

# Strength Bible School - Hebrews – from a Good to a Better Way

The Way of Jesus, The Way of Wholeness, The Way of Faith, The Way of Persevering

You may feel that you have a *good* life, but Jesus will always make it *better*!

As we start our series looking at the book of Hebrews, we hope that each of you will take the chance to read through the whole book.

Some of it may seem difficult to understand but it is well worth reading. Hebrews helps us to make the link between the Old Testament and Jesus, it reinterprets the Old Testament images of High Priest, Tabernacle and covenant in terms of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Here are some pointers to help you read it well.

## 1. Hebrews gives instructions to Jews who had become Christians but who were going back to Judaism because of persecution

*Hebrews 10<sup>32</sup> Remember those earlier days after you had received the light, when you endured in a great conflict full of suffering. <sup>33</sup> Sometimes you were publicly exposed to insult and persecution; at other times you stood side by side with those who were so treated. <sup>34</sup> You suffered along with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, because you knew that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions. <sup>35</sup> So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded*

## 2. Hebrews give five warnings to Christians

**Drift** 2v1-4 don't drift away from the salvation you have received

**Depart** 3v7-4v11 don't fall away into sin

**Dull** 5v11-6v9 don't remain dull and immature

**Despise** 10v26-39 don't despise the sacrifice of Jesus

**Decline** 12v12-29 don't lower your view of God

## 3. Hebrews shows that Jesus is better than.....

Angels ch 1 Moses ch 3

Joshua ch 4 Aaron ch 5

the High Priest ch 7

*Hebrews 1<sup>3</sup> The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. <sup>4</sup> So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.*

## In Jesus there is/are.....

a **better** rest Hebrews 4

a **better** hope Hebrews 7:19

a **better** covenant Hebrews 7:22

**better** promises Hebrews 8:6

a **better** sacrifice Hebrews 9:23

**better** possessions Hebrews 10:34

a **better** "country" Hebrews 11:16 .

The two Greek words for "better" and "superior" appear 15 times in the letter.

The letter finishes off with three chapters of practical advice that encourage us to put this theology into practice, to have faith and live lives worthy of Jesus.

Ch 11 Living by faith, following the footsteps of others

Ch 12 As a consequence of what we believe...

*Let us* throw off everything that hinders v1

*Let us* run with perseverance v1

*Let us* fix our eyes on Jesus v2

*Let us* be thankful and so worship God v28

Ch 13 Additional instructions for Christian living

The book contains some technical words which you may not have come across before. Here are some definitions

**Atonement** - being put back into a right relationship with God

**High priest** - a man who would go into God's presence in the Temple on behalf of the people to offer sacrifices for sin and would come to the people from God with forgiveness and instruction for living well.

**Sabbath** - one day a week that was "for the Lord" when people rested from their work and met with God.

**Circumcision** - the removal of a male baby's foreskin as a sign that they were God's special people.

**Tabernacle** - a special tent that was constructed for worship and a place where the God who is everywhere could be somewhere.

**Most holy place** - this was the inner part of the tabernacle where God's presence stayed. The High priest was the only one allowed in here and then only once a year.

**The Law** - the commands given to Moses including sacrificial regulation, moral code, compensation laws, health and hygiene guidelines. And instructions for living. Keeping this Law was a duty of the Jews

**Covenant** - a binding agreement of blessing and loyalty between two parties usually "signed" with blood. The Old Covenant was between God and the Jews, the New Covenant is between God and those who believe in Jesus.