

Hebrews 1:1-2:4

Who were the Prophets and forefathers? What were the various times and ways?

How does God speak to us now?

What does the writer mean by in these last days? Does the "*but in these last days*" (v2) make the previous ways He spoke irrelevant? Why/Why not?

What evidence does the writer give in vv.3-6 of the worthiness of the Son?

In what ways is Jesus superior to the angels? (vv5-14)

What do God's revelations of himself tell us about him?

Why is it important that Jesus is superior to the angels? (2:1-4 might help) what was this message that was so binding that the angels spoke?

How does the description of Jesus in this chapter compare with the way he is viewed by our society?

What are some obvious signs and causes of someone drifting away?

What are the dangers for you drifting? How can you combat these?

Hebrews 2:5-18

What do people really mean when they say, “I am only human?”

What is the biggest problem of being human?

What ways do people look for solutions to this problem?

Read Psalm 8

What are the two things that stand out from Psalm 8 and what it says about mankind?

What seems to be the problem in Hebrews 2:8b? What does the rest of the passage say is the solution to this problem 2:9?

What obstacles does Jesus have to overcome in order to fulfil vv10-11?

How do we benefit from the fact that Jesus shared in our humanity? (vv.14-16)

How does Jesus destroy the bond of slavery?

What is the benefit of this for us?

What evidence is there that people still fear death?

What reason have we to not fear death?

Hebrews 3:1-4:13

How do you feel when you have been let down by others? Does it differ if the other person is a loved one or close friend?

How is Jesus like Moses yet far greater? Why is the builder of the house worthy of greater honour than the house?

How do we know that we are “Gods house” v6?

What does it mean for us to fix our thoughts on Jesus? V1

What things distract you from doing this?

Why was the message they heard of no value to them? (4:2)

Thinking back to Genesis and creation, what was it that God rested from? Did humanity ever share in that rest? What stopped them from doing so?

What is our future rest according to Hebrews?

In what ways is our life experience similar to that of Israelites of Moses time? How are we warned to be different from them?

How can we live 4:11? What should our attitude to Gods word be? (4:11-13)

How is sin deceptive and how can it harden our hearts?

Hebrews 4:14-5:10

What is something that you didn't realise the value of until it was gone?

Why is the writer to the Hebrews encouraging us not to drift away from Jesus in this passage?

Why were priests so important in the Old Testament?

What are similarities between Jesus and the Old Testament High Priests?

In this passage the author explains four ways that Jesus is a High Priest greater than those in the Old Testament, what are they?

- i.
- ii.
- iii.
- iv.

In what sense did Jesus have to "learn obedience" and "be made perfect"? (5:8-9)

What was the result of Jesus willing obedience to his father?

Why can we have confidence to enter God's presence?

Is this passage a licence to sit back and relax because we are sure of what Jesus has done for us? Why/Why not?

What does the passage encourage us to do?

What are some of the things in our past that might disqualify us from approaching God now? Why do we feel like there might be some things that can stop us?

Why won't God refuse us?

Hebrews 5:11-6:12

What are some of the dangers of having a poor diet?

Why didn't the writer think the readers could handle teaching on Jesus and Melchizedek?

What are some of the dangers our passage outlines for having a poor Spiritual diet?
(5:13-6:3)

What are the joys of a good spiritual diet? (6:9-12)

Given the theme of the letter so far what do you think the author is warning his readers about? What would this mean for them?

What is the warning in vv4-6? How do vv7-8 help us with these verses?

What are some ways we can ensure we remain on a good spiritual diet?

What are some of the obstacles of doing these things?

How can we encourage each other in this?

Hebrews 6:13-7:28

We were warned that there was some solid food on the way last week. This week it seems to arrive in bucket loads. This can be a difficult passage but the central idea is 6:19 that in Christ we have a firm anchor to hold us.

Read 6:13-20

What are the two oaths that God makes in this passage? 6:13-18 & 7:20-22

Why are they significant?

Why do you think the author needs to warn the readers about falling away?

What is the old way that the readers we risking falling back into?

