



Greater

HEBREWS 1-7 / TERM 4 2021

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Overview of Hebrews

WHAT IS IT? (GENRE)

Hebrews is a sermon-letter that weaves together biblical quotations, explanations, and exhortations.

Hebrews describes itself as a “word of exhortation” (13:22b); a phrase used to describe sermons in the first century (Acts 13:15). Hebrews also has been “written” (13:22c), bearing the marks of a letter (13:23-25).

WHO WROTE IT? (AUTHOR)

Hebrews does not record the author’s name.

We can deduce that the author was associated with the apostolic crowd (13:23) but probably not an apostle themselves (2:3).

WHO RECEIVED IT? (AUDIENCE)

Hebrews does not record the audience’s name.

We can deduce that the audience had previously received the Christian message (2:1, 3) and has suffered for their faith (10:32-34). By the time of the letter being written, they were at risk of turning away from Christ (2:1, 3:12, 6:6, 10:35) and perhaps falling back into Old Covenant worship.

WHEN WAS IT WRITTEN? (DATING)

Hebrews does not record the writing date.

It was first referred to outside the bible in Clement of Rome's letter to the Corinthian churches (c. 96 AD). Some have postulated that the letter may have been written before the temple was destroyed in 70 AD (10:2).

HOW DOES IT FIT TOGETHER? (STRUCTURE)

Hebrews shows the greatness of Jesus from many different angles! Below is a proposed structure:

1:1-4	Introduction
1:5-2:18	Jesus is greater than the angels
3:1-4:13	Jesus is greater than Moses and Joshua
4:14-7:28	Jesus is greater than the Levitical Priesthood
8:1-10:18	Jesus is greater than the Levitical Sacrifices
10:19-13:25	Final Exhortations

RESOURCES

Audio overviews

- Mark Dever, <https://bit.ly/dever-overview>
- Sam Storms, <https://bit.ly/storms-overview>

Recommended commentaries

- Peter Adam, *Hebrews - The Majestic Son*
- Kent Hughes, *Hebrews - An Anchor for the Soul*
- Michael J. Kruger, *Hebrews For You*
- Moore College PTC, *Letters and Revelation*

[Extension questions marked with an astrix]

Study 1 — Hebrews 1:1-4

GETTING STARTED

What do you currently know about the book of Hebrews?

OVERVIEW

1. Watch the [Overview Video](#) & then share what stood out to you.
2. Read 1:1-4 (*or the whole letter!)
3. Read the following quote about Hebrews 1:1-4, and put it in your own words:

Thus the greatness of the Son of God receives sevenfold confirmation, and it appears, without being expressly emphasized, that he possesses in Himself all the qualifications to be the mediator between God and the human race. He is the Prophet through whom God has spoken His final word; he is the Priest who has accomplished a perfect work of cleansing for his people's sins; he is the King who sits enthroned in the palace of chief honor alongside the Majesty on high.

— F. F. Bruce, *The Epistle to the Hebrews*, p50

PRAY FOR THE TERM AHEAD

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe.

— Hebrews 1:1-2

Study 2 — Hebrews 1:5-14

Hebrews 1:5-14 is an extraordinary passage weaving together seven Old Testament texts to make an incredible claim about Jesus. It compares God's great heavenly messengers, the angels, with the even greater king Jesus.

GETTING STARTED

What do you know about angels? Where did you learn those things?

READ HEBREWS 1:1-14

1. What is the claim made in verse 4?

2. v5-13 provides evidence for this claim. What is the source of the evidence?

3. What do we learn about Jesus and angels from this passage:

	*Old Testament Context	What do we learn about Jesus?	What do we learn about angels?
v5a	Psalm 2:7		
v5b	2 Samuel 7:14		
v6	Deuteronomy 32:43		

v7	Psalm 104:4		
v8-9	Psalm 45:6-7		
v10-12	Psalm 102:25-27		
v13	Psalm 110:1		

4. What is one word you would use to describe Jesus from this passage?

5. How does this passage help you understand who angels are?

REFLECT

- What is one practical way this week you can remind yourself/ each other of the greatness of Jesus?

- *Look up the Athanasian Creed. How did the church fathers summarise the greatness of Jesus?

