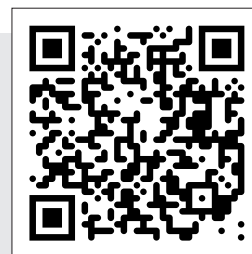
– Hebrews 10:1

Understanding the Old Testament background will enrich our study of Hebrews. Hebrews is full of mentions of things like the sacrifices, priests, the tabernacle, and the Israelites’ wilderness journey. None of those Old Testament moments were the main event. They were shadows, beautiful, meaningful shadows of the main event that was to come. Hebrews pulls back the curtain and shows us that all the shadows were pointing to **Jesus**.

- The sacrifices → point to Jesus’ once-for-all sacrifice
- The priests → point to Jesus, our mediator, the Great High Priest who never stops interceding for us
- The tabernacle → points to that through Jesus, God’s presence is with us in a fuller, eternal way now and forever
- The wilderness journey → points to Jesus bringing us into the promised land of eternal rest in God’s kingdom

In the Old Testament, the Jewish people and priests offered sacrifices to cover the people’s sins temporarily, pointing forward to the perfect sacrifice to come. The high priest acted as the mediator between God and His people, entering the Holy of Holies once a year to make atonement. God’s presence dwelt in the tabernacle, a sacred place specially set apart, showing His desire to be with His people. Together, these pointed to Jesus, the ultimate High Priest who offers a perfect sacrifice and ushers us into God’s presence forever.

When we read Hebrews with the Old Testament in view, the story of Jesus gets even richer. The shadows are good, but the reality is so much better.



Watch the Hebrews
Overview Here!

REFLECTION

Take a few minutes to find a quiet place and imagine the tabernacle—the lampstand glowing, the incense rising, the veil separating the Holy of Holies. Picture Jesus as the perfect High Priest who has torn that veil and invites you into God’s presence freely. Reflect on what this invitation means for your daily life and relationship with God.

DAY 6 – SATURDAY

REFLECTION DAY

REFLECTION NOTES AND QUESTIONS:

This week we began our study of Hebrews, a letter that blends deep theology with practical encouragement. Written to a persecuted church tempted to turn back, it urges believers to hold fast to Jesus, the fulfillment of every Old Testament promise, the better sacrifice, the greater High Priest, and the anchor of our souls. Through warnings, encouragement, and Old Testament imagery, Hebrews lifts our eyes from distractions and doubts to the One who reigns at God's right hand and invites us to draw near with confidence.

Reflect/journal your thoughts on the following prompts:

- Write down what you learned about the Lord this week.
- What is something you looked at this week that you want to receive from God in greater measure? Why?
- How can you begin to apply this truth about God to your walk with Him?

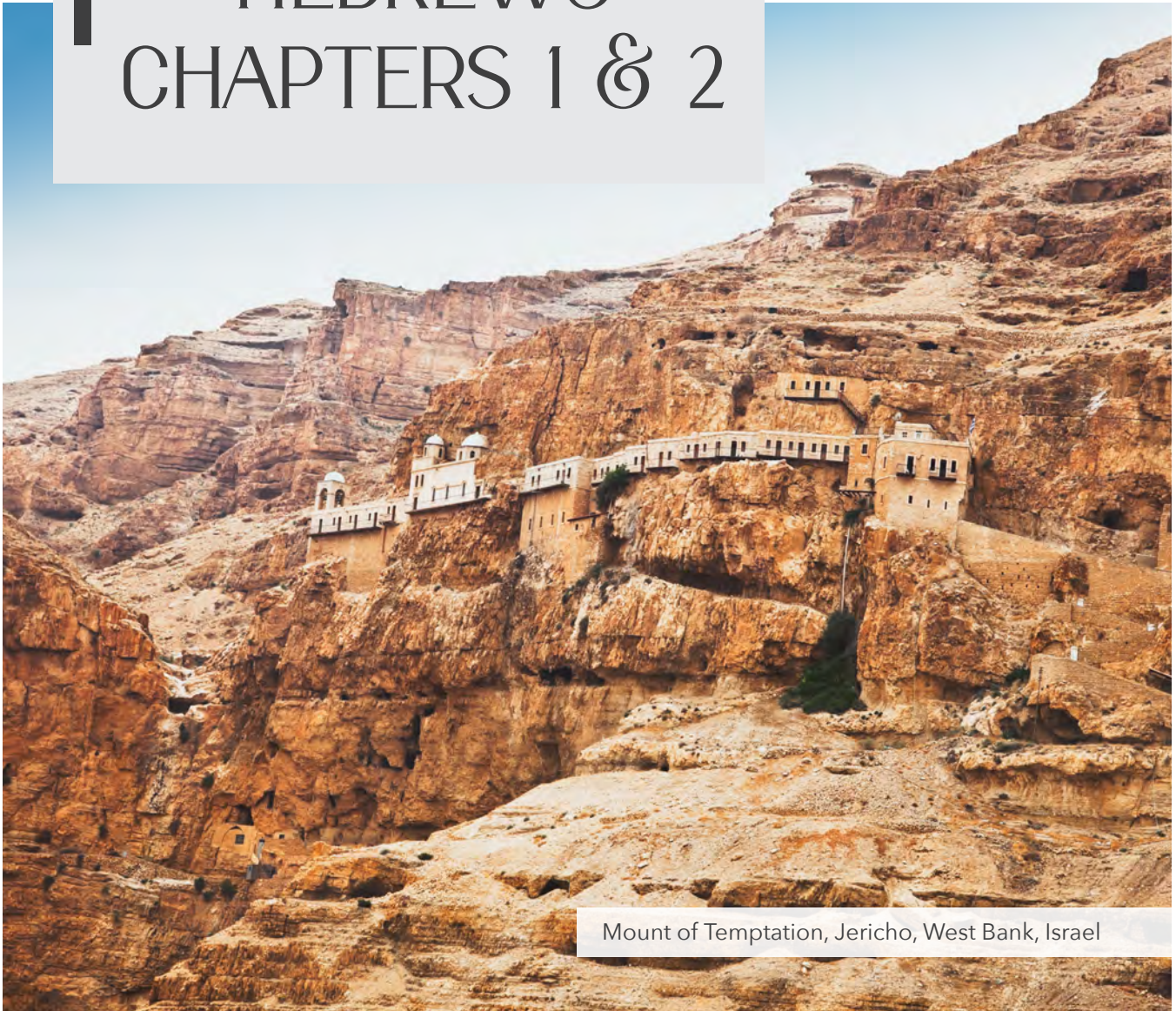
DAY 7 – SUNDAY

REST DAY

Join us for worship today and prepare your heart to engage with next week's study of God and His word. Use your time today to rest, pray, and reflect on this week's readings.

WEEK 2

HEBREWS CHAPTERS 1 & 2



Mount of Temptation, Jericho, West Bank, Israel

JESUS IS THE GREATER MESSAGE

This week, we are looking at the book of Hebrews, chapters one and two. These chapters focus on Jesus' supremacy over all angels and even the law that God gave to His people. His greatness reigns over these two powers because He is God and Savior of all. There is no being, celestial or not, that is not under His authority. There is no law that His salvation does not rule. Ultimately, this truth points to the fact that **no former way that the Lord spoke to His people is greater than the message that Jesus Christ Himself brings.**

Consider the greatness of the message of Christ as you study Hebrews chapters one and two this week.

DAY 1 – MONDAY

HEBREWS 1:1-4, GENESIS 1:1-2, JOHN 1:1-3, 14, MATTHEW 17:1-5

CHRIST: THE EQUAL OF GOD

Hebrews is a unique book, not only in the New Testament but in the entirety of scripture. As we've read, the author of this book is a mystery, which brings about its own intrigue. Moreover, the book is so compelling because the subject matter is dense and impactful to all who take the time to read and understand it. This week, we are looking at chapters one and two of Hebrews, which focus on the great supremacy of Christ, specifically over angels and the Torah (law).

Verses one through four begin this study by looking at the magnitude that is Christ, and that this magnitude is not only greater than any celestial being, like angels (more to come from that in tomorrow's reading), and the law, but Christ is also equal in power and authority with God. Verse three most clearly makes the case of the superiority of Christ: *"The Son radiates God's own glory and expresses the very character of God, and He sustains everything by the mighty power of His command."*

The entirety of verses one through four, as well as chapters one through ten, echoes the message of chapter one, verse three, that the Son is the radiance of God's glory and the expression of His character. He is equal to no other than God, because He is God. We need to understand this. Verses one through four remind us: Jesus is the way the Lord is speaking to us (v. 2), everything we long for comes through the Son (v. 2), everything we know came through the Son, who was with God in creation (v. 2), all power is Christ's (v. 3), and He has used this power to bring our salvation (v. 3). **Of course He is greater than the angels, He is God!**

REFLECTION

Today's reading and commentary may seem evident to a believer. Of course Jesus is our salvation and equal with God. Of course our lives are better with Him, and there is nothing greater, but here's the challenge to reflect upon: **do I live this way?**

Do I live as if there is nothing greater, more powerful, more compelling than Christ? What about the power of finances and debt? What about the power of my work and security? What about the power of my gratifications?

Today, reflect on what holds the seat of greatest power in your life. Be honest about what this is. After you take some time to face this truth, go back once more and read, write down, or memorize verse 3. *"The Son radiates God's own glory and expresses the very character of God, and He sustains everything by the mighty power of His command."* Reflect on this and let it become a seed of truth in your heart and mind. The entire purpose of the book of Hebrews is found in verse three. It is meant to change our lives.

DAY 2 – TUESDAY

HEBREWS 1:1-14

CHRIST: GREATER THAN ANY OTHER MESSAGE

One of the more confusing focuses of chapter one of Hebrews is the author's emphasis on angels and Christ being above them. Why do we need so much clarification that Christ is greater than the angels? For one, there is a belief that the audience for the book of Hebrews was potentially wrestling with the hierarchy of power and glory attributed to Christ versus the powerful celestial workers of God's army, angels. This harkens back to a Jewish Hebrew belief that, in Deuteronomy 33:2, when Moses is presented with the law of God, it was delivered to him by an angel.

Carrying from that understanding, the second reason, for the clarification that Jesus is greater than the angels, is to point to the fact that **Jesus is superior to all of the former ways God has revealed Himself**. That is a very, very big claim. Think back to the ways God has revealed Himself in the past: a burning bush to Moses (Exodus 3), a still small voice to Elijah (1 Kings 19), a heavenly vision to Isaiah (Isaiah 6), a scandal through Hosea (Hosea 1:2), a vision of ripe fruit to Amos (Amos 8:1), the angel Gabriel to Mary (Luke 1:26-27). These miraculous and attention-grabbing methods of communication are ones we still look back on with awe and wonder, but what the author of Hebrews rightfully claims is that Jesus is greater than any of these methods God used to reveal Himself.

The author wraps up this reminder by saying in verse fourteen, *"Therefore, angels are only servants- spirits sent to care for people who will inherit salvation."* In other words, all of the incredible, powerful, and miraculous ways the Lord revealed Himself were only a means to serve in His most significant revelation of His Son, Jesus. Jesus is the culmination of God's message for mankind.

REFLECTION

All of scripture, all of life, is pointing us back to the greatest message: **Jesus is here and we are free.**

How often do we reflect upon this message, though? More often than not, we let the messages of the world overtake the message of the Lord. The messages of the world are loud, constant, and persuasive. They tell us things like: "You're not enough unless you succeed," or "You'll be happy when you finally get _____." We see it in social media feeds that celebrate curated perfection, in advertisements that sell identity along with products, and in the pressure to prove ourselves through busy schedules and impressive achievements. Even well-meaning voices like teachers, bosses, friends, or culture at large can drown out the voice of Christ when we're not rooted in truth.

But the message of Jesus cuts through all of that: You are already known, already loved, already free—not because of what you've done, but because of who He is and what He has done. Reflect today on the messages that seem to take up the majority of space in your brain. Why those messages? Now, today, try to practice regular reflection on the supreme message of the Lord and His goodness. When the world creeps in with another message, push it out with His message, because it is superior to all.

DAY 3 – WEDNESDAY

HEBREWS 2:5-10, PSALM 8:4-6, 1 CORINTHIANS 15:27

CHRIST: THE PERFECT LEADER

What is a leader but one worth following, emulating, and reflecting? There have been countless books written about good leaders and how to be a leader. We care about followers and who to follow, but we need not look any further than the person of Jesus. The author of Hebrews is making this point abundantly clear in chapter two, specifically verses five through ten. Jesus is our greatest leader.