Read 7:1-28

List the differences between the two orders of Priesthood?

What characteristics of Jesus make him the only acceptable High Priest for the entire human race? (22-28)

What is Jesus role as High Priest? (25-28)

What does Jesus coming as a High Priest say about our real need?

What changes to your life can you make in order to heed the warning of this passage and reflect the fact that Jesus is our High Priest?

Hebrews 8:1-13

What was wrong with the first covenant?

How would the new covenant be superior to the old one? What are the main differences?

What happened to the old covenant?

Why would the message of God's forgiveness be good news to the Jews?

How has God fulfilled His part of the New Covenant? What is our role in the New Covenant?

Where does our High Priest serve?

Why did God make the New Covenant? How did he do this and remain faithful to the promise he made in the first?

What is available to us as a result of Christ's priesthood?

What three things listed in vv9-12 result from the New Covenant?

How do we live as a result of these things? What needs to change for us to live these things?

Hebrews 9:1-10:18

What does the New Covenant achieve that the old could never do?

Where does the priestly ministry of Jesus take place? How is this superior to Old Testament High Priests?

What were the offerings of the Old and New Covenants? How do they differ in function and how often repeated?

According to v22 what is the function of blood?

Why were the rules and regulations of the Old System so strict?

What is in store for all people once they die? What is Jesus going to bring next time he comes? (28)

What would be the result if the law could make us perfect? (10:1-2)

Why was the law unable to make us perfect?

Why is the resurrection and exaltation of Jesus such an assurance to us?

Why do you think the phrase “once for all” is repeated so often in this passage?

Why would people want to go back to the old way if the new way is so good?

When or in what ways are you tempted to revert back to ‘the old way’?

How can we encourage each other not to fall into this trap?

Hebrews 10:19-39

How do verses 19-21 provide us with a summary of chapters 7-10?

What are the three “let us” phrases mentioned in this passage? What do each of the mean?

- i.
- ii.
- iii.

Why did people fear entering the most holy place under the Old Covenant? Why are we free to enter it now?

What is meant by “deliberately keep on sinning”? What is in store for those who do? How are they described?

Why is it a terrible thing to fall into the hands of the living God?

How do vv 32-34 encourage us to cop the flak that comes our way, to hang on during times of persecution and to remain hopeful come what may?

What are some areas that you need encouragement in perseverance? In what ways can you encourage others to persevere?

What is the end result of perseverance? What is the result of not persevering?

Hebrews 11:1-12:3

Pick out three of the 'heroes of faith', name them and describe how their faith was demonstrated?

i.

ii.

iii.

How did these people view themselves? (11:13)

When will these 'heroes of faith' get what was promised?

The writer to the Hebrews goes to some effort to name and somewhat describe these heroes to us. 12:1-3 basically tells us why. Why does the writer do this? What does he want from us the readers?

How is being surrounded by such a great cloud of witness help us to "*throw of everything which hinders*"?

How do we throw off everything which hinders?

What are some of the things that you might need to throw off in order to be able to run with perseverance?

What do you need to focus on in order not to grow weary?

Hebrews 12:4-13

Two popular responses to hardship are, God is not with me or God has lost control? What does this passage have to say about that?

What is the purpose of God's discipline? (12:10)

How might you lose out in the eyes of the world as you run the race?

What are the different ways someone might respond to God's discipline?

What are some things that might cause someone to get tired or stop running the race?

Discuss how we might live out vv12-17.

How are we at risk of selling our birth right? Are these things anymore valuable than a bowl of soup?

What comes to mind when you hear or read the word worship? What is the way the world or non Christians might view this word?

How do we worship God acceptably?

Hebrews 12:14-13:25

What are the “bitter roots” mentioned in the following verses and outline ways we can avoid them:

- 12:15-16, 13:4

- 13:1-3, 13:16

- 13:5-6

- 13:7,17

What is the final comparison the writer makes to the two covenants?

Look back over Hebrews and list the things which have:

- Challenged you to change

- Taught you or reminded you of something

- Encouraged you

- Which you have found difficult