



The Park Church: Corporate Bible Study

BIBLE JOURNEY: GENERAL EPISTLES & REVELATIONS: HEBREWS CHRISTOLOGY

THE OLD TESTAMENT IN HEBREWS

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Looking Back – Moving Forward

The Superiority of Christ Hebrews 1: 1 – 10:18

- ▶ **Angels** (Hebrews 1:4 - 5)
- ▶ **Moses** (Hebrews 3:1-19)
- ▶ **Old Testament Priesthood / Christ as High Priest** (Hebrews 4:14 -5:11)
- ▶ **Old Covenant** (Hebrews 8:1-10:18)

Hebrews: Background

- ▶ **Author:** *Unknown but reflects a heart for discipleship
(scholars suggests Paul, Luke, Barnabas, Priscilla and others)*
- ▶ **Audience:**
Perhaps 2nd generation Christians
- ▶ **Aim:**
Provide theology and encouragement; stir them on in faith in Christ

Scripture Reference: Hebrews 1:5-13 The Message

1-3 Going through a long line of prophets, God has been addressing our ancestors in different ways for centuries. Recently he spoke to us directly through his Son. By his Son, God created the world in the beginning, and it will all belong to the Son at the end. This Son perfectly mirrors God and is stamped with God's nature. He holds everything together by what he says—powerful words!

3-6 After he finished the sacrifice for sins, the Son took his honored place high in the heavens right alongside God, far higher than any angel in rank and rule. Did God ever say to an angel, "You're my Son; today I celebrate you" or "I'm his Father, he's my Son"? When he presents his honored Son to the world, he says, "All angels must worship him."

Scripture Reference: Hebrews 1:5-13 The Message

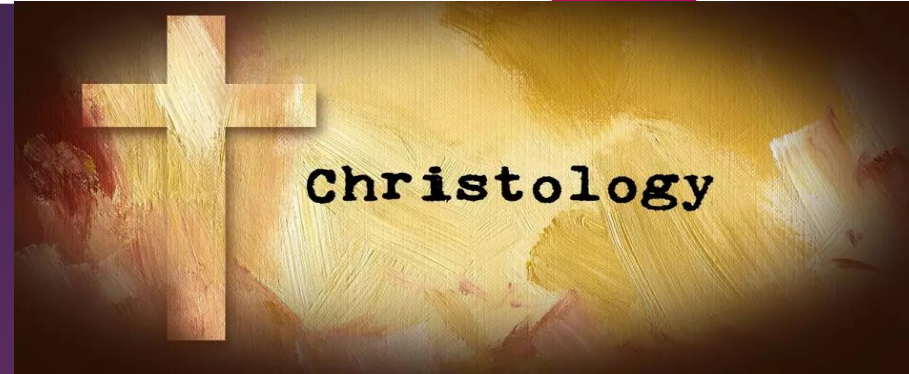
7 Regarding angels he says, The messengers are winds, the servants are tongues of fire.

8-9 But he says to the Son, You're God, and on the throne for good; your rule makes everything right. You love it when things are right; you hate it when things are wrong. That is why God, your God, poured fragrant oil on your head, Marking you out as king, far above your dear companions.

10-12 And again to the Son, You, Master, started it all, laid earth's foundations, then crafted the stars in the sky. Earth and sky will wear out, but not you; they become threadbare like an old coat; You'll fold them up like a worn-out cloak, and lay them away on the shelf. But you'll stay the same, year after year; you'll never fade, you'll never wear out.

13 And did he ever say anything like this to an angel? Sit alongside me here on my throne. Until I make your enemies a stool for your feet.

What is Christology?



Christology, derived from “Christ,” referring to Jesus, and “-ology,” meaning “the study of,” is the study of Christ, both Jesus as a person and the works of Christ. Christology is far-reaching. As one might expect, it covers Jesus’ earthly birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension. However, it also pertains to His eternal existence prior to His earthly life, His humanity and deity, Old Testament Christological prophecies, and His future return and reign.