The author writes, *"...it was only right that He (God) should make Jesus, through His suffering, a perfect leader, fit to bring them (mankind) into their salvation."* Of course, Jesus is the greatest leader. He is God and literally became the perfect One of us (man), and yet still suffered in every way that we have, will, and will never have to (the sufferings of Hell).

Jesus came from the Heavenly Father, was born of a common woman. He took on humanity so that we may one day put on eternal divinity. He lived counter to the world, to Jewish tradition, and to government pressures. He never wrote a great book, was never recorded giving a great speech, or led a leadership seminar, yet libraries of the world carry His words, His works, and His example. We still look to His example in every facet of our lives, because **Jesus is the perfect leader our hearts and lives need.**

REFLECTION

Reflect today on who or what you allow to lead you, and ask yourself what might change in your life if you allowed Jesus to be your ultimate leader.

DAY 4 – THURSDAY

HEBREWS 2:11-18, PHILIPPIANS 2:6-8, JOHN 1:14, HEBREWS 12:2

CHRIST: THE PERFECT MAN

We all love a good plan. We may not like making plans, but when it comes to executing something big or complicated, we love for there to be a detailed plan to lead and guide us along the way. Whether that plan is how to get the most out of your Disney World vacation or how to clean the entire house in a timely manner, a plan makes something difficult or seemingly impossible attainable.

We overlook the magnificence of the complexity and sheer beauty of the executed plan of salvation that Jesus partook in. Hebrews 2:11-18 walks us through the magnitude of this plan. Verse fourteen presents the problem of our need for salvation. We're human. We are "flesh and blood", which is to say, lesser. Lesser than God, lesser than the angels, lesser than our strength or desire to find salvation on our own. How hopeless are we? How hopeless is our situation if left to ourselves and our plans? But praise God, He had the greatest plan humanity will ever know, come down as a man. Why? *"For only as a human being could He (Jesus) die, and only by dying could He break the power of the devil, who had the power of death."* (v. 14)

Verse fifteen makes it clear, this was the only way for us to be free. Jesus was in *"every respect like us, his brothers and sisters..."* (v. 17). He was just like us minus one incredibly fundamental detail: He achieved the work of complete righteousness. **He was perfect in every way that we, in every way, could not be.** This perfection allowed His perfect plan to work. We are now set free because of His good work.

REFLECTION

Where do you fail? This is a hard question to reflect on, but it is the exact one we need today. Where do you fall short? Where do you keep messing up? Reflect on this. Now, go back and read and write down Hebrews 2:18. These are the words meant to remind our broken hearts that we fail. He knows this about us, but because of His perfection, we are set free from our failure and encouraged forward toward more righteous living. We fail, but He did not. This truth is meant to be a light to our hearts, eyes, hands, and feet to now lean upon His strength when we feel tested, weak, or like failures. Rise as a victorious warrior as you rise with the perfect Savior.

DAY 5 – FRIDAY

HEBREWS 2:1-4

DO NOT DRIFT AWAY

Did you notice we skipped something? It wasn't an accident. All week, we have been looking at what Hebrews chapters one and two teach and remind us about Jesus and who He is. Hebrews chapter two, though, opens with an encouragement that is important to look at before ending our week, to not drift away from the Lord, and this truth we have reflected upon.

All week, we have looked at this life-changing, eternity-altering truth that Jesus is greater than anything, any power, or any message that ever came or has come after Him. Our temptation is to allow the things of this world to lead us away from this message, though. David Guzik, in his bible commentary on Hebrews, writes about our temptation to drift this way:

*"The writer had the drifting of a boat in mind, and such drifting happens naturally without an anchor to something solid. If we are not securely set in the truth of the supremacy of Jesus, we will drift into danger with the currents of the world, the flesh, and the devil...It (drifting away) happens easily. **One doesn't have to do anything to drift away.** Departure from the faith usually comes from slow drifting, not a sudden departure.*

"The protection against drifting is to have Christ as once the anchor and rudder of life. The anchor will hold us to the truth, while the rudder will guide us by the truth."

- Griffith Thomas

REFLECTION

Reflect today on what you find to be your greatest current for drifting away from the Lord. What stirs your heart away from God? Why is it this thing that takes you from being anchored to the Lord? After taking some time to think on this, go back and reread Hebrews chapters one and two. Reflect on something you need to anchor to that you read about Jesus this week. Finally, pray and thank the Lord that He has given you this to be anchored to in your life.

DAY 6 – SATURDAY

REFLECTION DAY

REFLECTION NOTES AND QUESTIONS:

As we wrap up this week's study, re-read *Hebrews Chapters 1 & 2*.

This week, we looked at the first two chapters of Hebrews and specifically how Christ is supreme over all that has been, is, or ever will be. Whether angels, the ways the Lord spoke to us before Him, or the things that seek to drift us away from the Lord, the Lord is supreme over them all.

Reflect/journal your thoughts on the following prompts:

- Write down what you learned about the Lord this week.
- What is something you looked at this week that you want to receive from God in greater measure? Why?
- How can you begin to apply this truth about God to your walk with Him?

DAY 7 – SUNDAY

REST DAY

Join us for worship today and prepare your heart to engage with next week's study of God and His word. Use your time today to rest, pray, and reflect on this week's readings.

WEEK 3

HEBREWS

CHAPTERS 3 & 4



Town of Safed, Israel

JESUS IS THE GREATER LEADER

This week, we're focusing on Chapters 3-4. In these verses, the author reminds us that Jesus is an even greater leader than Moses. Moses was a faithful servant; he led God's people through the wilderness and oversaw the building of the tabernacle, but he was only a preview of the One to come. **Jesus is the true Architect of it all, the One worthy of all glory, honor, and praise!**

We also see a sobering reminder from Israel's history: when they hardened their hearts and rebelled against God in the wilderness, they lost the blessing of entering the promised land. The author's warning to the Hebrews still speaks to us today, don't let your heart grow hard, and don't miss out on God's incredible promise of eternal rest.

DAY 1 – MONDAY

HEBREWS 3:1-6, JOHN 1:14-18, COLOSSIANS 1:15-20

FIX YOUR THOUGHTS ON JESUS

Hebrews 3:1-4:16 starts the first extended exhortation by the author of Hebrews. In Scripture, an exhortation is often used to earnestly encourage someone to live faithfully or obey God's Word. It is not just strong urging or encouragement, but also an appeal to take action. Specifically in 3:1-6, the action is to fix their thoughts on Jesus. The author first points to Jesus' perfect faithfulness to God's calling, just as Moses was faithful, and then shows why Jesus is far greater. Moses was a faithful servant in God's house, but Jesus is the Son over God's house. He is the builder, architect, and rightful heir. As believers, we are safe in his house if we hold firmly to our courage and the hope we have in Him.

Hebrews' second major comparison highlights Christ's greater honor and position than the great lawgiver of Israel, Moses. This paragraph likens their differences to those between a servant and a son. Both were faithful to their missions, leading their followers or "households". But Moses was faithful within God's house, whereas Christ was the builder of the house, that is, the Creator. This holds true whether one takes "house" to mean "family" or "dynasty," and both may well be intended. Jesus was also a heaven-sent messenger and high priest, as well as God's very Son, while Moses was only a servant. Sons can inherit authority over households where servants cannot. And where Moses was "bearing witness to what would be spoken by God in the future", Jesus speaks what God is saying now. But the climax of the comparison between Moses and Jesus is that we are his house, but only if we hold firmly and persevere.

- Craig Blomberg, Darlene Seal, and Alicia Duprée

This is more than a call to admire Jesus from a distance. The Greek word for "consider" is often translated to look intently, **to dwell on Him with undivided attention**. When life takes our gaze toward earthly worries and concerns, Hebrews reminds us we share a heavenly calling. Our faith isn't built on tradition or even the example of great servants like Moses; it's anchored in the living Son, the chief author and perfecter of our faith, who reigns over all.

REFLECTION

Where are your thoughts fixed today? Reflect on this question for a time. Spend longer than you think you need or may even feel comfortable with. When you're done, assess whether your thoughts drifted toward fear, comparison, or self-reliance. Now take time to bring your thoughts back to Jesus. Consider His faithfulness in every trial, His authority over your life, and His invitation to hold fast to hope. **Your courage is found in knowing you belong to His house, under His care, forever.**

DAY 2 – TUESDAY

HEBREWS 3:7-19, PSALM 95, JOHN 10:6-16

LISTEN TO HIS VOICE

Hebrews 3:7-19 echoes Psalm 95, warning us through Israel's history. God had rescued His people, parted the sea, fed them in the wilderness, and guided them by His presence, yet they still doubted Him when circumstances grew hard. Their unbelief wasn't always loud rebellion; sometimes it was quiet resistance to God's leading.

In the verses just before this warning that we read yesterday, we're reminded that Jesus is greater than Moses, the faithful servant who led Israel through the wilderness. Moses was faithful in God's house, but Jesus is the Son over God's house, the architect and rightful ruler. That means when we hear His voice, we're not just hearing a messenger, we're hearing our great Leader, the One who has gone before us, who conquered sin and death, and is bringing us into God's eternal rest.

The danger is the same for us as it was for Israel: to let fear, hardship, or distraction harden our hearts against His leadership. Every day is an opportunity to trust Him again, to follow where He leads, and to rest in His care. So often we let fears steer us more than our faith, but the truth is, our great Leader has already gone ahead, preparing the way. If we can trust Him with our eternity, we can trust Him with today's worries. His voice is ready to guide me into life, peace, and the safety of His presence.

The same Jesus who is our faithful Leader calls us to follow Him step-by-step. He is the Good Shepherd, and he wants to give us a rich and satisfying life. **If we keep trusting His voice more than our fears and more than the thief who comes to destroy, we will not wander, but enter His promised rest.**

REFLECTION

Listening to God's voice means quieting the constant noise and learning to recognize His steady whisper through Scripture, prayer, and His Spirit's nudges. He often speaks in ways that are subtle yet deeply personal, guiding us through both ordinary moments and big decisions. What distractions keep you from hearing Him, and where might He already be speaking if you slowed down to listen? Do you need His guidance in a specific area of your life right now? Find some quiet moments to listen to Him today.

DAY 3 – WEDNESDAY

HEBREWS 3:12-19, ISAIAH 53, 1 CORINTHIANS 10

DON'T HARDEN YOUR HEART

The audience of Hebrews lived under pressure to return to the safety of their old traditions. Following Jesus in their day meant losing social standing, family ties, and even possibly their livelihood. In Corinth, believers faced a different challenge: a culture of wealth, idolatry, and moral excess lured them into compromise. Both groups heard the same warning: *"Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts."*

In Hebrews 3, the author recalls Israel's wilderness rebellion. God rescued them miraculously, yet they refused to trust Him. Psalm 95, as we read yesterday, says: *"Do not harden your hearts as Israel did."* Paul echoes this in 1 Corinthians 10: *"These things happened as a warning to us, so that we would not crave evil things as they did...If you think you are standing strong, be careful not to fall."* Outward religion, impressive activity, or a sense of confidence is no substitute for a heart truly anchored in God, in Moses' day, Paul's day, or our day.

Where Israel failed, Jesus succeeded. Isaiah 53 foretells the Suffering Servant who bore our sin in perfect obedience: *"But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed."* Christ endured the judgment we deserve so we could enter God's true rest, not by performance, but by faith that endures.

This warning is just as urgent today. Like the Hebrews, some of us face pressure to retreat to give up on following Jesus, choosing comfort over courage, acceptance over faithfulness. Like the Corinthians, others are tempted to compromise, choosing pleasure over holiness, distraction over devotion. Our culture prizes self-expression, self-protection, and self-sufficiency, but Hebrews reminds us: perseverance in faith does not grow in isolation. **We need a community with fellow believers that encourages us towards repentance and challenges us to pursue the ways of Jesus, so we can keep soft hearts and not rebel against the Lord.**

REFLECTION

Where are you tempted to shrink back into what feels familiar or indulge in what feels easy, possibly avoiding the harder path of obedience? Are there daily habits, small compromises, or constant distractions that quietly dull your sensitivity to God's voice? What intentional step could soften your heart toward Jesus today? Perhaps it begins with more time in His Word, silencing the endless social media scroll, or confessing something you've been ignoring.

