

# HOLD FAST

Hebrews 1-7

ev/church

# HEBREWS 1-7: HOLD FAST

## TERM 4 PASSAGE

Week 1	Hebrews 1:1-4	Better than the prophets
Week 2	Hebrews 1:5-2:4	Better than the angels
Week 3	Hebrews 2:5-9	True man
Week 4	Hebrews 2:10-18	Like his brothers
Week 5	Hebrews 3:1-18	Better than Moses
Week 6	Hebrews 4:1-13	Enter his rest!
Week 7	Hebrews 4:14-5:10	The better high priest
Week 8	Hebrews 5:11-6:12	Warning!
Week 9	Hebrews 6:13-6:20	An anchor for the soul
Week 10	Hebrews 7:1-28	A new priesthood

**We want to encourage each other to be on mission to our non-Christian friends, family and contacts.**

Who are you on mission to?

Make a list and start praying for them (and yourself).

**Pray for three friends, once a week, for one minute (3-1-1).**

List the names of your family and friends here:

# TERM 4 – 2021

## HOW TO USE THIS BOOK:

### 1. Personal reading

- Use this guide to help you read your Bible every day.
- Scribble down your thoughts and questions each day, and remember to pray and ask God to speak to you by His Spirit, through His word.

### 2. Growth Groups

- Take this guide with you to your Growth Group each week so you can write down prayer points that come from the study that week and prayer requests from the members of your group.
- Let your group know who you are on mission to.

### 3. Church

- Keep this guide with your Bible and bring it with you to church.
- Scribble down sermon notes in the space provided.



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# READ THE BIBLE IN TWO YEARS:

## Something you might like to use to extend your daily Bible reading.

**The Bible is truly an extraordinary book, unique among all other books. It consists of 66 individual books, written by 40 different authors, in three different languages across 1,500 years of history. Yet for all of this diversity it contains a unified message that focuses on the coming of Jesus and the amazing salvation He offers through His death and resurrection!**

The Bible contains words written by men in all the richness of literary types making it fun, challenging and enjoyable to dig into. Yet, at the same time, the Bible is also the very words of God given to us by His Spirit (1 Peter 1:21; 2 Timothy 3:16-17). These are not just words spoken in times past, but words that are alive for us to read today (Hebrews 4:12-13). The God of the universe actually addresses us today clearly in the pages of the Bible – amazing!

Jesus says the entire Bible points us to Him, that He is the focal point of it all. Listen to what He says, “He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.” (Luke 24:44). Or, again Jesus says, “You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life.” (John 5:39-40).

Knowing this is helpful in motivating us to read the Bible regularly, to keep building a bigger understanding of God’s purposes and how they are being fulfilled in Jesus. To help with this, the Daily Reading Notes now include an extra challenge: to read the whole Bible in two years. It’s totally optional, are you up for it?

There is a list of around 15 chapters of additional reading for each week of the term that will help you achieve this challenge. These readings can be done on whatever days work best and in whatever order you prefer to read them. At the end of each term you have a chance to catch up before the next term’s suggested readings begin again. You can also track your readings across the two years right here. Enjoy!

### YEAR 1: TERM 1

Week 1	Genesis 1-5; Psalms 1-4; Genesis 5-10; Matthew 1-2	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 2	Genesis 11-15; Psalms 5-7; Genesis 16-20; Matthew 3-4	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 3	Genesis 21-25; Psalms 8-10; Genesis 26-30; Matthew 5-6	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 4	Genesis 31-35; Psalms 11-16; Genesis 36-40; Matthew 7-9	<input type="checkbox"/>

Week 5	Genesis 41-45; Psalms 17-19; Genesis 46-50; Matthew 10-11	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 6	Exodus 1-5; Psalms 20-24; Exodus 6-10; Matthew 12-13	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 7	Exodus 11-15; Psalms 25-27; Exodus 16-20; Matthew 14-15	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 8	Exodus 21-25; Psalms 28-31; Exodus 26-30; Matthew 16-17	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 9	Exodus 31-35; Psalms 32-34; Exodus 36-40; Matthew 18-19	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 10	Leviticus 1-5; Psalms 35-37; Leviticus 6-10; Matthew 20-21	<input type="checkbox"/>

## YEAR 1: TERM 2

Week 1	Leviticus 11-15; Psalms 38-41; Leviticus 16-20; Matthew 22-24	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 2	Leviticus 21-27; Numbers 1-3; Proverbs 1-3; Matthew 25-26	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 3	Numbers 4-13; Proverbs 4-6; Matthew 27-28	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 4	Numbers 14-23; Proverbs 7-9; Acts 1-2	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 5	Numbers 24-33; Psalms 42-44; Acts 3-4	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 6	Numbers 34-36; Psalms 45-48; Acts 5-6	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 7	Deuteronomy 1-7; Psalms 49-51; Acts 7-8	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 8	Deuteronomy 8-17; Psalms 52-54; Acts 9-10	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 9	Deuteronomy 18-27; Psalms 55-57; Acts 11-12	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 10	Deuteronomy 28-34; Joshua 1-3; Psalms 58-61; Acts 13-14	<input type="checkbox"/>

## YEAR 1: TERM 3

Week 1	Joshua 4-13; Psalms 62-65; Acts 15-16	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 2	Joshua 14-23; Psalms 66-68; Acts 17-18	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 3	Joshua 24; Judges 1-9; Psalms 69-71; Acts 19-20	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 4	Judges 10-19; Psalms 72; Proverbs 10-11; Acts 21-22	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 5	Judges 20-21; Ruth 1-4; 1 Samuel 1-4; Proverbs 12-14; Acts 23-24	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 6	1 Samuel 5-14; Proverbs 15-17; Acts 25-26	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 7	1 Samuel 15-24; Proverbs 18-20; Acts 27-28	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 8	1 Samuel 25-31; 2 Samuel 1-3; Proverbs 21-22; Mark 1-2	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 9	2 Samuel 4-13; Psalms 73-75; Mark 3-4	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 10	2 Samuel 14-24; Psalms 76-77; Mark 5-6	<input type="checkbox"/>

# READ THE BIBLE IN TWO YEARS

## YEAR 1: TERM 4

Week 1	1 Kings 1-5; Psalms 78-80; 1 Kings 6-10; Mark 7-8	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 2	1 Kings 11-15; Psalms 81-83; 1 Kings 16-20; Mark 9-10	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 3	1 Kings 21-22; 2 Kings 1-8; Psalms 84-86; Mark 11-12	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 4	2 Kings 9-13; Psalms 87-89; 2 Kings 14-18; Mark 13-14	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 5	2 Kings 19-25; 1 Chronicles 1-3; Psalms 90-93; Mark 15-16	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 6	1 Chronicles 4-8; Psalms 94-96; 1 Chronicles 9-13; Romans 1-2	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 7	1 Chronicles 14-18; Psalms 97-101; 1 Chronicles 19-23; Romans 3-4	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 8	1 Chronicles 24-29; Psalms 102-104; Romans 5-6	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 9	2 Chronicles 1-5; Psalms 105-106; 2 Chronicles 6-10; Romans 7-8	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 10	2 Chronicles 11-15; Proverbs 23-25; 2 Chronicles 16-20; Romans 9-10	<input type="checkbox"/>