Christology is a great spiritual benefit for faithful Christians to know how and why Christ saves mankind.

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Video 1:
(Lesson 2: Deity of Christ)

Getting Started: Introduction
(Dr. Martin)

Hebrews 1:5-13 & the Old Testament Reading

Hebrews opens with a description of the status and superiority of Jesus the Son of God. The author (unknown but reflects a heart for discipleship - scholars suggests Paul, Luke, Barnabas, Priscilla and others) quotes passages from the Old Testament to make his point.

The Bible is consistent and flows in its purpose and aim for us to know who God is!

Old Testament	Hebrews
I will tell of the decree: The Lord said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you." (Ps 2:7, ESV)	For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"? (Heb 1:5a, ESV)
I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men (2 Sam 7:14, ESV)	Or again, "I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son"? (Heb 1:5b, ESV)
"Rejoice with him, O heavens; bow down to him, all gods, for he avenges the blood of his children and takes vengeance on his adversaries. He repays those who hate him and cleanses his people's land." (Deut 32:43, ESV)	And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." (Heb 1:6, ESV)
He makes his messengers winds, his ministers a flaming fire. (Ps 104:4, ESV)	Of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, and his ministers a flame of fire." (Heb 1:7, ESV)
Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. The scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness; you have loved righteousness and hated wickedness. Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions. (Ps 45:6-7, ESV)	But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions." (Heb 1:8-9, ESV)
Of old you laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you will remain; they will all wear out like a garment. You will change them like a robe, and they will pass away, but you are the same, and your years have no end. (Ps 102:25-27, ESV)	And, "You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment, like a robe you will roll them up, like a garment they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will have no end." (Heb 1:10-12, ESV)
The Lord says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool." (Ps 110:1, ESV)	And to which of the angels has he ever said, "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet"? (Heb 1:13, ESV)

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Video 2:
Christ's Superiority in Hebrews
Lesson 2: Hebrews Christology

Christ Superiority

**Christ's
Ministry is
Superiority
He is Better
than...He is
Our Creator
and
Sustainer.**

JESUS THE SON AND THE AARONIC PRIESTS	
THE SON	AARONIC PRIESTS
IS UNDEFILED BY SIN AND THUS HAS NO NEED TO OFFER SACRIFICES FOR HIS SIN	WERE OBLIGATED TO OFFER SACRIFICES FOR THEIR OWN SINS (7:27; SEE ALSO 5:1-3)
HAS A HEAVENLY MINISTRY (7:26)	HAD AN EARTHLY MINISTRY (7:27-28)
OFFERED ONE SACRIFICE, ONCE FOR ALL (7:27)	OFFERED DAILY SACRIFICES (7:27)
OFFERED HIMSELF AS THE SACRIFICE (7:27)	OFFERED ANIMAL AND OTHER SACRIFICES (7:27)
APPOINTED BY DIVINE OATH (7:28)	APPOINTED ON BASIS OF ANCESTRY (7:28)
HAS BEEN MADE PERFECT FOREVER (7:28)	WERE FAR FROM PERFECT, AND COULD NOT LEAD MEN TO PERFECTION (7:11, 27-28)

The Old and New Covenants Reading

One of the overriding points in Hebrews is the supremacy of Christ over everything prior. The author specifically contrasts the New Covenant in Jesus and the Old Covenant that he transcends.

Theme	In the Old Covenant...	In the New Covenant...
The Tabernacle	A physical structure and shadow of heavenly reality (Ex 25:40)	A more perfect tabernacle not made with human hands (Heb 9:11)
The Sanctuary	Approachable only at its outer limits by lay people and by ordinary priests only at the altar (Lev 1:3, 5; 9:5, 23-24; 9:7-8)	Approachable even in the inner sanctuary through Jesus' mediation (Heb 4:16)
The Mediators	Moses at Sinai (Ex 19:1-25) and the Aaronic priesthood in the dwelling place	Jesus becomes our mediator in a new and better covenant. (Heb 8:6)
The Priesthood	Made sacrifices day after day for themselves (Lev 4:3; 16:6, 11)	Jesus did not need to offer a sacrifice for himself. (Heb 7:27)
The Sacrifices	Offered constantly year after year (Lev 4:3; 16:6, 11)	Jesus offers himself once securing an eternal redemption. (Heb 7:27)