DAY 4 – THURSDAY

HEBREWS 4:1-13, GENESIS 2:1-4, JOSHUA 21:43-45, ISAIAH 26:3-8,
MATTHEW 11:28-29, REVELATION 14:12-13

ENTERING GOD’S REST: A PRESENT AND ETERNAL INVITATION

Hebrews 4:1-13 moves from Israel’s failure to enter God’s rest to the ongoing promise available for His people today. From creation, God established a rhythm of rest, not just a physical pause, but deep spiritual peace and restoration in His presence.

The “rest” promised in Scripture was never only about Canaan. Israel’s wilderness generation missed it through unbelief, and the Promised Land was only a shadow of the greater rest God offers. This rest is both present and future: sustaining us now and pointing to eternity, where God will wipe away every tear.

In Matthew, Jesus invites us, “Come to me... and I will give you rest”. Through Him, we can practice Sabbath Rest where we cease from striving, trust His finished work, and live in the peace of His presence. Having a regular rhythm of practicing Sabbath rest is important for us to incorporate, as it recenters our hearts back to the Lord on a regular basis. **God’s “rest” is still available, but it must be entered by faith and obedience.** The author of Hebrews urges us to enter that rest now, holding fast to faith and obedience so we do not miss it.

Beginning to practice Sabbath can feel both refreshing and uncomfortable, like stepping off a moving sidewalk while everyone else keeps rushing by. At first, you may feel restless or guilty for stopping, but as you set aside work, hurry, and distractions, you begin to notice God’s presence in simple things: unhurried meals, lingering conversations, extended time in prayer, and space to breathe. Over time, Sabbath becomes less about doing nothing and more about being renewed, restored, and refreshed.

REFLECTION

We often chase temporary relief, forgetting that Jesus offers lasting rest, now and forever. Reflect on the temporary reliefs you find yourself drawn to. Why these things? How have you discovered that they don’t bring about a true rest.

This passage calls us to listen to His voice, rest in His peace, and live with hope anchored in the eternal Sabbath God has promised. Do you have a Sabbath rhythm in your home? What could it look like for you to set aside one day a week to “cease striving” and rest in the Lord?

DAY 5 – FRIDAY

HEBREWS 4:12-16, ISAIAH 55:8-13, PSALM 119:105-112, EPHESIANS 6:10-18

GOD'S WORD IS LIVING AND ACTIVE

Hebrews 4:12-16 warns that hearing God's Word without true faith leads to spiritual fatigue and distance from Him. To enter and continually experience the rest described in chapter 4, we must cultivate reverence for God and open our lives to His "living and active" Word, not only through preaching, but also through personal reading, study, and meditation that penetrates our hearts and leads to active trust and obedience.

But here in Hebrews 4, "God's Word" is more than just the Bible as we know it; it's God's active, living communication to His people. This includes the Old Testament Scriptures quoted in Hebrews, the gospel message proclaimed by Jesus and the apostles, and God's present voice speaking through the Holy Spirit. It encompasses all of God's revelation, written, spoken, or proclaimed through Scripture, creation, people, signs, and Spirit-led conviction. Always empowered by the Holy Spirit, His Word brings promise, comfort, conviction, and direction, revealing the living voice of God. **True rest for our souls is found by humbling ourselves and entering into a personal relationship with God through Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.**

God's Word penetrates deeply, revealing the heart's true intentions beyond outward faith. Like a sword, it cuts to the innermost being, judging thoughts and attitudes; nothing is hidden from His sight. This could be terrifying, except that we have a Great High Priest in Jesus. His leadership is personal and compassionate; He knows our weaknesses, speaks through His living Word, and invites us to come boldly to His throne of grace. In every trial, decision, and season of waiting, He goes before us, leading us into life, peace, and the safety of His presence.

There is comfort in knowing that He sees all, knows all, and yet still welcomes us to come close and let His Word convict, guide, instruct, and change us. These verses warn that although His Word exposes us, because of the work of Jesus, we don't have to come toward God's throne in fear; we can run with confidence. There, mercy washes away our guilt, and grace strengthens us in our need. We pray knowing He hears us and is for us.

REFLECTION

Where do you most need to let God's living Word speak truth into your life right now, and will you bring that area boldly to His throne of grace today? Where do you need Jesus to lead you?

DAY 6 – SATURDAY

REFLECTION DAY

REFLECTION NOTES AND QUESTIONS:

As we wrap up this week's study, re-read *Hebrews Chapters 3 & 4*.

This week, we saw how Hebrews reveals Jesus as our Greater Leader, far surpassing even Moses, Israel's greatest lawgiver. Moses was a faithful servant within God's house, but Jesus is the Son over the house, its builder and rightful ruler. As the Good Shepherd and Great High Priest, He calls us to fix our thoughts on Him, trust His voice, and resist the drift toward fear, compromise, or self-reliance. Where Israel failed in unbelief, Jesus succeeded in perfect obedience, securing for us a present and eternal rest.

Reflect/journal your thoughts on the following prompts:

- Write down what you learned about the Lord this week.
- What is something you looked at this week that you want to receive from God in greater measure? Why?
- How can you begin to apply this truth about God to your walk with Him?

DAY 7 – SUNDAY

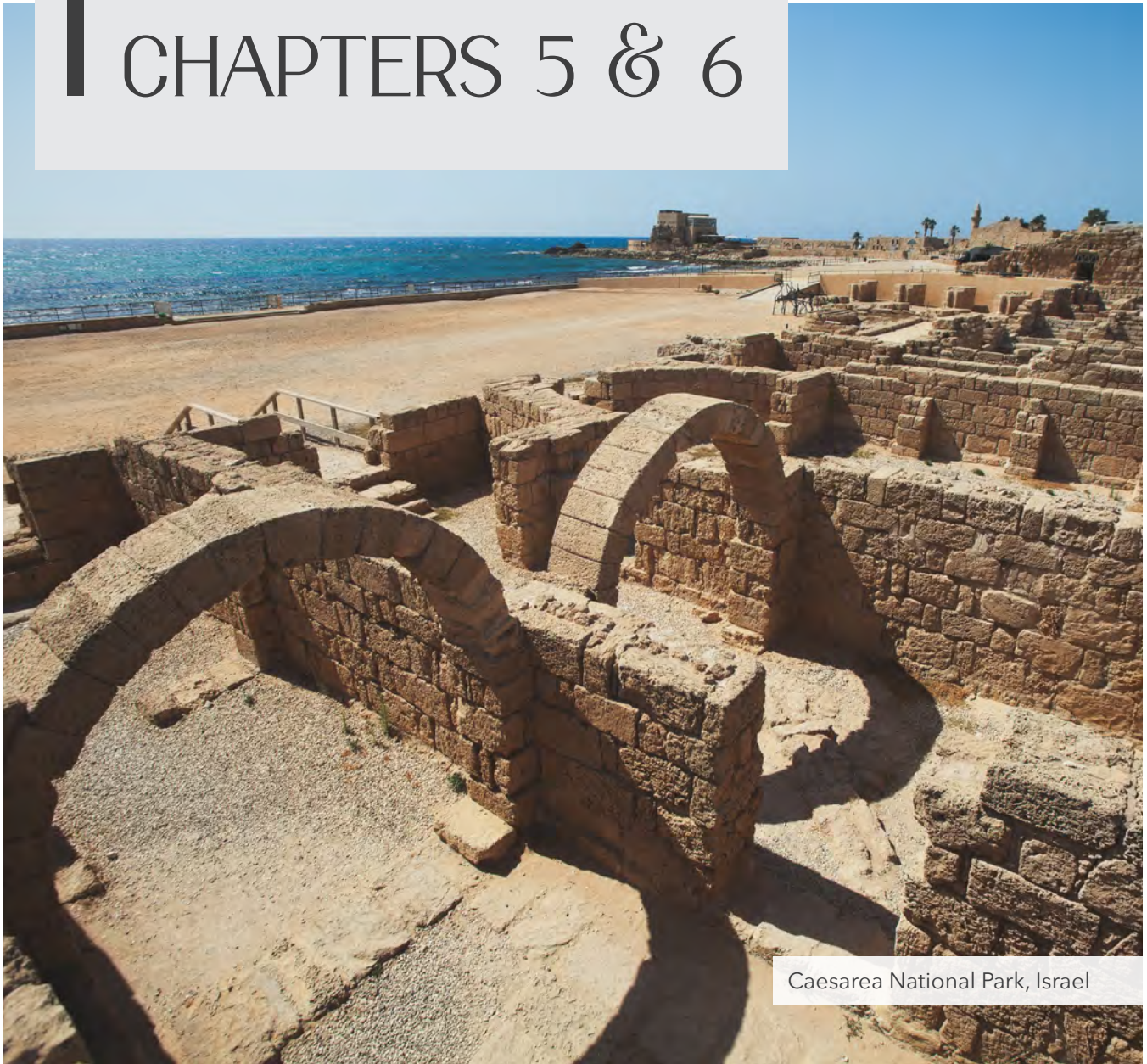
REST DAY

Join us for worship today and prepare your heart to engage with next week's study of God and His word. Use your time today to rest, pray, and reflect on this week's readings.

WEEK 4

HEBREWS

CHAPTERS 5 & 6



Caesarea National Park, Israel

JESUS IS THE GREATER PRIEST

This week, we are looking at the book of Hebrews, chapters five, six, and seven. These chapters focus on the truth that **Jesus is our high priest, meaning that there is no other priest or prophet greater than the One we have in Jesus.** This week, we will examine the role of the priest, how Jesus perfectly fulfills this role in our lives, how we should respond to it, and how a mysterious man from the Old Testament reveals to us in greater depth the supremacy of Jesus as our high priest.

DAY 1 – MONDAY

HEBREWS 5:1-6, EXODUS 28:1-5

THE ROLE OF THE PRIEST

Unless you grew up in the Catholic faith, you might not be very familiar with the role of a priest. This role, however, predates Catholicism. God established it early in creation, with its formal institution recorded in Exodus 28:1-5, when He told Moses to “set apart” Aaron and his sons as priests over Israel in the wilderness. They were given distinctive garments to mark their position, but it was ultimately their spiritual service that was meant to set them apart.

The role of the priests was, as Hebrews 5:1-6 clarifies, to represent the people of God. They were chosen to bring forth gifts (or offerings) to God, and to offer sacrifices for the people’s sins. Essentially, the role of the biblical priests was to be a mediator between the people and God. They were tasked with keeping the sacred space of worship to God and carrying out the sacrificial rituals that brought about forgiveness and access to God’s presence.

The author of Hebrews, though, gives us a glimpse into the shortcomings of this previous system and role: “... *he (the priest) is subject to the same weaknesses.*” (v. 3) The priests were human, meaning sinful too. They failed to live the holy standard expected of a priest. They had to offer sacrifices for themselves, their sinfulness, too. God’s people needed a higher priest. This is Jesus.

Jesus was called by the Father to be a priest to all mankind, but not just any priest. He is the high priest, the greater priest. Unlike any other, Christ lived a perfect life, free of sin, and offered the greatest sacrifice, Himself, for the forgiveness of the world. As verse six reminds us, He is our priest for all eternity (more to come on who Melchizedek was later in the week), meaning that there is no end to His mediation on our behalf to the Father. **Christ is the greater priest because He is the direct connection to God, completely unbroken by sin and eternally secure.**

REFLECTION

The role of the priest can be hard to understand, but consider this: we need a mediator. When we do wrong or are challenged legally, we are brought before a judge. We can’t try our case on our own; we don’t know the laws as well as our attorney, our advocate, and mediator, before the judge. Jesus is our mediator, our high priest, who not only advocates our case, but knows the judge so intimately that there is no question that our case will be dismissed, we will be declared not guilty, and eternally free.

Reflect on this good news and how good it is to have Christ as our greater priest. End this reflection time by praying and praising Him for His mediation in our lives.