## YEAR 2: TERM 1

Week 1	2 Chronicles 21-25; Proverbs 26-28; 2 Chronicles 26-30; Romans 11-12	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 2	2 Chronicles 31-36; Ezra 1-4; Proverbs 29-31; Romans 13-14	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 3	Ezra 5-10; Nehemiah 1-4; Psalms 107-109; Romans 15-16	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 4	Nehemiah 5-13; Psalms 110-113; 1 Corinthians 1-2	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 5	Esther 1-10; Psalms 114-117; 1 Corinthians 3-4	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 6	Job 1-5; Psalms 118; Job 6-10; 1 Corinthians 5-6	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 7	Job 11-15; Psalms 119:1-48; Job 16-20; 1 Corinthians 7-8	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 8	Job 21-25; Psalms 119:49-96; Job 26-30; 1 Corinthians 9-10	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 9	Job 31-35; Psalms 119:97-144; Job 36-40; 1 Corinthians 11-12	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 10	Job 41-42; Ecclesiastes 1-8; Psalms 119:145-176; 1 Corinthians 13-14	<input type="checkbox"/>

## YEAR 2: TERM 2

Week 1	Ecclesiastes 9-12; Song of Songs 1-5; Psalms 120-122; 1 Cor 15-16	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 2	Songs of Songs 6-8; Isaiah 1-7; Psalms 123-125; Luke 1-2	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 3	Isaiah 8-12; Psalms 126-130; Isaiah 13-17; Luke 3-4	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 4	Isaiah 18-22; Psalms 131-135; Isaiah 23-27; Luke 5-6	<input type="checkbox"/>

Week 5	Isaiah 28-32; Psalms 136-138; Isaiah 33-37; Luke 7-8	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 6	Isaiah 38-42; Psalms 139-142; Isaiah 43-47; Luke 9-10	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 7	Isaiah 48-52; Psalms 143-145; Isaiah 53-57; Luke 11-12	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 8	Isaiah 58-62; Psalms 146-147; Isaiah 63-66; Luke 13-14	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 9	Jeremiah 1-5; Psalms 148-150; Jeremiah 6-10; Luke 15-16	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 10	Jeremiah 11-15; Luke 17-21; Jeremiah 16-20	<input type="checkbox"/>

### YEAR 2: TERM 3

Week 1	Jeremiah 21-25; Luke 21-24; Jeremiah 26-30; 2 Corinthians 1	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 2	Jeremiah 31-35; 2 Corinthians 2-7; Jeremiah 36-40	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 3	Jeremiah 41-45; 2 Corinthians 8-13; Jeremiah 46-50	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 4	Jeremiah 51-52; Lamentations 1-5; Galatians 1-6	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 5	Ezekiel 1-5; Ephesians 1-6; Ezekiel 6-10	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 6	Ezekiel 11-15; Philippians 1-4; Ezekiel 16-20	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 7	Ezekiel 21-25; Colossians 1-4; Ezekiel 26-30	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 8	Ezekiel 31-35; 1 Thessalonians 1-5; Ezekiel 36-40; 2 Thessalonians 1-3	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 9	Ezekiel 41-48; 1 Timothy 1-6; 2 Timothy 1-4	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 10	Daniel 1-10; Titus 1-3, Philemon	<input type="checkbox"/>

### YEAR 2: TERM 4

Week 1	Daniel 11-12; Hosea 1-8; Hebrews 1-7	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 2	Hosea 9-14; Joel 1-3; Hebrews 8-13	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 3	Amos 1-9; James 1-5; 1 Peter 1-5	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 4	Obadiah; Jonah 1-4; 2 Peter 1-3; 1 John; 2 John; 3 John	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 5	Micah 1-7; Nahum 1-3; Jude; Revelation 1-5	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 6	Habakkuk 1-3; Revelation 6-19:10	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 7	Zephaniah 1-3; Revelation 19:11-22:21	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 8	Haggai 1-2; John 1-12	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 9	Zechariah 1-14; John 13-17	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 10	Malachi 1-4; John 18-21	<input type="checkbox"/>

# INTRODUCTION: HEBREWS 1-7

**“Look out! You’re in grave danger!” Anyone with a boat licence knows the importance of paying attention and having a good anchor, especially in a storm.**

Hebrews was written to persecuted Jewish converts to Christianity (hence the name ‘Hebrews’) who were tempted to turn back. The message is simple: “Don’t fall away from Jesus! Instead, hold fast, and draw near!” (See Hebrews 2:1, 3:1, 3:12-14, 4:1, 4:11, 6:4-8.)

To spur them to hold fast, the writer (whose identity is difficult to pin down) mixes beautiful, logical, rich Christology (teaching about Jesus) with warnings and encouragements.

The heart of the book is that Jesus is better. He is better than the Old Testament prophets, angels, priests, promises, and covenants. In fact, they are all shadows that point to him as the reality. Hebrews is therefore an extremely helpful guide on how to read the Old Testament as a book that points to Jesus.

For the Jewish Christians, who were tempted to abandon Jesus and go back to Judaism to escape persecution, these powerful arguments show the foolishness of turning back. Jesus is better. He is worth every sacrifice. Why go back to the shadow now that the reality is here? And for us today, when pressure on Christians is increasing and a pandemic has kept us from the normal encouragement of Christian community, we too need to “fix our thoughts on Jesus” (3:1) so that we do not “drift away” (2:4).

These teaching sections of Hebrews lead directly to the letter’s warnings and encouragements. Hebrews puts out the traffic cones to mark the common hazards: the gradual drift (2:1), sin and its deceitfulness (3:13), hard hearts and unbelief (3:12). Out of love, the letter pulls no punches in vividly marking out the severe consequences of falling away (2:3, 4:11), which is taken to be a genuine danger and to be feared (6:4-6). But alongside the warnings are warm encouragements to have faith and confidence, hear the word, press on towards growth in Christian maturity, and especially to find help and grace from Jesus our High Priest, who can sympathise and save. This hope is the anchor for our souls (6:19), which gives us the hope and confidence to face the storm.

It’s a battle that cannot be won alone. We must encourage each other daily (3:13). That’s quite often! And we must find ways to meet and spur each other on (10:24-26). What an important word for our church in these times!



And the structure? The teaching, warning, and encouragement sections are woven together in a way that makes a clear structure difficult to diagram. The teaching sections are tightly argued, and move in a logical progression. But even here, smooth transition sections can make it hard to identify the start and end of some units of thought.

Some of the big sections to note in chapters 1-7 are:

- 1:1-4                      Introduction (God has spoken in his Son)
- 1:5-2:18                The Son is superior to Angels  
                              *Pay attention! (2:1-4)*
- 3:1-6                     Transition – The Faithful Son superior to Moses  
                              *Strive to enter God's rest! (3:7-4:13)*
- 4:14-10:25            The Son as our great High Priest  
                              *Warning against falling away! (5:11-6:12)*  
                              *Draw near! (10:19-25)*

May God use this wonderful letter (or sermon?) to lift our eyes to the true, reliable, glorious Son of God; our king, priest, prophet, and saviour.

### **A Spotify Playlist for this term in Hebrews!**

Visit [evchurch.info/playlist](http://evchurch.info/playlist) to find a curated Spotify playlist of songs that are soaked in the themes of Hebrews 1-7. We hope that this helps you to let God's word dwell richly in your mind and heart throughout the day.



### **Book recommendation: *Knowing Christ* by Mark Jones**

"I don't think there's a better, easier-to-read book on God the Son". (Ben Broadfoot) The heart of the Christian life is all about knowing God and knowing Christ (John 17:3). Hebrews tells us to "fix our thoughts on Jesus" and to "move beyond" the basics (Hebrews 3:1, 6:1). This book takes a look at the many facets of who Jesus is and why they matter for our lives each day. Each chapter is bite sized – less than 10 pages long. Suggestion: get a friend to read it at the same time as you, or your whole Growth Group, a chapter per week.

# WEEK 1: HEBREWS 1:1-4

*"Turn your eyes upon Jesus  
Look full, in his wonderful face  
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim  
In the light of his glory and grace" (Hymn)*

**From the first breath, Hebrews points our gaze to the glorious Son of God.**

**A song to listen to this week:**

[Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus, by Josh Garrels](#)

## DAY 1

### Read Hebrews 1:1-4

1. The letter explodes into life with a kaleidoscopic display of Jesus' greatness. List all the things we can learn about God's Son in just these few verses:

Who he is

What he has done

We will dig deeper into some of these things over the next few days.

