



HOLD FAST

Hebrews 1-7

Term 4, 2021
Daily Reading Notes:
Hebrews 1-7: Unshakeable

Week	Passage	Title
1	Hebrews 1:1-4	Better than the prophets
2	Hebrews 1:5-2:4	Better than the angels
3	Hebrews 2:5-9	True man
4	Hebrews 2:10-18	Like his brothers
5	Hebrews 3:1-18	Better than Moses
6	Hebrews 4:1-13	Enter his rest!
7	Hebrews 4:14-5:10	The better High Priest
8	Hebrews 5:11-6:12	Warning!
9	Hebrews 6:13-6:20	An anchor for the soul
10	Hebrews 7:1-28	A new priesthood

We want to encourage each other to be on mission to our non-Christian friends, family and contacts. Who are you on mission to?

Make a list and start praying for them (and yourself).
Pray for 3 friends, once a week, for 1 minute (3-1-1).

Introduction to Hebrews 1-7

“Look out! You’re in grave danger!” Anyone with a boat licence knows the importance of paying attention and having a good anchor, especially in a storm.

Hebrews was written to persecuted Jews who converted to Christianity (hence the name ‘Hebrews’) and were tempted to turn back. The message is simple: “Don’t fall away from Jesus! Instead, hold fast, and draw near!” (See Hebrews 2:1, 3:1, 3:12-14, 4:1, 4:11, 6:4-8.)

To spur them to hold fast, the writer (whose identity is difficult to pin down) mixes beautiful, logical, rich teaching about Jesus with warnings and encouragements.

The heart of the book is that Jesus is better. He is better than the Old Testament prophets, angels, priests, promises, and covenants. In fact, they are all shadows that point to him as the reality. Hebrews is therefore an extremely helpful guide on how to read the Old Testament as a book that points to Jesus.

For the Jewish Christians who were tempted to abandon Jesus and go back to Judaism to escape persecution, these powerful arguments show the foolishness of turning back. Jesus is better. He is worth every sacrifice. Why go back to the shadow now that the reality is here? And for us today, when pressure on Christians is increasing and a pandemic has kept us from the normal encouragement of Christian community, we too need to “fix our thoughts on Jesus” (3:1) so that we do not “drift away” (2:4).

These teaching sections of Hebrews lead directly to the letter’s warnings and encouragements. Hebrews puts out the traffic cones to mark the common hazards: the gradual drift (2:1), sin and its deceitfulness (3:13), hard hearts and unbelief (3:12). Out of love, the letter pulls no punches in vividly marking out the severe consequences of falling away (2:3, 4:11), which is taken to be a genuine danger and to be feared (6:4-6). But alongside the warnings are warm encouragements to have faith and confidence, hear the word, press on towards growth in Christian maturity, and especially to find help and grace from Jesus our High Priest who can sympathise and save. This hope is the anchor for our souls (6:19) which gives us the hope and confidence to face the storm.

It’s a battle that cannot be won alone. We must encourage each other daily (3:13). That’s quite often! And we must find ways to meet and spur each other on (10:24-26). What an important word for our church in these times!

May God use this wonderful letter (or sermon?) to lift our eyes to the true, reliable, glorious Son of God; our king, priest, prophet, and saviour.

Week 1 - Hebrews 1:1-4

Better than the angels

Day 1

Pray + Read Hebrews 1:1-4

1. The letter explodes into life by showing off Jesus' greatness. List all the things we can learn about God's Son in just these few verses:

Who he is

What he has done



We will dig deeper into some of these things over the next few days.

1. Who is the writer of Hebrews trying to get us to focus on, right at the start?

2. Where have you been focusing lately? What is your mind on when you first wake up? How could focusing on these truths about Jesus reshape your mindset today?

Prayer: Turn these truths about Jesus into a prayer of praise and thankfulness to him.

Day 2

Pray + Read Hebrews 1:1-4

1. When and how did God speak to “our ancestors”? And what is different about the way that he has spoken to “us”? (verses 1-2)
2. Circle where we should mainly turn if we want to hear from God? It might seem obvious, but there are lots of differing views. What would the writer of Hebrews say?

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3. How does this fact give us confidence and clarity as we live the Christian life, trusting God and seeking to please him?
4. **Bonus** - We learn more about Jesus’ word in verse 3. What does it have to do with the movement of planets and the beating of your heart?