DAY 2 – TUESDAY

HEBREWS 4:14-16, 5:7-10, MATTHEW 27:46, PSALM 2:7,
MATTHEW 3:13-17, PSALM 110:4

JESUS: THE HIGH PRIEST

Verse 10 refers again to this mysterious figure of the Old Testament, Melchizedek. We will study why he is referenced so frequently in Hebrews at the end of the week, but the rest of this passage explains more about what it means that Jesus is our high priest. The author is pointing out how Jesus perfectly lived and executed the role of high priest. He specifically points to the fact that Jesus cried out to God with prayers and pleadings. He sought to remove the unbearable weight of sin and death from the world by taking on that great, torturous pain exclusively.

Just like we discussed yesterday, the old order of the priests was an incomplete system for atonement and forgiveness, because the very priests who offered the sacrifices for the people were sinful. None is perfect, and so none is completely worthy, or holy, enough to present a sacrifice that would bring eternal forgiveness. Jesus is the perfect priest who offered the ultimate sacrifice, Himself. The author makes it clear that Jesus did not elect Himself to this role, but that God Himself called Him from heaven to it. **The Lord established Christ as our high priest, and it is because of this divine call, it is because of this perfect priestly sacrifice, that we have all now been called and accepted as congregants of this high priest and set free from our sins for all time.**

Practically, this means we are invited to come before God boldly, not timidly or with shame, but with confidence. This is not confidence in ourselves, but in Him. His sinless life means He can represent us perfectly before the Father, and His humanity means He understands us perfectly. The throne of God, which might otherwise seem intimidating, is here called a throne of grace. In Christ, it is not a place of condemnation but a place of help. Whatever burden you carry, you can bring it directly to Him and find not only mercy for what's past but grace for what's ahead.

REFLECTION

Hebrews 4:14-16 reminds us then that we can boldly, confidently, approach the Lord. God is now our Father who welcomes us to His embrace with nothing holding us back from Him. How often do we really do this, though? How often do we feel this boldness and confidence that the author refers to?

Today, reflect on Christ as our high priest again. Reflect on what that really means, and how our posture towards Him should shift. Take a moment to humbly embrace the entitlement of your salvation that Christ paid for with His life. Approach the throne of Christ and speak to the Lord with confidence, love, and assurance like never before.

DAY 3 – WEDNESDAY

HEBREWS 5:11-6:12

BECOME SPIRITUALLY MATURE

Yesterday's reflection might have felt a little broad. Still, I hope you embraced the challenge and that it had an impact, as yesterday's reflection is precisely what the author of Hebrews challenges the readers with in the remainder of chapter five and the beginning of chapter six. The author uses some harsh language referring to the readers as "babies", immature, and ignorant about how to do what is right. The reason for this, though, is understandable. The author is giving us all the harsh locker room halftime charge that we need.

The author is calling the readers to move off the sidelines of their faith and to get into the game. "Stop asking about the things you already know!" the author essentially says, "And begin playing a role in the royal priesthood that Christ has now brought you into!" What role are we called to play? Teach others! Spread this gospel truth with words and actions. **Let your life be a living sacrifice (example) to the world of the heavenly confidence you now possess because you KNOW you have been paid for and are set free.**

The author in chapter six warns about those who have not walked in this way of mature confidence of faith. They experienced a "taste" (6:5) of this work of Christ, but never fully embraced it. They sat on the sidelines. The author is our coach here, encouraging us, saying, "You're not like that! You're truly free because you accepted it, now go and live it out!" (paraphrased 6:9-12). Are you ready to walk in the way of the confident, mature, secure believer of Jesus? Then get off the sidelines, take your place in the game, and lead your team, your people, to victory with Jesus.

REFLECTION

There is a quote that is often misattributed to St. Francis of Assisi, which says, "Preach the Gospel at all times. Use words if necessary." This is an incredible quote, though we don't know who said it, but the message is more important than the messenger. Our lives should be transformed by our high priest. It should change everything about us. Love should now outweigh every other attribute about us. Our default place should be the throne room of Christ, meaning we should be so fully aware and enamored by God's presence at all times that we become like Him.

Does this describe you? Most likely not, but it could. Reflect today on what the author encouraged about getting off the sidelines of your faith. Why do you think you are still on the sidelines? Finally, ask the Lord to help you embrace Him with a confidence like never before, that you may reflect His light to the world and live in the warmth of His throne room.

DAY 4 – THURSDAY

HEBREWS 6:13-20, GENESIS 22:16-18

JESUS: OUR ANCHOR AND CONFIDENCE

This week, as we've looked at Christ as our greater priest, we've mentioned our default position needing to be one of confidence. Why is that? Hebrews 6:13-20 gives us the clearest understanding of why we should be people of confidence. The author begins by explaining the power of an oath. "...when people take an oath, they call on someone greater than themselves to hold them to it." (v. 16). The oath is binding. It is a covenant; it means something. The author explains the oath and covenant He made in the past before Abraham and how He proved faithful in this oath. He has done it again by swearing an oath to us. The Lord has sworn an oath to us that through faith we have received salvation. We can be confident in this oath because His promises are always kept, His oaths are never broken, and His word is the most secure promise we will ever receive. This promise is so protected that the author describes it by saying, "*God also **bound** himself with an oath...*" (v. 17). He has bound Himself; there's no binding contract stronger than the One put in place by God Himself.

This is why we should be anchored to Him. He is our ultimate security. **There is nothing that can take us away from His love, from the work of Christ on the cross, from our salvation. We are so free that we should walk confidently.** I think of it this way: when my son is scared or unsure, he clings tighter to me. He anchors himself to me because he views me as his strong protector. I bring him confidence. We should be doing the same with the Lord. He offers us security, protection, assurance, and ultimately confidence. If we lack this confidence, it's a good sign that we lack faith or understanding in how strong His work and promise are.

REFLECTION

Today, go back and reflect on just one verse, Hebrews 6:17. He has bound Himself with an oath to us. He has bound Himself to you. Have you bound yourself to Him? Write down verse seventeen and ask yourself what it would mean for you to walk daily bound to Him, in confidence and assurance of your salvation.

A DEEP DIVE

WHO WAS MELCHIZEDEK?

JESUS: OUR ANCHOR AND CONFIDENCE

(HEBREWS 7:1-14, GENESIS 14:18-20, JOHN 2:1-11, LUKE 22:14-20)

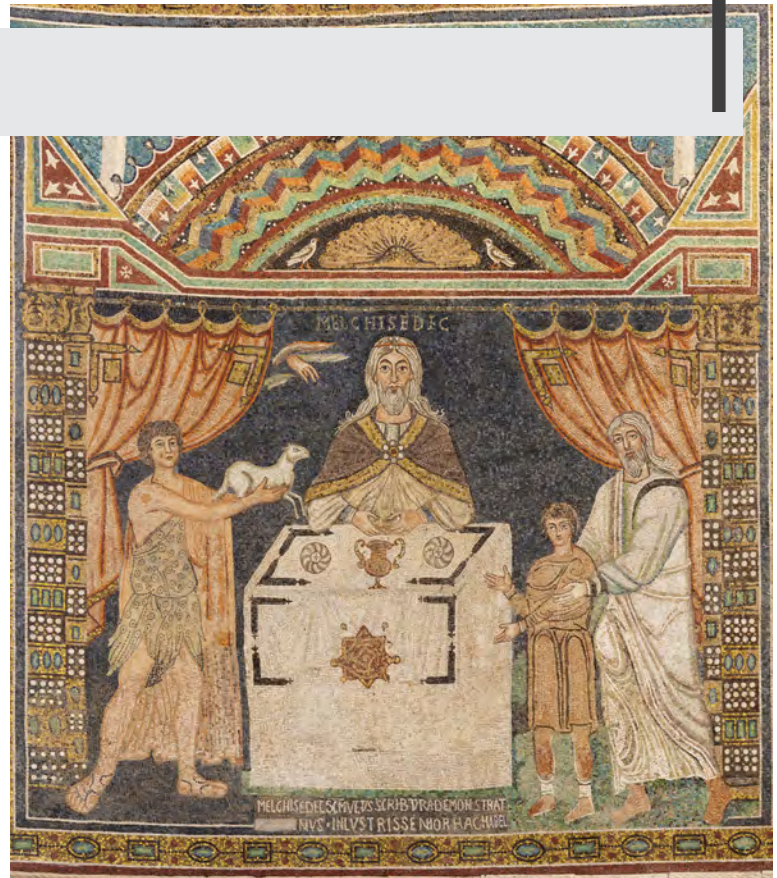
This week's reading has had a lot to say about a specific person of the Old Testament, Melchizedek. If you are unfamiliar with this person, don't feel bad. He's one of the more obscure and mysterious people of the Old Testament. We learn about Melchizedek in the book of Genesis, chapter fourteen, but we only get two very short verses about him. If you don't know the significance of this encounter, then you miss the significance of the author's point that Jesus is like Melchizedek in Hebrews 7.

Melchizedek, we are told in Genesis 14:18, was the king of Salem (Salem is the half of Jeru-salem and is actually ancient Jerusalem before the Israelites came and inhabited it). Salem comes from the Hebrew root word for shalom, which means peace. So, when the author of Hebrews in 7:2 points out that Melchizedek's name means "king of justice" and Salem is peace, then the significance becomes really clear: **Melchizedek is the king of justice and peace.** This is important to understand because names carry great significance in the Bible. Melchizedek lives up to this name in the way that he interacts with Abram.

Abram has just returned from fighting a great war against four kings. He is returning victorious, and as he enters the region of Salem, Melchizedek brings forth wine and bread. Wine and bread are offerings of hospitality, honor, peace, celebration, and prosperity, but more specifically, this is a symbolic priestly offering. The wine and bread represent a spiritual blessing. Think also of the water that Jesus turned to wine to usher in the beginning of His ministry (John 2:1-11) and of course, His last supper, the first communion, with the disciples (Luke 22:14-20). One could argue that Melchizedek is bringing about the first symbolic communion by bringing Abram bread and wine. Melchizedek then, as a priest does, gives a blessing to Abram.

The significance doesn't end here, though. Abram then, recognizing the significance of this priest king and his offering, gives to Melchizedek one-tenth of his wealth (his plunder from war). This is the first tithe. In the Old Testament, the priests would receive a sacrificial tithe from the Israelite, Hebrew people. The tithe was part of an offering to God, and so Abram giving a tithe to Melchizedek here further supports that Melchizedek is a priest.

Finally, Melchizedek is significant because it is the first time the word or role of priest is mentioned. This matters because the Hebrews reading this would know that the role of priest was established officially by God through Aaron and his sons in Exodus 28:1. Aaron was chosen for this because he was a descendant of Levi (one of the twelve sons of Jacob). From this moment of establishing Aaron and his sons as priests, moving forward, only those from the line of Levi could be priests. But Jesus was not a descendant of Levi, which is why the author of Hebrews so strongly focuses on Melchizedek, the true first established priest, who brought peace and justice. Jesus is like Melchizedek. This is who Melchizedek was; this is why he is so significant to the Hebrew author who is trying to explain to the Hebrew audience that Jesus is truly our high priest.



*The mosaic panel of Abraham, Abel and Melchizedek in church
Basilica of Sant Apollinare*

DAY 5 – FRIDAY

HEBREWS 7:15-28, PSALM 110:4, HEBREWS 5:5-10

JESUS IS GREATER THAN MELCHIZEDEK

"The heart of Hebrews' theology is the presentation of Jesus as our great High Priest, superior to Aaron and Melchizedek, whose once-for-all sacrifice secures eternal redemption."

- Craig Blomberg

The first half of Hebrews seven goes over who Melchizedek was. The second half of this chapter now looks at how Jesus is the perfected priest and is like Melchizedek. Remember, the whole point the author is seeking to make here is that Jesus is still our high priest even though He was not a descendant of the Levites (who were previously the only people appointed by God to be priests). The author wants the Hebrews to understand that Jesus overthrew this system because He was the completion and fulfillment of God's plan.

Remember back to day one of our study this week. We saw that the previous system of the priesthood was lacking. It wasn't perfect, because the priests offering the sacrifices for God were not perfect themselves. In the second half of chapter seven of Hebrews, the author is pointing to this truth again, *"...the old requirements about the priesthood was set aside because it was weak and useless..."* (v. 18).

