

OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2023

* HEBREWS 12:4-13:25

* ADVENT

KNOWING THE WORD



OVERVIEW

What an incredible journey we've embarked on through the Book of Hebrews! Together, we've ascended the Christological Mountain, gaining a profound understanding of the supremacy of Jesus. As one theologian aptly described it, "Hebrews places before us a Jesus who is in turn compelling and repelling, familiar and alien. No writing in the New Testament pulls together so dynamically the tensions within the early Christian confession of Jesus- his humanity and divinity, his crucifixion as well as his exaltation, his slain body, and his obedient faith – in the single dramatic image of Jesus the great high priest. It is a magnificent portrayal."

As we stood atop this theological peak, we gazed down into the Valley of Humanity, where we confronted our shortcomings and sinfulness. We have been challenged to be followers of Christ who flee from sin and run toward Christ.

As we draw near to the conclusion of our exploration of Hebrews, I fervently pray that the lessons covered in these final stages will solidify these two essential truths within your hearts: the importance of cultivating a profound love for Christ and the fervent desire to advance in our journey of sanctification.

Finally, as we approach the year's end, we will engage in reflection on the incarnation of Christ.

I express my sincere gratitude for your invaluable commitment to teaching the Word of God within our church. Your time spent studying and teaching the Word is deeply appreciated.

In Christ,
Pastor Lewis

RESOURCES FOR FURTHER STUDY

Allen, David Lewis. *Hebrews*. The New American Commentary. Nashville: B&H, 2010.

We will provide this for you.

Bruce, FF. *The Epistle to the Hebrews*. The New International Commentary on the New Testament. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1990.

Guthrie, George H. *Hebrews*. The NIV Application Commentary. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1998.

Harris, Dana M. *Hebrews*. Exegetical Guide to the Greek New Testament. Nashville: B&H, 2019.

Mohler, R. Albert. *Exalting Jesus in Hebrews*. Christ-Centered Exposition. Nashville: B&H, 2017.

O'Brien, Peter. *God Has Spoken in His Son: A Biblical Theology of Hebrews*. New Studies in Biblical Theology. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2016.

Hughes, R. Kent. *Hebrews: An Anchor for the Soul*. 2 Vols. Wheaton: Crossway, 1993.

Video Overview: Hebrews (The Bible Project)



OCTOBER 1

Text: Hebrews 12:4–11

Main Idea: Christians must endure God's discipline in our lives because his discipline proves he loves us.

Suggested Memory Verse: Hebrews 12:5-6

Helpful Biblical Text:

OCTOBER 8

Combined SS

We will hear from IMB Missionary Will Butler.

OCTOBER 15

Text: Hebrews 12:12–17

Main Idea: We must pursue peace and holiness in our lives.

Suggested Memory Verse: Hebrews 12:14

Helpful Biblical Text:

OCTOBER 22

Text: Hebrews 12:18–29

Main Idea: Obey God and serve him with reverence and fear.

Suggested Memory Verse: Hebrews 12:28

Helpful Biblical Texts: Exodus 19–20

OCTOBER 29

Text: Hebrews 13:1–6

Main Idea: Continue in love in all areas of your life.

Suggested Memory Verse: Hebrews 13:1

Helpful Biblical Text: 1 Corinthians 13

NOVEMBER 5

Text: Hebrews 13:7–17

Main Idea: Continue to offer daily sacrifices of praise to God.

Suggested Memory Verse: Hebrews 13:15

Helpful Biblical Texts:

NOVEMBER 12

Text: Hebrews 13:18–25

Main Idea: Pray for your Christian leaders. Benediction.

Suggested Memory Verse: Hebrews 13:18

Helpful Biblical Text:

NOVEMBER 19

Text: Psalm 34

Main Idea:

NOVEMBER 26

Text: Hope—Isaiah 7

Main Idea: God has given his people hope in the promise of a Messiah which is fulfilled in the life of Christ.

Notes: Isaiah 7 reveals the hope of God's people in the coming of a Messiah. God's people had clung to this hope through many generations. This Messiah will be Immanuel, God with us. As we reflect on this concept of hope, we, too, are reminded we are in a period of hope. Hope in the second coming of Christ.

Suggested Memory Verse:

DECEMBER 3

Text: Peace—Jeremiah 23:1–8

Main Idea: God has promised, that through the Branch of David, he will raise a King who will restore peace to God's people. This peace is accomplished through Christ.

Notes: The second week of Advent is the week of Peace. The Hebrew word for peace is shalom which means completeness or well-being. This passage in Jeremiah is a promise from God that he will "restore" peace among God's people. We are reminded that this peace comes through Jesus who is the Branch of David who will be a king that reigns wisely. We are reminded as we reflect on this concept of peace, that while we have received God's peace through Jesus, that peace is not yet complete but will be when the ultimate fulfillment of Jeremiah 23 comes to pass in the return of Christ.

Suggested Memory Verse:

DECEMBER 10

Text: Joy—Luke 2:8–20

Main Idea: Jesus' birth is a joy for the entire world.

Notes: The third week of Advent is the week of Joy. This is a joy that comes through Jesus' arrival and through the salvation he has given us. We celebrate the joy Jesus' birth brings as we reflect on that birth narrative in Luke 2:8-20.

Suggested Memory Verse:

DECEMBER 17

Text: Love—Isaiah 2:1–20

Main Idea: The ultimate act of love is that God would send his son for us. God has done that through Christ, in his first advent, and will come again, in his second advent.

Notes: The fourth, and last, week of Advent is a reflection on love. This week we reflect on the love that God has for us. That love narrative begins in creation and culminates in the return of Christ when he establishes His forever kingdom rule upon the earth. This passage in Isaiah reflects on that time when Jesus will rule from Jerusalem and His love will be known to all his people as we spend all of eternity in the worship of our Triune God. This passage points us to that final act of Love, Jesus' return where he will continually provide for his people.

Suggested Memory Verse:

DECEMBER 24

No SS

DECEMBER 31

No SS

A GLANCE AHEAD

January 7	TBD
January 14	Combined SS– Ecclesiastes (Dr. Mitchell)
January 21	Ecc. 1:1–11
January 28	Ecc. 1:12–18
February 4	Ecc. 2:1–17
February 11	Ecc. 2:1–17
February 18	Ecc. 3:1–22
February 25	Ecc. 4:1–8
March 3	Ecc. 4:9–16
March 10	Ecc. 5:1–7
March 17	Ecc. 5:8–6:9
March 24	John 12:12–19
March 31	Easter Philippians 3:7–11 (Easter)
April 7	Luke 24:13–35 (Road to Emmaus)