Prayer: Thank God that he has not left us guessing, but instead has spoken to us. Praise him especially for his ultimate word to us in Jesus. Thank him for the clear and beautiful truths of God that Jesus spoke and lived out. Ask him to help you to listen, trust, and obey.

Day 3

Pray + Read Hebrews 1:1-4

Verse 2 explores Jesus' and the Father's relationship to the universe.

1. What did God the Father "appoint" Jesus to be? What do you think this means? (Some verses that might help: Psalm 2:8, Matthew 11:27.)
 - a. What does this say about Jesus' relationship to people, to angels, to prophets, and to the world to come?
 - b. How should this shape the way you relate to him?

2. When God the Father created the world, how was Jesus involved? What do you think this means? (Does Psalm 33:6 give any clues?)
 - a. What does this say about Jesus' relationship to people, to angels, and to prophets?
 - b. How should this shape the way you relate to him?

Prayer: Thank the Father for creating you, through Jesus. Thank him for appointing Jesus to be your loving ruler and owner. Ask him to help you to live for him with honour, thankfulness, joy, and reverence.

Day 4

Pray + Read Hebrews 1:1-4

1. What two phrases does the first half of verse 3 use to describe the Son's relationship to God the Father? What do you think they mean?

Note: 'radiance' is a rare word, referring to the light coming from a light source. And 'representation' is another rare word, referring to the imprint left by an engraving instrument, like the imprint on the back of a coin.

2. These are very deep truths! Consider how verse 3 can be used to correct each of these mistakes:

Mistake 1 – The Son = the Father

Mistake 2 – The Son is less than the Father

Mistake 3 – The Son and the Father are 2 separate gods

Mistake 4 – The Son is not God

3. How does the Son's relationship to the Father help Jesus to reveal God to us (as we saw in verse 2)?
4. How should these mind-stretching truths about our Triune God move you to worship him as Father, Son, and Spirit?

Prayer: Declare in prayer to God as praises the wonderful things you know about who he is. Marvel at what you still don't understand and enjoy admitting that he is bigger than you, and worship his glorious Son.

Day 5

Pray + Read Hebrews 1:1-4

The second half of verse 3 talks about what Jesus did on earth and what he is doing now.

1. What did Jesus do while he was on earth, and why is it good news for guilty consciences?
2. What is he doing now? What does his posture now say about the state of the work he came to do? (See Hebrews 10:11-14)
3. God doesn't have a right or a left hand, of course. Although it is not a literal location, what does the "right hand" of the Father's throne show about Jesus' status and rule now?
4. When Satan tempts you to despair, and tells you of the guilt within, how does verse 3 help?

Prayer: Thank God for sending Jesus, the sinless Saviour, who died so that your sinful soul could be counted free. Praise God for exalting and enthroning Jesus as the good ruler of his world. Ask him to help you trust him as Saviour and serve him as Lord.

You might like to listen to [Before the Throne of God Above](#) today to help you continue to meditate on this great gospel truth!

NOTES / PRAYER POINTS / QUESTIONS

Week 2 - Hebrews 1:5-2:4

Better than the angels

Compared to angels, Jesus is “superior”, says Hebrews 1:4 – a word that pops up 13 times in the letter. This week we see not only why Jesus is better than angels, but why it matters to our eternal salvation that we remember that fact, and pay attention to him!

DAY 1

Pray + Read Hebrews 2:1-4

To help us understand Chapter 1, we are going to start in the climax of this whole section, Hebrews 2:1–4!

1. What must we avoid doing, and why is it so dangerous? (Verse 1)
2. Is there anyone in your life that you’ve seen drift away from Jesus? What do you think contributed to that? Did it happen slowly over time or suddenly?
3. What does the writer plead with his readers to do, so that they don’t drift away? (Verse 1)
4. What are some ways you can be paying “the most careful attention” so that you keep trusting Jesus?

Prayer: Ask God to help you pay careful attention to the bible and the good news about Jesus. Pray that you would always be someone who trusts in Him.

DAY 2

Chapter 1 links together seven quotes from the Old Testament to contrast Jesus and angels. Today we dig into the first pair of quotes.