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Video 3:
(Jesus as Creator – Redeemer - Ruler)

(I will introduce video)

Jesus as Creator – Redeemer - Ruler

We must be reminded that Creation is not a distinct or separate act, but something that is ongoing. Similarly, our redemption in Christ is a re-creation that is not really separate from the creation story. And all of this falls under the dominion of God's divine rule.

The most important place to go in your thinking is God can do whatever he will with our lives and this world.

Lesson 2: Hebrews Christology Conclusion

This lesson was a refreshingly Jewish way to appreciate Christ—to see him already in creation and to watch him at work redeeming the world long before the Cross of Calvary. We are often reminded that Christ is always at work in the world.

We're not done looking through Jewish lenses. The next lesson will take us further into some of Israel's institutions and ways of thinking to complete our understanding of how the Old Testament was all along pointing to Jesus.

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Video 4:
(Lesson 3: The Old Testament in Hebrews)

Getting Started: Introduction
(Dr. Martin)

Lesson 3: The Old Testament in Hebrews 4

A Sabbath-Rest for the People of God

1 Therefore, since the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it. 2 For we also have had the good news proclaimed to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because they did not share the faith of those who obeyed. 3 Now we who have believed enter that rest, just as God has said, "So, I declared on oath in my anger, 'They shall never enter my rest.'" And yet his works have been finished since the creation of the world. 4 For somewhere he has spoken about the seventh day in these words: "On the seventh day God rested from all his works." 5 And again in the passage above he says, "They shall never enter my rest."

6 Therefore since it still remains for some to enter that rest, and since those who formerly had the good news proclaimed to them did not go in because of their disobedience, 7 God again set a certain day, calling it "Today." This he did when a long time later he spoke through David, as in the passage already quoted:

"Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts."

8 For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken later about another day. 9 There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; 10 for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from their works, just as God did from his.

Lesson 3: The Old Testament in Hebrews 4

11 Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will perish by following their example of disobedience.

12 For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

13 Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account. Jesus the Great High Priest

14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess.

15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.

16 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.

Lesson 3: The Old Testament in Hebrews

Take the time to take some inventory on ways we could better observe the Sabbath. The writer of Hebrews calls us to “observe the Sabbath” while it is still called “today.” That means seeing every moment as an opportunity either to rest in God’s reign or to strive in our own strength.

Sabbath - is a day set aside for rest and worship.

The Sabbath is a sign of sanctification between God and His people (Exodus 31:13)

It is a sign of God’s power and identifies Him as the Creator of all things. (Exodus 20:11)

It was kept by Jesus and the apostles. (Luke 4:16), (Acts 13:42,44), (Acts 18:4), (Acts 16:13), (Acts 17:2)

The Sabbath is mandatory for Christians because it is the 4th commandment and will be kept for eternity by the saved ones! (Matthew 5:17-19), (Jacob 2:10), (John 14:15), (Isaiah 66:22,23).

Lesson 3: The Old Testament in Psalm 95 & Hebrews 3–4 Reading

Hebrews' message on unbelief and rest in chapters 3 and 4 is laced with Old Testament quotations and allusions. One example, which you can see, compares Hebrews 3:7-11 and Psalm 95:7b-11. This will show you how contemporary or "simultaneous" all Scripture was understood to be, with references to the Exodus sojourn—retold in the Psalms—becoming pertinent to understanding the meaning of rest (established in Gen 2:2) as written in Hebrews.

