“We have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in Heaven”

Hebrews 8:1
Tools for Studying Scripture

1. **Repeated Words/Phrases**

   It is one thing to see a repeated word such as, “the” and “a.” However, when you see a unique word/phrase repeated even twice, it is very important to understanding the message. Oftentimes unique words that are repeated become a key to understanding the main point of a text.

2. **How the Text Begins & Ends**

   Sometimes a text will begin and end with the same concept, and the verses in between help fill in that concept. Other times a text will begin with one concept and end with another, and there is a logical flow that the verses in between explain.

3. **Contrasts (Look especially for the word, “but” to see contrasts)**

   All throughout the Scripture, contrasts help us see major differences in people and concepts. If you put a square or circle around words that draw a contrast, it will help you understand the argument of the text.

4. **Poetic Imagery (Focus on the words, “as” and “like” to see imagery)**

   Scripture is filled with poetic imagery – even the New Testament! Whenever you see the words, “as” and “like” you will often find a way to imagine what is being said. For example, James 1:6 says, “...for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind.” James wants us to imagine someone who prays while doubting. To help us get the image, he wants us to picture a wave on the sea that is tossed everywhere. The word, “like” is what clues us in to the fact that poetic language is being used to imagine the concept. It is not the case that every single time “like” or “as” are used that poetry is involved.

5. **Important Linking Words**

   a. “Therefore” – draws a conclusion from things previously said.
   b. “And” – connects two words, concepts, and ideas.
   c. “Because”, “for”, and “so that” – explains a reason for something stated.
   d. “If” – describes something that is conditional.

6. **Commands**

   Another tool for observing a text is simply to look for the things that are commanded. Whenever you see something that we are commanded to do, the surrounding verses often help us understand how to obey it or why we ought to obey.
### Class Schedule

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Lesson 1A – Introduction to Hebrews

1. Author
   a. The book of Hebrews does not tell us who the author is. Some have suggested Paul, Apollos, or Luke. We know from Hebrews 13:22 that the author knew Timothy. Why would (or wouldn’t) it matter to know who wrote this book?

   b. Since we do not know the author, why do you believe Hebrews should belong in our Bible?

2. Audience
   a. What does Hebrews 10:32-39 tell us about the audience of this letter?

   b. What does the author want to accomplish with this letter?

3. Outline & Message
   a. How would you change or add to the chart below? Write your thoughts on the chart.

   b. Skim through Hebrews. What are some main themes you noticed?

Hebrews The Superiority of Christ

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Jesus’ Superiority | Jesus’ Encouragement
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Angels (1-2) Moses (3-4) Priests (5-7) Sacrifices (8-10) | Call to Endurance

4. What do you think are the main ideas/themes of Hebrews 1:1-3?

5. Breaking Down the Text
   a. Hebrews 1:1-2
      i. What are some of the different ways God spoke in the Old Testament?
      
      ii. How does God speak today?

      iii. Explain what each description of Jesus means…
          1. Son of God
          2. Heir of All Things
          3. The One “Through Whom” God Created the World

   b. Hebrews 1:3
      i. Explain what each description of Jesus means…
          1. Radiance of the Glory of God
          2. Exact Imprint of His Nature
          3. Upholds the Universe

      ii. Why is it noteworthy that Jesus “sat down” after making purification for sins?

6. In what ways does Hebrews 1:1-3 challenge you to grow?
Lesson 2 – Hebrews 1:4-2:18

1. What do you think are the main ideas/themes of Hebrews 1:4-2:18?

2. Breaking Down the Text
   a. Hebrews 1:4-14
      i. Why would it matter to a Jew that Jesus is greater than Angels? (Acts 7:53; Galatians 3:19)
      ii. What is the purpose of Angels?
   b. Hebrews 2:1-4
      i. How do we avoid “drifting” from the Gospel?
      ii. What is the purpose of signs and miracles?
   c. Hebrews 2:5-13
      i. Who are verses 6-8 talking about?
      ii. Why did God need to become human?
   d. Hebrews 2:14-18
      i. What has Jesus delivered us from?
      ii. How does Jesus help us when we are tempted?

3. In what ways does Hebrews 1:4-2:18 challenge you to grow?
1. What do you think are the main ideas/themes of Hebrews 3:1-4:13?

