

# SOMETHING BETTER

A Study in Hebrews



Teaching truth with clarity so every person may be complete in Christ

# SOMETHING**BETTER**

A Study in Hebrews

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## SOMETHING BETTER

*He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature,  
and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.  
After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.*  
(Hebrews 1:3 ESV)

Everybody likes better things. Every day we use better technology to communicate with each other and navigate our activities. We continually seek better healthcare and medicine. We build better stadiums and arenas for our teams. And, regardless of where we live, everybody wants to drive better cars on better roads. We like to live in better homes, so we look for better jobs. We long for better relationships. Students strive for better grades. We like to work with better tools and play with better toys.

The book of Hebrews was written to Jewish people who have come to believe that Jesus is Lord and Christ. However, amid growing persecution, they feel pressured to return to the Law of Moses, the Old Covenant system, and sin. Inherently familiar with the rituals of the priesthood and sacrificial worship, these Christians are shown how Jesus serves as a better priest offering better sacrifices, in a better tabernacle, based on better promises, and providing better hope. Jesus is the reality of what was His shadow.

As believers in Jesus Christ, we live every day in the reality of something better. We see the reality of Christ, His church, and the New Covenant. The audience of Hebrews needs reminding that Jesus lives to intercede for us with the Father. There is encouragement to pay closer attention to so great a salvation in Christ lest we neglect and drift away from it.

Connecting the Old Covenant to the New, Hebrews elucidates the superiority and supremacy of Christ and His better ministry. His sacrifice was offered with better blood and promises a better resurrection. We can clearly understand how the Old Covenant finds its fulfillment in the far superior New Covenant, a reality remembered and celebrated every time we participate in the Lord's Supper.

We would never consider returning to black and white televisions with rabbit ear antennas. We can't imagine using kitchens without microwave ovens or outhouses without flush toilets. We're not returning to horse-drawn wagons or telephones with cords. Likewise, the portrait gallery of those who demonstrated the efficacy of unwavering, persevering faith stands to induce ever-increasing confidence to fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of the faith, and to run with endurance the race that is the new and better life in Christ.



# COMPANION FEATURES

## Lesson Outlines

Follow along every Sunday morning using the outline provided for each lesson. Take additional notes for your personal study. Write down questions that come to mind. Note cross-references of other Scriptures. Highlight words and concepts that you find important or want to investigate throughout the week.

## Daily Devotions

Each lesson is accompanied by a daily study to use throughout the week. This study is designed to allow twenty minutes each day focusing on key components of the Scripture passage used in each lesson from Sunday morning. This will give you the keys to unlock a better understanding of the message of Hebrews: how the redemptive plan of God and His glory are clearly revealed in His Son Jesus Christ. You'll find this to be an effective tool for personal study or family devotions.

## Group Study

This is also ideal in a weekly small group setting, using a 20/4 format:

- 20 minutes sharing insights from the key verses, words, and quotations.
- 20 minutes seeing observations of key concepts and comparisons.
- 20 minutes focusing on how to abide by the key exhortation.
- 20 minutes discussing the implications of the key truth in the text.

To get the most out of your time, and to enable everyone to be involved, participants are encouraged to individually work through each day's activity before each meeting. This way everyone can share what they're learning with others, and you'll feel more confident to participate knowledgeably in the discussions.

Stay focused and be careful not to allow your discussion in one segment to rob you of sufficient time for the others. Of course, the group can tailor the format to meet their needs, desires, and time frame. Focus on what is said in the text rather than your own ideas and opinions.

🕊 Always seek to include those who are not yet Christians to be part of your study!

The single most important objective of these studies is to know God and His Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus says that "This is eternal life" (John 17:3). (Re)discover God's eternal purpose for redeeming those who have lost sight of Him and His word. Know His love and faithfulness, His character and holiness. Know Jesus in every aspect of His ministry and the significance of His cross. Know Him as brother and Savior. Know **something better!**

# SOMETHING BETTER

Better <b>NAME</b>	1:1-14
Better <b>PRIEST</b>	3:1-11; 4:14-5:10
Better <b>REST</b>	4:1, 9
Better <b>THINGS</b>	6:9-20
Better <b>HOPE</b>	7:19
Better <b>COVENANT</b>	8:1-13; 9:11-22
Better <b>MINISTRY</b>	8:1, 6
Better <b>PROMISES</b>	8:6-12
Better <b>TABERNACLE</b>	9:1-14
Better <b>SACRIFICE</b>	9:23
Better <b>POSSESSION</b>	10:32-39
Better <b>COUNTRY</b>	11:13-16
Better <b>RESURRECTION</b>	11:35
Better <b>BLOOD</b>	12:24

# BETTERNAME

Hebrews 1:1-14

People have always had a fascination with angels. Bookstore shelves are filled with a variety of opinions on the subject. Angels have featured prominently in television shows, movies, and even baseball teams. They're used in jewelry and trinkets and are a common scene in the renaissance artwork of Michelangelo as well as in the stained-glass windows of churches everywhere. Hebrews gives us a proper perspective of these "ministering spirits" and shows them to be inferior to the Son of God.



These five observations show how Jesus is much better than angels as He has inherited a more excellent name.

**Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_ (5)**

- ⊕ Something never said of angels
- ⊕ Psalm 2:7
- ⊕ 2 Samuel 7:14

**Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_ (6)**

- ⊕ Israel – made great in Egypt (Ex 4:22)
- ⊕ David – youngest of eight children (Ps 89:20, 27)
- ⊕ Jesus – worshipped by angels (Col 1:15-18)

**Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_ (7-9)**

- ⊕ Angels are for serving (7, 14)
- ⊕ The Son is enthroned and anointed (Ps 45:6-7)
- ⊕ Jesus is called God by God (8)

**Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_ (10-12)**

- ⊕ Yahweh/Jehovah (Ps 102:25-27; Ex 3:13-14)
- ⊕ Evidence of the Godhead (Acts 17:29; Col 2:9)
- ⊕ Creator (10; cf. Jn 1:3; Col 1:16-17)
- ⊕ Eternal (11-12; cf. 13:8; 2Pet 3:10-12)

**Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_ (13-14)**

- ⊕ No angel was invited to sit at God's right hand (13)
- ⊕ Angels are "ministering spirits" (14)

Central Verse(s)

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Important Concept(s)

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Essential Truth

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Probing Question(s)

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# 20-MINUTEKEYS

## Day 1 KeyVerse

1:3

How does the author introduce you to Jesus?  
What verse(s) are significant to you?