2. Who is the writer of Hebrews trying to get us to focus on, right from the outset?
3. Where have you been focusing lately? What is your mind on when you first wake up? How could focusing on these truths about Jesus reshape your mindset today?

**Prayer:** Turn these truths about Jesus into a prayer of praise and thankfulness to him.

# BETTER THAN THE PROPHETS

## DAY 2

### Read Hebrews 1:1-4

#### BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

1 Kings 1-5; Psalms 78-80;  
1 Kings 6-10; Mark 7-8

1. When and how did God speak to “our ancestors”? And what is different about the way that he has spoken to “us”? (verses 1-2)
2. Where should we mainly turn if we want to hear from God? It might seem obvious, but there are lots of differing views. What would the writer of Hebrews say?
3. How does this fact give us confidence and clarity as we live the Christian life, trusting God and seeking to please him?

**Bonus:** We learn more about Jesus’ word in verse 3. What does it have to do with the movement of planets and the beating of your heart?

**Prayer:** Thank God that he has not left us guessing, but instead has spoken to us in many ways. Praise him especially for his ultimate word to us in Jesus. Thank him for the clear and beautiful truths of God that Jesus spoke and embodied. Ask him to help you to listen, trust, and obey.

# WEEK 1: HEBREWS 1:1-4

## DAY 3

### Read Hebrews 1:1-4

Verse 2 explores Jesus' and the Father's relationship to the universe.

1. What did God the Father "appoint" Jesus to be? What do you think this means? (Some verses that might help: Psalm 2:8, Matthew 11:27.)
  - a. What does this say about Jesus' relationship to people, to angels, to prophets, and to the world to come?
  - b. How should this shape the way you relate to him?
2. When God the Father created the world, how was Jesus involved? What do you think this means? (Does Psalm 33:6 give any clues?)
  - a. What does this say about Jesus' relationship to people, to angels, and to prophets?
  - b. How should this shape the way you relate to him?

**Prayer:** Thank the Father for creating you, through Jesus. Thank him for appointing Jesus to be your loving ruler and owner. Ask him to help you to live for him with honour, thankfulness, joy, and reverence.

**For further reflection:** George Guthrie says verse 2 "affirms the Father as the source of the created order and the Son as the Father's agent in the creative process"<sup>1</sup>. This is deep stuff about the Trinity! How often do you think about God as three in one, rather than just 'God'? We'll get a chance to reflect more on this tomorrow.

<sup>1</sup>George Guthrie, Hebrews, The NIV Application Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1998), 47.

# BETTER THAN THE PROPHETS

## DAY 4

### Read Hebrews 1:1-4

1. What two phrases does the first half of verse 3 use to describe the Son's relationship to God the Father? What do you think they mean?

*Note: 'radiance' is a rare word, referring to the light coming from a light source. And 'representation' is another rare word, referring to the imprint left by an engraving instrument, like the imprint on the back of a coin, which is how it came to mean 'reproduction' or 'representation'.*

2. These are very deep truths! Consider how verse 3 can be used to correct each of these mistakes:

*Mistake 1 – The Son = the Father*

*Mistake 2 – The Son is less than the Father*

*Mistake 3 – The Son and the Father are 2 separate gods*

*Mistake 4 – The Son is not God*

3. How does the Son's relationship to the Father help Jesus to reveal God to us (as we saw in verse 2)?
4. How should these mind-stretching truths about our Triune God move you to worship him as Father, Son, and Spirit?

**Prayer:** Declare in prayer to God as praises the wonderful things you know about who he is. Marvel at what you still don't understand and enjoy admitting that he is bigger than you, and worship his glorious Son.

*(Day 4 continues over the page)*



# WEEK 1: HEBREWS 1:1-4

## DAY 4

### (continued)

**For further reflection:** Below is the text of the Nicene Creed, which emerged from councils in Nicea (325 AD) and Constantinople (381 AD) after theological arguments about the Trinity. The Creed was agreed upon as a statement of what the Bible teaches. It has been affirmed ever since by all major branches of the Christian church. Consider how it seeks to capture the Bible's teachings about Father, Son, and Spirit.

### The Nicene Creed (325-381 AD)

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God,  
light from light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
one in Being with the Father.

For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he was born of the Virgin Mary  
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under  
Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered, died and was buried.

On the third day he rose again  
in fulfillment of the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand  
of the Father.

He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father  
[and the Son],  
who with the Father and the Son  
is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the  
prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic\*  
and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism  
for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection  
of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come.  
Amen.

\* 'catholic' means universal

Contemporary translation from  
[theopedia.com/nicene-creed](http://theopedia.com/nicene-creed)

# BETTER THAN THE PROPHETS

## DAY 5

### Read Hebrews 1:1-4

The second half of verse 3 talks about what Jesus did on earth and what he is doing now.

1. What did Jesus do while he was on earth, and why is it good news for guilty consciences?
2. What is he doing now? What does his posture now say about the state of the work he came to do? (See Hebrews 10:11-14)
3. God doesn't have a right or a left hand, of course. Although it is not a literal location, what does the "right hand" of the Father's throne show about Jesus' status and rule now? (See also Psalm 110:1-3)
4. When Satan tempts you to despair, and tells you of the guilt within, how does verse 3 help you to look upward and see him there, the one who made an end of all your sin?

**Prayer:** Thank God for sending Jesus, the sinless Saviour, who died so that your sinful soul could be counted free. Praise God for exalting and enthroning Jesus as the good ruler of his world. Ask him to help you trust him as Saviour and serve him as Lord.

You might like to listen to *Before the Throne of God Above* today to help you continue to meditate on this great gospel truth!

# WEEK 2: HEBREWS 1:5-2:4

Compared to angels, Jesus is “superior”, says Hebrews 1:4 – a word that pops up 13 times in the letter.<sup>2</sup> This week we see not only why Jesus is better than angels, but why it matters to our eternal salvation that we remember that fact, and pay attention to him!

**A song to listen to this week:**

[\*Chorus of the Saved\*, by Emu Music](#)

## DAY 1

Hebrews builds from rich teaching sections to passionate pleas. Chapter 1 provide the reasons for the serious warning in 2:1-4, so to help understand the ‘flight path’ of chapter 1, we’ll start by seeing where the plane lands in 2:1-4.

### Read Hebrews 2:1-4

1. What does the writer plead with us to do in verse 1?
2. What must we avoid doing, and why is it so dangerous?
3. Who have you seen drift away from our ‘great salvation’ and what seemed to contribute? Was it sudden and dramatic, or subtle and gradual?
4. What can you learn from these verses (especially verse 1) about how to avoid ‘drifting away’?

**Prayer:** Ask God to hold on to you and sustain your faith. Ask him to help you pay careful attention to God’s word, especially to the gospel message about Jesus as Saviour and Lord, so that you will never drift away. You may want to confess areas where you think you may be drifting, and turn from them in your heart.

<sup>2</sup>Search your bible app for the word “better”

# BETTER THAN THE ANGELS

## DAY 2

### BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

1 Kings 11-15; Psalms 81-83;  
1 Kings 16-20; Mark 9-10

Chapter 1 links together seven quotes from the Old Testament to contrast Jesus and angels. Today we dig into the first pair of quotes.

### Read Hebrews 1:4-5

1. List the differences between the Son and angels in these verses.
2. What does verse 5 particularly highlight about Jesus?
3. "Today I have become" ... When do you think that 'today' was?

