

## OUTLINE LESSON ONE HEBREWS REVIEW CHAPTERS 1-7

- I. Background
  - A. Author- Anonymous
    - 1. Well versed in Hebrew scriptures, literary devices, Greek language
    - 2. Deep pastoral heart/concern for his audience
  - B. Audience- Unknown
    - 1. Well versed in Hebrews scriptures
    - 2. Suffering persecution, loss, may be fearing for their lives> tempted to abandon their faith and return to old covenant
  - C. Uniqueness of the letter
    - 1. Very complex structure/argumentation
    - 2. Constant theme is superiority of Christ in His person/work/covenant
- II. Lesson one- Who is My Savior? (1:1-4)
  - A. Main point>God has spoken
    - 1. First through prophets, now in a Son= different category
  - B. Who is the Son?
    - 1. All descriptions point to the truth> He is God
  - C. Introduces the next two topics
    - 1. He makes purification of sins
    - 2. This work makes Him as much superior to the angels as His identity
- III. Lesson two- The Son is Infinitely Superior to the Angels (1:5-14)
  - A. Reveals this by using familiar Scriptures from OT
  - B. Three titles for the Son> He is God and we should imitate, not worship angels!
    - 1. He is the Son- fulfilling Psalm 2:7 (Messiah) and 2 Sam. 7 (Davidic king)
      - a. Angels worship Him
    - 2. He is the eternal King
      - a. Angels are created like wind/fire and serve/obey Him (Psalm 104:4)
    - 3. He is the eternal unchanging sovereign Creator (Psalm 102:25-27)
      - a. Angels are sent by Him to serve heirs of salvation
- IV. Lessons three and four- Pay Closest Attention to This Great Salvation (chapter 2)
  - A. First warning> must pay closest attention to prevent DRIFTING
  - B. Already/not yet status of man> we have this salvation and promises are coming> all things are not yet subjected to us
  - C. We see Jesus (Son now named) made lower than angels to suffer and taste death for all> every transgression receives just recompense (2:1) on His body, not ours
    - 1. He is the pioneer/ author/ trailblazer of our salvation who suffers so we are brought to glory, made His sisters, and received as a gift from His Father
  - D. He partakes of flesh/blood to die> defeat the devil> liberates us from fear of death

- E. He is made like us to become a merciful/faithful high priest, purify us of sin, and come to our aid when we are tempted
- V. Lesson five- Not Moses or Jesus, but Through Moes to Jesus (3:1-6)
  - A. Moses so highly revered> danger of seeing Him on same level as Jesus
  - B. Comparison/contrast between Moses and Jesus
    - 1. Alike in that both are faithful to God's appointment
    - 2. Contrast
      - a. Different categories- Jesus is creator, Moses is created
      - b. Moses is faithful servant IN the house, Christ is faithful Son OVER the house, that's US
  - C. Result: we can hold fast our confidence in HIM!
    - 1. Don't choose Moses OR Jesus, but Moses reveals our need for Jesus
- VI. Lesson six- Flee the Fathers' Faithlessness! (3:7-19)
  - A. Second pastoral warning- don't let sin harden your hearts!
  - B. Uses Psalm 95> the promised land= a snapshot (type) of God's rest for believers
    - 1. They trusted in themselves, not God, to fulfill the promise> grumbling, hardening of hearts, and finally total rebellion/ maligning God's character/ refusal to enter> God did not bring that generation in
  - C. Author exhorts in two ways
    - 1. Be vigilant and stay focused on their hope in Christ- don't get hard!
    - 2. Encourage one another to prevent deception and hardening of hearts
- VII. Lesson seven- Fear Hardness of Heart, Have Faith in God, Enter the Sabbath Rest (4:1-13)
  - A. Continues exhortation to enter God's rest, shifting to the Creation account
    - 1. God rested on the seventh day b/c His works were complete
  - B. David's monarchy and Joshua's entrance w/ them into the land did not provide perfect rest
  - C. The requirement for entrance into God's rest is the completed work of Christ!
  - D. Completes his exhortation w/ description of the power of God's Word
- VIII. Lesson eight- Only Christ Your High Priest Can Meet Your Most Pressing Need (4:14-5:10)
  - A. Teaching about Christ's priesthood continued from Ch. 2= dominant theme through 8:4
  - B. Most pressing need= proximity to God and intimacy with Him lost in the fall
    - 1. Priest is needed as a mediator between a holy God and sinful man
    - 2. Only Christ as high priest meets this- He is sympathetic/tempted/sinless
    - 3. Amazing outcome- boldness to enter into the throne room of grace and mercy!
  - C. Comparison/contrast of Levitical priesthood and Christ's priesthood according to the order of Melchizedek- LIST IS ON THE HANDOUT
- IX. Lesson nine- Energized by love (5:11-6:12)
  - A. Immediately follows deeply emotional picture of Christ's suffering in 5:7-10
  - B. Reproves them for dullness/ sluggishness/ regression probably due to suffering