## Day 2 KeyWords

**Begotten, worship, anointed, ministering spirits**

Define and explain how these words help to convey the supremacy of Christ.  
Explain worship concerning angels and Jesus (Heb 1:6; cf. Col 2:18; Rev 22:8-9).

## Day 3 KeyConcepts

**The eternal deity of Jesus**

What wrong ideas do people have of Jesus today?  
In what ways is Jesus superior to creation?

## Day 4 KeyQuotations

**Psalms 2:7; 97:7; 104:4; 45; 6-7; 102:25-26; 110:1; 2 Samuel 7:14**

What do these Old Testament passages tell you about Jesus?  
What names does God use for Jesus in vv. 5, 6, 8?

## Day 5 KeyComparisons

**Jesus and angels** (see also 2:5-9, 16)

What does God say about Jesus that He doesn't say about angels?  
What roles differentiate Jesus and angels?

## Day 6 KeyExhortation

**Pay much closer attention so we do not neglect so great a salvation (2:1-4)**

How does the book of Hebrews answer objections to following Christ?

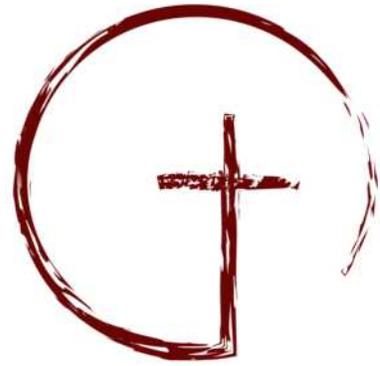
## Day 7 KeyTruth

**Jesus is superior to angels**

What does Jesus do for us that He does not do for angels (2:14-18; 2Cor 5:21)?  
What does Jesus provide that Angels cannot (cf. Jn 14:6; Acts 4:12; Eph 2:18)?

# BETTERPRIEST

Hebrews 3:1-11; 4:14-5:10



The concept of a priesthood is foreign to most twenty-first century Christians. The Old Covenant priesthood has been removed for so long that we don't understand its significance in the lives and worship of God's people. It is a subject that is rarely discussed in modern church settings. Recognizing the place of the priesthood in prophecy is even more obscure. This lack of understanding has led to an ignorance of the New Covenant priesthood and our New Covenant High Priest.

Our faith is strengthened by seeing how our Priest is better than any that preceded Him. Knowing how He functions in this role, on our behalf, is one of the most encouraging, uplifting, and motivating truths in the Bible!

**Position: Jesus is God's Son \_\_\_\_\_ His house**

- ⊕ Appointed Apostle and High Priest (3:1-2)
- ⊕ Builder of His house (3:3-4; cf. 2Sam 7:12-16)

**Function: Jesus fulfills God's \_\_\_\_\_ for a priest**

- ⊕ Offering (5:1-3; 8:3)
- ⊕ Divine worship (9:6)
- ⊕ Incense (Ex 30)
- ⊕ Intercession (Lev 16:15-17)
- ⊕ Instruction (Mal 2:7; Lev 10:11; Neh 8:2, 7; et al)

**Comparison: Jesus is our \_\_\_\_\_ high priest**

⊕ Ministers daily	7:27	Ministers once
⊕ Greater numbers	7:23	One
⊕ Stands	8:1; 10:11-12	Sits
⊕ Repeated sacrifices	7:27; 9:25-28	One sacrifice
⊕ Animals	7:27; 9:12-14	Body
⊕ Law	7:21, 28	Oath
⊕ Sinful	7:26-27; 9:7	Sinless
⊕ Weak	7:28	Perfect
⊕ Earth	8:1-4; 9:11, 24	Heaven
⊕ Exclusive	5:9	Inclusive
⊕ Died	7:23-25	Lives

Central Verse(s)

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Important Concept(s)

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Probing Question(s)

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# 20-MINUTEKEYS

## Day 1 KeyVerse

**3:5-6**

How does the author distinguish Jesus from Moses (cf. Jn 1:17)?

What verse(s) are significant to you?

## Day 2 KeyWords

**Apostle, High Priest, appointed, glory, sympathize, weakness, perfect**

Define and explain how these words help to convey the glory of Christ (cf. Jn 1:14).

How was Jesus “made perfect” (5:9)?

## Day 3 KeyConcepts

**Jesus as the builder of God’s house**

How does this relate to the promise made to David in 2 Samuel 7:12-16?

What is the relationship between obedience and “eternal salvation” (5:9)?

## Day 4 KeyQuotations

**Psalm 95:7-11; 2:7; 110:4**

What do these Old Testament passages tell you about Jesus?

What is the “order” of Melchizedek (5:6-10; 7:1-22)?

## Day 5 KeyComparisons

**Jesus and Moses (see also 7:11-19; 8:4-6; 9:19-22)**

**Jesus and the High Priest (see also 5:1-10; 7:23-28; 8:1-6; 9:6-14, 23-28)**

How does Moses serve as a shadow of Christ?

What makes Jesus’ priesthood better than the Old Covenant priesthood?

## Day 6 KeyExhortations

**Let us hold fast our confession (4:14)**

**Let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace (4:16)**

Explain the idea of confession.

Explain the significance of our confidence to enter the holy place.

## Day 7 KeyTruth

**Jesus is superior to Moses and the Levitical priesthood**

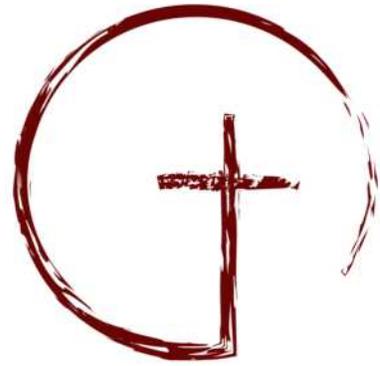
What is the difference between a servant *in* and a Son *over* the house of God?

What does Jesus accomplish in the true tabernacle that the priests could not?

# BETTERREST

Hebrews 4:1-11

We learn more about Jesus' relationship to the Old Covenant and the Levitical system of sacrifice in Hebrews than in any other book of the Bible. His deity is emphasized in chapter one as the writer shows Him to be superior to the prophets (1:1-3) and to the angels (1:4-14). His humanity (humiliation) is emphasized in chapter two so He could "taste death for everyone" and make propitiation for people's sin. With the exhortation to pay attention, there is a stern warning against drifting away. Can we actually miss the rest that is promised? Can we "neglect" so great a salvation?