2. Breaking Down the Text
   a. Hebrews 3:1-6
      i. How are Jesus and Moses similar?
      ii. How are Jesus and Moses different?
   b. Hebrews 3:7-19
      i. How can we guard against an evil and unbelieving heart?
      ii. What is disobedience equated with? (vs. 18-19)
   c. Hebrews 4:1-10
      i. Why did the Israelites not enter their “rest”?
      ii. What “rest” is the writer referring to?
   d. Hebrews 4:11-13
      i. How do we “strive” to enter the rest?
      ii. Verses 12-13 are often quoted. How do they fit in this context?

Lesson 4 – Hebrews 4:14-5:10

1. What do you think are the main ideas/themes of Hebrews 4:14-5:10?

2. Breaking Down the Text
   a. Hebrews 4:14-16
      i. Why can Jesus sympathize with our weaknesses?
      ii. How is Jesus throne described? What should this mean for our lives?
   b. Hebrews 5:1-4
      i. What is the role of a priest?
      ii. What are the requirements for priests?
      iii. How should our own “weaknesses” impact the way we treat others?
   c. Hebrews 5:5-10
      i. How does Jesus fit the requirements for priests?
      ii. How did Jesus “learn obedience” through His suffering?
      iii. Is obedience necessary to have eternal life? (vs. 9)

3. In what ways does Hebrews 4:14-5:10 challenge you to grow?
1. What do you think are the main ideas/themes of Hebrews 5:11-6:20?

2. Breaking Down the Text
   a. Hebrews 5:11-14
      i. How can you tell if you are “dull of hearing”?
      ii. Who can handle “solid food”?
   b. Hebrews 6:1-8
      i. Explain the “Foundational” Teachings That are Listed
         1. Repentance from Dead Works
         2. Faith Towards God
         3. Washings
         4. Laying on of Hands
         5. Resurrection of the Dead
         6. Eternal Life
      ii. What does verse 4 mean?
   c. Hebrews 6:9-12
      i. In what ways does verse 10 encourage you?
      ii. Why is it important to show the “same earnestness”?
   d. Hebrews 6:13-20
      i. What are the “two unchangeable” things?
      ii. How is faith like an “anchor”?

3. In what ways does Hebrews 5:11-6:20 challenge you to grow?
1. What do you think are the main ideas/themes of Hebrews 7:1-28?

2. Breaking Down the Text
   a. Hebrews 7:1-10
      i. Why does it matter that Melchizedek was greater than Abraham?
      ii. In what ways is Jesus similar to Melchizedek?
   b. Hebrews 7:11-19
      i. What does a change of priesthood imply about the Law of Moses?
      ii. In what way was the “commandment” weak and useless? (vs. 18)
   c. Hebrews 7:20-25
      i. How does Jesus contrast with the Levitical priests?
      ii. What does it mean for Jesus to make “intercession” for us?
   d. Hebrews 7:26-28
      i. How is Jesus described in this passage?
      ii. How does Jesus contrast with the High Priest under the Law of Moses?

3. In what ways does Hebrews 7:1-28 challenge you to grow?
1. What do you think are the main ideas/themes of Hebrews 8:1-13?

2. Breaking Down the Text
   a. Hebrews 8:1-5
      i. Why does it matter that Jesus is “seated” in heaven?
      
      ii. What does it mean that the Tabernacle was a “copy” and “shadow”?
      
      iii. Why was it important to make everything “according to the pattern”?
   
   b. Hebrews 8:6-12
      i. What are the “better promises” of the New Covenant?
      
      ii. What “fault” did the former covenant have?
      
      iii. Which passage is the writer of Hebrews quoting in verses 8-12?
   
   c. Hebrews 8:13
      i. What does it mean for the first covenant to be “obsolete”?
      
      ii. What value does the first covenant have today if it has “vanished away”?

3. In what ways does Hebrews 8:1-13 challenge you to grow?
Lesson 8 – Hebrews 9:1-10:18

1. What do you think are the main ideas/themes of Hebrews 9:1-10:18?

2. Breaking Down the Text
   a. Hebrews 9:1-10
      i. Why do you think the writer refers to the “Tent” rather than the “Temple”?
      ii. What does verse 10 show about the regulations in the Tabernacle?

   b. Hebrews 9:11-28
      i. What does God expect from those who have been purified? (vs. 14)
      ii. What redeemed the saints even in the Old Covenant? (vs. 15)
      iii. Why does blood inaugurate a covenant?

   c. Hebrews 10:1-18
      i. If bulls and goats cannot take away sins, why did God ever command it?
      ii. What does the quote in verses 5-7 mean?

