

# Jesus Christ Our Great High Priest

*An Exposition of  
the Book of Hebrews*



**Trinity Bible Church**  
Sunday School  
Winter/Spring, 2017

# Jesus Christ

## Our Great High Priest

*See that ye refuse not  
him that speaketh.*

*Hebrews 12:25*

Trinity Bible Church  
Sunday School  
Spring, 2017

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## Introduction: The Epistle to the Hebrews

The size of this epistle would indicate that it is a book of major importance in the New Testament. However, more important than its size, is its subject-matter. From the opening verses of the epistle it focuses attention upon our Lord Jesus Christ. The book is organized in two parts. We learn truth about Jesus Christ and then see the practical implications of that truth. First of all, emphasis is placed upon His Person, that is, Who He is. This is followed by an emphasis upon the Work of Christ, both on the Cross and in His present ministry in heaven at the right hand of the Father. The latter part of the epistle, beginning with Heb. 10:19, deals with the application of the truth presented in the first nine and one-half chapters.

Therefore, a general outline of the epistle would be as follows:

- I. The Doctrinal Section  
(Heb. 1:1-10:18)
- II. The Practical Section  
(Heb. 10:19-13:25)

Anyone who reads the epistle can see that it is correctly named, The Epistle to the Hebrews. The writer has dealt with angels, Moses, Abraham, and Joshua, and we have a long list of Old Testament people given in what has become known as the faith chapter of the Bible: Hebrews 11. He spoke of the Law and the Tabernacle, as well as the Old Testament Aaronic priesthood. However, the writer's purpose obviously is to show that the Lord Jesus Christ is the final and complete revelation of God, and that, as a Priest "after the order of Melchisedec," our Lord's priesthood surpasses and replaces that of Aaron in the Old Testament. Our Lord's priesthood is an everlasting priesthood because His work is perfect, and because He will never die again. And so He will never be succeeded in His priesthood by anyone else.

The book of Hebrews teaches us that no one was ever saved by obeying the Law of Moses, nor has anyone ever been sanctified by obeying the Law of Moses. Perfection could not come by the Levitical priesthood. In contrast with all of the sacrifices that were offered under the Law in the Old Testament (all of which pointed ahead to Christ), our Lord offered one sacrifice. In making that sacrifice He was both the High Priest

as well as the Sacrifice. It was a perfect sacrifice which never needs to be repeated. And we are told four times in Hebrews that, as evidence that God has accepted His sacrifice as securing the salvation of all who will ever be saved, our Lord is now seated at the right hand of the Father. See Heb. 1:3; 8:1; 10:12; 12:2. And added to that is the grand statement of our Lord's present ministry in heaven thus securing the salvation of all who believe in Christ. See Heb. 7:25.

The Practical Section of the epistle shows that those who have come to Christ are expected to live so as to be characterized by three things: faith (Heb. 11:1-12:2), hope (Heb. 12:3-24), and brotherly love (Heb. 13:1-17). The references to the faith of the people of God in the Old Testament, which we find in chapter 11, is evidence that salvation in the Old Testament was by faith, not by works. They looked forward to the coming of the Redeemer; since the Cross the Lord's people have been able to look back upon the finished work of Christ on the Cross.

Throughout the epistle the writer has issued four warnings which are worth noting: Heb. 2:1-4; 3:7-4:16; 10:26-39; 12:25-29. Also in Heb. 5:11-6:20 the writer temporarily digressed from his message because of his great concern that his readers might not get his message. He felt this way because spiritually they were not what they should have been.

The identification of the writer of this epistle, as well as its original destination, cannot be stated with absolute certainty. The writer does not mention either himself or those to whom he was writing. The only person from the apostolic period who is mentioned in the epistle is Timothy. See Heb. 13:23. Because of his close association with the Apostle Paul, it has been suggested by many that Paul wrote this epistle. It surely would seem that such an important epistle, linking together the old covenant and the new covenant, would have been written by an apostle. If so, Paul would be a prime candidate. Others who have been suggested by various writers are Peter, Timothy, Apollos, Barnabas, and even Luke. It would seem that the epistle would have been sent where there was the greatest concentration of Hebrew Chris-

## Introduction (continued)

tians, that is, to the church in Jerusalem. Whoever was the writer, and wherever the people were to whom he wrote, we can be sure that the Holy Spirit is the Author of this epistle, and that it was intended not only for early Hebrew believers, but for the whole body of Christ down to the present day, and until the Lord returns. It is thought that the epistle was written in the 60's, A. D.