God designed life to be lived with a specific destination in view.

## Rest \_\_\_\_\_

- ⊕ There is a heaven!
- ⊕ The promise of rest
  - Creation (Gen 2:2-3)
  - Wilderness (Ex 16:30; 20:11)
  - David (Ps 62:7; 95:11)
  - Joshua (Josh 8-9)
- ⊕ The promise remains

## Rest \_\_\_\_\_

- ⊕ Place (4:1, 3, 9)
- ⊕ Design
- ⊕ Reason (4:9, 10)
- ⊕ Response

## Rest \_\_\_\_\_

- ⊕ Diligence (4:11)
- ⊕ Paying attention (2:1)
- ⊕ Take care (3:12)
- ⊕ Being judged (4:12-13)
- ⊕ Holding fast (4:14-16)
- ⊕ Fearing (4:1-2)
- ⊕ Not hardening hearts (3:8)
- ⊕ Faithful to the end (3:14)

### Central Verse(s)

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### Important Concept(s)

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### Essential Truth

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### Probing Question(s)

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# 20-MINUTE KEYS

## Day 1 KeyVerse

4:1

What does it mean to “fear”?

How might we “come short” of entering the Lord’s rest (cf. 4:11)?

## Day 2 KeyWords

**Rest – fear, diligent, disobedience, unbelief**

Explain the meaning and significance of entering “My rest.”

What is the connection between disobedience and unbelief (cf. 3:18-19)?

How do these words relate to “the believer’s rest”?

## Day 3 KeyConcepts

**Uniting the good news with faith.**

In what ways did the Israelites fail to make this connection (3:16-19; 4:2, 6)?

How might you “harden your heart” to God’s word?

## Day 4 KeyQuotations

**Psalm 95:7, 11; Genesis 2:2; Exodus 20:11; 31:17**

What do these Old Testament passages tell you about God’s promise of “rest”?

How is it possible for Christians to suffer the same fate as the Israelites (4:11)?

## Day 5 KeyComparisons

**Israelites in the wilderness (3:7-19) to Christians in the first century (4:1-13)**

How do we “profit” from hearing the good news?

What are the consequences if we do not “fear” and “take care”?

## Day 6 KeyExhortations

**Let us fear (4:1) [This is the first of thirteen “let us...” statements in Hebrews.]**

**Let us be diligent to enter that rest (4:11)**

Explain the idea of our confession, which we are to hold fast.

How do we protect ourselves from following the example of the Israelites?

## Day 7 KeyTruth

**God designed life to be lived with a specific destination in view.**

How is God’s rest both a present reality and a future hope?

How closely are you following God’s leading (word) on this journey?

# BETTER THINGS

Hebrews 6:9-20

The famous line of an infomercial declares, “But wait... there’s more!” After telling you of the virtues of some product you simply cannot live without, they offer you other things to go along with their indispensable gadget – all for one low price of course.

In our text, we are told that there are “things that accompany salvation.” Salvation is God’s main purpose, but He also provides “better things” that belong specifically to His salvation. Let’s find out what “better things” God has “concerning you.”



## Memorable \_\_\_\_\_ (10)

- ⊕ Work and love (10)
- ⊕ Past and present (10)
- ⊕ Direction and diligence (10-11)
- ⊕ Faith and patience (12)

## Desirable \_\_\_\_\_ (11-12)

- ⊕ Realizing full assurance of hope
- ⊕ Imitating those who inherit promises

## Unchangeable \_\_\_\_\_ (13-20)

- ⊕ Promised to Abraham
- ⊕ Anchor to our soul
- ⊕ Hope sure and steadfast

Central Verse(s)

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Important Concept(s)

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Essential Truth

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Probing Question(s)

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# 20-MINUTE KEYS

## Day 1 KeyVerse

**6:17-18**

What two “unchangeable things” are identified by the author?

How do these two things give you strong encouragement to take hold of the hope?

## Day 2 KeyWords

**Salvation, minister (verb), saints, hope, faith, patience, promises, oath**

How are these words used to convey the better things accompanying salvation?

## Day 3 KeyConcepts

**Salvation is accompanied by better things.**

**There is a single hope set before us (cf. Eph 4:4).**

Identify the things that accompany salvation. Describe the confidence this provides.

What are two things you need to do with this hope?

## Day 4 KeyQuotations

**Genesis 22:17**

In what ways does Abraham serve as an example of faith?

Note: Heb 11:8-11, 17-19; Gal 3:6-9, 27-29; and their Old Testament references

## Day 5 KeyComparisons

**Christians and Abraham (see also 11:8-11, 17-19; Gal 3:6-9, 27-29)**

**Men who “swear” (16) and God who “swore” (17)**

**Jesus and Melchizedek (20)**

In what specific ways am I to “imitate” the people of faith (cf. Heb 11; 12:1-3)?

What do I learn about God when He “swore by Himself”?

## Day 6 KeyExhortations

**Imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises (12)**

Faith must have an object – and an objective.

Who are the ones I am to imitate? In what “object” do I patiently place my faith?

## Day 7 KeyTruth

**We have a sure and steadfast hope that we must take hold of!**

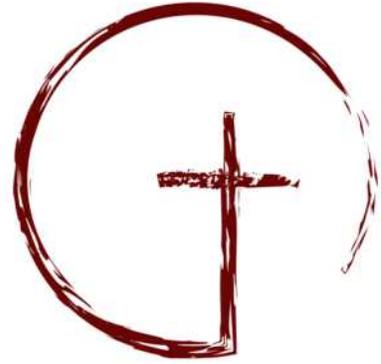
How is my inheritance dependent upon my hope?

What can I do to protect myself from falling away (cf. 6:1-6)?

# BETTERHOPE

Hebrews 7:11-22

We all hope for things. Maybe it is a specific gift for our birthday or Christmas. We hope for better relationships or better behavior from our children. We hope for better appreciation on our jobs (hopefully expressed in a raise or promotion). Our hopes are built on our expectations. Our expectations, when properly grounded, will not disappoint (Rom 5:5; 10:11; 1Pet 2:6).



The hope of many Jews was built on the improperly grounded expectations of the Law. The author shows that there was a hope better than the old Law or the old priesthood – a hope that neither could fulfill. Our hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness!