Pray + Read Hebrews 1:4-5

1. List the differences between the Son and angels below

The Son

Angels



2. What does verse 5 particularly highlight about Jesus?
3. Both quotes are from Old Testament passages that speak of a special ultimate king to come. What does this say about Jesus?
4. How does knowing that Jesus has risen to rule over all things make you feel?
5. How should knowing who Jesus is shape the way you make everyday decisions?

Prayer: Thank God that we follow a mighty king. Ask that you would choose to follow Jesus' way of living and not be tempted to follow lesser things.

DAY 3

Pray + Read Hebrews 1:6-14

1. Similar to yesterday, we are going to list the ways Jesus and the angels are described:

The Son

Angels

2. What job has God given angels?
3. What job has God given Jesus?
4. There are some people today who worship and follow angels. What would you like them to know about Jesus from these verses?

Prayer: Thank God for sending angels to help His people and for sending Jesus to be our saviour king. Ask that you would value Jesus more than anything else and pray that you would be able to explain how awesome Jesus is to others.

DAY 4

Pray + Read Hebrews 1:6-14

1. How is Jesus' kingly rule described in v8-9
2. What do you think it would look like now if every government ruled with the same goodness as Jesus?
3. What does this suggest about what heaven will be like?
4. We aren't in heaven yet, but we do have this king now, how should this shape the way we live now?

Prayer: Thank God that Jesus is an awesome ruler who never changes. Ask for forgiveness for the times where you followed your own ways and the ways of the world instead of his. Ask for help to trust him and his words.

DAY 5

Pray + Read Hebrews 2:1-4

1. What happened to those that disobeyed “the message spoken through angels”? (Verse 2) ‘The message’ is the Old Testament Law given to Moses (the Ten Commandments and other laws).
2. Who is the messenger of ‘this salvation’ in verse 3?
3. Remembering what we’ve seen this week about Jesus vs angels, which message and messenger is more serious to disobey? What do you think the consequences of disobedience would be?
4. Have you ever been tempted to or noticed yourself drifting away from Jesus? What’s one thing you can do today to prevent yourself from drifting away?

Prayer: Thank God that because of Jesus’ death and resurrection we can always come back to Him when we stray. Ask Him to help you cling onto the gospel. Pray for your Christian friends and family that they too would never drift away from our great salvation.

NOTES / PRAYER POINTS / QUESTIONS

Week 3 - Hebrews 2:5-9

True Man

DAY 1

Pray + Read Psalm 8 and Hebrews 2:5-9

1. Hebrews 2:5-9 references Psalm 8 which you just read. What do you think is the purpose of this Psalm? How do we see God's care for humanity?
2. Looking at Psalm 8:6-8 and Genesis 1:26, 28, what are humans called to do?
3. How could you use this truth about God's care and calling for humanity to encourage someone today?

Prayer: Thank God that he is kind and that he cares for us by giving us a special role over creation. Ask for forgiveness in the times when you haven't treated God's creation right. Thank him for Jesus who succeeded where we failed, who forgives and will pour out endless kindness on us eternally (Ephesians 2:7).

DAY 2

Pray + Hebrews 2:5-9

1. The word 'subject' comes up a few times in this passage. It means to be under someone's rule or authority. Can you give an example of when bringing something under control is a really good thing and then also when it's a bad thing?

2. How much of the world has God put under humanity's rule (verse 8)?

3. Do you think humans have done a good job of bringing the world 'under authority'?

Prayer: We are sorry God that our sin has caused so many problems, frustration, and pain around the world. We praise you that you will restore the errors we have made through Jesus who will make everything new.

Day 3

Pray + Read Hebrews 2:5-9

1. In verse 9, who is the ultimate fulfilment of Psalms 8?
2. How was Jesus 'made lower than the angels'?
3. Why does Jesus become 'crowned with glory and honor'?
4. Why should we be stoked that Jesus fulfils verse 8? (Refer to day 2 question 3).

Prayer: Praise God that he sent Jesus as a human representative to perfectly fulfil Psalm 8 and restore our world to order. Thank him that he was willing to suffer and sacrifice himself to achieve this.

Day 4

Pray + Read Hebrews 2:5-9

1. How is Jesus better than angels and when will this be seen?
2. Knowing this about Jesus, why should we cling to him and not drift away?
3. Imagine a suffering Christian asking, "Why are we being hurt by things that are under Jesus' rule (Ephesians 1:20-22)?" How does this passage explain our current situation and give hope for the future?