Every book of the Bible exalts the Lord Jesus Christ, but in none is His exaltation greater than in the epistle to the Hebrews.

In this epistle we learn that our Lord fully reveals the Father. In this epistle we learn that no one, whether angels or men, is greater than He is. In this epistle we learn that His death on the Cross was the perfect sacrifice for sins. And in this epistle we learn that through Christ alone and His present intercessory work for us in heaven, we are being perfected into His likeness. May the truth of this book and the writer's benediction in Heb. 13:20, 21 encourage us to greater faith, hope, and love for each other as we walk in daily fellowship with our risen and glorified Lord.

“Now the God of peace,  
that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,  
that great shepherd of the sheep,  
through the blood of the everlasting covenant,

Make you perfect in every good work to do his will,  
working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight,  
through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever.  
Amen.”

## Schedule

January 1	Lesson 1:	The Brightness of God's Glory Hebrews 1:1-4
January 8	Lesson 2:	So Much Better Than Angels Hebrews 1:5-2:4
January 15	Lesson 3:	A Merciful and Faithful High Priest Hebrews 2:5-18
January 22	Lesson 4:	More Worthy Than Moses Hebrews 3:1-19
January 29	Lesson 5:	A Rest for the People of God Hebrews 4:1-16
February 5	Lesson 6:	Our Great High Priest Hebrews 5:1-14
February 23	Lesson 7:	Building on the Foundation Hebrews 6:1-12
February 19	Lesson 8:	A Sure and Steadfast Hope Hebrews 6:13-7:10
February 26	Lesson 9:	A Perfect High Priest Hebrews 7:11-28
March 5	Lesson 10:	The New Covenant Hebrews 8:1-13
March 12	Lesson 11:	Two Covenants Hebrews 9:1-15
March 19	Lesson 12:	One Final Complete Sacrifice Hebrews 9:16-28
March 26	Lesson 13:	Good Things to Come Hebrews 10:1-10; Psalm 40
April 2	Lesson 14:	A New and Living Way Hebrews 10:11-25
April 9	Lesson 15:	The Just Shall Live by Faith Hebrews 10:26-39
April 16	Lesson 16:	A Good Report by Faith (Part 1) Hebrews 11:1-16
April 23	Lesson 17:	A Good Report by Faith (Part 2) Hebrews 11:17-29
April 30	Lesson 18:	A Good Report by Faith (Part 3) Hebrews 11:30-40
May 7	Lesson 19:	Run With Patience! Hebrews 12:1-17
May 14	Lesson 20:	You Have Come to Jesus! Hebrews 12:18-29
May 21	Lesson 21:	Serving God Acceptably Hebrews 13:1-19
May 28	Lesson 22:	Complete in Every Good Work Hebrews 13:20-25

# Scripture Memorization

## Hebrews 1:1-3

- 1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,
- 2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;
- 3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

## Hebrews 4:12

- 12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

## Hebrews 7:25

- 25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

## Hebrews 10:24-25

- 24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:
- 25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

## **Scripture Memorization (continued)**

### **Hebrews 11:6**

- 6 But without faith it is impossible to please him:  
for he that cometh to God must believe that he is,  
and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

### **Hebrews 12:1-2**

- 1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about  
with so great a cloud of witnesses,  
let us lay aside every weight,  
and the sin which doth so easily beset us,  
and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,
- 2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith;  
who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross,  
despising the shame,  
and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

### **Hebrews 13:8**

- 8 Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

### **Hebrews 13:20-21**

- 20 Now the God of peace,  
that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,  
that great shepherd of the sheep,  
through the blood of the everlasting covenant,
- 21 Make you perfect in every good work to do his will,  
working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight,  
through Jesus Christ;  
to whom be glory for ever and ever.  
Amen.