**Clue:** Does it help to know that 'Son of God' is also sort of a job title? See Psalm 2:7-8, and 2 Samuel 7:12,14. Psalm 2 celebrates a king beginning to rule (a 'coronation Psalm'). Although he has always been 'God the Son', even before the world was made (1:2) and before his suffering (5:8), there was a time that he began to rule in a new way (1:3).\*

4. How conscious are you right now that the one you serve is God's Messiah King, risen, ascended, enthroned, and ruling God's world? Think of some decisions you will make this week – how do these truths affect those decisions?

**Prayer:** Humbly declare to God that you recognise Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of God, the ruler. Pray that you won't seek worship yourself, or worship any lesser created things, but like the angels, you will worship and serve him as king.

**\*Bonus:** If you wanted to go deeper, note what is said at Jesus' birth (Hebrews 1:6), baptism (Mark 1:11), transfiguration (Mark 9:7), and especially resurrection (Acts 13:33) and enthronement (Hebrews 1:3-4).

# WEEK 2: HEBREWS 1:5-2:4

## DAY 3

### Read Hebrews 1:6-14

1. What positive roles do angels play in God's plans? (See especially verses 6-7, 14)
2. In what ways do these verses also show angels to be less significant than the Son?
3. In light of these verses, what would you say to someone who was more interested in angels than in Jesus?

There's no reason to think that the original recipients of this letter were tempted to worship angels instead of Jesus (although some are today). But by the end of the week, we will understand why these comparisons between Jesus and angels would have motivated Jewish readers to hold on to Jesus.

**Prayer:** Thank God for sending angels to help, protect, and serve his saved people. If there are any things, people, or topics that have been distracting you and diverting your love away from Jesus, confess these things to God. Ask him to help you to value Jesus above all.



# BETTER THAN THE ANGELS

## DAY 4

### Read Hebrews 1:6-14

1. What features of the Son's rule described in verses 8-9 do you love the most?
2. What do we learn about the eternity of Jesus' rule in:  
Verse 8?  
  
Verses 10-11?  
  
Verse 12?
3. Describe what you imagine life would be like if our governments and authorities ruled with this kind of joy, goodness, stability, and justice.
4. What does that teach you about Heaven? And what does it imply about living Jesus' way now?

**Prayer:** Rejoice and thank God that his chosen ruler is really good, and never changes. Pray that your hope will rise as you reflect today on the day when justice and joy will fill the world permanently. Ask for help to trust that his rule is good when you are tempted to want to be your own ruler rather than listen to him.

# WEEK 2: HEBREWS 1:5-2:4

## DAY 5

Today we will see in the section's conclusion ("therefore") why Jesus and angels have been compared.

### Read Hebrews 2:1-4

1. "The message spoken through angels" is the Old Covenant, the law given to Moses (Acts 7:37-38, Galatians 3:19). What does verse 2 say happened to those who disobeyed it in Israel's history?
2. Who is the messenger of the New Covenant ('this salvation'), according to verse 3?
3. In light of what we've seen this week about Jesus vs angels, which message/messenger is more serious to disobey? What do you think the consequences of disobedience would be?
4. This letter was written to a group of Jewish people who had become followers of Jesus, but were tempted to turn back to Judaism. How does this argument help them to realise the seriousness of turning back?
5. How seriously do you take the danger of drifting away from Jesus?

**Prayer:** Ask God to impress on the deepest parts of your heart the seriousness of what it would mean to walk away from Jesus. Pray that he would hold on to you and all those in our Christian family at church.

# BETTER THAN THE ANGELS

## PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

# WEEK 3: HEBREWS 2:5-9

When Jesus became 'truly human' (in the words of the Nicene creed), did he become less than angels? For a little while, yes, says Hebrews 2. But if you look more closely, you find that it is yet another reason we should pay close attention to Jesus (verse 5 in Greek starts with "For", linking back to 2:1-4).

**A song to listen to this week:**

[\*Take Heart\*, by Emu Music](#)

## DAY 1

### Read Psalm 8

1. Hebrews 2:5-9 quotes this psalm, a song that celebrates God's work in creation. How do you see God's care for humanity in these verses?
2. What can you learn about the calling that God has given to humanity? (Compare Psalm 8:6-8 with Genesis 1:26, 28.)
3. How could you use this truth about God's care and calling for humanity to encourage someone today?

**Prayer:** Thank God that we are not just another animal, but in his kindness he has given us a special place in his plans for the world. Confess your sins in areas where you have not ruled his world as a good steward (of resources, relationships, or righteousness). Thank him for Jesus, who succeeded where we failed, who forgives and will pour out endless kindness on us eternally (Ephesians 2:7).

# TRUE MAN

## DAY 2

### Read Hebrews 2:5-9

#### BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

1 Kings 21-22; 2 Kings 1-8;  
Psalms 84-86; Mark 11-12

1. The word "subject" is key in this passage, popping up four times (one is translated 'put under' their feet). To "be subject" means to be under someone's rule or authority. (The same word is used in Romans 13:1, Ephesians 1:22, 5:21, 5:24)
  - a. Find each time the word is used in Hebrews 2:5-9 and try to re-write that bit without using the word 'subject'.
  - b. Can you think of an example of when bringing something under control is a really good thing?
  - c. How much of the world has God put under humanity's rule (verse 8)?
  - d. Do we see that happening in our world today, according to verse 8?

**Prayer:** God, we are sorry for humanity's sin. We are sorry that we have often failed to rule your world rightly, and we also grieve the effects of sin on our fallen world, the chaos and pain and frustration. Thank you for your promise to restore all things in Jesus, when 'the old order of things passes away' and you make everything new.



# WEEK 3: HEBREWS 2:5-9

## DAY 3

### Read Hebrews 2:5-9

1. Who does verse 9 point to as the ultimate fulfilment of Psalm 8, the true human?
2. In what ways was he “lower than angels”?
3. What’s the reason that the Father crowns him with glory, according to verse 9?
4. Why is it good news for our world that there is someone who does fulfil Psalm 8?

**Prayer:** Praise God for sending Jesus to be the representative human who perfectly fulfills our calling to rule the world and restore it to order. Pray that God would renew your trust in him and hope for the future. Thank him for his humility and willingness to suffer for others to bring this about, and pray you would be like him.

# TRUE MAN

## DAY 4

### Read Hebrews 2:5-9

1. The point being proved by Psalm 8 was actually made in verse 5. What's the point? How is Jesus better than angels, and when will that be seen?
2. How does that underline the importance of paying attention to Jesus rather than drifting away?
3. Imagine a persecuted Christian asking, 'Why are we being hurt by things that are under Jesus' rule (Ephesians 1:20-22)?' How does this passage explain our current situation and give hope for the future?

**Prayer:** Thank God for his plan to restore this world in the world to come. Pray for the eyes of faith to 'see' Christ's lordship over all situations, even while we wait for his lordship to be revealed and experienced in all its fullness. Pray that you will draw near to him rather than drift away, and trust his word and his plan.

# WEEK 3: HEBREWS 2:5-9

## DAY 5

### Read Hebrews 2:5-9

1. At the end of verse 9, the writer begins to transition to his next topic. What is the remarkable thing that this exalted ruler has tasted?
2. What did this achieve for us?
3. Put into words how it reassures you of his love to remember this.
4. Write or draw something that expresses the way this makes Jesus more approachable to you, especially in times of suffering.

**Prayer:** Spend some time talking to Jesus your friend (John 15:15). Thank him for his love. Thank him for becoming not only the true human who fulfils our calling, but also the true human who suffered our death so that we can live forever.

## PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

# WEEK 4: HEBREWS 2:10-18

We have seen Jesus, the exalted ruler, but Hebrews now shifts to the scandal of his suffering. So unlike a king, according to the value systems of our world, and yet so “fitting” (2:10) for this King who not only rules as the mighty Lord but also lovingly lowers himself to be our brother and priest, to help and save.