Prayer: Praise God that he will fix all the bad things that happen in this world through the restoration on the world to come. Pray that we can keep our eyes on Jesus and not lose sight of who he is and who he will be. Pray that you will stick to Jesus and help/encourage your Christian brothers and sisters so that they don't drift either.

Day 5

Pray + Read Hebrews 2:5-9

1. At the end of verse 9 something remarkable happens to Jesus. What is it that happens and why is it remarkable?
2. How does this remarkable event affect us today?
3. Write or draw something that expresses the way this makes Jesus more approachable to you, especially in times of suffering.
4. Make a small summary of what you have learned from Hebrews this week. It could be a few sentences, poem, mind map, diagram, drawings, or anything! Choose something that will help you remember and reflect well.

Prayer: Share some time with God in prayer telling him the things you have learnt and heard from this passage, tell him the things that make you excited and happy and tell him the things that still confuse you.

NOTES / PRAYER POINTS / QUESTIONS

Week 4 - Hebrews 2:10-18 Like his brothers

Day 1

Pray + Read Hebrews 2:10-18

Ask God to help you understand today's passage, then read Hebrews 2:10-18

1. Why did Jesus "have to" become like us?

2. What does the high priest do, according to verses 16 to 18?

3. What does this encourage you to do when you:
 - a. Sin (vs17)

 - b. Face temptation (vs18)

 - c. Suffer (vs18)

Prayer: Thank Jesus for being the high priest who knows suffering and temptation yet has never sinned. Bring your sin, your burdens, and your pains to him.

Day 2

Pray + Read Hebrews 2:10-18

1. Who made Jesus perfect? and how? (Hint verse 10)
2. Perfect to do what? (Verses 17-18)
3. Why do you think this was 'fitting' (appropriate)? (Verse 10)
4. Jesus is the pioneer – the leader, the captain – of our salvation. What makes Jesus different to other powerful people you can think of? What might it look like to be more like Jesus today?

Prayer: Thank the Father for making Jesus the perfect saviour. Thank Jesus, the Son, for enduring the cross and suffering so that you could be saved and brought into glory. Ask for help to be more like Jesus in his humility and love.

Day 3

Pray + Read Hebrews 2:10-18

1. What do these verses say about our relationship with Jesus?

Verse 11:

Verse 12:

Verse 13:

Verse 14:

2. Do you tend to think of Jesus more as Lord, Saviour, or friend?

3. How would thinking of Jesus as your 'brother' change:

- a. Your moments of loneliness?

- b. Your approach to gathering with other Christians?

- c. Your prayers?

Prayer: Thank God for making Jesus a brother. Pray that you'd come to Jesus in everything and to find forgiveness always.

Day 4

Pray + Read Hebrews 2:10-18

1. What did Jesus achieve for us?

Verse 10:

Verse 11:

Verse 14-15:

Verse 17:

2. Which of Jesus' achievements encourages you most today?

3. Who do you know (Christian or not) that would benefit from being taught or reminded of one of these things today? Call them! Send them a message! Talk to them today!

Prayer: Thank Jesus for all he has done. Ask him to help you never forget but to always live remembering.

Day 5

Pray + Read Hebrews 2:10-18

1. In Hebrews so far, where have we seen Jesus as:
 - a. Prophet?

 - b. King?

 - c. Priest?

2. If Jesus was only one or two of these, what would we miss?

3. Writing to people tempted to drift away, what do you notice about the topic or person that this letter has focused on in almost every verse?

4. What can this teach us about remaining a Christian and helping others to do that?
(See 3:1)

Prayer: Before you pray, write down 3 friends names in the gaps below. Then, pray:
Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for who you are. Thank you for being the Prophet, my King and my High Priest. Please Jesus help me to always keep my life, my thoughts and my actions focused on you. Please help my friends _____, _____ and _____ to keep focused on you too and help us to encourage one another to keep following you. Amen.

NOTES / PRAYER POINTS / QUESTIONS

Week 5 - Hebrews 3:1 - 18

Better than Moses

Day 1

Pray + Read Hebrews 3:1-6

1. Using verses 1 and 6 to list the words that describes God's people.
2. Do the same for Jesus in verses 1 TO 6.
3. How is Jesus similar to Moses, and how is he superior?
4. Verse 1 tells us to fix our eyes on Jesus. What are some ways this that you can do this better?

Prayer: Ask God that he would help you fix your eyes on Jesus.

