

Acts 2 Study and Discussion Questions

Lesson Four: Hebrews, Part 1 – Hebrews 1-7

Introduction to Hebrews

- 1) The authorship, audience, and dating of the book of Hebrews remains a mystery. What do the following verses suggest (you may have additional insights once you have studied through all seven chapters covered in this lesson): 2:3; 3:1a; 5:11-12; 10:32-34; 13:18-19; 13:23; 13:24?

- 2) From the following verses, give...
 - a) a suggested theme for Hebrews: 1:3-4; 3:3; 7:19 and 22; 8:6; 9:15.

 - b) a recurring pastoral warning/concern: 2:1; 3:12; 4:11; 6:11; 10:23, 25, 36.

- 3) What does Hebrews teach about Christ's present position and work (see 1:3; 2:18; 4:14-16; 7:24-25; 8:1-2, 6; 9:14, 24; 10:12-13; 12:2, 24)? What difference will this make in the way you approach all that lies before you this week?

Read Hebrews 1-2.

- 4) Hebrews 1:2-4 presents a forceful statement about the deity of Jesus Christ, declaring Him equal with God His Father. In light of this, 1:4 concludes that Jesus is certainly superior to angels. The quotes that follow in 1:5-13 offer evidence from the Old Testament of Jesus' superiority. Specifically what information do these quotes offer about the position, essence, or work of Jesus that proves His superiority over angels?

- 5) Reread Hebrews 2:10. Since Jesus was already morally perfect, in what sense could He become perfect (see verses 9, 17-18)?

- 6) Do you know anyone who worships angels? In what other ways do people you know diminish the person or work of Jesus?

Read Hebrews 3:1-4:13.

- 7) The following questions and passages pertain to the discussion in Hebrews 3 about Moses' role in God's "house" and the warning not to harden our hearts, as Moses' generation did.
- a) Who was Moses? (See Exodus 3:4-10; 24:12; 34:27-28; Numbers 10:12-13; Deuteronomy 34; Acts 7:17-36)
 - b) With regard to Hebrews 3:7-19, what occurred during the years that Moses and the people of Israel were en route from Egypt to the Promised Land of Canaan? (See Exodus 15:24; 17:1-7; Numbers 13:1-2 with 14:1-11, 26-35)
 - c) According to Hebrews 3:11, what was the result of Israel's hard-heartedness and disbelief?
- 8) Read Exodus 33:14, Jeremiah 6:16, Jesus' words in Matthew 11:28-30, and Colossians 2:6 ("Just as...continue [in the same way]").
- a) According to Hebrews 3:18-19, failure to enter God's rest is the result of unbelief. Is there a measure of unbelief preventing you from entering the rest God offers you today? If so, what is the nature of your unbelief?
 - b) According to Hebrews 4:12, what will help you recognize the signs that you may be falling back into the old, stress-filled way of living by self-effort (it will also do the necessary "heart surgery" to teach you to rest in Christ's adequacy)?

Read Hebrews 4:14-6:12.

- 9) The Hebrews were exhorted to "hold firmly to their faith" since Jesus, our "great high priest" can sympathize with our weaknesses (4:14-15). What kinds of things can weaken Christians and tempt us to move from a firm position in our faith?

- 10)** According to Hebrews 5:7, how did Jesus handle temptation when He was on earth? What two methods of coping with weakness (temptation) does the author of Hebrews outline (4:14-6:3)?
- 11)** Hebrews 6:4-6 is a difficult passage that issues a very serious warning in the context of prolonged immaturity in the faith. What marks of immaturity does the author mention in 5:11-6:3 and 6:7-12? In consideration of these, where are you on the road to spiritual maturity?

Read Hebrews 6:12 -7:28.

- 12)** Hebrews 6:12-19 discusses the confidence we can have in God's promises. Read Genesis 15:1-6, 17:15-19, and Romans 4:13-22 in connection with Hebrews 6:12, 15. How did Abraham's hope become an "anchor for his soul" (Hebrews 6:19)?
- 13)** The background to the discussion on Melchizedek is found in Genesis 14:17-20. Melchizedek was a priest and a contemporary of Abraham, but he was not Abraham's relative. Four hundred years after Abraham lived, the Mosaic Law stated that only the descendants of Aaron were qualified to serve as Israel's priests. Aaron was a Levite (he descended from Abraham's great-grandson Levi). In what ways is Jesus "a priest in the order of Melchizedek" (one way is given in 7:6, 14 and a second way in 7:3, 16-17)?
- 14)** Jesus was declared by the author of Hebrews to be superior to:
- a) _____ (chapter 1) Give verses:
 - b) _____ (chapter 3) Give verses:
 - c) _____ (chapter 7) Give verses:
- 15)** Trace the word "oath" in Hebrews 6:13-7:28. What oath did God make (cite verses), what is the implication of God's oath (see 7:25), and from what do you need Jesus to save you "completely"?