## Order

- ⊕ Better than \_\_\_\_\_ (Gen 14:17-24)
- ⊕ Better than \_\_\_\_\_

## Oath

- ⊕ A change in \_\_\_\_\_ (12)
- ⊕ A change in \_\_\_\_\_ (12, 18, 28)

## Objective

- ⊕ \_\_\_\_\_ (11)
  - Bringing people near
  - Making people acceptable
  - Atoning for peoples' sin
- ⊕ \_\_\_\_\_ (19)

### Central Verse(s)

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### Important Concept(s)

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### Probing Question(s)

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# 20-MINUTEKEYS

## Day 1 KeyVerse

7:11

Who is Melchizedek (1-3; cf. Gen 14:17-24)?

Why is he such a prominent figure in this chapter?

## Day 2 KeyWords

Law, oath, perfection, hope

How does the author use these words to point us to Christ (cf. 5:9)?

## Day 3 KeyConcepts

Changing the Levitical priesthood necessitates a change in the Law of Moses.

The Law of Moses must be set aside because of its weakness and uselessness.

How does changing the priesthood pave the way for Jesus to become a high priest?

Why was the Law weak and useless (cf. Rom 8:3; Gal 3:21; Heb 7:11; 8:7-13)?

## Day 4 KeyQuotations

Psalm 110:4

How do we know that *this Psalm* is a reference to Christ?

How does *this Psalm* help to explain God's eternal purpose to redeem lost humanity in the person of Jesus Christ (cf. Eph 1:3-12; 1Cor 2:6-9; Col 1:25-27; 2:2-3; 1Pet 1:10-12)?

## Day 5 KeyComparisons

Melchizedek and Aaron

The Law and the oath (20, 21, 28)

How is Melchizedek greater than Abraham?

What is the oath sworn by God? Why is the oath superior to the Law (cf. Gal 3:23ff)?

## Day 6 KeyExhortations

Observe how great a man was Melchizedek:

*"Just think how great he was" (4 NIV)*

What do the receiving of tithes and giving of a blessing signal about Melchizedek?

## Day 7 KeyTruth

In changing the priesthood – and the Priest – God brings in a better hope!

What does this better hope enable me to do (19; 4:16; 10:19-22)?

What is Jesus able to do that the former priests never could (7:23-28)?

# BETTER COVENANT

Hebrews 8:1-13; 9:11-22

Our God is a covenant-making, covenant-keeping God. Time and again God affirms His promises and His purpose with a covenant, often accompanied by a sign or symbol to commemorate His intent. Noah was given a rainbow; Abraham was given circumcision; and Moses constructed the Ark of the Covenant. Christians are given the Lord's Supper.



The making of a last will and testament is not foreign to us. Being last, it supersedes all preceding testaments. In it heirs are identified and conditions, if any, are stipulated. It only takes effect upon the death of the testator and then may not be altered or revoked. The execution of the wishes of the deceased is carried out by one appointed as executor.

## F\_\_\_\_\_ of the First Covenant

- ⊕ Made nothing perfect (7:19; 10:1)
- ⊕ Could not grant throne room standing
- ⊕ Sins were merely passed over

## D\_\_\_\_\_ of the New Covenant

(8:6-13; Jer 31:31-34)

- ⊕ One kingdom with one King (cf. Ezk 37:21-22)
- ⊕ People will know and love the Law
- ⊕ God will live and walk among His people
- ⊕ God's people will know their God
- ⊕ Sins are covered by the blood of Christ

## P\_\_\_\_\_ of the New Covenant

- ⊕ Better hope \_\_\_\_\_
- ⊕ Better promises \_\_\_\_\_
- ⊕ Better Mediator \_\_\_\_\_
- ⊕ Better blood \_\_\_\_\_
- ⊕ Better outcome \_\_\_\_\_
- ⊕ Better law \_\_\_\_\_
- ⊕ Better reach \_\_\_\_\_
- ⊕ Better revelation \_\_\_\_\_
- ⊕ Better forgiveness \_\_\_\_\_
- ⊕ Better duration \_\_\_\_\_

### Central Verse(s)

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### Important Concept(s)

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### Probing Question(s)

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# 20-MINUTEKEYS

## Day 1 KeyVerse

**8:13; 9:15**

When did the first covenant become “old”? Why a new covenant was necessary?  
What is the impact of Christ’s death upon those who lived under the first covenant?

## Day 2 KeyWords

**Covenant, ministry, fault, obsolete, mediator, new, perfect**

How do these words relate to the function of the high priest?

## Day 3 KeyConcepts

**The first covenant was not faultless.**

**The significance of blood in making a covenant.**

Although “the Law of the Lord is perfect” (Ps 19:7), there are things it could not do.  
What does Jesus’ blood provide that was not procured under the old covenant?

## Day 4 KeyQuotations

**Jeremiah 31:31-34; Exodus 24:8** (note: Luke 22:20)

When did the first covenant become “old” (cf. 8:13)?

What qualities does Jeremiah identify that make the new covenant better than the first?

## Day 5 KeyComparisons

**The first covenant and the new covenant.**

In side-by-side columns, list the distinctions between the old and new covenants.

## Day 6 KeyExhortations

**Although there are no direct exhortations in these selected Scriptures, we are encouraged to give attention to “the main point in what has been said” (8:1-2).**

What are three things “we have” in the new covenant (8:1-2, 6)?

In what ways does this build our confidence in the ministry of Jesus?

## Day 7 KeyTruth

**The blood of Christ inaugurates the new covenant that provides complete forgiveness.**

How is the cleansing of my conscience connected to my baptism (cf. 1Pet 3:21)?

How is being washed in baptism (cf. Acts 22:16; 1Cor 6:11; Eph 5:25-27) connected to the blood of Jesus and the new covenant?

# BETTERMINISTRY

Hebrews 7:23-28; 8:1-2, 6

Ministry today comes in all shapes, sizes, and colors. There is a plethora of both church and para-church programs claiming to ministry simply because they are conducted under the auspices of a church. In fact, nearly every activity or program undertaken by a church is labeled “ministry.” However, not all ministry is real ministry, and real ministry can only be defined by its author.



Real, biblical ministry has at its core the purpose of reconciling lost people with God (cf. 2Cor 5:18-19). “Therefore (Jesus) is able to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them” (Heb 7:25, emphasis mine).

Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_ of a permanent priesthood

- ⊕ He is alive (7:23-25)
- ⊕ He is holy (7:26)
- ⊕ He is innocent (7:26)
- ⊕ He is undefiled (7:26)
- ⊕ He is separated (7:26)
- ⊕ He is exalted (7:26)
- ⊕ He is unique (7:27)
- ⊕ He is perfect (7:28)

Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_ of a more excellent ministry

- ⊕ Jesus is exactly what we need
- ⊕ Jesus is exactly where we need Him to be

Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_ of a better covenant

- ⊕ Jesus stands in the middle
- ⊕ Jesus guarantees the New Covenant will stand

Central Verse(s)

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Important Concept(s)

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Essential Truth

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Probing Question(s)

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# 20-MINUTEKEYS

## Day 1 KeyVerse

8:1

What is the “main point” of the letter of Hebrews?

Why is it so important to know we have a high priest who has *taken His seat*?

## Day 2 KeyWords

**Priest, minister, mediator, offer, gifts, sacrifices, sanctuary, tabernacle**

How does our use of these words differ from how they're used in Hebrews?

## Day 3 KeyConcepts

**What “we have” is better than the copy and shadow of the Old Covenant.**

**Jesus being “made perfect” overcomes the imperfections of the old system.**

Identify and describe what “we have” in Christ in the New Covenant.

In what ways does Jesus being “made perfect” qualify and enable Him to minister?

## Day 4 KeyQuotations

**Cross References: Isaiah 9:6-7; Leviticus 9:7; Exodus 33:7-11**

How would the author of Hebrews want us to treat the Old Testament?

Cf. 1 Corinthians 10:11; Galatians 3:24

## Day 5 KeyComparisons

**The perfect priesthood of Jesus and the imperfect priesthood of the Levites.**

**The earthly tabernacle and the true tabernacle.**

What is the primary function of the priests? The high priest?

Where do they perform their respective ministries?

What makes Jesus different from all the other priests before Him?

## Day 6 KeyExhortations

**The author is trying to convince his readers to “fix our eyes on Jesus” (12:2).**

Has your confidence in Christ ever wavered? What or who may have caused that?

How does knowing that Jesus is my minister and mediator help me to fix my eyes?

## Day 7 KeyTruth

**The offering of Jesus once for all provides complete atonement for sin.**

What is one thing about Jesus you value more highly because of this study?

How does the reality of Jesus as my high priest affect the way I live my life?

# BETTER PROMISES

Hebrews 8:6-12

We have discovered three immutable truths regarding the role and function of Jesus. As our high priest, He is our minister with a more excellent ministry, our mediator of a better covenant, and the One who enacts this covenant on better promises.

Promises, however, are only as good as the reliability of the one making them. In our family we sometimes refer to “pie-crust promises” which are easily made and easily broken. A person’s character—and track record—are considered when placing confidence in their ability to fulfil their promise.

The fact that the new covenant promises are better implies that the promises of the first covenant were limited or deficient. The author makes a clear distinction between the promises of the two covenants. Quoting Jeremiah’s prophecy (31:31-34), we can identify these distinctions and understand why God sought an occasion to effect something new.



## Inward Knowledge

- ⊕ The old covenant was written on \_\_\_\_\_
- ⊕ The new covenant is written on \_\_\_\_\_

## Inclusive Nature

- ⊕ The old covenant was \_\_\_\_\_
- ⊕ The new covenant is \_\_\_\_\_

## Educated Decision

- ⊕ Under the old covenant people are \_\_\_\_\_ into covenant
- ⊕ Under the new covenant people \_\_\_\_\_ to enter covenant

## Incomparable Forgiveness

- ⊕ Under the old covenant there is a \_\_\_\_\_ of sins
- ⊕ Under the new covenant there is \_\_\_\_\_ of sin

Central Verse(s)

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Important Concept(s)

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Essential Truth

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Probing Question(s)

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# 20-MINUTEKEYS

## Day 1 KeyVerse

8:7

What are two important implications made in this verse?

What is the “first covenant”? Its purpose? Why was it faulty? (Gal 3:19, 24; Rom 7:12, 18ff)

## Day 2 KeyWords

Promise, effect, know, merciful, iniquities, sins, remember

How do each of these terms describe the character of God?

## Day 3 KeyConcepts

“The house of Israel”

“After those days...”

Identify the differences between old covenant Israel and new covenant Israel (cf. Gal 6:16)?

How do we identify the time element Jeremiah indicates for effecting a new covenant?

## Day 4 KeyQuotations

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Why should the Hebrews be concerned with Old Testament prophecies concerning a new covenant? (Cf. Hosea 2:18-20; Isaiah 42:5-9; 49:8-13; Daniel 9:24-27; Malachi 3:1-4)

## Day 5 KeyComparisons

Promises of the first and second covenants

Compare “the house of Israel and Judah” (8) with “the house of Israel” (10).

Who are included under the new covenant that had been excluded from the old?

(cf. Eph 2:11-12; Col 1:21-22) How does God fulfil His part in the new covenant?

## Day 6 KeyExhortations

**The promises of the new covenant show there is no benefit in returning to the first.**

How does the writer both discourage and encourage me in my relation to the covenants?

How has the first covenant fulfilled its purpose (Gal 3:19, 24; Rom 5:20); giving occasion for

the new? Explain the time of the “seed...until...but now...” (Gal 3:16, 19, 25) “after those

days” (Heb 8:10)?

## Day 7 KeyTruth

**The promises of the new covenant prove the first covenant incapable of covering sin.**

What role do God’s promises play in my faith? If not for the promises, why do I trust Him?

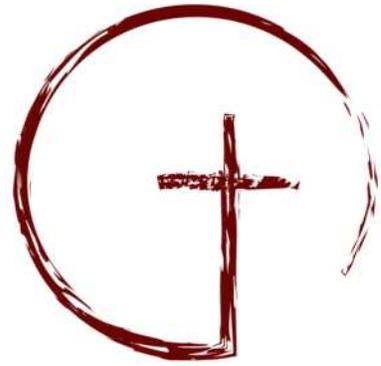
How does God’s character—and track record—build my confidence in His ability to fulfill His promises?

# BETTER TABERNACLE

Hebrews 9:1-14

The worship experiences of the old tabernacle represent a complete breakdown of the covenant relationship between man and God. The continual ministry of the priests highlighted the separation of sinful humanity from their holy God. The veil served as a constant reminder of the worshiper's inability to enter the presence of God.

One has to wonder why the Hebrew people would want to return to a system completely inadequate to meet their most pressing needs and incapable of providing the greatest blessings.