Day 2

Pray + Read Hebrews 3:7-12

This passage quotes Psalm 95, a psalm in which lessons from Israel's disobedience in the wilderness are applied to later Israelites.

1. What did they do? What was God's reaction? What were the consequences?
2. What lessons should later Israelites have learned from their history?
3. By applying this psalm to Christian readers a few hundred years later, what lesson is the author of Hebrews wanting us to learn? (Verses 16-19)

Bonus: Psalm 95 was written hundreds of years before Hebrews yet verse 7 introduces the quote with "as the Holy Spirit says" (rather than "said"). What does this teach you about what happens when we read the Bible or speak the Bible to others?

Prayer: Pray that you will be a person who hears and obeys God's voice in the Bible.

Day 3:

Pray + Read Hebrews 3:12-15

1. What is this passage warning against?

2. Verse 14 says that we must “hold our original conviction until the very end”.
 - a. Why is this important?

 - b. How does today’s passage suggest we do this?

 - c. What are some things you currently do or can start doing to encourage Christian brothers and sisters around you?

Prayer: Ask God to help you be someone that is a daily encouragement to your brothers and sisters.

Day 4

Pray + Read Hebrews 3:12-19

1. What sort of heart will be turned away from God and his heavenly rest? (See verses 12, 13, 19)

2. How is the state of your heart?
 - a. Where might sin be deceiving you?

 - b. Where are you not letting yourself trust him?

 - c. Which way are you turning?

Prayer: Ask God that we would cling onto our relationship with God and not be deceived by sin.

Day 5

Pray + Read 3:1-9

1. How does Jesus' and Israel's faithfulness compare in these verses?
2. "Fix your thoughts on Jesus" (verse 1). What aspects of Jesus' example, faithful character, and accomplishments encourage you to remain faithful?
3. Who are you aware of that you worry may be slipping in their faith? What could you do to encourage them to continue looking to Jesus?

Prayer: Pray for these people and yourself to keep trusting and obeying as we look to Jesus.

NOTES / PRAYER POINTS / QUESTIONS

Week 6 - Hebrews 4:1-13

Enter his rest!

DAY 1

Pray + Read Hebrews 4:1-3

The idea of 'rest' is important to the author's argument throughout chapter 4. Today we're going to spend some time digging into the Old Testament background of 'rest'.

1. Check out Genesis 2:2-3. What was God's rest?
2. Flick forward to Joshua 1:13 and 22:4. What did the Israelites find in the promised land?
3. Read Matthew 11:28-30. Where does the Christian find rest? Who gives it to them?
4. When do you think we'll experience this rest completely?
5. Are there things you find exhausting about life? How is the promise of rest a comfort in these things?

Prayer: Thank God for the beautiful promise of rest to come and for the partial rest that we experience now. Ask God to help you find rest in Him more and more - not looking to yourself or others for everything - but to God. Ask Him to help you throw off self-reliance and to lean on Him instead. Ask God to help you build daily patterns into your life to rest in God.

DAY 2

Pray + Read Hebrews 4:6-11

An ancient Israelite could be forgiven for thinking that Joshua had already given the people rest, as we saw yesterday in Joshua 22:4, but Hebrews suggests otherwise.

1. Is God’s rest something entered in the past, or something still to be entered into in the future? (Verses 7-9)
2. In what ways is entering his rest the opposite of works and salvation by works (see verses 3 and 10)?
3. And yet what is the place of effort or striving?

Prayer: Ask God to help you remember you can’t earn salvation yourself. Ask God to help you always rest in Jesus - relying on Him and Him alone to secure salvation for you. Pray that you will strive to do all that you can to make sure you don’t fall away from trusting in Jesus and from the rest found in Him.

DAY 3

Pray + Read Hebrews 4:1-5

1. In the ESV, verse 1 says “Therefore, while the promise of entering His rest still stands, let us fear lest any of you should seem to have failed to reach it.” How does today’s passage grow our fear?
2. Why do you think appropriate fear helps us in our Christian life?
3. From this passage, what does “fear” motivate us to do? (v 1, 3, 11)

Prayer: Ask God to help you have an appropriate fear of the dangers of falling away. Ask God to help you be aware of the tendencies in yourself to neglect your faith and for help in answering doubts and questions that you might have. Pray that you’d constantly come back to resting in Jesus.

