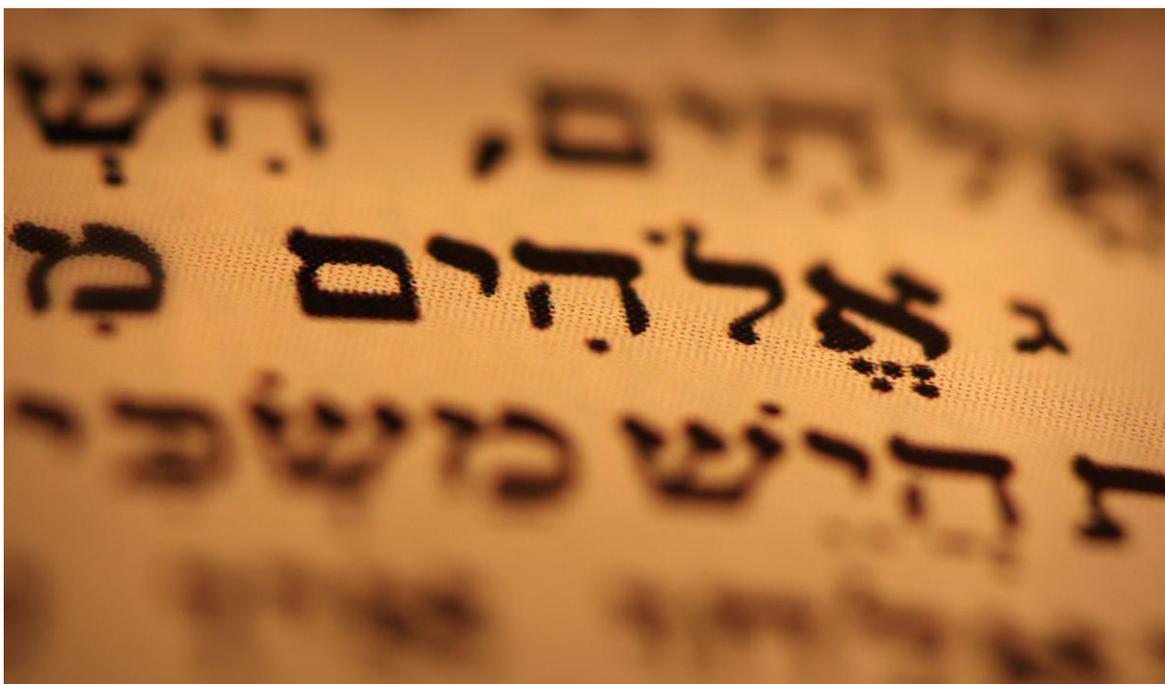


SDG

SOLI DEO GLORIA

"Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."

1Corinthians 10:31



Elohim – The Lord God in Hebrew

The Book Of Hebrews

"Know what you believe and why you believe it."

Zion Reformed Church

Bible Study

www.zionreformedchurch.org

SDG – The Book of Hebrews
Zion Reformed Church

Winter Calendar 2013

Sunday, Jan. 6 & Monday, Jan. 7	Lesson #10
Sunday, Jan. 13 & Monday, Jan. 14	Lesson #11
Sunday, Jan. 20 & Monday, Jan. 21	Holiday
Sunday, Jan. 27 & Monday, Jan. 38	Lesson #12
Sunday, Feb. 3 & Monday, Feb. 4	Super Bowl
Sunday, Feb. 10 & Monday, Feb. 11	Lesson # 13
Sunday, Feb. 17 & Monday, Feb. 18	Holiday
Sunday, Feb. 24 & Monday, Feb. 25	Lesson #14
Sunday, Mar. 3 & Monday, Mar. 4	Lesson #15
Sunday, Mar. 10 & Monday, Mar. 11	Lesson #16
Sunday, Mar. 17 & Monday, Mar. 18	Lesson #17
Sunday, Mar. 24 & Monday, Mar. 25	Lesson #18
Sunday, Mar. 31 & Monday, Apr. 1	Easter
Sunday, Apr. 7 & Monday, Apr. 8	Lesson #19
Sunday, Apr. 13 & Monday, Apr. 14	Lesson #20

Class Times:

Sunday Evening classes will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room

Monday Morning classes will begin at 10:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room

Please come to all classes with your lesson completed to the best of your ability.

If you are unable to attend a particular class you are free to join with the other class. For instance, if you normally attend the Sunday evening class and you find that you can't make it one week, you are welcome to join the Monday class for that week. Both groups will be doing the same lesson each week.

Soli Deo Gloria – The Book of Hebrews

Welcome to Soli Deo Gloria, an in-depth Bible Study that aims to enrich and strengthen the faith of those who participate. The Latin phrase, Soli Deo Gloria, comes from the reformation and means, “To God alone be the Glory.” St. Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 10:31, “*Therefore, whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*” As we grow in our faith and understanding of God’s Word and put what we have learned into action, God’s name is certainly glorified. May all who participate glorify His holy name and use what is learned to expand His Kingdom.