**A song to listen to this week:**

[Take the World but Give me Jesus, by Ascend the Hill](#)

## DAY 1

### Read Hebrews 2:10-18

1. Why did Jesus “have to” become like us?
2. What does a priest do, according to verses 16-18?
3. What does this encourage you to do when you:
  - a. Sin?
  - b. Suffer?
  - c. Face temptation?

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, do the work of a high priest for me! Deal with my many sins, and make me clean. Silence the accusations of Satan and my conscience. Help me fight temptation. Remove my fear of death as I trust in your victorious death for me. Carry my prayers to God my Father. Help me to come to you in times of need. Thank you for all you do for me as my great High Priest. Amen.



# LIKE HIS BROTHERS

## DAY 2

### Read Hebrews 2:10-18

#### BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

2 Kings 9-13; Psalms 87-89;  
2 Kings 14-18; Mark 13-14

1. Who made Jesus perfect, and how?
2. Perfect to do what? (verses 17-18)
3. Why was this “fitting” (appropriate)?
4. What makes Jesus different to other powerful people you can think of? What might it look like to be more like Jesus today?

**Prayer:** Thank you, Jesus, that through the suffering of your death you perfectly finished the mission you were given and became perfectly suited to being a high priest to suffering sinners like us. I marvel at your humility, gentleness, and love. Please help me follow your example of sacrificial service this week.

# WEEK 4: HEBREWS 2:10-18

## DAY 3

### Read Hebrews 2:10-18

1. How do we see Jesus' unity with us?

Verse 11

Verse 12

Verse 13

Verse 14

2. Do you tend to think of Jesus more as Lord, Saviour, or friend?

3. How would thinking of him as 'brother' change:

- a. Your prayers?
- b. Your moments of loneliness?
- c. Your approach to gathering with other Christians?

**Prayer:** Thank your heavenly Father that Jesus didn't just look like a human; he genuinely became one of us. Thank him that by his death he has made us children in God's family, so that he is not only Lord over us but also our brother beside us. Ask him to help you to come to him with confidence.

# LIKE HIS BROTHERS

## DAY 4

### Read Hebrews 2:10-18

1. What did Jesus achieve for us?

Verse 10

Verse 11

Verse 14-15

Verse 17

2. Which of Jesus' achievements most encourages your soul today?
3. Who do you know (Christian or not) that would benefit from being taught or reminded of one of these things today?

**Prayer:** Thank you for making Jesus the author of our salvation rather than asking us to save ourselves. Thank you for defeating the devil, destroying our fear of death, making us holy, taking away our sins and punishment, and bringing many to glory. What a great salvation! Help me to trust and rejoice in your finished work for me today, and help me to fight temptation while I wait for glory.

# WEEK 4: HEBREWS 2:10-18

## DAY 5

### Read Hebrews 2:10-18

1. In Hebrews so far, where have we seen Jesus as:
  - a. Prophet?
  - b. King?
  - c. Priest?
2. What would we miss if Jesus was only one or two of those things?
3. Writing to people tempted to drift away, what do you notice about the topic or person that this letter has focused on in almost every verse?
  - a. What can this focus teach us about remaining a Christian and helping others to do that? (See 3:1)

#### Prayer:

Lord, you have given me a portion in the world.

You have given me credit and a reputation among others.

But what is all this to me, if I am without Christ?

If I do not have the one who gives grace to my soul, the one who is my all in all?

Lord, you have taught me this day that the distance between you and me is so great that without a mediator, I perish forever.

So whatever else you deny me, give me Jesus. Amen.

(Jeremiah Burroughs)<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup>Jeremiah Burroughs, "Give Me Jesus," in *Piercing Heaven: Prayers of the Puritans*, ed. Robert Elmer (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2019), 23.

# LIKE HIS BROTHERS

## PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

# WEEK 5: HEBREWS 3:1-18

Is 'once saved, always saved' true? It is right to treasure God's promise to finish the work he began in us (Philippians 1:6). He will help his people trust him all their days!

And yet, Hebrews 3 is concerned that we do not become complacent. Because the flipside of these precious truths is that if we do not hold on to him all our days, we show we were never truly his.

**A song to listen to this week:**

[\*Be Thou My Vision\*, by Shane & Shane](#)

## DAY 1

### Read Hebrews 3:1-6

1. What words or phrases does the writer use to describe his readers? (Especially verses 1 and 6)
2. How is Jesus similar to Moses, and how is he superior?
3. Verse 6 reinforces the importance of holding fast to our faith. Where must we constantly look in order to hold fast? (Verse 1)
4. How can you consciously direct your thoughts there more often?

**Prayer:** Pray that you will fix your thoughts on Jesus and our heavenly calling.

# BETTER THAN MOSES

## DAY 2

### Read Hebrews 3:7-12

#### BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

2 Kings 19-25; 1 Chronicles 1-3;  
Psalms 90-93; Mark 15-16

This passage quotes Psalm 95, a psalm in which lessons from Israel's disobedience in the wilderness are applied to later Israelites.

1. What did they do? What was God's reaction? What were the consequences?
2. What lessons should later Israelites have learned from their history?
3. By applying this psalm to Christian readers a few hundred years later, what lesson is the author of Hebrews wanting us to learn? (Verses 16-19)

**Prayer:** Pray that you will be a person who hears and obeys God's voice in the Bible.

**Bonus:** Psalm 95 was written hundreds of years before Hebrews, yet verse 7 introduces the quote with "as the Holy Spirit says" (rather than "said"). What does this quote teach you about what happens when we read the Bible, or speak the Bible to others?





# BETTER THAN MOSES

## DAY 4

### Read Hebrews 3:12-19

1. What sort of heart will be turned away from God and his heavenly rest?  
(See verses 12, 13, 19)
2. How is the state of your heart?
  - a. Where might sin be deceiving you?
  - b. Where are you not letting yourself trust him?
  - c. Which way are you turning?

**Prayer:** This prayer is the confession said by the whole congregation, all kneeling, in the 1662 Book of Common Prayer (language slightly updated):

Almighty and most merciful Father;  
We have erred, and strayed from your ways like lost sheep.  
We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts.  
We have offended against your holy laws.  
We have left undone those things which we ought to have done;  
And we have done those things which we ought not to have done;  
And there is no health in us.  
O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders.  
Spare those, O God, who confess their faults.  
Restore those who are penitent; According to your promises declared  
to mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake that we may hereafter live  
a godly, righteous, and sober life,  
To the glory of your holy Name. Amen.

# WEEK 5: HEBREWS 3:1-18

## DAY 5

### Read Hebrews 3:1-9

1. How many times do these verses mention Jesus' faithfulness? How does that contrast with Israel?
2. "Fix your thoughts on Jesus" (verse 1). What aspects of Jesus' example, faithful character, and accomplishments encourage you to remain faithful?
3. Who are you aware of that you worry may be slipping in their faith? What could you do to encourage them to continue looking to Jesus?

**Prayer:** Pray for these people and yourself to keep trusting and obeying as we look to Jesus.

# BETTER THAN MOSES

## PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

# WEEK 6: HEBREWS 4:1-13

Chapter 4 continues to unpack and apply Psalm 95. It's very similar to what we do in church today, isn't it! Working through a part of the Bible, explaining its meaning and relevance for today's hearers. Having unpacked "today if you hear his voice", the author turns to the words "they shall never enter my rest" to encourage us to make sure we don't miss out on that rest ourselves!

**A song to listen to this week:**

[\*Yet Not I but Through Christ in Me\*, by CityAlight](#)

## DAY 1

### Read Hebrews 4:1-3

The 'rest' theme is key to following the argument of this chapter. Today we'll do some background digging.