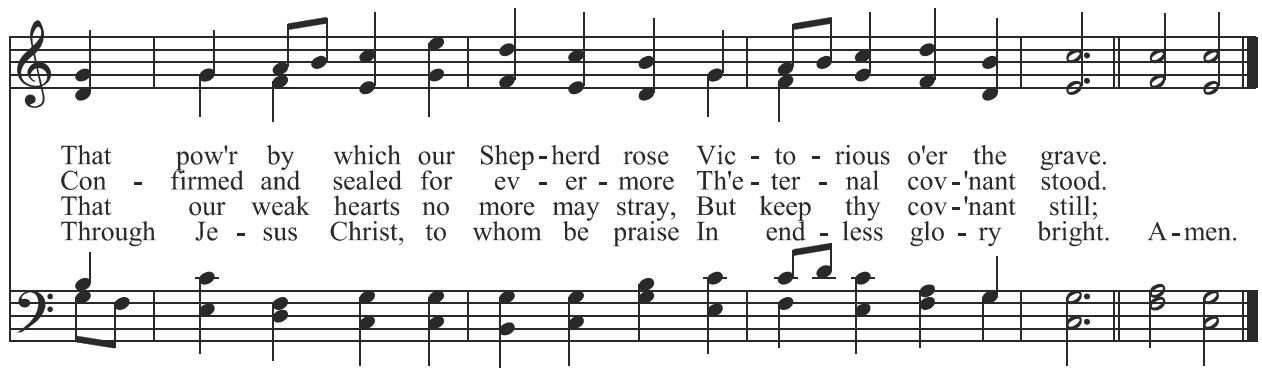
# Father of peace, and God of love

Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751

Adapted from Thomas Clark, 1775-1859



1. Fa - ther of peace, and God of love, We own thy pow'r to save,  
2. Him from the dead thou brought'st a - gain, When by his sa - cred blood  
3. O may thy Spir - it seal our souls, And mould them to thy will,  
4. That all we think and all we do Be pleas - ing in thy sight,



That pow'r by which our Shep-herd rose Vic - to - rious o'er the grave.  
Con - firmed and sealed for ev - er - more Th'e - ter - nal cov-'nant stood.  
That our weak hearts no more may stray, But keep thy cov-'nant still;  
Through Je - sus Christ, to whom be praise In end - less glo - ry bright. A - men.



## Lesson 2: So Much Better Than Angels Hebrews 1:5-2:4

**MEMORY:** Hebrews 1:1-2

**Hymn:** "Father of peace, and God of love"

*SUMMARY: Scripture testifies that the Son of God is far superior to angels in heaven. God the Father has exalted His Only Begotten Son as the Eternal King. Angels worship Him. Not angels, but the Son is at the right hand of God on High. Angels are ministering spirits through whom God gave His holy Law. Since their word of judgment upon sinners is true, how much more ought we to take heed to the great salvation proclaimed by the Eternal Son.*

1. How is the Son superior to angels?
2. What did the Father say about the kingdom of the Son?
3. What work did the Son do that shows His omnipotence?
4. How is the Son contrasted with creation?
5. What place did the Father give to the Son that He did not give to angels?
6. What is the position of angels on earth?
7. What does the text say about the word spoken by angels?
8. What warning is given and why?
9. What evidence do we have of the truthfulness of the Word of the Son?

### **Lesson 3: A Merciful and Faithful High Priest Hebrews 2:5-18**

**MEMORY: Hebrews 1:1-3**

**Hymn: "Father of peace, and God of love"**

*SUMMARY: God has put all things in subjection to His Son. Although we do not now see this, we do see Jesus Who was made lower than the angels to provide salvation for all those whom God had given Him. It was God's glory to perfect the Author of salvation through His humiliation by suffering and death. By partaking of flesh and blood, He destroyed the devil and released the seed of Abraham from the bondage of sin and death. By becoming a man, He made propitiation for the sins of the people as their merciful and faithful High Priest.*

1. If God has not put the world to come in subjection to angels, what has He done with it?
2. Since we cannot see all things in subjection to man, what do we see?
3. Who are the individuals in verse 10, and how are they described?
4. What was it "fitting" for God to do?
5. What does it mean that "He is not ashamed to call them brethren?"
6. Why did Jesus partake of flesh and blood?
7. Who are helped by the death of Jesus, and who are not helped?
8. How and why did Jesus become a merciful and faithful High Priest?
9. What advantage is there for us that Jesus has suffered temptation?







## Lesson 7: Building on the Foundation Hebrews 6:1-12

**MEMORY: Hebrews 10:24-25 and review HYMN: "Father of peace, and God of love"**

*SUMMARY: The Hebrew Christians needed to move beyond the elementary doctrines of the faith to a more mature understanding. The writer did not review these basic doctrines of the faith, except to remind them of one thing. Since it would be impossible to fall away and renew the faith, he has not been speaking to believers who might fall away. He was confident that the Hebrew Christians would display evidence of God's blessing in their lives, but was also bold to remind them to show diligence in faith and practice to the end.*

1. What does the writer propose to leave behind?
2. What does the writer want to go on to?
3. What is the foundation of which he is speaking?
4. What kind of people are described in Hebrews 6:4-5?
5. What is impossible for this person he describes?
6. Why is it impossible?
7. What does the writer say about the two kinds of land?
8. What confidence did the writer have about the Hebrew Christians and why?
9. What did the writer exhort the Hebrew Christians to do?







