

A New and Living Way

Study Guide for Hebrews

by Andy Sochor

Introduction

Author: Unknown

This is one of the big questions about the epistle
Many believe it was probably written by Paul
Other possibilities: Apollos, Barnabas, others

What we know about the author:

He was very familiar with Old Testament (*see appendix*)
Likely not one of original apostles (2:3)
Acquaintance of Timothy (13:23)
Was with, or at least knew, Christians in Italy (13:24)

Date and Place of Writing:

Written before fall of Jerusalem (70 A.D.)
Likely written in the mid 60's A.D.
Possibly written from Italy (13:24), likely then, Rome
Some have supposed this to mean it was written *to* Rome
Those of Italy would then be greeting these ones they knew

Purpose of the Letter:

To keep Hebrew Christians from turning back to the Law
To strengthen them in the face of suffering
To encourage them to continue in faithful service

Recurring Theme: The Superiority of Christ and His Way

Superior message (ch. 1)
Superior to angels (ch. 1-2)
Superior to Moses (ch. 3)
Superior to Joshua (ch. 4)
Superior to Aaron (ch. 5)
Superior to Abraham (ch. 7)
Superior to Levitical priests (ch. 7,10)
Superior ministry (ch. 8)
Superior covenant (ch. 8-9)
Superior promises (ch. 8)
Superior sacrifice (ch. 9-10,13)
Superior kingdom (ch. 12)

Hebrews 1

- I. The Revelation of Christ (1:1-4)
 - A. God spoke previously to the fathers and prophets (1:1)
 - B. Now speaks to us through His Son (1:2)
 - 1. Appointed heir of all things
 - 2. Instrumental in Creation
 - C. The greatness of Christ (1:3-4)
 - 1. Radiance of God's glory
 - 2. Exact representation of His nature
 - 3. Upholds all things
 - 4. Made purification of sins
 - 5. Sat down at the right hand of God
 - 6. Better than the angels

- II. Christ Superior to Angels (1:5-14)
 - A. Only begotten Son of the Father (1:5)
 - B. Angels worship Him (1:6-7)
 - C. Made a king with a kingdom (1:8-9)
 - D. Role in Creation (1:10-12)
 - 1. Laid the foundation of the earth (1:10)
 - 2. He is eternal, the earth is temporal (1:11)
 - 3. He remains the same; the earth will change (1:12)
 - E. He is at the right hand of God (1:13-14)

Questions on Hebrews 1

1. Who wrote the book of Hebrews?

2. How did God reveal His will to man before the coming of Christ (1:1)?

3. What was Jesus' role in creation (1:10)?

4. Where is Jesus now (1:13)?

5. Which verses in this chapter can be used to show the deity of Christ?

Hebrews 2

I. Pay Close Attention (2:1-4)

- A. Do not drift away from what has been taught (2:1)
- B. Word spoken through angels (2:2)
 - 1. Proved unalterable
 - 2. Disobedience was punished
 - 3. We have no hope if we neglect Christ's salvation (2:3)
- C. Salvation through the gospel (2:3-4)
 - 1. Spoken through the Lord
 - 2. Confirmed by those who heard
 - 3. God testified by miracles and gifts

II. Man's Place in Creation (2:5-8)

- A. God did not subject the world to angels (2:5)
- B. God's care for man (2:6-8)
 - 1. Made lower than the angels (2:7)
 - 2. Crowned with glory and honor (2:7)
 - 3. Appointed him over what has been created (2:7-8)

III. Jesus Took the Form of Man (2:9-18)

- A. Briefly made lower than the angels (2:9)
 - 1. Suffered in order to taste death for everyone (2:9)
 - 2. Perfected through sufferings (2:10)
 - 3. Jesus not ashamed to call us brethren (2:11)
 - 4. He praised God (2:12)
 - 5. He put His trust in God (2:13)
- B. Jesus partook of flesh and blood (2:14)
 - 1. Through death would render the devil powerless (2:14)
 - 2. To free those who were enslaved (2:15)
 - 3. Gives help to the descendants of Abraham (2:16)

- C. Jesus was made like His brethren in all things (2:17)
1. To become a merciful and faithful high priest (2:17)
 2. To make propitiation for sins (2:17)
 3. He was tempted in His sufferings (2:18)
 4. Able to aid those who are tempted (2:18)

Questions on Hebrews 2

1. How was the gospel message confirmed (2:3-4)?
2. What is man's place in God's creation (2:7-8)?
3. How was Jesus perfected (2:10)?
4. What did Jesus partake of in order to be able to die on the cross (2:14)?
5. Jesus "was tempted in that which He has suffered." Does this type of temptation refer to a *testing* or a *desire to sin* (2:18)?