1. Goal= take in solid food> teach others/ discern good and evil
  - C. From reproof to encouragement to leave the basics and press on to maturity
  - D. Third pastoral warning-
    1. Uses picture of those who are exposed to faith but fall away- departure is indication that they were not trusting solely on Christ but themselves as well
    2. They cannot repent while depending on both! It is Christ + NOTHING!
    3. Can they be saved? YES, but not while they are in this condition
    4. Two problems
      - a. Self-effort> re-crucifying Christ- His sacrifice is insufficient
      - b. Turning away to other things> shaming Christ> He is not worthy of obedience especially if it leads to suffering
  - E. Author always moves from reproof to encouragement
    1. These saints are not in this condition, but the image of it should cause them horror, especially in view of Christ's suffering as portrayed in Gethsemane
    2. Encourages diligence and imitation of those who exercise faith (in Christ alone) and patience (willingness to trust, obey, and suffer)> promises!
- X. Lesson ten- Hope in Christ Anchors the Soul (6:13-20)
- A. Continues exhortation, now using Abraham as an example of faith in God's oath and patient waiting for Him to accomplish the promises
  - B. God also makes promises which are to indicate His unchanging plan of redemption in order to encourage His people
  - C. Our hope in Christ is an anchor for our souls> He has entered behind the veil of the heavenly tabernacle into the heavenly Holy of Holies as a FORERUNNER for us
    1. Reminds us of 4:16- we draw near w/ confidence to the throne of grace
- XI. Lesson eleven- The Priesthood of Hope (7:1-10)
- A. We study Melchizedek to know more about Jesus' priesthood
    1. Only mentioned in Genesis 14 (narrative) and Psalm 110:4 (God's oath about his priesthood)
  - B. Melchizedek is a type of Christ- more on typology in future lesson
    1. A person, event, or object which points forward to an anti-type of fulfillment of what is being symbolized in the type
  - C. Melchizedek' identity/ actions observed from Genesis 14 narrative
    1. He is a priest AND king= his titles/ identity
      - a. Points to Christ as this was impossible in the old covenant- priest had to be from tribe of Levi and king had to be descendant of David (tribe of Judah)
    2. Met and blessed Abraham and received tithes from him= his actions
    3. His priesthood differs from future Levitical priesthood
      - a. Not tied to a genealogical lineage like Levi

- b. Not tied to a timeline
    - D. Author demonstrates Melchizedek's superiority over Levi as Levi paid tithes to him through Abraham's tithe
      - 1. If Melchizedek is greater than Abraham and Abraham is greater than Levi, then Melchizedek is greater than Levi
      - 2. Therefore, the Melchizedek priesthood is greater than Levitical
- XII. Lesson twelve- The Perfect Priest to Anchor Your Soul (7:11-28)
- A. Levitical priesthood was inadequate to restore true proximity/intimacy with God
  - B. Change in priesthood > change in Law
  - C. Changes in priesthood
    - 1. From limitation of genealogy and one nation to **universal** 7:14
    - 2. From limitation to Israel's timeline to **eternal**/ forever 7:16
    - 3. From hopeful in repeated sacrifices to **hope-filled** (a better hope) 7:18-19
    - 4. God's oath > **unchanging** priesthood- there will be no other high priest 7:20-22
    - 5. Jesus' eternity and unchanging nature > **stable** priesthood
  - D. Result= He saves forever and lives to intercede for us
    - 1. He is perfect high priest- holy (perfectly righteous), innocent (has committed no wrong) undefiled (unstained by the world) separated from sinners (both morally and spatially as He ascended to heaven) and exalted above the heavens (ruling at the right hand of the Majesty on high)
    - 2. Not only the perfect high priest but also the unblemished **ONCE FOR ALL** sacrifice!
  - E. Word of the oath supersedes the weakness of men by appointing A SON
    - 1. Category difference we saw in chapter 1- prophets vs a Son
    - 2. Now category difference is men as high priests vs a Son
    - 3. The Son as high priest is made perfect to intercede for us forever
- XIII. Implications
- A. You worship, love, follow, depend on the Son of God, the Creator, the King who is greater and mightier angels
    - 1. You can imitate the angels by worshiping Him, serving Him, and obeying Him because He is worthy of that adoration
    - 2. Ponder His glory- all the attributes of God which He displays perfectly in His life and on the cross
  - B. Marvel at the humility, grace, and mercy of Jesus, who is made lower than angels to take the just recompense for every transgression on His sinless, innocent body
  - C. When you suffer, know that you have a high priest who understands every sorrow and temptation you endure and has entered the eternal Holy of Holies to intercede for you and invite you to come boldly as His sister of whom He is never ashamed
  - D. Spend time with your Savior and He will lead you to more implications!