DAY 4

Pray + Read Hebrews 4:11-13

1. List the things that this passage says about the Word of God.
2. How is this a confronting description of the Word of God?
3. What surprising things does this say about the Word of God?
4. How can you be engaging with God's word?
5. What attitudes or approaches to these activities could be dangerous?

Prayer: Thank God for giving His alive and active Word and for the ways that He has changed you and others through it! Pray that you will not forget that God's Word will also be used in judgement, and so pray for reverence and humility in all your encounters with God's Word.

NOTES / PRAYER POINTS / QUESTIONS

Week 7 – Hebrews 4:14-5:10

The Better High Priest

Day 1

Pray + Read Hebrews 4:14 to 5:3

These verses show us Jesus, our true high priest! They also show us Israel's high priests, who point to Jesus.

1. Fill in the table below with similarities or differences between Jesus and the Old Testament high priests.

Same	Different

2. Let's flip back to the Old Testament and read Leviticus 4:3. How did the sins of the Old Testament high priest impact his people?
3. Why can we have confidence before God if we have Jesus as our high priest?

Prayer: Thank God for Jesus our high priest and how we can approach God with confidence because of him.

Day 4

Pray + Read Hebrews 5:7-10

It can surprise us to find that Jesus “learned obedience” (verse 8) and was “made perfect” (verse 9).

1. How did Jesus learn obedience? As the eternal Son from the Father, what could there have been for Jesus to “learn”?
2. Verse 7 gives an illustration. Can you think of any times in Jesus’ life when he did this? (see Mark 14:32-36) What might these moments tell us about what he may have ‘learned’?
3. Jesus was “made perfect” (verse 9). This doesn’t mean that he was morally flawed. The word “perfect” has the sense of “made complete for the task”. In what way did Jesus’ suffering make him complete for the task of being our high priest?

Prayer: How wonderful that God in Trinity took no shortcuts in providing for our needs. Give thanks for Jesus our High priest, who suffered to the end for us!

Day 5

Pray + Read Hebrews 4:14-16

1. In these verses, what is it that we now have in Jesus, that we couldn't have without him?
2. What are we called to do in verse 14? Do you need the help of your high priest in doing this?
3. What is the second thing we are called to do in verse 16? Why can we be confident of receiving mercy and grace to help us if we approach God's throne?

Prayer: Prayer is a gift that we have because of Jesus, it's for his people who always need help. Take time now to ask God for his help.

NOTES / PRAYER POINTS / QUESTIONS

Week 8 – Hebrews 5:11-6:12

Warning!

Day 1

Pray + Read Hebrews 5:11-14

1. What can you find out about the process of maturity in these verses? What place does “habit” seem to have in this process? (Verse 14)
2. Not all Christians have the gift of teaching (Ephesians 4:11), nor should all take up the official role of Teacher (James 3:1), but what should all Christians be doing, according to verse 12?
3. What kind of teaching should we all be able to do? Is this the case with you?
4. Make a list of what you think the “elementary (basic) truths” of the gospel might be.

Prayer: Pray that God will help you move beyond the elementary truths to maturity so you can help others.

Day 4

Pray + Read Hebrews 6:4-8

1. In verses 7-8, what is the difference between the person who receives God's blessing and the one who does not?
2. Check out the passages below. What do they say about the person who is born of the spirit?
 - John 15:16
 - Philippians 1:6
3. God produces fruit in all people who are genuinely born again. Knowing this, what should our attitude be to living the Christian life? (Compare today's passage to Philippians 2:12,13 or 2 Peter 1:5-11)

Prayer: Is there an area in your life in which the Holy Spirit is prompting you to grow? Pray that he will help you to do this.

Day 5

Pray + Read Hebrews 6:9-12

1. It seems that these people we have been looking at over the past week have not yet “fallen away”. So, what does the author urge them to do?
2. What are some ways that you could be producing fruit in your life?
3. What are some things that could help you produce fruit and persevere to the very end?

Prayer: Thank God that he sovereignly works in all his children to cause them to bear fruit and persevere to the end.

NOTES / PRAYER POINTS / QUESTIONS

Week 9 – Hebrews 6:13-20

An anchor for the soul

Day 1

Pray + Read Hebrews 6:13-15

In Genesis 12:1-3, we see the covenant that God makes with Abraham. Genesis 22 is the story of Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his only son, trusting that God would be able to raise him again (Hebrews 11:19).