3. Verse 7 introduces a quotation from Psalm 95:7-11 and attributes it to the Holy Spirit. What does this say about the Bible?

4. Is it possible for a Christian to fall away and be lost (3:12-14)?

5. What did the Israelites do that demonstrated their unbelief (3:16-19)?

Hebrews 4

I. The Promised Rest (4:1-11)

- A. Promise remains, but fear - we can fall short (4:1)
- B. Following the example of the Israelites (4:2-7)
 - 1. Good news preached to us as it was to them (4:2)
 - 2. Word profited nothing - not united by faith (4:2)
 - 3. The failing is not with God, but with man
 - 4. When God does something, He finishes it (4:3-4)
 - 5. Some will enter, but not those who disobey (4:5-6)
 - 6. Therefore, do not harden your hearts (4:7)
- C. A rest remains (4:8-11)
 - 1. The rest of the promised land was a shadow (4:8)
 - 2. The true rest remains (4:9)
 - 3. It is a rest from our labors (4:10)
 - 4. Be diligent - do not be disobedient (4:11)

II. Judgment of the Word (4:12-13)

- A. The word is living and active (4:12)
 - 1. Sharper than any two-edged sword
 - 2. Dividing soul & spirit and joints & marrow
- B. Able to judge our thoughts and intentions (4:12)
- C. Nothing is hidden from God (4:13)

III. A Sympathetic High Priest (4:14-16)

- A. Jesus - in heaven in the presence of God (4:14)
- B. He can sympathize with our weaknesses (4:15)
 - 1. He was tempted in all things
 - 2. Yet He was without sin
- C. Draw near with confidence (4:16)

Questions on Hebrews 4

1. According to verse 2, why did the word of God not profit them?

2. According to verse 6, why did the Israelites fail to enter God's rest?

3. When are we able to cease from our service to God (4:10)?

4. What is the difference between soul and spirit (4:12)?

5. What does it mean that Jesus was "tempted in all things as we are" (4:15)?

Hebrews 5

- I. The Work of a High Priest (5:1-4)
 - A. Appointed to offer sacrifices for sins (5:1)
 - B. Taken from among men (5:1)
 - 1. Can deal gently with the ignorant & misguided (5:2)
 - 2. He is also beset with weaknesses (5:2)
 - C. Appointed by God, not by their own choice (5:4)

- II. Priest After the Order of Melchizedek (5:5-10)
 - A. Jesus did not glorify Himself (5:5)
 - 1. Appointed by God (5:5)
 - 2. Priest after the order of Melchizedek (5:6,10)
 - B. Offered prayers and supplications to God (5:7)
 - C. Learned obedience through His sufferings (5:8)
 - D. He is the source of salvation to those who obey (5:9)

- III. Becoming Dull of Hearing (5:11-14)
 - A. Some topics are more difficult, requires maturity (5:11)
 - B. Enough time had passed that they should be teachers (5:12)
 - C. Instead, they needed the elementary principles (5:12)
 - D. Infants - not accustomed to the word (5:13)
 - E. Mature - senses trained through practicing the word (5:14)

Questions on Hebrews 5

- 1. What was the duty of the high priest (5:1)?

- 2. How did Jesus learn obedience (5:8)?

- 3. Jesus is "the source of eternal salvation" for whom (4:9)?