1. Read Genesis 2:2-3. When did God start resting, and has he stopped?
2. Read Joshua 1:13 and 22:4. What did the Israelites find in the promised land?
3. Who brings us into God's rest? (See Matthew 11:28-29)
4. When do you think we will ultimately enter God's rest, and how can we enjoy his rest even in this world?

**Prayer:** Thank God for the promise of eternal rest, and also the rest for our weary souls that we find in our relationship with him even now. Although we aren't under the Sabbath law, pray that you will find ways to enjoy 'Sabbath rest' in him as part of the rhythm of each day and week.

# ENTER HIS REST!

## DAY 2

### Read Hebrews 4:6-11

#### BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

1 Chronicles 4-8; Psalms 94-96;

1 Chronicles 9-13; Romans 1-2

1. An ancient Israelite could be forgiven for thinking that Joshua had already given the people rest, as we saw yesterday (Joshua 22:4).
  - a. But what do these verses of Hebrews say? Is God's rest something entered into in the past, or something still to be entered into in the future?
  - b. How does Psalm 95 help to show this? (See verses 7-9)
2. In what ways is entering his rest the opposite of works and salvation by works (see verses 3 and 10)?
3. And yet what is the place of effort or striving?

**Prayer:** Pray that you will not try to save yourself by your works but will rest on Jesus. And pray you will strive to do all you can to make sure you don't fall away from him and fail to enter his rest.

# WEEK 6: HEBREWS 4:1-13

## DAY 3

### Read Hebrews 4:1-5

1. Verse 1 says we should have “fear” (ESV). What do these verses do to grow our fear?
2. Why do you think appropriate fear helps us in the Christian life?
3. What should this fear motivate us to do? (See verses 1, 3, 11)

**Prayer:** Ask for appropriate fear, and that you will be careful, continue to believe, and make every effort to remain in him.



# ENTER HIS REST!

## DAY 4

### Read Hebrews 4:11-13

1. What surprising things does this say about the word of God?
2. In context, do you think the sword image is meant to be comforting or scary?
3. 'The same sun which melts wax hardens clay' (Spurgeon). The word is always having an effect.
  - a. What word activities does this encourage you to continue in?
  - b. What attitudes or approaches to these activities could be dangerous?

**Prayer:** Thank God for his living and active word, and the ways he has worked in your life through it. Pray that you will not forget that it will also be used in judgment, and so pray for reverence and trembling in all your encounters with his word (Isaiah 66:2).

# WEEK 6: HEBREWS 4:1-13

## DAY 5

We have jumped around this section to try to grasp the argument. We'll finish the week by reading it all in one go to see how it comes together.

### Read Hebrews 4:1-13

1. What does God know? (Verse 13)
2. What do you think it will look like for us to "give account" (verse 13)?
3. How has this week's passage challenged and encouraged you?

**Prayer:** Confess to God, who sees every detail of our lives, anything you need to repent of, asking for forgiveness and help to continue to serve, trust, and rest in him until we enter his rest forever.

ENTER HIS REST!

## PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

# WEEK 7: HEBREWS 4:14-5:10

**Great news!**

**"Before the throne of God above**

**I have a strong, a perfect plea**

**A great High Priest, whose name is Love**

**Who ever lives and pleads for me"**

**A song to listen to this week:**

*Before the Throne of God Above, by Shane & Shane*

## DAY 1

### Read Hebrews 4:14-5:3

These verses compare Jesus, our true high priest, with Israel's high priests who served as "shadows" of the one to come.

1. What are the points of similarity and contrast between Jesus and the Old Testament high priest in these verses?
2. In what way did the sins of the Old Testament high priest impact his people? (Leviticus 4:3)
3. How does Jesus make the Old Testament priests obsolete, and why does this matter to us practically? (Hebrews 10:14)

**Prayer:** Praise God for the wisdom to inspire Scriptures that show us the supremacy of Jesus.

# THE BETTER HIGH PRIEST

## DAY 2

### Read Hebrews 4:14-16

#### BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

1 Chronicles 14-18; Psalms 97-101;

1 Chronicles 19-23; Romans 3-4

In Hebrews 3 and 4, Jesus is greater than Moses because he leads us to the true land of rest. In these chapters Jesus is greater because he leads us into the true “sanctuary”, which is heaven (4:14).

1. Jesus was tempted in every way just as we are. How is this knowledge helpful to us? (See 4:15-16; 5:2)
2. If Jesus was tempted in every way, does this mean he had a sinful nature like us? Why does this matter?
3. Some groups pray to 'saints' because it's thought that they can understand us better than either the Son or the Father. What should we conclude about that practice?

**Prayer:** Give thanks to God that in sending his Son, he took pains to ensure that our high priest would understand our humanity.

# WEEK 7: HEBREWS 4:14-5:10

## DAY 3

### Read Hebrews 5:4-6

1. What are the points of similarity and contrast between Jesus and the Old Testament high priest in these verses?
2. What various things did the high priest do? (See Leviticus 16:30-34; Numbers 27:21; Exodus 28:29,30)
3. If Jesus has made atonement for us once and for all, why do we continue to need his continuing priesthood? (Hebrews 7:25)

**Prayer:** Are there concerns which you need to take to your high priest? Take a moment to do that now.

# THE BETTER HIGH PRIEST

## DAY 4

### Read Hebrews 5:7-10

It can surprise us to find that Jesus “learned obedience” (verse 8) and was “made perfect” (verse 9). These two ideas are complementary.

1. How did Jesus learn obedience? As the eternal Son from the Father, what could there have been for Jesus to “learn”?
2. Verse 7 gives an illustration. Can you think of any times in Jesus’ life when he did this? What might these moments tell us about what he may have “learned”?
3. Jesus was “made perfect” (verse 9). This doesn’t mean that he was morally flawed. The word “perfect” has the sense of ‘made complete for the task’. In what way did Jesus’ suffering make him complete for the task of being our high priest?

**Prayer:** How wonderful that God in Trinity took no shortcuts in providing for our needs. Give thanks that we have a perfectly suited high priest.



# WEEK 7: HEBREWS 4:14-5:10

## DAY 5

### Read Hebrews 4:14-16

The author has an ongoing pattern to his writing in Hebrews. He tells us of the Old Testament 'shadow', the New Testament 'reality', and the 'exhortation' that we need.

1. In these verses, what is the 'shadow' and what is the 'reality'?
2. To 'exhort' someone is to strongly urge them to do something. What's the first exhortation in these verses? Do you need the help of your high priest in doing this?
3. What is the second exhortation in verse 16? Why can we be confident of receiving mercy and grace to help us if we approach God's throne?

**Prayer:** Prayer is a gift, won by Jesus for people who always need help. Take time now to ask God for his help.

# THE BETTER HIGH PRIEST

## PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

# WEEK 8: HEBREWS 5:11-6:12

Years ago, my youth group leader told me that being a Christian was like riding a bicycle: 'if you're not peddling, you start wobbling'. And 'it's like hanging on to a greasy pole: if you're not climbing, you're sliding'. We come this week to one of the most severe warning passages in Hebrews, where the genuine possibility of falling away presents each of us with the question: am I growing up or falling away?

**A song to listen to this week:**

[Hold On To Me, by Lauren Daigle](#)

## DAY 1

### Read Hebrews 5:11-14

1. What can you find out about the process of maturity in these verses? What place does 'habit' seem to have in this process? (Verse 14)
2. Not all Christians have the gift of teaching (Ephesians 4:11), nor should all take up the official role of teacher (James 3:1), but what should all Christians be doing, according to verse 12?
3. What kind of teaching should we all be able to do? Is this the case with you?
4. Make a list of what you think the "elementary truths" of the gospel might be.