The author makes it clear that this new priest, this new system of atonement for sins, is better! *"...now we have confidence in a better hope..."* (v. 19). This new system draws us nearer to God. **Jesus is the ultimate priest because it is only through Him that we find hope and are able to draw near to God**, not only on the other side of this life in eternity, but even now on this side of heaven, in our day-to-day lives. His reign as priest is even more secure than Aaron's or the Levites because God made an oath to Jesus (Psalm 110:4) that He would be a priest forever. The previous priests never received such an oath. **Jesus is the only one who has the oath of God's blessing to be the priest of all mankind.**

"He (Jesus) is the kind of high priest we need..." (v. 26) *"...He (Jesus) is able once and forever, to save those who come to God through Him..."* (v. 25)

REFLECTION

This week covered a lot of historically weighty truths. Take a moment and re-read Hebrews chapter seven. Reflect on how all-knowing, all-good, and all-powerful our God is that He was working His plan of a royal high priest, His son, to come and offer eternal salvation to us all from the very beginning. Now write down Hebrews 7:26 and 25. Conclude your time by praying to this high priest. Praise Him and pour out sacrifices of gratitude for His salvation and goodness.

DAY 6 – SATURDAY

REFLECTION DAY

REFLECTION NOTES AND QUESTIONS:

As we wrap up this week's study, reread Hebrews Chapters 5-7

This week, we looked at how Jesus is our high priest. There were many priests before Him, but even though He wasn't from the traditional lineage of the priests, He is greater. He perfects a broken system of human, sinful priests, and insufficient sacrifices. **Jesus is our eternal priest who brings about salvation.**

Reflect/journal your thoughts on the following prompts:

- Write down what you learned about the Lord this week.
- What is something you looked at this week that you want to receive from God in greater measure? Why?
- How can you begin to apply this truth about God to your walk with Him?

DAY 7 – SUNDAY

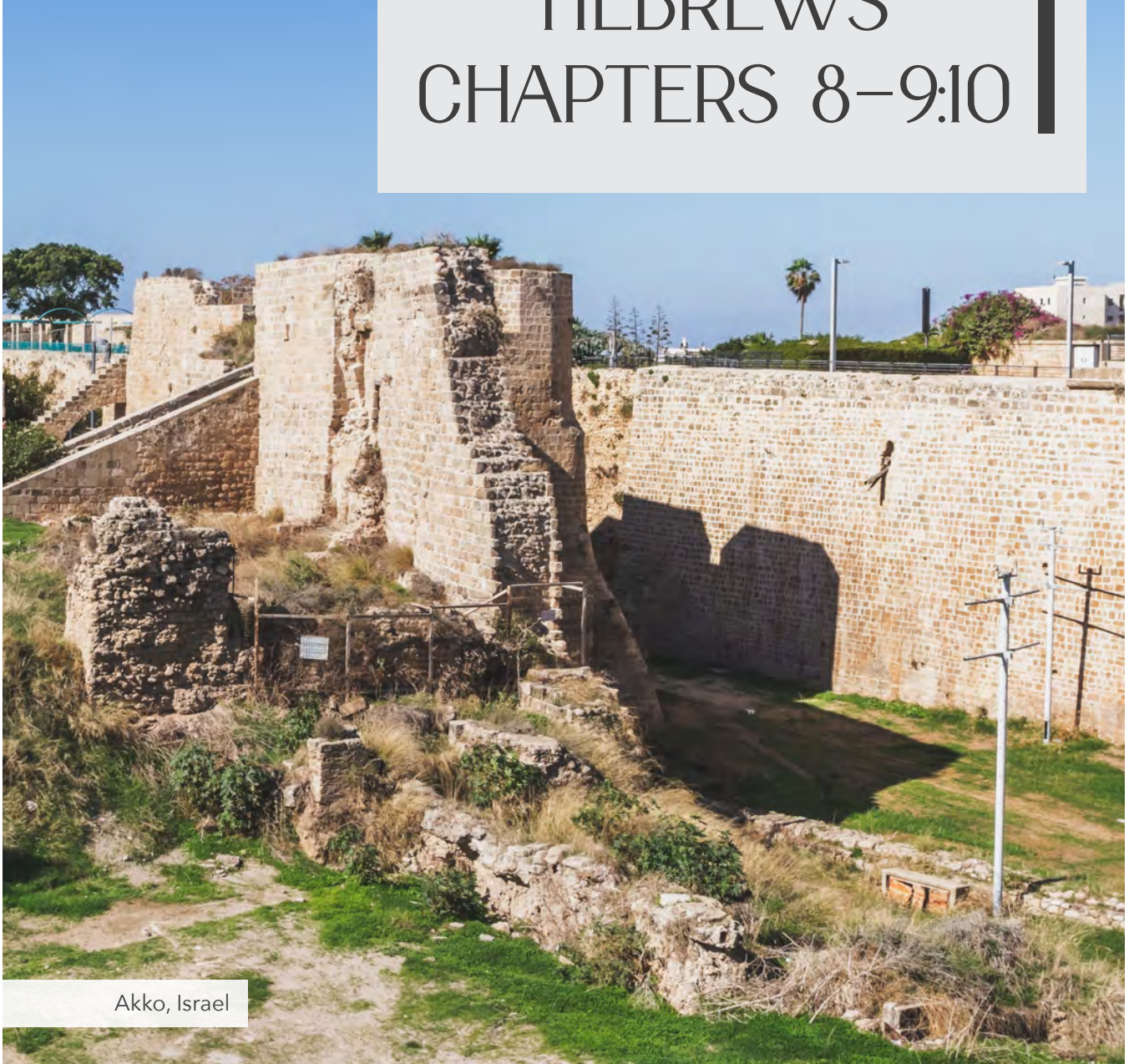
REST DAY

Join us for worship today and prepare your heart to engage with next week's study of God and His word. Use your time today to rest, pray, and reflect on this week's readings.

WEEK 5

HEBREWS

CHAPTERS 8–9:10



Akko, Israel

JESUS IS THE GREATER COVENANT

This week, we will focus on Jesus as our exalted High Priest, seated at the right hand of God as the mediator of a greater covenant. The old covenant, given through Moses, was temporary and could not fully change the human heart. God promised through the prophet Jeremiah to establish a new covenant, one written not on stone tablets but on our hearts, bringing complete forgiveness and an intimate relationship with Him. These chapters remind us that Jesus offers something far better than laws, ritual, or human effort. He gives us direct access to God, which brings forgiveness, love, grace, and a transformed heart, things the old covenant could only foreshadow.

DAY 1 – MONDAY

HEBREWS 8:1-6, PSALM 110, JEREMIAH 31:31-34

THE FAITHFUL GOD OF A GREATER COVENANT

From the very first breath of humanity, God makes and keeps His promises. He has bound Himself to His people through covenants, not because He needed to, but because He wanted to show us, in the clearest way possible, that His word is unshakable. He kept His promises to Noah, Abraham, Moses, and David, even when their descendants faltered. And through prophets like Jeremiah, He spoke of something even greater, a covenant written not on stone, but deep in human hearts.

Jeremiah 31:31-34 looked ahead to a new covenant, not written on stone tablets but etched into the hearts of God's people. This covenant would bring complete forgiveness of sins and a personal, intimate relationship with God Himself.

All of this found its fulfillment in Jesus. He is the priest-king of Psalm 110, the mediator of the new covenant in Hebrews 8, and the living proof that God's faithfulness does not expire. **The cross was not a detour from God's plan; it was the destination all along.**

The same God who carefully unfolded His plan over centuries, waiting, weaving, keeping every word, sees us in our moments of fear and doubt. If He didn't abandon His people for thousands of years, why would He start now? When we feel overlooked, when prayers seem unanswered, we can anchor ourselves in this unchanging truth: God has never failed to keep His promises, and He never will.

His covenant love is not dependent on our performance. It is sealed by the blood of Jesus, and Jesus is now seated at the right hand of the Father. That means we can live today with a quiet, defiant hope, because the God who fulfilled His greatest promise in Christ will keep every promise He has made. When you feel forgotten or uncertain, remember this: the God who kept His promises over thousands of years to bring about Jesus will not fail to keep the promises He has made to you.

REFLECTION

Spend some time reflecting on the promises of God. Where in your life do you need to rest in the certainty that God keeps His promises, even when you can't yet see how He's working?

DAY 2 – TUESDAY

HEBREWS 8-9:10, EXODUS 24:1-8, 31:18, LEVITICUS 16:32-34, JEREMIAH 31:33-34

MEDIATOR OF A NEW COVENANT

Hebrews 8:1-6 tells us that this new covenant is here, and Jesus is its mediator. Unlike the old priesthood, bound to earthly temples and repeated sacrifices, Jesus' ministry is in the heavenly tabernacle, seated at the right hand of the Majesty. His covenant is "better" not because the old one was flawed in its design, but because it has been perfectly fulfilled in Him. **This greater covenant's promises are eternal, unshakable, and complete.**

| | Old Covenant | New Covenant |
|----------------------|--|---|
| Mediator | Moses (Exodus 19-24) | Jesus, eternal High Priest (Hebrews 8:1, Psalm 110:4) |
| Location of Ministry | Earthly tabernacle made by human hands (Hebrews 8:5) | Heavenly sanctuary, at God's right hand (Hebrews 8:1-2) |
| Basis | The Law written on stone tablets (Exodus 31:18) | God's law written on hearts and minds (Jeremiah 31:33) |
| Priesthood | Levitical priests who were mortal and temporary | Jesus as priest forever in the order of Melchizedek (Psalm 110:4) |
| Sacrifices | Repeated animal sacrifices for sin | One perfect sacrifice of Jesus for all time (Hebrews 9:12) |
| Forgiveness | Covered sins temporarily (Leviticus 16) | Completely forgives sins and remembers them no more (Jeremiah 31:34) |
| Duration | Temporary, pointing to something greater | Eternal, built on better promises (Hebrews 8:6) |
| Access to God | Mediated through priests | Direct relationship with God for all believers through Jesus (Jeremiah 31:34; Hebrews 10:19-22) |

REFLECTION

Craig Blomberg says, "Jesus doesn't simply replace the old covenant; he fulfills it in every way, he is the better priest, the better sacrifice, and the mediator of a better covenant." As you reflect on the differences between the old and new covenant, list some reasons that this new covenant is greater in your own life.

DAY 3 – WEDNESDAY

HEBREWS 8:6-13, MATTHEW 26:28; 1 CORINTHIANS 11:25; 2 CORINTHIANS 3:4-18

WE ARE MINISTERS OF THE NEW COVENANT

When Jesus lifted the cup at the Last Supper and said, “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins”, He announced something entirely new. No longer would God’s people approach Him through repeated sacrifices, rituals, and regulations written on stone tablets. In His death and resurrection, Jesus established a new covenant, one founded not on human effort, but on His perfect obedience and once-for-all sacrifice. Hebrews 8 declares that this new covenant brings forgiveness and writes God’s law on our hearts, transforming us from the inside out.

Paul picks up this theme in 2 Corinthians 3, calling followers of Christ “ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit.” Unlike the old covenant that carved commandments on stone, the Spirit now writes God’s truth deep within us. The result is real freedom: “Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom”. Instead of trying to measure up to external demands, we live from the transforming presence of Christ Himself. We are no longer veiled in fear or condemnation, but with unveiled faces we behold Him and His glory as we are being changed into His likeness.

We are to be people in whom the Spirit dwells, people empowered to reflect His love and truth to the world. In 2 Corinthians, Paul says plainly, “We are confident of all this because of our great trust in God through Christ. It is not that we think we are qualified to do anything on our own. Our qualification comes from God.”

This is both humbling and liberating. We serve not in our own strength, but as vessels through whom Christ ministers. We bear a message of hope and transformation, not condemnation. In every conversation, every act of love, every moment of obedience, we are living proof that God’s new covenant is alive, written not on stone, but on our hearts.

REFLECTION

Are you living as though your relationship with God depends on your performance or on Christ’s finished work? Where might you still be relating to Him through the old covenant, rather than resting in the freedom of the new? How is God calling you to reflect His glory as a minister of this better covenant today?

DAY 4 – THURSDAY

HEBREWS 9:1-10

Hebrews 9:1-10 shows how the old tabernacle pointed to something greater. Its sacrifices brought only temporary forgiveness, but Christ's sacrifice brings eternal redemption.

The holy and most holy places—with their lampstand, bread, ark, and mercy seat—symbolized God's presence yet kept people at a distance. Only priests could enter, and only the high priest once a year with blood. These rituals never truly removed sin; they only reminded God's people of their need for a perfect mediator. Jesus is that mediator. As our true High Priest, he offered himself once for all and opened the way for us to draw near to God with confidence.