PRAY

Daily Devotions

SONG

Crown Him with Many Crowns, Matthew Bridges (1851) — © Public Domain

YouTube: <https://bit.ly/crown-him-with-many-crowns> Spotify: <https://bit.ly/hebrews-playlist>

*Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne.*

*Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns
all music but its own.*

*Awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless king
through all eternity.*

*Crown him the Lord of life,
who triumphed o'er the grave,
and rose victorious in the strife
for those he came to save;
his glories now we sing
who died and rose on high,
who died eternal life to bring,
and lives that death may die.*

*Crown him the Lord of love;
behold his hands and side,
rich wounds, yet visible above,
in beauty glorified;
no angels in the sky
can fully bear that sight,
but downward bends their burning eye
at mysteries so bright.*

*Crown him the Lord of years,
the potentate of time,
creator of the rolling spheres,
ineffably sublime.
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
for thou hast died for me;
thy praise shall never, never fail
throughout eternity*

SCRIPTURE

Day 1: Hebrews 1:5, Psalm 2

Day 2: Hebrews 1:6-7, Psalm 104

Day 3: Hebrews 1:8-9, Psalm 45

Day 4: Hebrews 1:10-12, Psalm 102

Day 5: Hebrews 1:13, Psalm 110

But about the Son he says,
“Your throne, O God, will
last for ever and ever; a
scepter of justice will
be the scepter of your
kingdom. You have loved
righteousness and hated
wickedness; therefore God,
your God, has set you
above your companions by
anointing you with the oil
of joy.”

— Hebrews 1:8-9

Study 3 — Hebrews 2:1-4

*Hebrews 2:1-4 is a sobering passage about how to live in light of the greatness of Jesus. The author contrasts the seriousness of salvation in Jesus with the Old Testament message spoken to Moses through the angels (*see Acts 7:38, 53; Galatians 3:19).*

“A slow drift, given enough time, will carry you to another continent...”

— Hughes, *Hebrews: An Anchor for the Soul*, p49

GETTING STARTED

What do the words ‘drift away’ make you think of?

READ 2:1-4

1. What is the warning in verse 1? How is that connected to Ch1?

2. Write out verse 2-3a, noticing the flow of the argument.

For since...

And...

How shall we...

if we...

Summarise verse 2-3a in your own words:

3. How can we trust the message of salvation? (v3b-4)

Passage	Reason for trust
v3b	
v3c	
v4a	
v4b	

REFLECT

- This week, how will you ‘pay most careful attention... to what we have heard’?

- *How do we take this warning seriously without denying that it is God who saves and preserves his people? (John 10:27-29)

PRAY

Daily Devotions

SONG

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing, Robert Robinson (1758) — © Public Domain

YouTube: <https://bit.ly/come-thou-fount> Spotify: <https://bit.ly/hebrews-playlist>

*Come, thou Fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.*

*Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
bought me with his precious blood.*

*Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount I'm fixed upon it
mount of God's redeeming love.*

*Oh, to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to thee:*

*Here I find my greatest treasure;
hither by thy help I've come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.*

*Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart, O take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.*

SCRIPTURE

Day 1: Hebrews 2:1, 2 Peter 1:3-11

Day 2: Hebrews 2:1, Titus 2:11-14

Day 3: Hebrews 2:1, Col 1:9-14

Day 4: Hebrews 2:1, Mark 4:1-20

Day 5: Hebrews 2:1, Matt 7:24-27

We must pay the most careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away. For since the message spoken through angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment, how shall we escape if we ignore so great a salvation?

— Hebrews 2:1-3a

Study 4 — Hebrews 2:5-18

Hebrews 2:5-18 is a grand passage that takes us through the story of humanity; created, fallen, redeemed and restored. As the author quotes from Psalm 8, he takes us from the failure of humanity to the greatness of Jesus, and finally, what that means for us.

GETTING STARTED

How successful are you at ruling the world? (Your garden? Your children? Your health? Your selfish thoughts?)