Psalm 95	Hebrews 3-4
For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah, as on the day at Massah in the wilderness, (Ps 95:7-8a, ESV)	As it is said, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion." (Heb 3:15, ESV)
Therefore I swore in my wrath, "They shall not enter my rest." (Ps 95:11, ESV)	For we who have believed enter that rest, as he has said, "As I swore in my wrath, "They shall not enter my rest," although his works were finished from the foundation of the world. (Heb 4:3, ESV)
They shall not enter my rest. (Ps 95:11b, ESV)	And again in this passage he said, "They shall not enter my rest." (Heb 4:5, ESV)
Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah. (Ps 95:7b-8a, ESV)	Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts. (Heb 4:7b, ESV)

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Video 5:
(OT Examples & Allusions)
Lesson 3: The Old Testament in Hebrews

(I will introduce video)

PEOPLE OF FAITH

OLD TESTAMENT PERSON OF FAITH	REFERENCE IN HEBREWS 2	REFERENCE IN OLD TESTAMENT
ABEL	11:4	GENESIS 4
ENOCH	11:5	GENESIS 5:18-24
NOAH	11:7	GENESIS 5:29-10:32
ABRAHAM	11:8-19	GENESIS 12-25; ETC
SARAH	11:11	GENESIS 12-23; ISAIAH 51:2
ISAAC	11:17-20	GENESIS 17-35; ETC
JACOB	11:21	GENESIS 25-50; ETC
JOSEPH	11:21-22	GENESIS 37-50; ETC
MOSES	11:23-29	EXODUS 2:10 AND THROUGHOUT THE PENTATEUCH; ETC
RAHAB	11:31	JOSHUA 2:1,3; 6:17-25
GIDEON	11:32	JUDGES 6-8
BARAK	11:32	JUDGES 4-5
SAMSON	11:32	JUDGES 13-16
JEPHTHAH	11:32	JUDGES 11-12; 1 SAMUEL 12:11
DAVID	11:32	RUTH 4; 1-2 SAMUEL; ETC
SAMUEL	11:32	1 SAMUEL; 1 CHRONICLES 6, 9, 11, 26; 2 CHRONICLES 35:18

Lesson 3: The Old Testament in Hebrews 11—People of Faith

Do you see what this means—all these pioneers who blazed the way, all these veterans cheering us on? It means we'd better get on with it. Strip down, start running—and never quit! No extra spiritual fat, no parasitic sins. Keep your eyes on Jesus, who both began and finished this race we're in. Study how he did it. Because he never lost sight of where he was headed—that exhilarating finish in and with God—he could put up with anything along the way: Cross, shame, whatever. And now he's there, in the place of honor, right alongside God. When you find yourselves flagging in your faith, go over that story again, item by item, that long litany of hostility he plowed through. That will shoot adrenaline into your souls!

Hebrews 12:1-6 (NIV)

God's Discipline Proves His Love

12 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. 2 We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne. 3 Think of all the hostility he endured from sinful people; then you won't become weary and give up. 4 After all, you have not yet given your lives in your struggle against sin. 5 And have you forgotten the encouraging words God spoke to you as his children? He said, "My child, don't make light of the Lord's discipline, and don't give up when he corrects you. 6 For the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes each one he accepts as his child."

Note: People of Faith - Not everybody who lived by faith experienced what they believed God for in this life... and he actually exonerates them. Eternal life is the goal!! Great cloud of witnesses – keep going without evidence!! We must Manage our expectations!!

Closing Reflections

- **Christology is a great spiritual benefit for faithful Christians to know how and why Christ saves mankind.**
- **The Bible is consistent and flows in its purpose and aim for us to know who God is in the Old Testament and the New Testament!**
- **We must be reminded that Creation is not a distinct or separate act, but something that is ongoing.**
- **Christ's Ministry is Superiority - He is Better than...He is Our Creator and Sustainer.**
- **Sabbath - is a day set aside for rest and worship. The Sabbath is a sign of sanctification between God and His people (Exodus 31:13)**
- **Great cloud of witnesses – keep going without the evidence!! Keep your eyes on Jesus!!!**