4. In the Hebrew writer's analogy, what is "milk" and what is "solid food" or "strong meat" (5:13-14)?

5. How do we train our senses (5:14)? Can our conscience be a safe guide?

Hebrews 6

I. The Danger of Falling Away (6:1-8)

A. Leave basic principles - press on to maturity (6:1-3)

1. Repentance from dead works (6:1)
2. Faith toward God (6:1)
3. Instruction about washings (6:2)
4. Laying on of hands (6:2)
5. The resurrection of the dead (6:2)
6. Eternal judgment (6:2)

B. Do not forget the basics - build upon them (6:1)

C. The miserable state of unfaithful Christians (6:4-6)

1. Once enlightened (6:4)
2. Had been partakers of all spiritual blessings (6:4-5)
3. If they fall away, impossible to restore them (6:6)
4. They have brazenly rejected Christ (6:6)

D. Analogy: rain producing growth (6:7-8)

1. Vegetation - blessed by God (6:7)
2. Thorns and thistles - cursed (6:8)

II. Diligence in Obtaining Our Hope (6:9-12)

A. Convinced these brethren would ultimately be saved (6:9)

1. God would remember their works (6:10)
2. Love shown in ministering to the saints (6:10)

B. Be diligent - realize the full assurance of hope (6:11)

C. Do not be sluggish - imitate the faithful (6:12)

- III. Promise to Abraham (6:13-20)
 - A. Promise to bless and multiply (6:13-14)
 - B. Abraham was patient and was rewarded (6:15)
 - C. The oath of God (6:16-17)
 - 1. Oath: swear by one greater; settles disputes (6:16)
 - 2. God swore by Himself; no one greater (6:17)
 - D. We can be encouraged by of two unchangeable things (6:18)
 - 1. God's promise (6:17)
 - 2. His oath (6:17)
 - E. Our hope (6:19-20)
 - 1. Sure and steadfast (6:19)
 - 2. Enters within veil (6:19)
 - 3. Jesus is a forerunner for us (6:20)

Questions on Hebrews 6

1. What things are listed among the "elementary teachings about the Christ" (6:1)?

2. Why is it impossible to renew one who has fallen away (6:6)?

3. What is necessary in order to receive God's promises (6:12)?

4. When God made the promise to Abraham, why did He swear by Himself (6:13)?

5. What are the two unchangeable things that give us hope (6:18)?

Hebrews 7

I. Priesthood of Melchizedek (7:1-10)

A. Who was Melchizedek? (7:1-3)

1. King of Salem, priest of the Most High God (7:1)
2. Received tithes from Abraham (7:2)
3. Had no traceable genealogy (7:3)

B. Implications of Abraham paying tithes to Melchizedek (7:4-10)

1. The father of the Jewish people paid tithes to this man (7:4)
2. Sons of Levi (7:5)
 - a. Descendants of Abraham
 - b. They collect tithes from their brethren
3. Melchizedek blessed Abraham (7:6)
 - a. Principle: the lesser is blessed by the greater (7:7)
 - b. Melchizedek greater than Abraham, so also the Levites
4. Levi, through Abraham, paid tithes to Melchizedek (7:9-10)

II. Priesthood Tied to the Law (7:11-22)

A. Levitical priesthood imperfect, new priesthood necessary (7:11)

1. If the priesthood changes, the law must also change (7:12)
2. The law had to change for Jesus to be high priest (7:13-14)

B. Jesus' priesthood in the likeness of Melchizedek (7:15-17)

1. Not on the basis of physical requirements (7:16)
2. Based on His indestructible life (7:16)

C. Setting aside the Old Law (7:18-22)

1. Its weakness and uselessness - made nothing perfect (7:18-19)
2. Bringing in of a better hope - backed by oath of God (7:19-21)
3. Jesus is the guarantee of a better covenant (7:22)

III. Christ Superior to the Levitical Priests (7:23-28)

A. Characteristics of Levitical priests

1. Greater number because they were limited by death (7:23)
2. Had to offer sacrifices first for their own sins (7:27)
3. Men who were weak (7:28)

B. Characteristics of Christ

1. Lives forever, so He holds His priesthood permanently (7:24)
2. Able to save forever (7:25)
3. Holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners (7:26)
4. Exalted above the heavens (7:26)
5. Son of God - perfect forever (7:28)

Questions on Hebrews 7

1. Did Melchizedek *literally* have no father or mother? What is the Hebrew writer's point (7:3)?
2. What is the implication of Abraham paying tithes to Melchizedek, particularly as it relates to the sons of Levi (7:4-10)?
3. Verse 14 contains a basic principle of Bible interpretation. What is it?
4. What characteristics of Jesus qualified Him to be our high priest (7:26)?
5. What did the Levitical priests have to do *before* sacrificing for the sins of the people (7:27)?