READ 2:5-18

1. What did God create humanity to be like? (v5-8a *quoting Psalm 8 and alluding to Genesis 1:26-28)
2. What is the problem the author sees? (v8d)
3. How does Jesus fulfil what it means to be human? (v9)
4. Each act of Jesus has a profound impact on humanity. Work your way through the rest of the chapter, noting what Jesus has done and what that means for humanity:

Passage	What Jesus has done	What that means for humanity
v9		
v10-13 *quoting Psalm 22:22; Isaiah 8:17-18		
v14-18		

REFLECT

- What does it look like to be free from the fear of death? (v15)
- What do you find comforting about knowing that Jesus identifies himself with us?
- *Discuss the following quote:

What they needed to appreciate once more was that the harsh authority formerly wielded by the devil has been replaced by the gentle authority of the exalted Son who continues to identify himself with them.

— Lane, *Hebrews 1-8*, p64

PRAY

Daily Devotions

SONG

What a Friend We Have in Jesus, Joseph Medlicott Scriven (1855) — © Public Domain

YouTube: <https://bit.ly/a-friend> Spotify: <https://bit.ly/hebrews-playlist>

*What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!*

*What a privilege to carry
everything to God in prayer!*

O what peace we often forfeit,

*O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry
everything to God in prayer!*

Have we trials and temptations?

Is there trouble anywhere?

*We should never be discouraged;
take it to the Lord in prayer!*

*Can we find a friend so faithful
who will all our sorrows share?*

*Jesus knows our every weakness;
take it to the Lord in prayer!*

*Are we weak and heavy laden,
cumbered with a load of care?*

*Precious Savior, still our refuge--
take it to the Lord in prayer!*

Do your friends despise, forsake you?

Take it to the Lord in prayer!

*In his arms he'll take and shield you;
you will find a solace there.*

SCRIPTURE

Day 1: Hebrews 2:5-8a, Psalm 8

Day 2: Hebrews 2:8d, Psalm 14

Day 3: Hebrews 2:9, Psalm 22:1-20

Day 4: Hebrews 2:10-13, Psalm 22:21-26

Day 5: Hebrews 2:14-18, Psalm 22:27-31

Yet at present we do not see everything subject to them. But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

— Hebrews 2:8d-9

Study 5 — Hebrews 3:1-6

Hebrews 3:1-6 is a short, bitey passage that compares and contrasts the Old Testament figure Moses with Jesus Christ. Moses was the great leader who led God's people out of slavery in Egypt, gave them the law and brought them to the edge of the promised land. Yet, even this great figure cannot compare with the greatness of Jesus.

GETTING STARTED

What was the significance of Moses in the Old Testament?

READ 3:1-6

1. In v1-2a, how does the author describe:
 - a. his audience?

 - b. Jesus?

2. How is Jesus similar to Moses? (v2)

3. How is Jesus greater than Moses?
 - a. Image 1 (v3-4)

 - b. Image 2 (v5-6a)

[*See also some of the Old Testament passages quoted or alluded to here: Numbers 12:6-9, 1 Samuel 2:35, 2 Samuel 7:16]

4. How do the descriptions of Jesus motivate the author's exhortations in v1 and v6?

REFLECT

- How does this passage expand our view about Jesus?
- What are some daily rhythms we can adopt to help us fix our thoughts on Jesus (v1)
- How does the language of 'house' (v6b) help us think about church life together?
- *To what extent does this quote capture the passage:

If Moses is worthy of glory as a servant, how much more worthy is Christ—the One who built the house?

— Mohler, *Exalting Jesus in Hebrews*, p44

PRAY

Daily Devotions

SONG

The Maker of the Stories, Psallos (2017) — © Permission Granted by Cody Curtis

YouTube: <https://bit.ly/maker-of-stories> Spotify: <https://bit.ly/hebrews-playlist>

*Consider Moses: the father and the
leader of a people;
In faithfulness to God, without an equal.
He was faithful as a servant.*

*But the one who gets more glory
Is the maker of the stories,
The builder of the house,
The builder of the house.*

*Consider Jesus: the author and high
priest of our confession,
Who was faithful to the Lord without
exception.
He was faithful as a son.*

*Consider yourself: do you know you're a
part of this household
If you hold fast to the faith and don't
lose hope.
Will you be faithful till the end?*

*The first one led a nation
(Of many generations)
To promise they were bound.*

SCRIPTURE

Day 1: Hebrews 3:6b, Ephesians 2:19-22

Day 2: Hebrews 3:6b, 1 Timothy 3:14-16

Day 3: Hebrews 3:6b, 1 Peter 2:4-12

Day 4: Hebrews 3:6b, 2 Corinthians 6:14-18

Day 5: Hebrews 3:6b, 1 Corinthians 3:10-17

Moses was faithful as a servant in all God's house, bearing witness to what would be spoken by God in the future. But Christ is faithful as the Son over God's house.

