

Lesson 1

The Son of God

Hebrews 1:1-14

As you begin your study of the book of Hebrews, spend some time in prayer, asking the Lord to reveal Himself to you as you draw near to Him by reading and studying His Word. May we love Him more and more!

Take some time before you begin your lesson to read through the entire letter to the Hebrews.

Overview of Hebrews

The Book of Hebrews begins differently than the other letters of the New Testament. It does not have a salutation to tell us who the author is, why he is writing or who the recipients are. By looking throughout the text, however, we can get an idea of the author's intentions and learn quite a bit about the recipients.

“Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

Hebrews 12:2, NIV

1. Look ahead to Hebrews 13:22. Why did the author write this book?

2. Throughout the book of Hebrews, the author uses quotes from the Psalms and other Old Testament writings. What clues are given in the following verses that suggest who the intended audience of the book of Hebrews is?
 - ❖ Hebrews 2:16

 - ❖ Hebrews 3:2-3

 - ❖ Hebrews 4:14-15

 - ❖ Hebrews 9:1-5

 - ❖ Hebrews 10:5-7 (what does the author quote?)

3. From the clues in question 2, do you think the audience was Jewish or Gentile?

The Superiority of the Son

Read Hebrews 1.

The author of Hebrews uses this chapter to introduce us to Jesus, whom he will later describe as “the source of eternal salvation” (Hebrews 5:9) and “the author and perfecter of our faith” (Hebrews 12:2). Throughout the letter to the Hebrews, the author will establish the superiority of Jesus Christ and the perfection of the salvation that He offers to those who believe.

4. According to Hebrews 1:1, how did God speak to our ancestors in the past?

5. What are some other ways God spoke in Old Testament times?

- ❖ Genesis 12:1
- ❖ Genesis 28:12-16
- ❖ Judges 6:12 and Zechariah 1:9
- ❖ Ezekiel 8:3

6. From Hebrews 1:2, how does He speak to us today?

7. What do you think are some specific ways we see Jesus speaking today?

In Hebrews 1:2-3, the author lists seven attributes of Jesus. Fill in each attribute and answer the questions that follow them. Attribute #1 is filled in to get you started. (Look in the questions below the attributes for clues if you need help.)

8. Attribute #1: heir of all things

- ❖ What is the definition of an *heir*?

- ❖ As the heir of God, what do you think Jesus receives? See Hebrews 1:4 and Daniel 7:13-14.

9. Attribute #2: _____

- ❖ From Revelation 4:11, what is the Creator worthy of?

10. Attribute #3: _____

- ❖ Look up the following verses about the glory of the Lord and describe what you learn from them.

- Exodus 24:15-18

- Luke 9:28-32

- Revelation 4:5-11

- Revelation 21:23 (note where this glory is located in 21:1-2,10)

11. Attribute #4: _____

- ❖ In John 14:7-11 to whom does Jesus tell us to look if we want to know more about the Father?

12. Attribute #5: _____

- ❖ Describe the following examples of Jesus' power while He walked on the earth.

- Matthew 12:22-28

- Mark 4:35-41

- Mark 6:34-44

- John 11:32-45

- ❖ What does it mean to you that Jesus “upholds all things by the word of His power” in Hebrews 1:3? See also Colossians 1:16-17.
- ❖ In your life today, what do you need to know He is holding?

13. Attribute #6: _____

- ❖ As believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, what does 1 John 1:8-9 promise us regarding our sins?
- ❖ In Romans, Paul reminds us that “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23), and then he assures us that “God demonstrates His own love for us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8). Take a moment to thank Jesus for taking away your sins. If you have questions about God’s gift of forgiveness, turn to Appendix I.

14. Attribute #7: _____

- ❖ The book of Hebrews never directly refers to Jesus as King. However, from Hebrews 8:1, 10:12 and 12:2, what evidence do you see of Jesus’ kingship?
- ❖ What is Jesus (“the Lamb”) called in Revelation 17:14?

Most scholars agree that the Jewish people at this time were placing too much emphasis on the power of angels. They were elevating angels to a higher position than Scripture gives them, and the author of Hebrews hoped to correct their mistake. He addresses this issue in Hebrews 1:4-14 by proving Jesus’ superiority to the angels.

15. Scan Hebrews 1:4-14 and make a list of the ways that Jesus is superior to the angels.

16. In Hebrews 1:6, who do the angels of God worship?

17. Read Revelation 19:10 and 22:8-9. How do angels feel about our worship of them? Are we supposed to worship angels? Read the warnings in Colossians 2:18 and Hebrews 13:9a and discuss.

18. According to Hebrews 1:14, angels are sent forth to minister to whom?

Our Security in Christ

As we go through our study of Hebrews, we will see the author occasionally mention events that will happen after this current age – after the second coming of Jesus Christ.

19. In Hebrews 1:2, how does the author refer to the time in which the Hebrew people (and we) live?

20. From Hebrews 1:10-12a, what will eventually happen to this earth?

21. How does that compare to the stability of the Son in Hebrews 1:12b?

22. According to Isaiah 54:10, how safe is our eternity if we are in Christ, even in turbulent times?

23. What does the Lord promise in Isaiah 26:3?

Prepare for Life Question:

24. Whether or not we live through the turbulent time described in verses 10-12, we will all live through times when our world seems to be shaking. Is there any area of your life that is currently being shaken? How does the stability of Christ's unchanging nature provide comfort and peace? Is there a particular attribute of Christ that you've seen in this lesson that applies to your circumstance?

Lecture Notes:
by Kathy Phillips