Hebrews 8

- I. Jesus' Better Ministry (8:1-6)
 - A. Our high priest (8:1-3)
 - 1. Seated at the right hand of God (8:1)
 - 2. Minister in the sanctuary and true tabernacle (8:2)
 - 3. Had to have something to offer (8:3)
 - B. Comparison with Levitical priests (8:4-6)
 - 1. Jesus could not be priest under the Old Law (8:4)
 - 2. Old priests served as a copy of heavenly things (8:5)
 - 3. Jesus obtained a more excellent ministry (8:6)
 - a. He is the mediator of a better covenant
 - b. Enacted on better promises
- II. A New Covenant (8:7-13)
 - A. Second covenant necessary due to faults with the first (8:7)
 - 1. Fault was not with God's revelation
 - 2. Fault was "*with them*" - the people (8:8)
 - B. Prophecy of the abolition of the Old Law (8:8-12)
 - 1. Quotation from Jeremiah 31:31-34
 - 2. Would be different than the first (8:9)
 - 3. Spiritual law, as opposed to a physical law (8:10)
 - 4. Physical birth does not put us under the covenant (8:11)
 - 5. God would be merciful, remember sins no more (8:12)
 - C. Old Law declared obsolete in days of Jeremiah (8:13)

Questions on Hebrews 8

1. How does the Hebrew writer summarize his point in the last few chapters (8:1-6)?

2. Verse 5 speaks of a pattern given to Moses. In what way does the principle in this instruction apply to us today?

3. What was the fault found with the first covenant (8:7-8)?

4. What does it mean that under the new covenant, people would not teach their brethren and neighbors to know the Lord (8:11)?

5. When was the first covenant made old or obsolete (8:13)?

Hebrews 9

- I. Sacrifices Under the Old Law (9:1-10)
 - A. The earthly sanctuary (9:1-5)
 - B. Sacrifices of the Levitical priests (9:6-10)
 1. Continually perform worship in outer tabernacle (9:6)
 2. Once a year into second to offer sacrifice for sins (9:7)
 3. Served as a symbol for the sacrifice of Christ (9:8-9)
 - a. Could not make the worshiper perfect (9:9)
 - b. Looked forward to a time of reformation (9:10)

- II. Christ's Superior Sacrifice (9:11-14)
 - A. Entered into greater tabernacle - perfect, heavenly (9:11)
 - B. Not with blood of bulls and goats, with His own blood (9:12)
 1. Blood of animals - cleanse the flesh (9:13)
 2. Blood of Christ - cleanse the conscience (9:14)

- III. Jesus' New Covenant (9:15-22)
 - A. He is the mediator of a new covenant (9:15)
 1. Death of the covenant-maker was necessary (9:16)
 2. Covenant could not be valid until after His death (9:17)
 - B. Covenant inaugurated with blood (9:18-22)
 1. First covenant - blood of calves and goats (9:18-21)
 2. All things cleansed with blood (9:22)
 3. Shedding of blood necessary for forgiveness (9:22)

IV. Offering of Christ (9:23-28)

- A. Heavenly things cleansed with better sacrifices (9:23)
- B. Christ entered heaven, appeared in God's presence (9:24)
- C. Jesus did not need to offer Himself often (9:25)
 - 1. Levitical high priests made yearly offerings (9:25)
 - 2. Jesus didn't need to suffer often from beginning (9:26)
 - 3. He made one offering - this was sufficient (9:26)
 - 4. When He returns, it will not be to make sacrifices (9:28)

Questions on Hebrews 9

1. When was the time of reformation (9:10)?

2. What was the "more perfect tabernacle" that Jesus entered into (9:11,24)?

3. What was necessary before the new covenant could be in force (9:16-17)?

4. What is necessary for there to be forgiveness (9:22)?

5. When Jesus comes the second time, He will come "without sin" (KJV). Does this mean He came with sin the first time? If not, explain what it does mean.