— Hebrews 3:5-6a



Study 6 — Hebrews 3:7-19

Hebrews 3:7-19 carries forward the warning to God's people in the wilderness, repeated through successive generations and now spoken to us today. It takes us back to the generation of Moses in the wilderness (after they were rescued out of Egypt), to the generation of David (the great King who wrote Psalm 95), to our generation today as we hear God's Word. The passage warns wilderness people against 'starting well but ending badly'.

GETTING STARTED

What words describe the human heart?

READ 3:7-19

1. Put v7-11 (*quoting Psalm 95:7b-11) in your own words.
2. Consider the parallels the author is drawing between the generation 'in the wilderness' (*see Numbers 14) and those 'today'

Context	'In the Wilderness'	'Today'
Problem		

Consequence		
-------------	--	--

3. What does the author urge his readers to do here?

REFLECT

- ‘Christians are a wilderness people; rescued from slavery and awaiting rest’. To what extent do you agree?
- If the sinful heart is the issue, what does it look like to help ‘one another’ (v13) persevere?
- *What do we learn about how the Holy Spirit speaks to us? (v7)
- *Is v14 a warning or encouragement?

PRAY

Daily Devotions

SONG

Speak O Lord, Stuart Townend & Keith Getty (2005) — © Thankyou Music (CCLI # 75481)

YouTube: <https://bit.ly/speak-lord>

Spotify: <https://bit.ly/hebrews-playlist>

*Speak, O Lord, as we come to You
To receive the food of Your Holy Word.
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us;
Shape and fashion us in Your likeness,
That the light of Christ might be seen today
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us
All Your purposes for Your glory.*

*Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;
Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us—
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time
That will echo down through eternity.
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises,
And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built
And the earth is filled with Your glory.*

*Teach us, Lord, full obedience,
Holy reverence, true humility;
Test our thoughts and our attitudes
In the radiance of Your purity.
Cause our faith to rise; cause our eyes to see
Your majestic love and authority.
Words of pow'r that can never fail—
Let their truth prevail over unbelief.*

SCRIPTURE

Day 1: Hebrews 3:7-9, Numbers 14:1-10

Day 2: Hebrews 3:10-11, Numbers 14:11-25

Day 3: Hebrews 3:12-14, Numbers 14:26-35

Day 4: Hebrews 3:16-19, Numbers 14:39-45

Day 5: Psalm 95, Psalm 119:33-40

But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called “Today,” so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness. We have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original conviction firmly to the very end.

— Hebrews 3:13-14

Study 7 — Hebrews 4:1-13

Hebrews 4:1-13 continues the warning of chapter 3, focusing on the rest that awaits God's wilderness people. It draws connections between the rest God established in creation, with the promised land Moses and then Joshua was to take God's people into and finally, with the eternal rest provided by Jesus.

GETTING THINKING

What is 'rest'?

READ GENESIS 1:26-2:3

1. Describe the rest we see at creation. How long does it last for?

READ HEBREWS 4:1-13

2. For the Israelites in Moses and Joshua's day:
 - a. What was the rest that they were looking forward to? (*see also Deuteronomy 12:9-10)
 - b. Why did they fail to enter that rest?

3. For us 'today':
 - a. What is the rest we are looking forward to?

 - b. How do we enter that rest?

4. What do we learn about God's Word from v12-13?

REFLECTION

- What changes between Moses and Joshua's day and ours, that gives us a greater hope?

- To what extent do Christians enjoy God's rest now? (v3, 9, 11 *see also 12:22-24; Matthew 11:28; Revelation 14:12-13)

- *Draw out the relationship between the garden of Eden, the promised land and heaven?