## The Tabernacle: Retrospective (9:1-5)

- ⊕ An \_\_\_\_\_ sanctuary (1)
- ⊕ A \_\_\_\_\_ of something greater (2-5)

## The Tabernacle: Ritual (9:6-10)

- ⊕ It was \_\_\_\_\_ (6-7)
- ⊕ It was \_\_\_\_\_ (8)
- ⊕ It was \_\_\_\_\_ (9-10)

## The Tabernacle: Redemption (9:11-14)

- ⊕ The true tabernacle is \_\_\_\_\_ (11; 8:1-2)
- ⊕ The true tabernacle is \_\_\_\_\_ (12-14, 24-26)



Central Verse(s)

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Important Concept(s)

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Essential Truth

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Probing Question(s)

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# 20-MINUTEKEYS

## Day 1 KeyVerse

9:11-12

What was Christ able to do when He appeared as high priest?

What is the significance of taking “His own blood” into the holy place?

## Day 2 KeyWords

**Tabernacle, worship, veil, gifts, sacrifices, conscience, redemption, cleansing**

Explain the significance of each component of the ministry of the priests, and of Jesus.

## Day 3 KeyConcepts

**The way into God’s presence is not realized while the outer tabernacle blocks our view.**

How do you feel when you’re blocked from entering a place you really want to be, or seeing something you really want to see? What was the meaning for the Jewish people at the tabernacle?

## Day 4 KeyQuotations

**Cross References: Exodus 25-31, 35-40; Leviticus 16; 21; Numbers 18:2-6; 28:1-8**

Read these passages so you can “speak in detail” concerning “these things” (v. 1-5, 7).

Why does the writer not go into detail about divine worship in the earthly sanctuary?

## Day 5 KeyComparisons

**Earthly tabernacle and heavenly tabernacle**

**Blood of animals and blood of Christ**

**Ceremonial cleansing and conscience cleansing**

Describe the details of continual earthly ceremonies and the once for all sacrifice of Christ.

## Day 6 KeyExhortations

**Saving faith is not placed in our performance of rituals but in the blood of Christ.**

In what ways might you be tempted to trust in your own goodness?

How do you focus on Christ and His blood while participating in the Lord’s Supper?

## Day 7 KeyTruth

**The blood of Christ cleanses your conscience from dead works to serve the living God.**

What are the “dead works” from which their conscience needed cleansing?

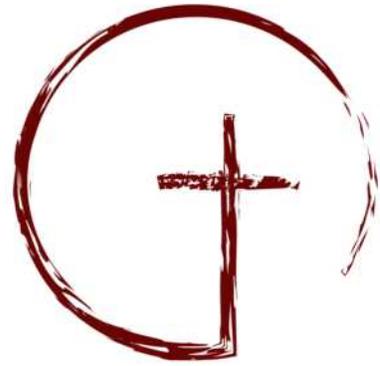
How may I be trusting in “dead works”? How can my conscience be cleansed?

# BETTERSACRIFICE

Hebrews 9:23-10:18

If you had a copy of a college degree, how could you use it?

To have a copy of something demands that there be an original. To have a shadow demands that something real is casting the shadow. A shadow cannot exist by itself. The shadow can show you what the original represents, but it cannot perform the functions of what is real. So it is with the shadow of the Levitical sacrifices and the reality of the sacrifice of Christ. The copies show us what the original can do.



## The Copies

- ☩ Burnt offering (Lev 1)
- ☩ Grain offering (Lev 2)
- ☩ Drink offering (Gen 35:14)
- ☩ Peace offering (Lev 3)
- ☩ Sin offering (Lev 4)
- ☩ Guilt (trespass) offering (Lev 5)
- ☩ Atonement offering (Lev 16)
- ☩ Passover offering (Ex 12)
- ☩ Red Heifer offering (Num 19)

## The Christ

- ☩ Burnt \_\_\_\_\_
- ☩ Grain \_\_\_\_\_
- ☩ Drink \_\_\_\_\_
- ☩ Peace \_\_\_\_\_
- ☩ Sin \_\_\_\_\_
- ☩ Guilt \_\_\_\_\_
- ☩ Atonement \_\_\_\_\_
- ☩ Passover \_\_\_\_\_
- ☩ Red Heifer \_\_\_\_\_

## The Cleansing

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Central Verse(s)

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Important Concept(s)

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Essential Truth

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Probing Question(s)

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# 20-MINUTEKEYS

## Day 1 KeyVerse

9:24

What does the fact that Jesus “appears in the presence of God for us” mean to you?  
If you were to memorize one verse from this section, which would you choose, and why?

## Day 2 KeyWords

**Copies, shadow, sacrifice, perfect** (verb), **sanctified, forgiveness**

How does God use the copies and shadows to bring us to Christ (cf. Gal 3:19, 24)?  
What is the relationship between forgiveness, being sanctified, and made perfect?

## Day 3 KeyConcepts

**“For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.”** (10:14)

In what sense are Christian already made perfect while still in the process of being sanctified?  
Compare other translations of this verse (NIV, ESV, KJV, NKJV, ASV, CEV, NCV).

## Day 4 KeyQuotations

**Psalm 40:6-8; 110:1; Jeremiah 31:33-34**

How does the writer interpret and apply these Old Testament prophecies to Jesus?  
How does the Holy Spirit testify to the New Covenant and forgiveness of sins?

## Day 5 KeyComparisons

**The repetition of innumerable animal sacrifices and the once-for-all sacrifice of Christ**  
**The first will and the second will**

What is the one thing accomplished in the atonement sacrifices made year by year?  
What is the one thing those sacrifices cannot do?  
How are Jesus’ obedience and our holiness connected?

## Day 6 KeyExhortations

**List the exhortations found in the remainder of chapter ten (19-31).**

You’ll find three of the “let us...” instructions in vv. 19-25.

How are we to understand the utter sinfulness of sin in vv. 26-31 (cf. Rom 7:7-13)?

## Day 7 KeyTruth

**When there is complete forgiveness there is no longer a need for any offering for sin.**

Why does Jesus’ once for all sacrifice make future sacrifices unnecessary?  
(cf. 10:10, 14, 18; 7:27; 9:12)

# BETTER POSSESSION

Hebrews 10:26-39

**Endurance** is the documentary chronicling the life of Haile Gebrselassie of Ethiopia. He is considered to be the greatest distance runner of all time, holding 61 Ethiopian national records and 27 world records. In 2008, at age 35, he won the Berlin marathon with a world record time of 2:03:59, breaking his own world record by 27 seconds. He finished first in nine out of his sixteen marathons. He won gold medals in the 10,000-meter race at the 1996 and 2000 Olympic games. He won four world and four indoor world championships. Thus, the word used to describe Haile's life is appropriate for the Christian's life: endurance.