Hebrews 10

- I. Christ's Superior Sacrifice (10:1-18)
 - A. Old Law had only a shadow of things to come (10:1)
 - 1. Yearly sacrifices could not make people perfect (10:1)
 - 2. There was a reminder of sins every year (10:3)
 - 3. Impossible for blood of animals to take away sins (10:4)
 - B. Jesus' sacrifice was necessary (10:5-10)
 - 1. God took no pleasure in old sacrifices (10:5-6)
 - 2. He prepared a body for Christ (10:5)
 - 3. Jesus came to do God's will (10:7)
 - a. Establish the new covenant (10:9)
 - b. Offer His body for sins (10:10)
 - C. Christ's work completed (10:11-14)
 - 1. Priests *stand* daily making sacrifices (10:11)
 - 2. Jesus sacrificed and *sat down* at God's right hand (10:12)
 - 3. Waiting for His enemies to be made His footstool (10:13)
 - D. The new covenant (10:15-18)
 - 1. Law on their heart and mind (10:16)
 - 2. Sins remembered no more (10:17); so no more offering (10:18)

- II. A New and Living Way (10:19-25)
 - A. We have confidence to enter the holy place through Christ (10:19)
 - B. Draw near with full assurance, being cleansed by Him (10:22)
 - C. Hold fast your confession (10:23)
 - D. Stimulate one another to love and good deeds (10:24-25)

- III. Judgment and Punishment (10:26-31)
 - A. Our fate if we sin willfully (10:26-27)
 - 1. No longer a sacrifice for sins (10:26)
 - 2. Terrifying expectation of judgment (10:27)
 - B. The disobedient under Old Law were put to death (10:28)
 - 1. Punishment under the new covenant is worse (10:29)
 - 2. God will judge and execute vengeance (10:30-31)

- IV. Endure Sufferings (10:32-39)
 - A. They had endured suffering (10:32)
 - 1. By being made a public spectacle (10:33)
 - 2. And by sharing with those who were (10:33-34)
 - B. Do not surrender your confidence (10:35)
 - 1. Endure so you will receive the promises (10:36)
 - 2. Do not shrink back to destruction (10:38-39)
 - 3. Preserve your soul through faith (10:39)

Questions on Hebrews 10

1. What was it that the blood of bulls and goats could not do (10:4)?

2. What two things did Jesus do in order to do the Father's will (10:9-10)?

3. What does it mean to forsake the assembling of the saints (10:25)?

4. Why is the punishment of sin more severe under the new covenant (10:28-29)?

5. How had these brethren already endured suffering (10:32-33)?

Hebrews 11

- I. What Faith Is (11:1-3)
 - A. The definition of faith (11:1)
 - B. Causes us to be approved by God (11:2)
 - C. Causes us to believe God and His word (11:3)

- II. Examples of Faith (11:4-12)
 - A. Abel (11:4)
 - B. Enoch (11:5)
 - C. Statement about faith (11:6)
 1. Cannot please God without faith
 2. We must believe that He is God
 3. Must believe that He will reward those who seek Him
 - D. Noah (11:7)
 - E. Abraham (11:8-10, 17-19)
 - F. Sarah (11:11)

4. When Abraham was told to offer up Isaac, the son of promise, what did Abraham conclude about God's power (11:19)?

5. How is it that Moses suffered the "reproach of Christ" (11:26)?

Hebrews 12

I. The Race Set Before Us (12:1-3)

- A. Remember the example of the faithful (12:1)
- B. Lay aside any sin or hindrance, run with endurance (12:1)
- C. Fix your eyes on Jesus - author and perfecter of faith (12:2)
 - 1. He endured all things (12:2-3)
 - 2. Do not grow weary and lose heart (12:3)

II. The Father's Discipline (12:4-11)

- A. They had not yet suffered to the point of shedding blood (12:4)
 - 1. But had forgotten to not think lightly of God's discipline (12:5)
 - 2. The Lord disciplines those He loves (12:6)
- B. God disciplines us because we are His children (12:7)
 - 1. If we have no discipline, we are illegitimate children (12:8)
 - 2. Fathers discipline to produce respect - so respect God (12:9)
 - 3. Discipline as they deem best - God does so for our good (12:10)
- C. Discipline initially sorrowful - produces righteousness (12:11)

III. Strengthen One Another (12:12-17)

- A. Encourage those who are weak (12:12-13)
- B. Pursue peace with all men (12:14)
- C. Do not come short of the grace of God (12:15)
- D. Let no root of bitterness spring up (12:15)
- E. Do not be immoral or godless, like Esau (12:16-17)