- *Is this passage in favour or not in favour of having a literal weekly 'Sabbath-rest'? (v6, 9, 10, 11 see also Colossians 2:16-17; Romans 14:1-6)

PRAY

Daily Devotions

SONG

A Mighty Fortress, Martin Luther (1529), trans. Frederick H. Hedge (1852) — © Public Domain

YouTube: <https://bit.ly/fortress-mighty> Spotify: <https://bit.ly/hebrews-playlist>

*A mighty fortress is our God,
a bulwark never failing;
our helper he, amid the flood
of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe
does seek to work us woe;
his craft and power are great,
and armed with cruel hate,
on earth is not his equal.*

*And though this world, with devils filled,
should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God has willed
his truth to triumph through us.
The prince of darkness grim,
we tremble not for him;
his rage we can endure,
for lo! his doom is sure:
one little word shall fell him.*

*Did we in our own strength confide,
our striving would be losing,
were not the right Man on our side,
the Man of God's own choosing.
You ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is he;
Lord Sabaoth his name,
from age to age the same;
and he must win the battle.*

*That Word above all earthly powers
no thanks to them abideth;
the Spirit and the gifts are ours
through him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go,
this mortal life also;
the body they may kill:
God's truth abideth still;
his kingdom is forever!*

SCRIPTURE

Day 1: Hebrews 4:4, Genesis 2:1-3

Day 2: Hebrews 4:8, Judges 2:7-15

Day 3: Hebrews 4:9-10, Matthew 11:28-30

Day 4: Hebrews 4:11, Revelation 14:13, 22:1-5

Day 5: Hebrews 4:11-13, Psalm 119:89-96

There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from their works, just as God did from his. Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest...

— Hebrews 4:9-11a

Study 8 — Hebrews 4:14–5:10

Hebrews 4:14-5:10 shifts to introduce the topic of priesthood, laying the foundation for the rest of the book of Hebrews. The passage reflects on the Old Testament priests (those in the tribe of Levi and descended from Aaron), showing once again how Jesus is greater.

GETTING STARTED

What images jump to mind when you hear the title ‘priest’? Do Christians need one?

READ 4:14-5:10

1. How would you summarise the job description of high priests? (5:1-4)

2. In what way was Christ appointed to be a high priest? (5:5-6, 10 *see also Psalm 2, 110)

3. Describe what Jesus undertook in his life on earth (5:7-10 *see also Luke 22:39-44)

REFLECT

- How is Jesus a greater high priest than even Aaron? (4:15; 5:2-3; 6)

- What comfort do we receive having Jesus as our high priest (4:14-16; 5:9)?

- *What do we learn about God's sovereignty given that Psalm 2 and 110 were written hundreds of years before Jesus came in the flesh to earth?

PRAY

Daily Devotions

SONG

And Can it Be, Charles Wesley (1738) — © Public Domain

YouTube: <https://bit.ly/and-can-it>

Spotify: <https://bit.ly/hebrews-playlist>

*And can it be that I should gain
An interest in the Savior's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain?
For me, who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! how can it be
That Thou, my God, should die for me?*

*'Tis mystery all! The Immortal dies!
Who can explore His strange design?
In vain the firstborn seraph tries
To sound the depths of love divine!
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore,
Let angel minds inquire no more.*

*He left His Father's throne above,
So free, so infinite His grace;
Emptied Himself of all [for] love,
And bled for Adam's helpless race;*

*'Tis mercy all, immense and free;
For, O my God, it found out me.*

*Long my imprisoned spirit lay
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quick'ning ray,
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free;
I rose, went forth and followed Thee.*

*No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in Him is mine!
Alive in Him, my living Head,
And clothed in righteousness divine,
*Bold I approach th'eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ my
own.**

Scripture

Day 1: Hebrews 4:14-16

Day 2: Hebrews 5:1-4, Leviticus 16:1-6

Day 3: Hebrews 5:5-6, Luke 3:21-22, Acts 13:32-33

Day 4: Hebrews 5:7-8, Luke 22:39-44

Day 5: Hebrews 5:9-10, Ephesians 4:32-5:2

Let us then approach
God's throne of grace with
confidence, so that we
may receive mercy and
find grace to help us in
our time of need.

— Hebrews 4:16

Study 9 — Hebrews 5:11–6:20

Hebrews 5:11-6:20 is a tricky passage that presents a severe warning against giving up, confident that this is not where the Christian readers will end up.

GETTING STARTED

What age were you when you ‘grew up’ most?