3. In what ways does Hebrews 9:1-10:18 challenge you to grow?
Lesson 9 – Hebrews 10:19-39

1. What do you think are the main ideas/themes of Hebrews 10:19-39?

2. Breaking Down the Text
   a. Hebrews 10:19-25
      i. Why do we have confidence to enter the holy places?
      ii. Explain what the following “let us” statements mean…
         1. “Let us Draw Near” (vs. 22)
         2. “Let us Hold Fast” (vs. 23)
         3. “Let us Consider How to Stir up…” (vs. 24)
   b. Hebrews 10:26-31
      i. What does it mean to “sin deliberately?”
      ii. What are the consequences of sinning deliberately?
      iii. Does the Old Covenant or the New Covenant have a “worse punishment”?
   c. Hebrews 10:32-39
      i. What kinds of persecution had the audience faced?
      ii. How does the writer encourage the audience to not give up?

3. In what ways does Hebrews 10:19-39 challenge you to grow?
1. What do you think are the main ideas/themes of Hebrews 11:1-40?

2. Breaking Down the Text
   a. Hebrews 11:1-7
      i. How does the Bible define “faith”? What does this mean?
      
      ii. What does it mean to be “commended”? (vs. 1, 4, 5)
   
   b. Hebrews 11:8-22
      i. How did Abraham demonstrate faith?
      
      ii. How did Isaac and Joseph demonstrate faith?
   
   c. Hebrews 11:23-31
      i. How did Moses demonstrate faith?
      
      ii. What “faithless” period of time takes place between verses 29 and 30?
   
   d. Hebrews 11:32-40
      i. Why would people like Samson and Gideon with obvious flaws be named?
      
      ii. What contrast do you notice between vs. 32-35a and 35b-38?

3. In what ways does Hebrews 11:1-40 challenge you to grow?
Lesson 11 – Hebrews 12:1-17

1. What do you think are the main ideas/themes of Hebrews 12:1-17?

2. Breaking Down the Text
   a. Hebrews 12:1-3
      i. Why are “weights” and “sins” distinguished?
      ii. What was the “jot set before” Jesus?
      iii. How can we learn to “despise” the shame that the world throws our way?
   b. Hebrews 12:4-11
      i. In the context of Hebrews, what is the “discipline” the audience is going through?
      ii. What might be other ways that God “disciplines” us?
      iii. What are the benefits of being disciplined?
   c. Hebrews 12:12-17
      i. How can verses 12-13 be applied personally and corporately?
      ii. What is a “root of bitterness”?
      iii. How could we act like Esau with our inheritance today?

3. In what ways does Hebrews 12:1-17 challenge you to grow?
1. What do you think are the main ideas/themes of Hebrews 12:18-13:9?

2. Breaking Down the Text
   a. Hebrews 12:18-29
      i. What contrasts do you see between Mount Sinai and Mount Zion?
      
      ii. What does it mean that God will “shake” the heavens and earth “once more”?

   b. Hebrews 13:1-3
      i. Why is hospitality important?
      
      ii. In this culture, why was it especially important to “remember those in prison”?

   c. Hebrews 13:4-9
      i. What does it mean to hold marriage in honor?
      
      ii. How can we learn to be content with what we have?

   d. Hebrews 13:7-9
      i. How can we “remember” our leaders?
      
      ii. What does verse 8 mean in the context?

1. What do you think are the main ideas/themes of Hebrews 13:7-25?

2. Breaking Down the Text
   a. Hebrews 13:7-9
      i. What should the audience “consider” about their “leaders”?
      ii. How does grace “strengthen” us?
   b. Hebrews 13:10-17
      i. What does it mean to “suffer outside the camp”?
      ii. How could we make our “leaders” groan and lose joy?
   c. Hebrews 13:18-25
      i. What does it mean that God will “equip” us to do His will?
      ii. What had happened to Timothy? Where else do we read about him?
      iii. Why does the writer tell the audience to “bear” with his letter?

3. In what ways does Hebrews 13:7-25 challenge you to grow?