IV. Sinai and Zion (12:18-24)

A. Coming before Mount Sinai (12:18-21)

1. God's power demonstrated (12:18)
2. People were in fear (12:19-21)

B. Coming before Mount Zion (12:22-24)

1. Heavenly scene (12:22)
2. Church of the firstborn (12:23)
3. Jesus the mediator (12:24)

V. The Kingdom of God (12:25-29)

A. Do not reject God's word (12:25)

B. The old kingdom would be removed (12:26-27)

C. We receive a kingdom that cannot be shaken (12:28)

1. Show gratitude (12:28)
2. Serve God acceptably, for He is a consuming fire (12:28-29)

Questions on Hebrews 12

1. What are we to lay aside in order to be able to run the race set before us (12:1)?
2. What does verse 4 indicate about the degree of persecution these brethren had faced?
3. What is the purpose of discipline (12:9-11)?
4. Why did Esau find no place for repentance, even though he sought for it with tears (12:17)?
5. How do we serve God acceptably (12:28)?

Hebrews 13

I. Various Instructions (13:1-9)

- A. Continue in brotherly love (13:1)
- B. Show hospitality (13:2-3)
- C. Marriage is honorable (13:4)
- D. Be free of the love of money (13:5-6)
- E. Imitate those who have led and taught you (13:7)
- F. Jesus does not change (13:8)
- G. Do not be led astray by false teachings (13:9)

II. Instructions about Sacrifices (13:10-16)

- A. We have a superior sacrifice to those under the Old Law (13:10)
 - 1. Animals (13:11)
 - a. Blood brought into holy place
 - b. Body burned outside the camp
 - 2. Jesus (13:12)
 - a. Blood brought into the presence of God (see 9:24)
 - b. Suffered outside the gate
- B. We must make sacrifices (13:13-16)
 - 1. Go out with Christ, bearing His reproach (13:13)
 - 2. We are seeking another city (13:14)
 - 3. Continue to offer up praise to God (13:15)
 - 4. Do not neglect doing good (13:16)

III. Various Instructions (13:17-19)

- A. Obey and submit to spiritual leaders (13:17)
- B. Request for prayers (13:18-19)

IV. Closing (13:20-25)

- A. God has given us what is necessary to please Him (13:20-21)
- B. Listen to what has been taught (13:22)
- C. Plan to visit them with Timothy (13:23)
- D. Greeting and farewell (13:24-25)

Questions on Hebrews 13

1. What example of hospitality is the Hebrew writer likely referring to in verse 2?
2. Why should we be content with what we have (13:5-6)?
3. What does verse 8 teach about Jesus? How does this relate to the question about the deity of Christ?
4. What are some of the kinds of sacrifices that we offer (13:15-16)?
5. What leaders are we told to submit to in verse 17?

- APPENDIX -

Old Testament Quotations in Hebrews

1:5	Ps. 2:7 2 Sam. 7:14	8:5 8:8-12	Ex. 25:40 Jer. 31:31-34
1:6	Ps. 97:7		
1:7	Ps. 104:4	9:20	Ex. 24:8
1:8-9	Ps. 45:6-7		
1:10-12	Ps. 102:25-27	10:5-7	Ps. 40:6-8
1:13	Ps. 110:1	10:8	Ps. 40:6
		10:9	Ps. 40:7
2:6-8	Ps. 8:4-6	10:12-13	Ps. 110:1
2:12	Ps. 22:22	10:16-17	Jer. 31:33-34
2:13	Is. 8:17-18	10:27	Is. 26:11
		10:30	Deut. 32:35-36
3:7-11	Ps. 95:7-11	10:37-38	Hab. 2:3-4
3:15	Ps. 95:7ff		
		11:5	Gen. 5:24
4:3	Ps. 95:11	11:12	Gen. 15:5
4:4	Gen. 2:2	11:18	Gen. 21:12
4:5	Ps. 95:11		
4:7	Ps. 95:7ff	12:5-6	Pr. 3:11-12
		12:20	Ex. 19:12-13
5:5	Ps. 2:7	12:21	Deut. 9:19
5:6	Ps. 110:4	12:26	Hag. 2:6
6:14	Gen. 22:17	13:5	Deut. 31:6
		13:6	Ps. 118:6
7:17	Ps. 110:4		
7:21	Ps. 110:4		