READ 5:11-6:8

Consider the readers of the letter:

1. What might they be in danger of? (*see also Mark 4:13-20)

2. What are they called to do? (6:1-3)

READ 6:9-20

3. What is their confidence? (6:3, 7, 9, 10, 13-20)

Daily Devotions

SONG

Christ the Sure and Steady Anchor, Matt Boswell, Matt Papa (2015) — © Messenger Hymns (CCLI # 75481) YouTube: <https://bit.ly/sure-steady> Spotify: <https://bit.ly/hebrews-playlist>

*Christ, the sure and steady anchor
In the fury of the storm
When the winds of doubt blow through
me
And my sails have all been torn.
In the suff'ring, in the sorrow,
When my sinking hopes are few,
I will hold fast to the anchor;
It shall never be removed.*

*Christ, the sure and steady anchor
While the tempest rages on,
When temptation claims the battle
And it seems the night has won;
Deeper still then goes the anchor
Though I justly stand accused;
I will hold fast to the anchor;
It shall never be removed.*

*Christ, the sure and steady anchor
Through the floods of unbelief;*

*Hopeless somehow, O my soul,
Now lift your eyes to Calvary.
This, my ballast of assurance;
See His love forever proved;
I will hold fast to the anchor;
It shall never be removed.*

*Christ, the sure and steady anchor
As we face the wave of death,
When these trials give way to glory,
As we draw our final breath;
We will cross that great horizon,
Clouds behind and life secure,
And the calm will be the better
For the storms that we endure.*

*Christ, the shore of our salvation,
Ever faithful, ever true;
We will hold fast to the anchor;
It shall never be removed.*

SCRIPTURE

Day 1: Hebrews 6:11-12, Genesis 11:27-12:9

Day 2: Hebrews 6:11-12, Genesis 13:14-18

Day 3: Hebrews 6:11-12, Genesis 15:1-6

Day 4: Hebrews 6:11-12, Genesis 17:1-8

Day 5: Hebrews 6:11-12, Genesis 22:1-18

We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.

— Hebrews 6:19-20

Study 10 — Hebrews 7:1-28

*Hebrews 7:1-28 is a reasoned passage that unpacks how and why Jesus is the greater high priest. It begins by considering the strange encounter between the renowned father of God's people, Abraham and a strange priest-king called Melchizedek (*see Genesis 14:8-24). This story lays the foundation for comparing the priestly descendants of Abraham (those in the priestly tribe of Levi) with the Priest-King Jesus (in the kingly tribe of Judah and pattern of Melchizedek).*

GETTING STARTED

What is your favourite adjective for Jesus?

READ 7:1-10

1. Describe who Melchizedek was. (v1-10 *see also Genesis 14:8-24; Psalm 110)

READ 7:11-28

2. Why couldn't Jesus be a Levitical priest? (v13-14)

3. How is he like Melchizedek instead? (v15-17)

Daily Devotions

SONG

Before the Throne, Charitie Lees Bancroft (1841-1892) — © Public Domain

YouTube: <https://bit.ly/before-the-throne-of-god-above> Spotify: <https://bit.ly/hebrews-playlist>

*Before the throne of God above
I have a strong and perfect plea,
A great High Priest whose name is Love,
Who ever lives and pleads for me.*

*My name is graven on his hands,
My name is written on his heart;
I know that while in heav'n he stands
No tongue can bid me thence depart,
No tongue can bid me thence depart.*

*When Satan tempts me to despair
And tells me of the guilt within,
Upward I look and see him there
Who made an end of all my sin.*

*Because the sinless Savior died,
My sinful soul is counted free;
For God the Just is satisfied
To look on him and pardon me,
To look on him and pardon me.*

*Behold him there! The risen Lamb,
My perfect, spotless righteousness;
The great unchangeable "I AM,"
The King of glory and of grace!*

*One with himself I cannot die,
My soul is purchased by his blood;
My life is hid with Christ on high,
With Christ, my Savior and my God,
With Christ, my Savior and my God.*

SCRIPTURE

Day 1: Hebrews 7:1-4, Genesis 14:8-24

Day 2: Hebrews 7:26-27, Colossians 1:15-20

Day 3: Hebrews 7:26-27, Luke 22:7-23

Day 4: Hebrews 7:26-27, Acts 2:29-39

Day 5: Hebrews 7:26-27, Revelation 1:9-18

Such a high priest truly meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself.

— Hebrews 7:26-27



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