1. What is the blessing that God promises in Genesis 22:15-18?

2. What did Abraham receive because of his patient waiting, according to Hebrews 6:15?

3. Can you think of any times where you have not been patient? How does Hebrews 6:13-15 encourage you to be patient?

Prayer: Pray that God will help you be patient. Pray that you will have complete trust in God, knowing he fulfills His promises.

Day 2

Pray + Read Hebrews 6:13-18

1. Why does God swear by himself in his promise to Abraham? (Hint verse 17-18).
2. In verse 17, who are the heirs (the receivers) of this promise to Abraham? (See Galatians 3:7-9 and 28-29)
3. Having confidence that we are heirs to God's promises is super important to having a healthy faith. How can you be sure that you are God's child?

Prayer: Give thanks to God for the grace He gives us and for Jesus! Praise God, that we can have no doubts that we are accepted into His family.

Day 3

Pray + Read Romans 8:12-17

Having assurance that we are saved is at the center of trusting in Jesus. There are three parts to assurance, one was mentioned yesterday which is trust in the faithful promise of God (if you want a reminder see Hebrews 6:17-18). However, there are more...

1. What do verses 12 and 13 say our obligation is as a Christians?

2. John also points out two signs a person is changing by the spirit. What are they?
 - 1 John 2:3

 - 1 John 3:14

3. What are the 2 things that the spirit assures us of in Romans 8:16-17?

Prayer: Ask God to strengthen your sense of assurance that you are right with him.

Day 4

Pray + Read Hebrews 6:16-20

1. Draw a picture to show what the “hope” of salvation is like in verse 19?
2. How is the assurance of salvation like an “anchor for the soul”?
3. What are some circumstances in life, where you may really need an “anchor for the soul”? Are there any circumstances that are troubling you right now, or other Christian friends?

Prayer: Bring your answers to question 3 before God. Pray that you will be anchored in any tough times, knowing that you are a saved child of God.

NOTES / PRAYER POINTS / QUESTIONS

Day 2

Pray + Read Hebrews 7:1-10

1. These verses seem complicated but what simple point do you think the author is making about Melchizedek in verses 4-10? (Hint verse 4)
2. Why is Melchizedek better than Abraham and the Levites? (Verse 4, 6-7, 8, 9-10)
3. Melchizedek, like Jesus, is a far better priest than the Levitical priests because he is declared to be living (verse 8). Why does it matter that you have a living priest?

Prayer: Pray for yourself, family and friends that you will never fail to run to your priest for help.

Day 3

Pray + Read Hebrews 7:11-19

It's always hard for those from a strong tradition, especially a religious tradition, to break with that tradition. It can feel like a betrayal. That's what is happening here! Many Jews have become Christians but are having difficulty leaving Jewish tradition.

1. What two traditional Jewish institutions does the author say need changing in these verses? (hint verse 12)
2. Why do these two things need to be changed? (hint verse 18-19)
3. In verse 14, we see that Jesus lineage is from the tribe of Judah. Yesterday, we saw that Jewish priests come from the tribe of Levi. How is Jesus the ultimate priest, despite his ancestry? (Hint verse 15-17)
4. We all have traditions or habits of life which keep us from trusting Jesus as we should. What are some "traditions" or habits that might be barriers that prevent us from fully accepting Jesus?

Prayer: Pray for those who hold onto tradition as something that saves them. Pray that God may soften their hearts to see and trust Jesus!

Day 4

Pray + Read Hebrews 7:20-22

The important word “covenant” makes its first appearance in this letter in verse 22. God’s “covenants” are highly significant because they outline the terms in which God relates to his people. Since tabernacle and sacrifices were essential to this relationship in the Old Testament, the role of the priest was central to the covenant.

1. Why should the Jewish Christians avoid turning back to their traditional priests?
2. As the perfect priest, Jesus is said to be the ‘guarantor’ of the covenant. What characteristics of Jesus, allow Him to “guarantee” our new covenant arrangement?
3. How do these verses make you feel? Do they strengthen your trust in Jesus? Do these verses give you confidence? Why?

Prayer: The fact that Jesus guarantees our relationship with God is beyond wonderful. Pray that God will help you grasp more deeply the significance of it and find your confidence and rest in it.

NOTES / PRAYER POINTS / QUESTIONS