Bronze Altar (Altar of Sacrifice)

- The place where death of a perfect animal was required to atone for their sin
- Symbolizes the need of sacrifice & death to atone for sin
- Jesus was our perfect lamb. (John 1:29)

REFLECTION

In what areas of my life am I still trying to "earn access" to God rather than resting in Jesus' once-for-all sacrifice?

SYMBOLISM OF THE TABERNACLE

The Tabernacle served to foreshadow the One in which all the symbolism and sacrifices would ultimately be fulfilled.

The Tabernacle was to be a portable structure so that it could go with the Israelites as they traveled in the wilderness to the Promised Land. Today the dwelling place of God is still portable, living inside of believers.

God was so specific about the details of the tabernacle because **it was a symbol of heavenly things** (Hebrews 8:5; 9:11). God wanted His people to learn more about Him through the tabernacle. Each item in the tabernacle had symbolic meaning.

Ultimately this symbolism points to Jesus...**every part, and detail is designed and patterned to present Jesus Christ!**

Bronze Basin

- After offering sacrifice, cleansing was required for the priest to approach a Holy God.
- Symbolizes the need for cleansing from our sin
- Jesus cleansed us once and for all on the cross. (Heb 1:3)

Illustration by Emily Crosby

DAY 5 – FRIDAY

HEBREWS 9:1-10, REVELATION 21:3-7

The Table of Showbread

- Held 12 loaves of bread representing the 12 tribes of Israel
- Symbolizes God's provision and feasting on His Word
- Jesus is the bread of life. (John 6:32, 51)

The Veil

- Separated the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies.
- Symbolizes separation between a holy God and sinful people
- Jesus gives us direct access to God. The veil is torn & no longer needed. (Matthew 27:51, Heb. 4:16, 10:19)

Ark of the Covenant & Mercy Seat

- God's throne on earth
- Symbolizes God's Dwelling Place among His people
- Jesus came so that God's presence can dwell WITHIN His people. (John 14:16, 1 Cor. 6:19)

Altar of Incense

- High Priest was to keep the incense burning & act as an intercessor offering up prayers on Israel's behalf
- Symbolizes continual prayers spiraling to heaven
- Jesus, our High Priest, is our mediator & intercessor before God. (Hebrews 7:25)

Golden Lampstand

- Light to the Holy Place attended to day & night by the priests
- Symbolizes being a light in the darkness
- Jesus is the Light of the World. (John 1:9, 8:12)

Hebrews 9:1-10 describes the earthly tabernacle as a temporary, symbolic arrangement pointing forward to a greater reality yet to come. It reminds us that under the old covenant, access to God's presence was limited through rituals that could not fully cleanse the human heart. In Revelation 21:3-7, that greater reality is revealed: God Himself dwells directly with His people, unhindered by sin or separation. What was once pictured in shadows and restricted by veils is now fulfilled in perfect fellowship with Jesus: no temple needed, no sacrifices required, because Christ has secured eternal redemption and God declares, "Look I am making everything new...To all who are thirsty I will give freely from the springs of the water of life. All who are victorious will inherit all these blessings, and I will be their God, and they will be my children."

REFLECTION

How does knowing that Jesus opens direct access to God change the way you approach him in prayer or worship today?

DAY 6 – SATURDAY

REFLECTION DAY

REFLECTION NOTES AND QUESTIONS:

As we wrap up this week's study, reread *Hebrews 8-9:10*

This week, we've seen God's faithfulness shine through His covenants, culminating in the new covenant fulfilled in Jesus. Unlike the old system of temporary sacrifices and distant access, Christ's perfect sacrifice brings complete forgiveness, writes God's law on our hearts, and opens the way for a direct relationship with Him. As ministers of this new covenant, empowered by the Spirit, we reflect His glory and share His hope with the world. God's promises are unshakable, and we can live with confidence and freedom, resting not on our performance but on Christ's finished work.

Reflect/journal your thoughts on the following prompts:

- Write down what you learned about the Lord this week.
- What is something you looked at this week that you want to receive from God in greater measure? Why?
- How can you begin to apply this truth about God to your walk with Him?

DAY 7 – SUNDAY

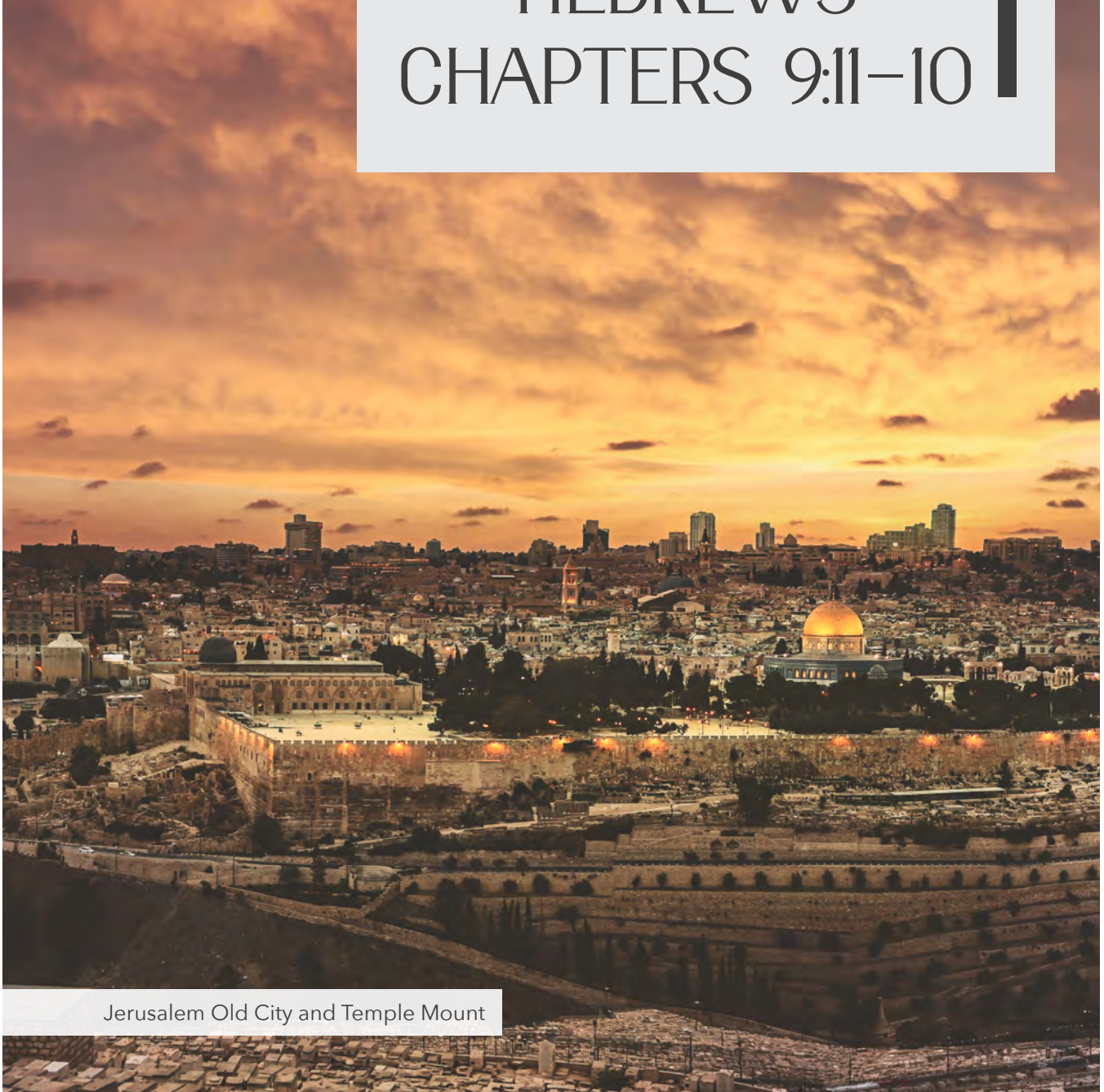
REST DAY

Join us for worship today and prepare your heart to engage with next week's study of God and His word. Use your time today to rest, pray, and reflect on this week's readings.

WEEK 6

HEBREWS

CHAPTERS 9:11–10



Jerusalem Old City and Temple Mount

JESUS IS THE GREATER SACRIFICE

This week, we dive into the truth that **Jesus is our greater sacrifice for our sinful nature** and works. As we learned last week, there was an old covenant between God and man for the forgiveness of sins, but Christ ushered in a new covenant that was perfect and all-encompassing. This week, we look at how His sacrifice makes the new covenant perfect and all-encompassing.

DAY 1 – MONDAY

HEBREWS 9:11-15

JESUS COMPLETES THE INCOMPLETE

As we learned last week, there was once a system for atonement (forgiveness or covering of sin) that required a priest to offer animal sacrifices on behalf of the sinful people. This system was incomplete (as we've discussed throughout this study), but let's recall why it was incomplete: the priest was human and sinful too, the people had to come over and over to offer these sacrifices and the sacrifices didn't clear their conscience or feelings of guilt and shame, and overall this system was just a physical earthly attempt towards healing a spiritual eternal problem (more to come on that on day three). **The old covenant system of atonement was incomplete.**

This week, though, we are studying the reminder that the author brings to the Hebrew readers in Hebrews chapters nine and ten. The author reminds us that **Jesus is the perfect sacrifice for our atonement.** Jesus, whom we have already discussed, was our high priest who offered Himself as **the perfect sacrifice** that no animal could match. He **entered the true Holy Place** of the Lord, where He mediated our salvation, and He **brings true healing and freedom to our lives** from our sins. The importance of this week's study can't be overstated. It is one thing to know you are saved, but it is another thing entirely to understand the depths of how and why you are saved by believing in the sacrifice of Jesus. Jesus completed the incomplete sacrificial system by becoming a real, eternal, and sufficient sacrifice for us. Let's draw near to Him this week to understand this further.

REFLECTION

Over the next three days, we'll examine each of the works that Jesus' sacrifice completes for us, and then we will conclude the week with the author of Hebrews' words about what we are meant to do with this truth. For today, though, go back and re-read Hebrews 9:1-15—study specifically the old covenant system in Hebrews 9:1-10. Then read about the three ways that Jesus' new covenant, perfect sacrifice, ushers in a greater life for us.

Journal the three ways Jesus' sacrifice completed the incomplete old covenant and finally pray to God, thanking Him for how He met each of these three needs for our souls' atonement.

DAY 2 – TUESDAY

HEBREWS 9:9-10, HEBREWS 9:11-23, LEVITICUS 4:1-20, 2 CORINTHIANS 5:21

JESUS OFFERS A PERFECT SACRIFICE

"Through this process, the priest will purify the people, making them right with the Lord, and they will be forgiven."

- Leviticus 4:20

Leviticus 4:20 might be one of the most understated passages about the complexity of the Old Covenant system. When you read verses one through nineteen, you see how detailed and difficult the previous sacrificial system was, but keep in mind that this entire system is spelled out in more detail over Leviticus chapters one through seven and chapter 16, and all of this was just for ceremonial purposes. The system for atonement before Jesus was really difficult and not sufficient. Jesus' ushering of the new covenant is not simply about making atonement more convenient (although it does). Still, more specifically, Jesus' sacrifice shows us how completely dependent we are on Jesus and just how perfect His works and love are for us.

As we see in Hebrews 9:16-23, the previous sacrifices for sins were animals. When Moses ushered in this system of atonement (the old covenant), he did so through the shedding of animal blood. This death brought in the way that God's faithful people would find forgiveness- by continuing to sacrifice animals and shed their blood as a representative of the death and destruction that their sins brought against their relationship with God, the standard of holiness that He set before His people, and His creation.

The problem is that the animal sacrifices were literal scapegoats. They were weak fill-ins for a deeper spiritual problem that we all face. The animal sacrifices were ceremonial offerings to cleanse one outwardly who has an inward problem. Hebrews 9:9-10 addresses this clearly. Thankfully, though there is something, someone greater, who offered Himself as a sacrifice, Jesus- God Himself in the flesh, no animal, no person, could complete this incomplete sacrificial system for us, only Jesus, because of His status as God, because of His perfection, and because of His equal physical and spiritual sacrifice for mankind. He was both physically clean and spiritually pure, and yet took on death and the punishment of sin by the shedding of His Holy blood for us.