**Prayer:** Pray that God will help you move beyond the elementary truths to maturity so you can help others.

# WARNING!

## DAY 2

### Read Hebrews 6:1-6

#### BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

1 Chronicles 24-29; Psalms 102-104;  
Romans 5-6

There's a danger for the Christian who never seems to move beyond beginnings!

1. The elementary truths in verses 1-3 appear in the context of people moving from Judaism to Christianity. Which of these truths made it into your list from question 4 yesterday?
2. In verses 4-6, what seems to be the danger for those who never move beyond beginnings?
3. What symptoms might you look for in this kind of person?

**Prayer:** Pray for those in our fellowship who are new or unsettled in Christian life that they would move beyond the "elementary truths".

# WEEK 8: HEBREWS 5:11-6:12

## DAY 3

### Read Hebrews 6:4-6

Can a Christian “fall away”? It is a question that causes lots of disagreement. But be encouraged, there is an answer!

1. Remember that this letter is addressed to newly converted Jewish Christians. In that context, what specifically is said to be impossible in verses 4-6?
2. What would it mean for Jewish believers to cause “public disgrace” to Jesus? (Verse 6)
3. Consider the things these people are said to have experienced in verses 4-5. Is it possible for someone to have “tasted” of these things and yet not be born again?

**Prayer:** The work of the Holy Spirit in bringing new birth is crucial to our salvation. Pray that God would pour out his Spirit on many and seal us as his own. (Ephesians 1:13,14)

# WARNING!

## DAY 4

### Read Hebrews 6:4-8

1. In verses 7-8, what is the difference between a person who receives God's blessing and one who does not?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Look up some of these passages. What do they say about the person who is born of the Spirit?
  - a. John 15:16; 2 Thessalonians 2:13,14; 1 Peter 1:2
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. Philippians 1:6; John 10:28
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Given that God produces fruit in all who are genuinely born again, what should be our attitude to living the Christian life? (Compare today's passage to Philippians 2:12,13 or 2 Peter 1:5-11.)

**Prayer:** Is there an area in your life in which the Holy Spirit is prompting you to grow? Pray that he will help you to do this.

# WEEK 8: HEBREWS 5:11-6:12

## DAY 5

### Read Hebrews 6:9-12

1. It seems that these people have not yet “fallen away”. So, what does the author urge them to do?
2. It is sometimes said, 'Once a Christian, always a Christian.' What biblical truth is this expression trying to capture? What danger could it produce?
3. In the question of falling away, we need to tie together God’s sovereign work in his children with their responsibility to “work out their salvation”. With that in mind, complete this expression with a statement about our responsibility:

All who are genuinely born again will....

**Prayer:** Thank God that he sovereignly works in all his children to cause them to bear fruit and persevere to the end.



# WARNING!

**For further reflection:** If you are struggling to tie these truths together in your mind, you're not alone! These are difficult topics. One helpful way to think about this is: 'A genuine Christian can fall away... but they won't.'

A few points to unpack that:

1. God promises to help those who are truly his to continue to trust Jesus to the end. This affirms the promises like Philippians 1:6 and John 10:28. Genuine Christians, born again by the Spirit, who have trusted in Christ as saviour and turned to follow him, won't fall away.
2. If a Christian was not careful, it is possible (humanly speaking) that they could fall away. This affirms the warning passages, like Hebrews 6:1-12 and 10:26-35, as real warnings.
3. It is actually through these warnings that God holds on to his people. He uses his word to help us to see the danger and run from it. "My sheep hear my voice", says Jesus (John 10:27). The genuine Christian recognises the Father's warnings and by his Spirit he helps us to listen and obey them, which keeps us from falling away.
4. Some who appear to be Christians and may have even benefited from being in Christian community and learned from God's word may still not be genuine believers. This can lead to them failing to take the warnings seriously, and so they fall away (see Hebrews 3:14).
5. It is possible that God could use these warnings to awaken a person who is not yet a genuine believer to the seriousness of their situation, and move them to become a genuine believer.
6. It is likely that the writer of Hebrews assumed that his readers were a mixture of genuine Christians and those who only appeared to be Christians. It makes sense that he would want to urge all of these people to take seriously the danger of walking away from Christ, and instead motivate them to true faith and obedience.

This general framework is probably the most helpful way to understand the warning passages in Hebrews.

If you want to dig deeper:

- Andrew Heard has written an article on this topic, called '[Can Christians Fall Away](#)'. It is available at [evchurch.info/resources/articles](http://evchurch.info/resources/articles)
- Two other helpful (but much longer) articles are
  - '[Reflections on Christian Assurance](#)' (D.A. Carson)
  - '[Perseverance and Assurance: A Survey and a Proposal](#)' (Thomas R. Schreiner)

Both can be easily read on the internet by putting the titles and authors into your search engine.

# WEEK 9: HEBREWS 6:13-6:20

**What could be more important in the storms of life than a rock solid anchor?**

**A song to listen to this week:**

[Christ the Sure and Steady Anchor](#), by Matt Boswell and Matt Papa

## DAY 1

### Read Hebrews 6:13-15

The covenant God makes with Abraham appears in Genesis 12, 15 and 17. But something new is then added in Genesis 22:1-19.

1. What is the author's major point in these verses from Hebrews 6:13-15?
2. Genesis 22 is the story of Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his only son, trusting that God would be able to raise him again (Hebrews 11:19). Read Genesis 22:15-18 and identify God's promised blessing. Are these promises new, or do they repeat an earlier promise?
3. What was the outcome of Abraham's patient waiting, according to Hebrews 6:15?

**Prayer:** Pray that God will move us to be people with a patient and productive faith.

# AN ANCHOR FOR THE SOUL

## DAY 2

### Read Hebrews 6:13-18

#### BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

2 Chronicles 1-5; Psalms 105-106;  
2 Chronicles 6-10; Romans 7-8

1. According to the author, in verses 17-18, why did God swear by himself in his promise to Abraham?
2. Who are the heirs of this promise to Abraham (verse 17)? (See Galatians 3:7-9 and 28-29.)
3. Confidence of our status before God is of vital importance to a healthy faith. How can you be sure that you are God's child?

**Prayer:** Give thanks for our Heavenly Father who wants us to be in no doubt that we are accepted into his family.

# WEEK 9: HEBREWS 6:13-6:20

## DAY 3

### Read Romans 8:12-17

Assurance of salvation is the fruit of genuine faith in Jesus. There are three parts to assurance, one of which was mentioned yesterday (i.e. trust in the faithful promise of God – see Hebrews 6:17-18). However, there are two more.

1. What is the work of the Spirit in verses 12 and 13?
2. John also points out two signs of the Spirit transforming the life of the true believer. What are they? (See 1 John 2:3; 1 John 3:14)
3. What is the assuring work of the Spirit in Romans 8:16-17?

**Prayer:** Ask God to strengthen your sense of assurance that you are right with him.

# AN ANCHOR FOR THE SOUL

## DAY 4

### Read Hebrews 6:16-20

1. How does the author describe the sure "hope" of salvation in verse 19?
2. How is the assurance of salvation an 'anchor for the soul'?
3. What are the common circumstances in life that especially require an anchor for the soul? Are there any of these which are troubling you, or other Christian friends now?

**Prayer:** Consider your answers to (3) above and pray about them now.

# WEEK 9: HEBREWS 6:13-6:20

## DAY 5

### Read Hebrews 6:19-20

An anchor is only as good as the solid ground in which it is set.

1. Where is your anchor for the soul set?
2. Remember the author's pattern: shadow, reality and exhortation. Consider the inner sanctuary in the temple. It is an Old Testament shadow, but what is the reality? (Hint: it is where Jesus has entered)
3. Jesus is called our "forerunner". In Hebrews 2:10, he is called the "pioneer" of our faith. The words are different but the idea is similar. How does it help our assurance to know that Jesus is our forerunner?