## Lesson 10: The New Covenant Hebrews 8:1-13

**MEMORY: Hebrews 12:1-2 and review**      **HYMN: "Father of peace, and God of love"**

*SUMMARY: We have an High Priest Who is seated at the right hand of the Majesty in the heavens. Unlike the earthly priests who served the copy and shadow of heavenly things, He serves in the true tabernacle erected by God in heaven. Further, His ministry is more excellent because He is the Mediator of the new covenant. The old covenant failed and is now replaced by the new. By it, our sins are forgotten and God's truth implanted in our hearts. By it, we are His people and He is our God eternally.*

1. What is the main point?
2. Where does our High Priest minister?
3. What do the priests on earth do?
4. How did Moses know how to make the tabernacle?
5. What makes the ministry of our High Priest so much more excellent?
6. What did the LORD say about the first covenant?
7. How did the LORD compare the new covenant with the old one?
8. What is the new covenant?
9. What will be the effect of the new covenant?



## Lesson 12: One Final Complete Sacrifice Hebrews 9:16-28

**MEMORY: Hebrews 13:20 and review**      **HYMN: "Father of peace, and God of love"**

*SUMMARY: A testament is not in effect until the death of the testator. Therefore, the first covenant was dedicated with blood. But it was the blood of animals which was used in a ceremony that was repeated over and over again. This was a model of heavenly things which also required blood for purification. This was why Christ came to earth. By one sacrifice of Himself, He put away sin forever and now appears for us in the presence of God.*

1. What is necessary for a testament to go into effect?
2. What is the significance of this fact when it is applied to the first covenant?
3. How was the first covenant dedicated?
4. What did the Law say was the importance of the shedding of blood?
5. What is the copy, and what was copied?
6. Where did Christ perform His High Priestly ministry?
7. What was the duty of the high priest under the Law of Moses?
8. How is the ministry of Christ different from the high priest under the Law of Moses?
9. Why should we eagerly wait for Christ to appear a second time?



## Lesson 14: A New and Living Way Hebrews 10:11-25

**MEMORY:** Review memory verses

**HYMN:** “Father of peace, and God of love”

*SUMMARY: Jesus Christ offered Himself as a sacrifice for sins. By this one sacrifice, the sins of the people of God are removed forever. Having completed this work, He is now seated at the right hand of God in heaven. Therefore, we have a guaranteed access into the very presence of God. We must now be diligent to demonstrate our faith by love and good works.*

1. What does a priest do, and what is the effect of it?
2. What did “this Man” do, and what is the effect of it?
3. Who is “this Man,” where is He now, and what is He doing?
4. What covenant did the LORD promise to make?
5. Why is it not necessary to have further sacrifices for sins?
6. What do we have as a result of the offering of Jesus Christ?
7. What are we exhorted to do as a result of the offering of Jesus Christ?  
“Let us . . .”  
  
“Let us . . .”  
  
“Let us . . .”





## Lesson 16: A Good Report by Faith (Part 1) Hebrews 11:1-16

**MEMORY:** Review memory verses

**HYMN:** "Father of peace, and God of love"

*SUMMARY: Without faith, it is impossible to please God. It is by faith we understand that God is and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek him. Although Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham and Sarah died without receiving the promise, they obtained the report that they pleased God because of their faith. Therefore, God is not ashamed to call them His Own.*

1. What is faith?

2. Why is faith so important?

3. How did each of the following live by faith?

Abel

Enoch

Noah

Abraham

Sarah

4. What difference did faith make upon how they lived and died?

5. How did God respond to their faith?

## Lesson 17: A Good Report by Faith (Part 2) Hebrews 11:17-29

**MEMORY: Review memory verses**

**HYMN: "Father of peace, and God of love"**

*SUMMARY: The lesson on faith is continued with illustrations from the lives of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses' parents and Moses. These were all changed by their faith in God. Although they did not receive the promise for which they awaited in their lifetimes, they did not draw back but believed to the saving of their souls and obtained a good report.*

