

THE BOOK OF HEBREWS

ABOUT THIS READING PLAN

THIS READING PLAN WALKS YOU THROUGH THE BOOK OF HEBREWS.

Each day's reading includes:

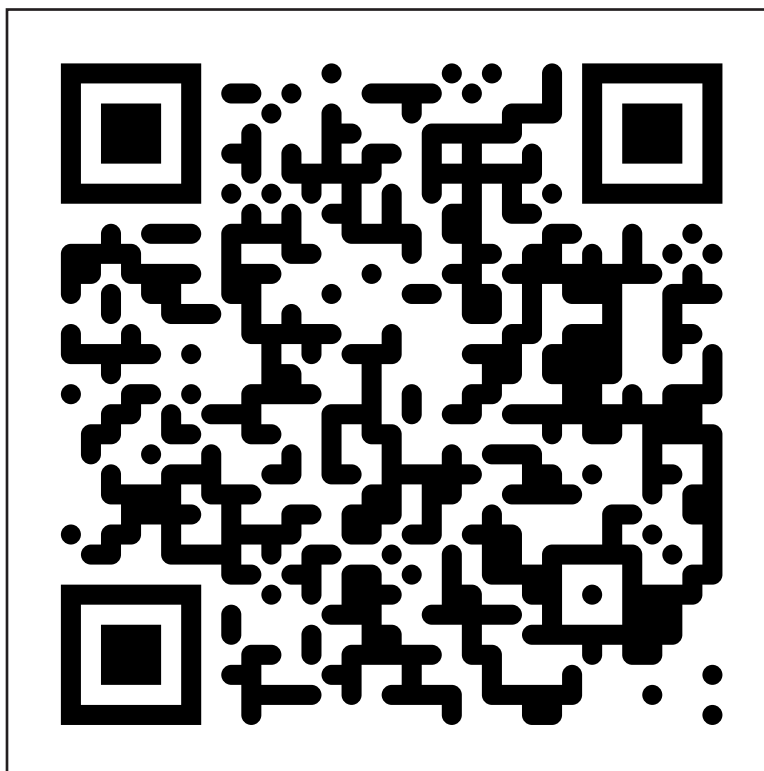
1. A passage from the Book of Hebrews.
2. A commentary.
3. A devotional, or a reflection thought to process the biblical reading more intentionally.
4. Space for you to write thoughts or questions from that day's corresponding scripture or reflection.

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

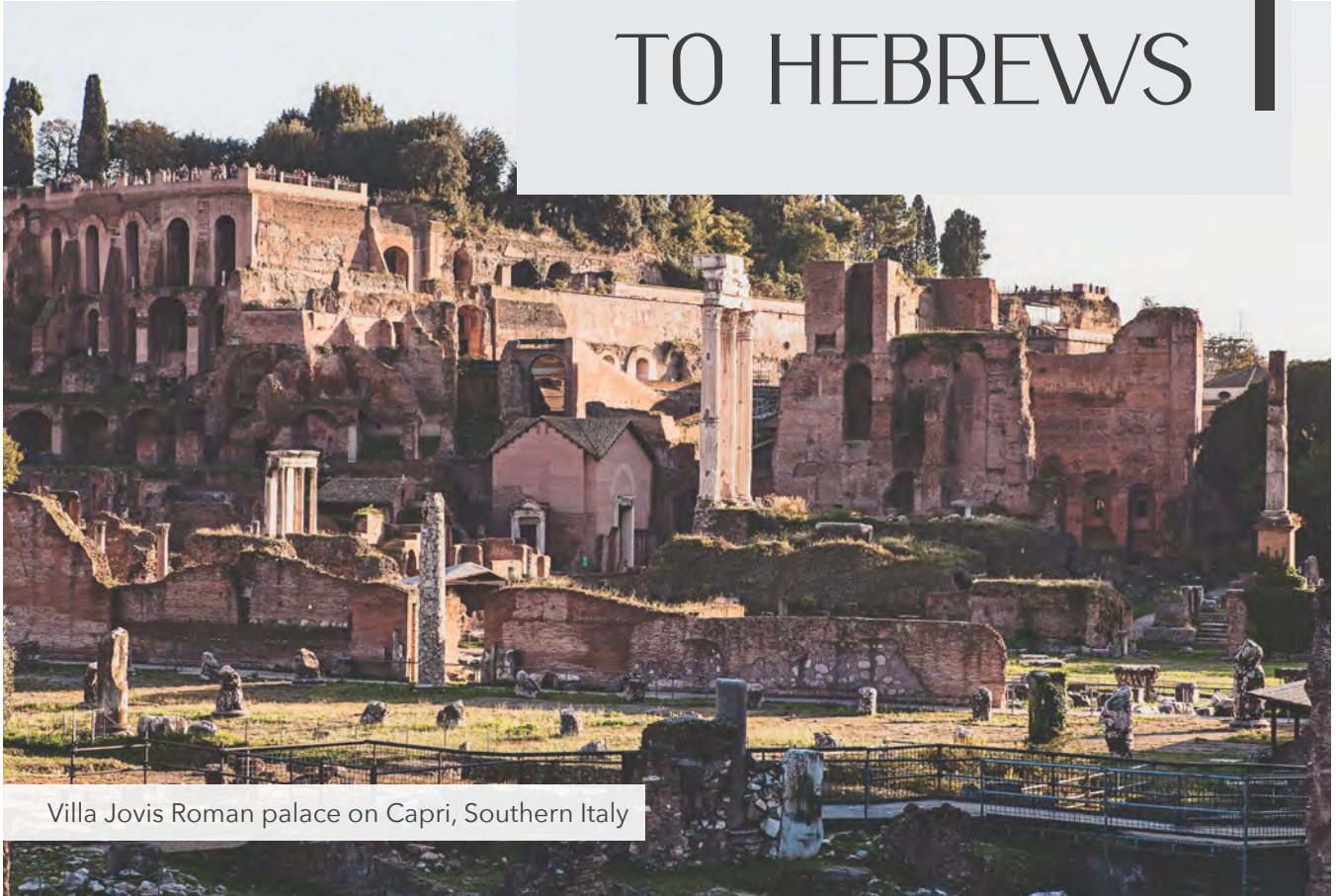
WEEK SEVEN

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.”

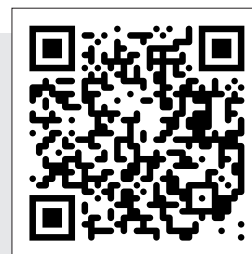
– Hebrews 10:1

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.