**Prayer:** Consider your Christian friends and those in your Growth Group. Pray that they will benefit from the knowledge that Jesus is our forerunner.

# AN ANCHOR FOR THE SOUL

## PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

# WEEK 10: HEBREWS 7:1-28

**For the writer of Hebrews, the theme of shadow and reality is always near. This week we see how Melchizedek foreshadowed Jesus.**

**A song to listen to this week:**

[\*We Draw Near\*, by Caroline Cobb](#)

## DAY 1

### **Read Hebrews 6:20-7:3**

The appearance of Melchizedek is a striking interruption to the text, both in Genesis and Hebrews. (If you want to read the full account, see Genesis 14:1-24.)

1. What few things do you learn about Melchizedek here?
2. How does Abraham show his regard for Melchizedek?
3. In what ways does Melchizedek resemble the Son of God?

**Prayer:** The New Testament is the key to interpreting the Old Testament. Pray that God will help you to grow in your application of this principle as a result of our study of Hebrews this term.



# A NEW PRIESTHOOD

## DAY 2

### Read Hebrews 7:1-10

#### BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

2 Chronicles 11-15; Proverbs 23-25;  
2 Chronicles 16-20; Romans 9-10

1. These verses seem complicated but what simple point do you think the author is making by comparing Melchizedek and Abraham in verses 4-10?
2. The Levites are the tribe from which Israel's priests came. What point do you think the author is making by comparing Melchizedek and Levi in verses 4-10?
3. Melchizedek, like Jesus, is a far better priest than the Levitical priests because he is declared to be living. Why does it matter that you have a living priest?

**Prayer:** Pray for yourself and your Growth Group friends that you'll never fail to run to your priest for help.

# WEEK 10: HEBREWS 7:1-28

## DAY 3

### Read Hebrews 7:11-19

It's always hard for those from a strong tradition, especially a religious tradition, to break with that tradition. It can feel like a betrayal. That's what the author of Hebrews is contending with here, because his Jewish readers have become Christians.

1. What two traditional Jewish institutions does the author say need changing in these verses. What reason does he give for the change?
2. The law of God is wonderful, but what does verse 19 say about its power to bring about the "perfection" or change which human beings need? Why? (See Hebrews 5:2-3; 7:8,16,18,23; Romans 7:13.)
3. Compare verses 13 and 14. What tribe was Jesus from, and why does that pose a problem for calling him 'priest'? And how does it help to notice that the Old Testament highly honours a priest of a different 'order' (arrangement) before Levi even existed?
4. We all have traditions or habits of life which keep us from trusting Jesus as we should. What 'traditions' might be barriers that prevent us from fully accepting him?

**Prayer:** Pray for yourself and for those with strong traditional backgrounds that God will help us overcome these barriers.

# A NEW PRIESTHOOD

## DAY 4

### Read Hebrews 7:20-22

The important word “covenant” makes its first appearance in this letter in verse 22. God’s “covenants” are highly significant because they outline the terms in which God relates to his people. Since tabernacle and sacrifices were essential to this relationship in the Old Testament, the role of the priest was central to the covenant.

1. What powerful argument does the author give here for these Jewish Christians to avoid turning back to their traditional priests?
2. This quote is from Psalm 110. To whom is the Lord Yahweh speaking in that Psalm? (See Psalm 110:1, Hebrews 1:13.)
3. As the perfect priest, Jesus is said to be the “guarantor” of the covenant. What attributes enable Jesus to “guarantee” our new covenant arrangement? How does this give us confidence?

**Prayer:** The fact that Jesus guarantees our relationship with God is beyond wonderful. Pray that God will help you grasp more deeply the significance of it and find your confidence in it.

# WEEK 10: HEBREWS 7:1-28

## DAY 5

### Read Hebrews 7:23-28

1. What attributes of Jesus make him the one priest who can meet our needs?
2. What need do we have now for human priests?
3. Remember the author's pattern: shadow, reality and exhortation? In this passage, what is the shadow and what is the reality?
4. While the author has not yet given any formal exhortation (or encouragement) in this section, if you were him what do you think it should be? (Once you've given your answer, you could compare it with the author's in 10:19-25.)

**Prayer:** The 2021 Census will tell us that a large proportion of Australians are Roman Catholics who have a powerful priestly tradition. Pray that God will enable many of them to see the supremacy of Jesus and therefore come to him.

# A NEW PRIESTHOOD

## PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES



### **Chris and Kristy Galea (CMS) Malta**

Chris and Kristy Galea with Josh, Esther and Caleb continue to settle and learn language. Pray for their involvement at their local evangelical church as they listen, learn and become involved in ministries and disciple believers. Please pray for the family's witness, new relationships and for people to put their hope in Jesus alone.



### **Craig and Samantha McCorkindale (CMS) Cambodia**

Craig is teaching Theology in Khmer at Phnom Penh Bible School and Sam will be involved in ESL support of students. Pray for the college students as they grow in their faith despite continued COVID-related disruptions in Cambodia – all classes are online. Pray for the family (Claire, Hannah and Joel) as they school-at-home, reconnect with neighbours and church.



### **Colin and Jill Bakon (SIM) Church and Missionary Mobilisation**

Colin and Jill have arrived in Malaga, Spain. They will spend time looking into local church ministry and Colin will continue with the 'Simply Mobilising' work with pastors. Pray for them as they settle and develop relationships. Continue to pray for Spain – for people to know Jesus as Lord and recovery from COVID across the country.

**GENEVA  
PUSH >>**

### **The Geneva Push Australia**

An Aussie church planting network that aims to see hundreds of new churches started across the country. Anchor and Manning churches are part of this network.



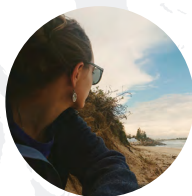
### **Reach Australia**

A fresh initiative that combines the strengths of a number of like-minded ministries. RA want to see healthy, evangelistic and multiplying churches reaching the lost across Australia.



### **Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches Australia**

FIEC, the 'denomination' EV is part of, and is committed to praying, and providing support and encouragement to one another. FIEC is aiming, with God's help, to plant 100 churches across Australia during the next 15 years.



**Kirri**  
**(SIM) West Africa**

Kirri is currently learning language in France for one year, then will join with a new church plant team based in a remote community in Central Africa. Pray for people in this region to come to know Jesus as their Lord. Pray for Kirri as she re-settles and learns language, and for the team as they establish themselves and serve those around them.



**Martin and Jen Shadwick**  
**(AFES) Newcastle University**

Martin and Jen (Hannah, Evie, Connor, and Jacinta) lead the AFES team at Newcastle University discipling and training Christian students. Thank God for opportunities to share about Jesus and pray this can continue freely, pray for continued discipleship and training of new believers and leaders during these challenging times.



**Amber Masters**  
**Tuggerah Lakes Scripture Board (TLSB)**

Amber Masters is working for the TLSB at the Tuggerah Lakes Senior High campus (The Entrance) teaching scripture to Year 11 students. Pray for Amber and the team as they manage the challenges of COVID and sharing about Jesus in schools throughout the rest of 2021. (Nicole Berlach is on Maternity Leave until end 2021).



**Anchor Church**  
**Coffs Harbour**

Pray for Tim and Deb Baldwin (Evie, Joey, Luka and Levi) and the team as they reach out with the good news of Jesus in the Coffs area. Pray for wisdom as they lead the congregation, make connections and disciple new believers.



**Manning Bible Church (MBC)**  
**Taree**

Pray for Joel and Hannah Hill (Amy, Finn, John, Bert, Diggy and Billy) and the team at MBC in Taree. Continue to pray for more disciples, more people reconnecting with God and his people, and for the lost to know Jesus for the first time.