No one and nothing could have ushered in this necessary sacrifice but Jesus. **His blood and His obedience and willingness to shed it are what make Him the perfect sacrifice.** Through His blood we are free, not just ceremonially or outwardly for a time, but internally, spiritually, for all time.

REFLECTION

Take a moment and write down the last sentence of Hebrews 9:15, "...For Christ died to set them (us) free from the penalty of the sins they (we) had committed under that first covenant." Try to re-read this passage today throughout your day. Reflect and meditate on it and its meaning/ significance. We are free because of His perfect blood and sacrifice. The old is gone, and the new is here for all who reflect and put their faith in His perfect sacrifice.

DAY 3 – WEDNESDAY

HEBREWS 9:23-28, LEVITICUS 16, EPHESIANS 2:18, REVELATION 4:1-3

JESUS ENTERS THE MOST HOLY PLACE

As we see in Hebrews 9:1-10, there was once a place in the Tabernacle called the “Holy of Holies” or the Most Holy Place. It was the innermost room of the Tabernacle, separated by a veil, and only the high priest could enter it – and only once a year on the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur). This was a deeply sacred space, where the atoning blood of sacrifices was sprinkled on the mercy seat of the Ark of the Covenant, as a covering for the sins of the people and the priest himself (Leviticus 16).

NOTE

See pp 40-41 for more on the Tabernacle

The Holy of Holies was designed to represent the very presence of God, functioning as an earthly shadow of the heavenly throne room – the place where God dwells in holiness, glory, and justice. Although this was a sacred and divinely instituted practice, its sacredness was not deemed sufficient. The Tabernacle and the Holy of Holies were copies, human representations, of the greater reality. It was not the actual throne room of God where one could go and have full access to God, nor could the system offer complete atonement of sins. It’s an incomplete system, but Jesus comes in to perfect it, to complete it.

As we read in Hebrews 9:24, **Jesus went into the actual throne room of God and appeared before God as our sacrifice, and mediated our atonement once and for all!** Jesus went before God as our perfect sacrifice, which ushered in His Holy Spirit into our lives, offering us eternal communion with God and a complete forgiveness of our sins and brokenness. Through the perfect sacrifice of His blood, He entered into the actual presence of God to grant us immediate access to Him for all time and eternal freedom from the guilt of our sins. The veil that once separated us from the throne room of God has been torn in two. Enter now into the eternal presence of God.

REFLECTION

Remember that feeling of coming home as a child after playing all day or being at school. Think about coming home after a long day of work or a fun but tiring week-long vacation. It feels good to be home. What it means for us that Jesus went into the proper Holy Place for us is that we have an eternal home awaiting us, where we can rest and find peace from this weary life. It also means that we get a glimmer of this feeling of home when we open our hearts, eyes, ears, and minds to seek the very real presence of the Holy Spirit.

Today, as you end your study of Hebrews 9:23-28, reflect upon your future home with Jesus and open your heart to embrace His presence in your life.

DAY 4 – THURSDAY

HEBREWS 10:1-18, PSALM 40:6-8

JESUS BRINGS TRUE HEALING AND FREEDOM

Often, I meet with couples who are excited, eager, and feel ready to get married. Most have been together for years and are ready to move beyond dating and into the lifetime commitment of marriage. So, they come to me asking for help in preparing for that next step. I love walking with couples through this process.

But there's one common challenge: many couples are mainly thinking about the wedding day. That's understandable – the wedding is a joyful and beautiful celebration. It's the moment where vows are exchanged and a covenant is made before God. It's sacred, meaningful, and often something people have dreamed about for years. But here's the problem: the ceremony doesn't make you one. It marks the beginning, but it's the daily commitment, the ongoing work, and the humble submission to one another that form a marriage. Being technically married is one thing. Feeling married is another. But living as a married couple – that's the real goal.

The same principle applies to our relationship with God. In the Old Testament, the people participated in the ceremony of animal sacrifice. But, as the writer of Hebrews points out, that ritual didn't make them feel truly free or forgiven – in fact, it often just reminded them of their guilt (Hebrews 10:1-3). What they needed – and what we still need – is more than a ceremony. We need transformation. We need healing. We need a Savior. That's what Jesus brings. Jesus didn't offer a ritual. He offered Himself. He did the work we could never do. And through His perfect, once-for-all sacrifice, He offers us something no ceremony ever could: not just the feeling of freedom and healing, but the reality of it.

In Jesus, we are not just symbolically cleansed – we are made whole. This work is so finished and so complete that the author of Hebrews says in verse 18, *"And when sins have been forgiven, there is no need to offer any more sacrifices."* In other words, the old system died when Christ died. The ceremony is over, the real work is being done as Christ moves in our hearts, and we now move toward Him and with Him. It's no longer a feeling, a symbol, or an idea- **you are truly and eternally healed and free.**

REFLECTION

Do you feel like your faith is real, or is it ceremonial? Is it something you do in front of others on a Sunday, but during the week, you live single, you live imprisoned to sin, guilt-ridden for your mistakes and failures? For most of us, the answer to these questions is yes, but the author of Hebrews is trying to draw us into a deeper understanding of how much our souls were paid for through Jesus' sufficient, perfect sacrifice. When we draw our eyes towards this work, our hearts desire to put on the work of living with and for Him.

Reflect today on how saved you really are. Read back on Hebrews 10:1-18 and seek the presence of the Lord today as you recall throughout your day that you are healed and free with Him.

DAY 5 – FRIDAY

HEBREWS 10

A TALE OF TWO MINDSETS

Hebrews chapter ten ends with the author declaring yet again, like in chapter six, that we can be confident and bold in our salvation. The author mentioning this truth again here is appropriate because, as we've just spent the week looking at in heavy detail, the Lord Jesus is greater than any way the Hebrew people once had of seeking forgiveness and freedom. We can have confidence in our salvation and freedom like never before in the sacrificial, priestly work of Jesus. That is why the author uses such powerful language as *"we can boldly enter heaven's Most Holy Place..."* and *"...let us go right into the presence of God with sincere hearts fully trusting Him..."* We need no longer to be timid; we are free and welcome into the presence of our Lord!

This is what our mindset should be, but the author warns that those who don't believe in this, or lack a mind and heart of confident faith, will be doing a *"terrible thing"*. Why does the author warn against this? What is this terrible thing mentioned in this passage? The simplest way to view this problematic mindset is to imagine working on something for someone you love. Imagine you built a house, helped them move in the rain or the unrelenting heat, and cared for their children all week with no help. Then, when that person came back, they completely ignored you and acted like nothing had been done. This is a great insult, but more than that, it's a tragedy to ignore a gift so great and act like it was never given.

The author is making the point that to continue to live as if Jesus had not died sacrificially for us all is to decide that you still want to be subject to the impossible standard of the Old Testament. So you will receive the lack of freedom and salvation that comes from this old standard. Just as the author reminds the Hebrews, let us not walk as people in timidity and uncertainty of our faith, freedom, and salvation. Let us walk as people who genuinely know we are bought and paid for by Christ and can now come to Him willingly and openly forever.

REFLECTION

What is your mindset when it comes to your salvation? Are you confident? Are you bold? Are you present with the Lord? In verse fourteen of Hebrews ten, the author declares that our work now on this side of heaven is to be made holy. To do the works that the author describes in verses nineteen through thirty-nine, but we can't do this if our minds are in battle with whether we are truly saved or not.

Today, reflect on what Christ has done for you. Reflect on His good works. Reflect on how much you actually reflect upon this in your day-to-day life. Finally, ask the Lord to help you to walk in confidence and boldness towards Him, as a result of the good works that He did for us all.

DAY 6 – SATURDAY

REFLECTION DAY

REFLECTION NOTES AND QUESTIONS:

As we wrap up this week's study, reread *Hebrews Chapters 9 & 10*

This week, we examined the old standards of forgiveness of sin and redemption, which fell short until Christ came and perfectly abolished them all.

Reflect/journal your thoughts on the following prompts:

- Write down what you learned about the Lord this week.
- What is something you looked at this week that you want to receive from God in greater measure? Why?
- How can you begin to apply this truth about God to your walk with Him?

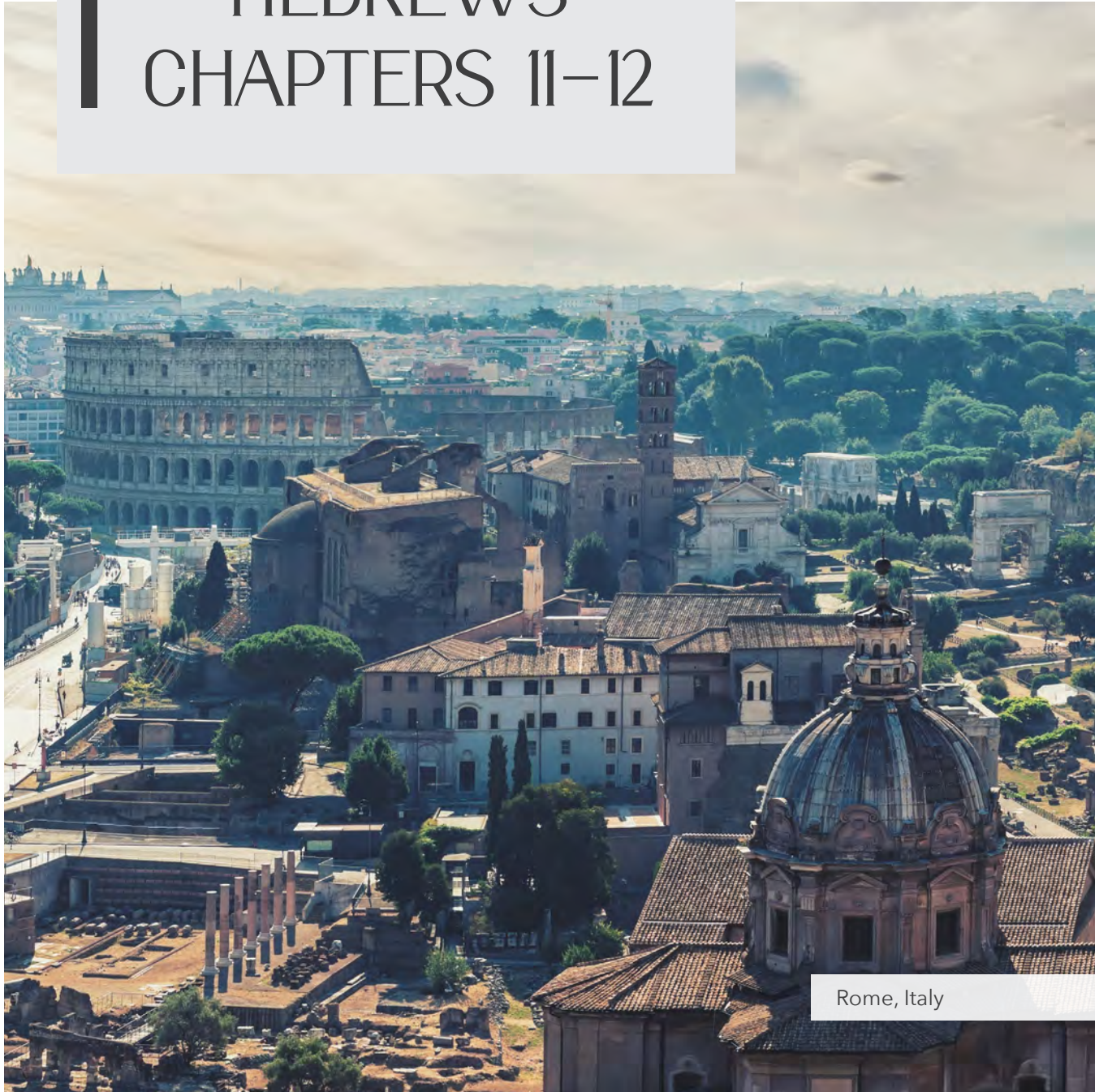
DAY 7 – SUNDAY

REST DAY

Join us for worship today and prepare your heart to engage with next week's study of God and His word. Use your time today to rest, pray, and reflect on this week's readings.