## Regard Your \_\_\_\_\_ (26-31)

- ⊕ Sinning willfully (26)
- ⊕ Severer punishment (29; 2:3)
- ⊕ Terrifying thing (31; 2Cor 5:10-11; Heb 9:27)

## Remember Your \_\_\_\_\_ (32-34)

- ⊕ "Former days"
- ⊕ Great conflict

## Retain Your \_\_\_\_\_ (35)

- ⊕ Access to God (4:16; 10:19)
- ⊕ Confession before men (3:1-6)
- ⊕ Conviction for truth
- ⊕ Encouragement to a "great reward" (cf. 2:2; Mt 5:10-12)

## Refocus Your \_\_\_\_\_ (36-39)

- ⊕ Stronger endurance
- ⊕ Promised reward
- ⊕ Better possession

### Central Verse(s)

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### Important Concept(s)

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### Essential Truth

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### Probing Question(s)

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# 20-MINUTE KEYS

## Day 1 Key Verse

10:35

In what ways is a Christian's confidence rewarded?

Why does a Christian give up? When might a person feel like giving up?

## Day 2 Key Words

**Possession, enlightened, judgment, unclean, confidence, reward, endurance**

What is the Christian's "better possession"?

What does it mean to be "enlightened" (Heb 6:4; 2Cor 4:4, 6; Eph 1:18; Jn 1:9; Ps 13:3)?

## Day 3 Key Concepts

**There is a need for endurance to receive what was promised**

When do Christians need to persevere? How can I encourage others to persevere?

What can help you to persevere in your faith?

## Day 4 Key Quotations

**Isaiah 26:11; Deuteronomy 32:35-36; Habakkuk 2:3-4**

How does the writer use these verses to encourage his readers (and you) to live faithfully?

What is forfeited, and to be expected, if we willfully reject Christ in favor of sin (26)?

(cf. 3:12-14; 6:4-6)

## Day 5 Key Comparisons

**Former days and the great reward**

What previous testing had these former Hebrews faced when they became Christians?

What future reality ought to encourage them (and me) to persevere (37-38)? Why (38-39)?

## Day 6 Key Exhortations

**Remember your conversion experience!**

**Do not throw away your confidence!**

How can the "since..." and "let us..." realities in 10:19-25 help you hold on to your faith?

What can you do today to strengthen your faith?

What can you do today to encourage others?

## Day 7 Key Truth

**We are of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul.**

In what specific ways can you spur another Christian on? What, or who, spurs you on?

What does it mean to be "of those"? With which group are you affiliated? How closely?

# BETTERCOUNTRY

Hebrews 11:13-16, 39-40

This world is not my home, I'm just a passing thru.  
My treasures are laid up somewhere beyond the blue;  
The angels beckon me from heaven's open door,  
and I can't feel at home in this world anymore.  
They're all expecting me, and that's one thing I know,  
my Savior pardoned me and now I onward go;  
I know He'll take me through though I am weak and poor  
and I can't feel at home in this world any more.  
I have a loving Savior up in glory land,  
I don't expect to stop until with Him I stand,  
He's waiting now for me in heaven's open door  
and I can't feel at home in this world anymore.  
Just up in glory land we'll live eternally,  
the saints on every hand are shouting victory,  
Their songs of sweetest praise drift back from heaven's shore  
and I can't feel at home in this world anymore.<sup>1</sup>

**Believe the** \_\_\_\_\_

- ⊕ All these died in faith without receiving the promises
- ⊕ Abraham showed disinterest in earthly possessions (cf. 11:9-10)

**Know the** \_\_\_\_\_

- ⊕ God is not ashamed (cf. Ex 3:6)
- ⊕ God is their God
- ⊕ God has prepared a city (Jn 14:2-3)

**See the** \_\_\_\_\_

- ⊕ Promises were seen and welcomed "from a distance"
- ⊕ Abraham "saw" Jesus! (Jn 8:56)
- ⊕ It's a matter of citizenship  
(2Cor 5:1-8; Phi 3:20-21; 1Cor 15:50-57; 1Pet 1:1; 2:11;  
Rev 5:8-14)



Central Verse(s)

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Important Concept(s)

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Essential Truth

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Probing Question(s)

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<sup>1</sup> *This World Is Not My Home*. Hymns of Faith. Tabernacle Publishing Co. 1980. Arr. © 1937, Ren. 1965 Albert E. Brumley & Sons.

# 20-MINUTEKEYS

## Day 1 KeyVerse

**11:13**

How do each of the 3 examples from Abraham's life illustrate faith (vv. 8-10, 11-12, 17-19)?

What do the verbs in each example say about faith?

Obstacles to overcome?

Life-changes to make?

## Day 2 KeyWords

**Promises, strangers, exiles, heavenly, approval, perfect**

What things do you desire? What makes them desirable?

What does it mean to be strangers and exiles on earth?

## Day 3 KeyConcepts

**Faith is placed in the promises of God and displayed in our obedience to God.**

How did the people profiled in this chapter *show* their faith?

Why were these people willing to trust God (13-16, 35)?

## Day 4 KeyQuotations

**Cross references: Genesis 12:1-8; 23:4; 24:6-8; 26:24; 28:13; 47:9; Ex 3:6, 15; 4:5**

How do these verses describe the nature of my relationship with God?

What is the promise that makes these "hall of famers" perfect with us?

## Day 5 KeyComparisons

**Earthly country and heavenly country**

What are the distinctive characteristics of these two countries?

What does God think of our cities (cf. Gen 11)? What do we think of our cities?

## Day 6 KeyExhortations

**Remember...**

In what ways is our life similar or different from the lives of those in Hebrews 11?

What motivated the men and women in this portrait gallery to believe God?

## Day 7 KeyTruth

**There is a city and country prepared in heaven for those who live by faith!**

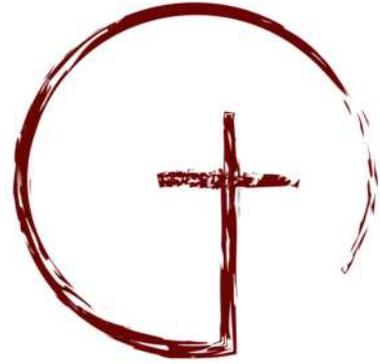
If you could live in any country in the world, which would you choose? Why?