1. How was the incident with Isaac a demonstration of the faith of Abraham?

2. How did each of the following live by faith?

Isaac

Jacob

Joseph

the parents of Moses

3. What initial decision demonstrated the faith of Moses?

4. What did Moses value, and what did he not consider to be valuable?

5. Why did Moses not fear the king?

6. Why did Moses keep the Passover?

7. What does the story about crossing the Red Sea teach about faith?



## Lesson 19: Run With Patience! Hebrews 12:1-17

**MEMORY:** Review memory verses

**HYMN:** “Father of peace, and God of love”

*SUMMARY: We must run with patience the race that is set before us with our attention focused upon Jesus, “the Author and finisher of our faith.” He endured a life of suffering and shame because of the certain expectation of joy at the right hand of God where He now sits. Although we do not suffer in the same way Jesus did, yet we do suffer under the chastening hand of our loving heavenly Father Who chastens us for our profit. Therefore, we must endure and also strengthen the brethren lest any fall short of the grace of God.*

1. What is our race, and how are we to run it?
2. What should we notice about Jesus as we look unto Him, and how does it help us?
3. What lesson did the writer get from Proverbs 3:11-12?
4. What observations did the writer make about chastening in human experience?
5. Why does God chasten us?
6. What is chastening like now, and what result will it have upon us?
7. What instructions are given about hands, knees and feet, and what do they mean?
8. What should we be seeking to do if we desire to see the Lord?
9. What can we learn from the life of Esau?

## Lesson 20: You Have Come to Jesus! Hebrews 12:18-29

**MEMORY:** Review memory verses

**HYMN:** "Father of peace, and God of love"

*SUMMARY: We do not come to God through the terror of the Mosaic Law. It is not possible to approach Him through the Law and live. But we come to God through Jesus. Because our God is a consuming fire, we must not refuse the Word of Jesus. If physical death awaited those who disregarded Moses' word, how much more wrath awaits those who turn away from Jesus, the Mediator of the New Covenant.*

1. How is the first mountain in this passage described?
2. What warning was given about this mountain?
3. How was Moses affected by this sight?
4. How is the second mountain described?
5. Who else do we approach when we approach Mount Zion?
6. Why should we be careful not to refuse "Him Who speaks?"
7. What has He promised, and what does this promise mean?
8. How should we react to this promise?
9. How is God described, and what does this mean to us?

## Lesson 21: Serving God Acceptably Hebrews 13:1-19

**MEMORY: Review memory verses**

**HYMN: "Father of peace, and God of love"**

*SUMMARY: We are exhorted to serve God by brotherly love, purity and contentment. We must follow the example of our spiritual leaders and be watchful to avoid false doctrines. We must serve God through Jesus Christ by the offerings of praise and good works. We must submit to those who rule over us in the LORD for the profit of our souls.*

1. What are we told about love and hospitality?
2. How should we remember prisoners, and why?
3. What did the writer say about marriage, and what warning did he give?
4. How can we be without covetousness and content with what we have?
5. What does this passage teach about those who rule over us (verses 7 and 17)?
6. What concern is expressed about strange doctrines and our hearts?
7. How are we different from those who serve the tabernacle?
8. What sacrifices should we offer to God?
9. What desires did the writer express in his final request to them?



# Outline of Hebrews

## I. THE DOCTRINAL SECTION (Heb. 1:1-10:18).

A. The Theme: God's Final Revelation of Himself in His Son, Christ's Person and His priestly work (1:1-4).

B. The Superiority of Jesus Christ as a Person (1:5-4:16).

1. Greater than angels (1:5-2:18).

Warning #1: 2:1-4.

2. Greater than Moses (3:1-6).

Warning #2: 3:7-4:16.

C. The Superiority of Jesus Christ in His Work as Our Great High Priest (Heb. 5:1-10:18).

1. Christ superior because He is a priest of a higher order, "after the order of Melchisedec" (5:1-10).

Digression: 5:11-6:20.

2. Christ superior because He lives forever (7:1-28).

3. Christ superior because His priesthood is established upon a better covenant (8:1-13).

4. Christ superior because His priesthood is in a better tabernacle with a better sacrifice (9:1-28).

5. Christ superior because His priesthood forever settled the problem of sin (10:1-18).

## II. THE PRACTICAL SECTION (Heb. 10:19-13:25).

A. The basic exhortations having to do with faith, hope, and love (10:19-25). "Faith" in verse 23 is hope in some of the Manuscripts.

Warning #3: 10:26-39.

B. Faith (11:1-12:2).

C. Hope (12:3-24).

Warning #4: 12:25-29.

D. Brotherly love (13:1-17).

E. Conclusion (13:18-25).



# Hebrews: “The High Priesthood of Jesus Christ”

↪ God has Spoken in His Son