WEEK 7

HEBREWS CHAPTERS 11–12



Rome, Italy

LIVING IN FAITH AND HOLINESS

This week, we wrap up our study and reading of the book of Hebrews. The author ends the book of Hebrews, like many of the epistles, with encouragement for the readers. **The encouragements given here are specifically focused on keeping and growing in faith and in taking practical steps towards holiness today.**

DAY 1 – MONDAY

HEBREWS 11:1-38, 12:1

ENCOURAGEMENT FOR FAITH

"Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see."

Hebrews 11 ushers in the concluding message of the author of Hebrews. The author, like in most epistles, concludes the letter of Hebrews by giving practical next steps of what the readers/listeners should do. This week, we will be looking at these practical next steps, but we start where the author starts, at the practicality of living in faith.

Faith is an interesting word for Christians, it captures what it means to live in trusting dependence on God. But it's also unique, because faith is temporary. One day, when we are with Jesus face-to-face, faith will give way to sight. We won't need to believe in what we can't see anymore, because what we've trusted in by faith will be fully present and undeniable. Faith is meant to carry us until the day it is no longer necessary. So, **faith is something we are journeying toward seeing fulfilled.**

The author of Hebrews makes the point in chapter eleven that faith serves as our vehicle of confidence in Jesus and what we hope to see Him do in this life. It is also the ultimate assurance that what Jesus has told us is true and happening, even if we don't get to see it on this side of heaven. Faith is wrapped in both the present and the unseen future. The author is helping us walk in these two places by pointing to what is often called "The Hall (or Hall of Fame) of Faith". The Old Testament is a testament of the faithful to God. It is a reminder of the miraculous and impossible works that God has done through the faithful. These stories and reminders are meant to fuel our faith. When we look at the faithful of the past, we find encouragement to walk in faith in our present to help us move toward our future.

There's one final thing to note: throughout both the Old and New Testaments, we see many examples of the faithful enduring torture, jeers, persecution, imprisonment – some even being sawed in half (vv. 35-37). The author reminds us that faith brings great highs, encouragement, joy, and even miracles, but it also comes with real challenges and suffering. Faith holds both realities together. It is both a testimony to the miraculous power of God and a reminder that we are not home yet, urging us to cling to the truths of His good and unfailing salvation. Faith is our means of endurance until the day it is finally fulfilled in heaven.

REFLECTION

Write down Hebrews 11:1 and 12:1, specifically the final sentence. 11:1 is what faith is, 12:1 is how we use it. Reflect on what faith has done in your life, and what you are faithful to God about as you wait for the day that faith will no longer be necessary.

DAY 2 – TUESDAY

HEBREWS 12:1-2, HEBREWS 10:24-25, ECCLESIASTES 4:9-12, GALATIANS 6:2

ENCOURAGEMENT FOR COMMUNITY

Hebrews 11 is a short look back at the Hall of Faith, or those who faithfully followed the Lord. Some saw great miraculous events, some were relentlessly tortured and suffered, but all shared one thing in common: they didn't get to see the completed work of Jesus. Even though they didn't get to see the fruition of God's workings, they still walked in faith, knowing that one day the Lord would bring all to glorious completion.

Hebrews 12:1-2 points us, the readers, to one of the Lord's most powerful tools for remaining faithful, community. We just looked in extensive detail at the community of believers in the past: "we are surrounded by a huge *crowd* of *witnesses* to the life of faith." (v. 1). We now look at the author's words of encouragement for us. "...let us strip off every weight that slows us down...the sin that so easily trips us up...let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects *our* faith." (v. 1-2).

The encouragement the author brings at the beginning of chapter twelve is the encouragement of community. We are connected, through faith, to the champions of faith in the past, and we are connected in faith to the believers today. Community enables us to find the strength to endure the suffering of this world and cultivate a faith that counters the culture (e.g., forgiveness, love for all, turning away from gossip, humility over self-promotion, etc.). Community opens our eyes to the miraculous that surrounds us, but is often hidden behind the noise, busyness, and self-focus of everyday life (e.g., seeing someone receive exactly what they'd been praying for, serving those in need, seeing a relationship reconciled, seeing a person truly grow and change for the better, etc.)

Community is what the church is built upon, and the author is encouraging us that true spiritual discipline happens through the helpful eyes and arms of the spiritual community.

REFLECTION

What does your spiritual community look like? For most of us, we can probably admit that it is lacking. Our faith is challenged in isolation, but in community it is encouraged. Reflect today on the importance of biblical community. If you aren't involved in a spiritual community, consider reaching out to learn more about how you can invest at graceclarksville.com/groups

If you are in community, reach out to your group today with the encouraging words of Hebrews 12:1-2 and let them know how they encourage you in your faith.

DAY 3 – WEDNESDAY

HEBREWS 12:1-13, PROVERBS 3:11-12, HEBREWS 10:14

ENCOURAGEMENT FOR DISCIPLINE

What was the scariest thing you might have had to endure as a child? For most of us, the fear greater than heights or spiders was the fear of discipline. Whether it was a time out, losing something we love, or getting a spanking, discipline was not something we coveted; it was something we dreaded. As a child, the hardest thing about discipline was understanding why it was necessary. Why can't I do whatever I want? Why can't I take my siblings' toys and break them? Why can't I run from my parents when they're trying to take me home early from playing at the park? Why can't I say "potty" words?

As hard as discipline is to understand as a child, it can be even more challenging to experience as an adult. "What do you mean, I can't decide what the correct speed limit is?" "Why do I need to cut out sweets to lower my cholesterol?" "Why can't I rule my own life and decide what I want to do? I'm an adult!" The author of Hebrews takes the reminder of walking in faith to the practical conclusion of this book: faith grows and endures through discipline. **Discipline is both correction and cultivation of character that shapes us toward maturity and growth.** The Lord, like a good parent, disciplines their children to find correction, which is hard for us to go through, but through our correction, our character is shaped in a better direction.

We fear the discipline that comes from the Lord, but the author of Hebrews makes clear that the discipline of the Lord is a beautiful thing. His discipline is a sign and reminder that we are His children whom He loves. He loves us so deeply that He is with us, correcting us, disciplining us to walk in greater awareness of His deep love and grace for us. Remember the words of Hebrews 10:14, "For by that one offering (the sacrificial offering of Jesus upon the cross) He forever made perfect those who are being made holy." The discipline of the Lord is the active working of God in our lives to shape us in holiness.

Pay attention to the last part of chapters twelve and thirteen as the author directs us to where we need the discipline of the Lord in our lives. As you seek this discipline, remember: it is good, it is a measure of His love for us, it is what leads us into the place of holiness.

REFLECTION

Reflect on discipline today. Do you find yourself drawn and open to discipline, or are you the standard of your own discipline? Today, seek to open your heart to the discipline of the Lord. Reflect on the truth that His discipline is a reflection of His love for you.

DAY 4 – THURSDAY

HEBREWS 12:14-29, ROMANS 12:1-5

EMBRACING THE CALL

Hebrews 12:14-29 calls us to pursue holiness and peace, urging us to “make every effort” to live in a way that honors God. The audience of Hebrews who were believers under persecution were tempted to turn back to old covenant practices or abandon their faith. The author reminds them that God’s discipline is loving, meant to refine and strengthen rather than condemn. Holiness is not isolation; it is alignment with God’s will and living in peace with others.

Mountains in Scripture often symbolize encounters with God. In verses 18-24, the author contrasts Mount Sinai, where the law was given and the people trembled in fear, with Mount Zion, the heavenly city where believers now stand in grace. The imagery emphasizes that God’s call is to embrace what is eternal, not the temporary and fearful ways of the past.

Romans 12:1-5 is calling us to offer ourselves as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, and to serve together in unity as the body of Christ. Pursuing holiness and peace is not only personal, it is relational. Just as believers together form one body, we ascend toward God’s unshakable “mountain” as a community, growing in faith, obedience, and mutual support.

Embracing God’s call means submitting fully to Him, trusting His loving discipline, and stepping into the eternal reality of His kingdom. Like ascending a mountain, the journey may be challenging, but the view and the presence of God at the summit make every step worth it. The call He extends to us is holy and urgent, meant to draw us into a deeper intimacy with Him and a life marked by integrity, courage, and love. It is a call to leave behind the temporary comforts of sin and fear, and step into the unshakable kingdom of God.

REFLECTION

Where is God calling you to holiness and peace? How can you offer yourself fully as a living sacrifice, trusting His loving discipline, and join with others in the body of Christ to live out His unshakable kingdom today?

DAY 5 – FRIDAY

HEBREWS 13

LIVING THE GOOD LIFE

As we close our study of Hebrews, chapter 13 serves as a guide for living out the truths we've explored. The writer moves from lofty theological arguments to practical instructions that remind us that faith is meant to shape daily life.

- **Love and Hospitality:** We are called to continue in brotherly love, to show kindness to strangers, and to remember those suffering. Faith is not abstract; it should directly impact how we treat people, even those outside our immediate circle.
- **Contentment and Trust:** Marriage and finances are sacred arenas of trust and integrity. Here, the writer reminds us that God is our helper, our ultimate security and provision, so that we can live without fear, even in uncertainty.
- **Honoring Leaders and God's Word:** We are encouraged to remember and imitate godly leaders and to hold fast to their teaching. Worship and obedience are inseparable; a life of faith is lived openly, in community, and with gratitude.
- **Remembering Christ's Sacrifice:** Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. His sacrifice models a faith that is willing to risk comfort and reputation for the sake of obedience. Our lives should look like an offering of praise through obedience.

The book of Hebrews closes with encouragement to pray, a blessing of peace, and a reminder that our faith is part of a bigger mission. We are not alone; the author prays for God's guidance, showing that Christian life is deeply communal and interdependent.

Hebrews has shown us the superiority of Christ, the sufficiency of His sacrifice, and the call to persevere in our faith. Chapter 13 brings it home: what we believe must shape how we live: how we love, work, worship, and honor Christ in every relationship.

REFLECTION

Spend some time in extended prayer today using Hebrews 13:20-21 and meditate on how the Great Shepherd will equip you for all you need to do His will.

"Now may the God of peace—who brought up from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, and ratified an eternal covenant with his blood—may he equip you with all you need for doing his will. May he produce in you, through the power of Jesus Christ, every good thing that is pleasing to him. All glory to him forever and ever! Amen."

DAY 6 – SATURDAY

REFLECTION DAY

REFLECTION NOTES AND QUESTIONS:

As we wrap up this week's study, re-read *Hebrews Chapters 11, 12, & 13*

This week's study of Hebrews walks us through the journey of living by faith. We are encouraged by the examples of those who faithfully followed God, reminded that community strengthens and sustains us, and shown that God's loving discipline shapes our character and draws us closer to Him. We are called to pursue holiness and peace, offering ourselves as living sacrifices, and to let our faith shape how we live each day, in love, service, trust, and obedience, reflecting the eternal goodness and sufficiency of Christ in all we do.

Reflect/journal your thoughts on the following prompts:

- Write down what you learned about the Lord this week.
- What is something you looked at this week that you want to receive from God in greater measure? Why?
- How can you begin to apply this truth about God to your walk with Him?

DAY 7 – SUNDAY

REST DAY

Join us for worship today and prepare your heart to engage with next week's study of God and His word. Use your time today to rest, pray, and reflect on this week's readings.

WEEK 1

WEEK 2

WEEK 3

WEEK 4

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WEEK 5

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WEEK 6



WEEK 7



WEEK 8

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WEEK 9



WEEK 10



WEEK 11

WEEK 12

WHAT'S NEXT?

TAKING HEBREWS INTO YOUR DAILY LIFE

Jesus is greater. The entirety of the book of Hebrews can be summed up in these three words. For seven weeks, we have looked into the depths of His greatness. We've looked at His greater message, His greater leadership, His greater priestly work, His greater covenant, His greater sacrifice, and how we should now live in greater depths of faithfulness to Him. What now?

Now we take these truths of the Lord's greatness and we stamp them upon our hearts. We reflect daily, intentionally, on what it means for the Lord to be greater. Don't let the truth of Hebrews live within these past seven weeks. Let the truth of Hebrews be so infused with who you are and how you see the world that it becomes a part of your very DNA. The Lord Jesus Christ is greater than anything you have ever known, greater than anything you attempt to pursue outside of Him, and He is greater than anything that may come. Now, live in the power and authority of His greatness.

Faithfully walk, anchor yourself to Him, and lead those around you to see and embrace His greatness.