What evidence do you have that God can be trusted?

# BETTER RESURRECTION

Hebrews 11:32-12:3

The highest civilian honors in the United States are the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the Congressional Gold Medal, subjectively bestowed for an especially meritorious contribution to the security or national interests of the United States, world peace, cultural or other significant public or private endeavors. Every sport recognizes their most valuable players (MVP). The entertainment industry celebrates actors and musicians with Golden Globes, Oscars, Emmys, and Grammys, often celebrating their sin and immorality.



The people in the eleventh chapter of Hebrews are different; they are recognized for counter-cultural living. These people “were cast out by the world as though they were not worthy to live in it – and yet the world was, in fact, unworthy of them.” (Lightfoot 221)

## Waiting Patiently

- ⊕ Flawed lives marked by \_\_\_\_\_
- ⊕ Women received their dead raised to life again
- ⊕ Others were tortured, not accepting their release

## Receiving Reward

- ⊕ God’s approval gained by \_\_\_\_\_
- ⊕ They gained approval for their faith
- ⊕ They were pleasing to God (11:6)

## Looking Forward

- ⊕ Old Promises fulfilled in \_\_\_\_\_
- ⊕ Looking to what was promised
- ⊕ Looking to a better resurrection
- ⊕ Looking to being made perfect

Central Verse(s)

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Important Concept(s)

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Essential Truth

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Probing Question(s)

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# 20-MINUTEKEYS

## Day 1 KeyVerse

11:39-40

Why did these “heroes and heroines” not receive what was promised?  
How, and from whom, did they “gain approval”? What does that mean?

## Day 2 KeyWords

**Conquered, performed, obtained, quenched, escaped, strong, mighty, resurrection, tortured, mockings, scourgings, tempted, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated, approval**

That’s a lot of words for 20 minutes! How do they convey the value of walking with God?  
In what ways do your choices to live by faith encounter difficult circumstances?

## Day 3 KeyConcepts

**We must be willing to endure any hostile experience for the sake of living by faith**

What great achievements did these people accomplish because of their faith?  
Which experience from this chapter would have been the most difficult for you to face?

## Day 4 KeyQuotations

**Key References to Gideon (Jgs 6-8), Barak (Jgs 4-5), Sampson (Jgs 13-16), Jephthah (Jgs 11-12), David (1Sam 16:1, 13), Samuel (1Sam 1:20), the prophets**

Take time to read of the exploits of these faithful individuals. Consider those in vv. 35-38.  
How do these people encourage you to keep looking forward in your faith?

## Day 5 KeyComparisons

**The key comparison is between “all these” and “us” (39-40).**

How many people are described in vv. 3-32? Read carefully vv. 23, 29 and 32.  
What do you have in common with all these?  
With whom do you have the most and least in common?

## Day 6 KeyExhortations

**Fix our eyes on Jesus that we might “gain approval.”**

If you could receive one award in this life, what would it be? Why do you want that award?  
What obstacles hinder and entangle your race? How do they trip you up?

## Day 7 KeyTruth

**Living “by faith” is both a costly and rewarding proposition!**

How has your life changed as a result of choosing to live by faith?  
What, or how, has your faith cost you? How does that make you feel?

# BETTERBLOOD

Hebrews 12:18-24

Blood is an essential specialized fluid in our body made up of four main components: plasma, red blood cells, white blood cells, and platelets. The main functions of our blood include transporting oxygen and nutrients to the lungs and tissues, forming clots to prevent excess loss, carrying cells and antibodies that fight infection, bringing waste products to the kidneys and liver, which filter and clean the blood, and regulating body temperature. The liquid component of blood is plasma, which transports the blood cells, nutrients, and waste products throughout your body. Red cells contain a special protein called hemoglobin, which helps carry oxygen from the lungs to the rest of the body and then returns carbon dioxide from the body to the lungs so it can be exhaled. It is from the hemoglobin that our blood gets its bright red color. It goes without saying, blood is essential to life.<sup>1</sup>



## The Importance of Blood

⊕ Blood inaugurates \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrews 9:18-20; Genesis 15:8-18; Exodus 19:4-5; 24:1-8

⊕ Blood provides \_\_\_\_\_

## The Comparison of Blood

⊕ The blood of \_\_\_\_\_

⊕ The blood of \_\_\_\_\_

⊕ The blood of \_\_\_\_\_

## The Application of Blood

⊕ Applying blood to \_\_\_\_\_

⊕ Applying blood to \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrews 9:14; 10:22; 1 Peter 3:21

Central Verse(s)

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Important Concept(s)

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Probing Question(s)

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.hematology.org/education/patients/blood-basics>

## 20-MINUTE KEYS

### Day 1 Key Verse

12:22, 24

To what and to whom does a person come when they become a Christian?  
How does their blood “speak”? What, and from where, does the blood of each speak?

### Day 2 Key Words

**Mount Zion, heavenly, angels, assembly, firstborn, enrolled, mediator**

How can it be said that Christians have already come to Mount Zion?  
What is the connection between the heavenly Jerusalem (12:22) and the heavenly places of Ephesians 1:3; 20; 2:6; 3:10; 6:12?

### Day 3 Key Concepts

**When a person becomes a Christian, they are enrolled in heaven as a child of God!**

How does this reality change the way I live my life? My focus? My attention to holiness?  
How should I express appreciation for the privileges of my new covenant realities?

### Day 4 Key Quotations

**Exodus 19:12; Deuteronomy 9:19**

Read Exodus 19. Consider what it must have been like for those at the base of Mount Sinai.  
Describe their attitudes, emotions, and actions at the presence of God.

### Day 5 Key Comparisons

**Mount Sinai and Mount Zion** (cf. Galatians 4:21-31; Psalm 2; 110:1-2)

**Christ’s blood and Abel’s blood**

How approachable is God on Mount Sinai vs. Mount Zion?  
What barriers have been removed?  
Why is the word “not” (18) so critical to understanding this passage?

### Day 6 Key Exhortations

**12:3, 12-17, 25-29**

List the verbs in these verses. What seven imperatives am I supposed to **do**?  
What specific actions can I take to accomplish each instruction?

### Day 7 Key Truth

**Zion is a present reality for those covered by Jesus’ new covenant blood.**

What was the significance of this truth for a Jew of the first century (11:10, 14, 16)?  
For me today?  
How can I better recognize, show appreciation for spiritual realities and blessings (Eph 1:3)?



## HELPFUL RESOURCES

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