Guidelines:

- Each week we will cover one lesson. Please do your lesson in advance and come to class ready to share and discuss. If you have not completed your lesson, please come to class to listen to the discussion and stay up to date. However, since you have not completed the background work for the discussion we ask that you refrain from adding your comments to the discussion.
- Our discussions will be extensive and often times personal. Each study group is to see themselves as a family unit. All personal discussions are to be kept strictly confidential. Likewise, we must follow the command of Ephesians 4:29, “*Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.*” Bible Study time is not a time for gossip or talk about other churches and struggles that they may be experiencing.
- Bring your Bible with you and be ready to use it. A good study Bible is recommended. Bible Quotations in this study will come from the ESV or NKJV. You may want to consider purchasing one of these Bibles for your study. We strongly recommend that you do not use a paraphrase translation such as *The Message* or *The Good News* for this study.
- Pray before you begin your study, whenever you experience difficulty in understanding a verse, prior to coming to the class session and for each person in your study group each and every day.
- Be ready to grow and use what you learn.

Lesson #10
SDG –Hebrews Chapter 7

Our Fall quarter ended with the phrase, “We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.” With Chapter 7 we pick up this theme and begin to explore the history of Melchizedek and how he compares to Christ.

Read Genesis 14:18-20 and Psalm 110:4. Who was Melchizedek?

What did Melchizedek do at his meeting with Abraham? What did Abraham do? What does this imply? What is the significance of this? (Helpful hint: think like a first century Jew when answering the last question. Also consider John 8:31-41)

What does the name Melchizedek mean?

What does Salem mean?

How are these two names connected?

Read verse 3. What additional information does the author give us concerning Melchizedek? What does this mean?

Some theologians have suggested that Melchizedek was the pre-incarnate Christ. Could this be true? Why or why not?

Not only was Melchizedek superior to Abraham, what else was he superior too? Why?

Verse eight serves as a transition verse. In the first 10 verses Melchizedek has been compared or contrasted to both Abraham and the Levitical priesthood. The priests were mortal men who collected tithes. The writer then says, “but in the other case, by one of whom it is testified that He lives.” Since there is no scripture that testifies that he, that is Melchizedek, lives who must this be a reference to?

In Chapters 4 and 5 we saw that Jesus is our Great High Priest. If the High Priest collected a tithe and if a tithe is collected “by one of whom it is testified that He lives,” what can we deduce about tithing in this day and age?

In verse 11, the full transition is made. What could the Levitical priesthood never obtain? Why?

Since the Levitical Priesthood could not attain this, what was needed? What is the result of this? What does this mean?

How did God show that the Levitical priesthood was not an eternal one? (vs.13)

How did Jesus become a priest? (vss. 16-17)

Why was the command for the Levitical priesthood set aside?

What comes to us as a result of Christ's priesthood? (vs.19)

What does the priesthood of Christ have that the Levitical priesthood never had?
(vss. 20-21)

How is Jesus the guarantor of this better covenant?

It should be noted that the words, "who draw near to God" in verse 25 are written in the present tense. What does Jesus do for those who draw near to God? What does this mean?

What role of the High Priest will Jesus always live to do?

In verse 26 the author lists the attributes of Christ the High Priest.
What do these attributes mean? Why are they significant?

Holy- _____

Innocent- _____

Unstained- _____

Separated from sinners- _____

Exalted above the heavens- _____

Why was it fitting for Christ to be like this?

What is the good news of Christ's sacrifice?

How do we know that Christ's sacrifice is totally sufficient?

Lesson #11
SDG –Hebrews Chapter 8

Beginning with 4:14 the author began to speak about Jesus as the Great High Priest. As we begin chapter 8 we see that he is now ready to make his main point. What is this point?

Look at the tense the author uses in making this point. What tense is it? Why is this important? What impact should this have on us?

What does it mean to be a minister?

What were the holy places? (See temple diagram)

What is meant by the tent (vs.5) and true tent (vs. 2)? What is the difference between the two? Why is this significant?

What is meant by gifts and sacrifices?

What did Christ have to offer?

Why couldn't Jesus be a priest on earth?

What purpose did the priests/high priests really serve (Vs. 5)?

Who designed the tabernacle? Who built it? How was this accomplished?

Now that the author has shown us that the Tabernacle was a symbol of what was to come, that is, it was just a copy and not the original; he proceeds to speak of Christ, the Great High Priest, in the true tent or original tabernacle. How is Christ's ministry much more excellent than the old?

Many of the Hebrews/Jews wanted to hold on to the Law and the Mosaic Covenant. What does the author say about that Covenant? Why?

In verses 8-12, the author quotes Jeremiah 31:31-34 as found in the Septuagint or Greek translation of the Old Testament. What is the importance of the phrase, "Behold the days are coming?"

This new covenant will be different than the old covenant. Why did the first covenant or covenant of the Law fail? (Vs. 9)

How did God respond to this?

According to verse 10, how will the new covenant be different?

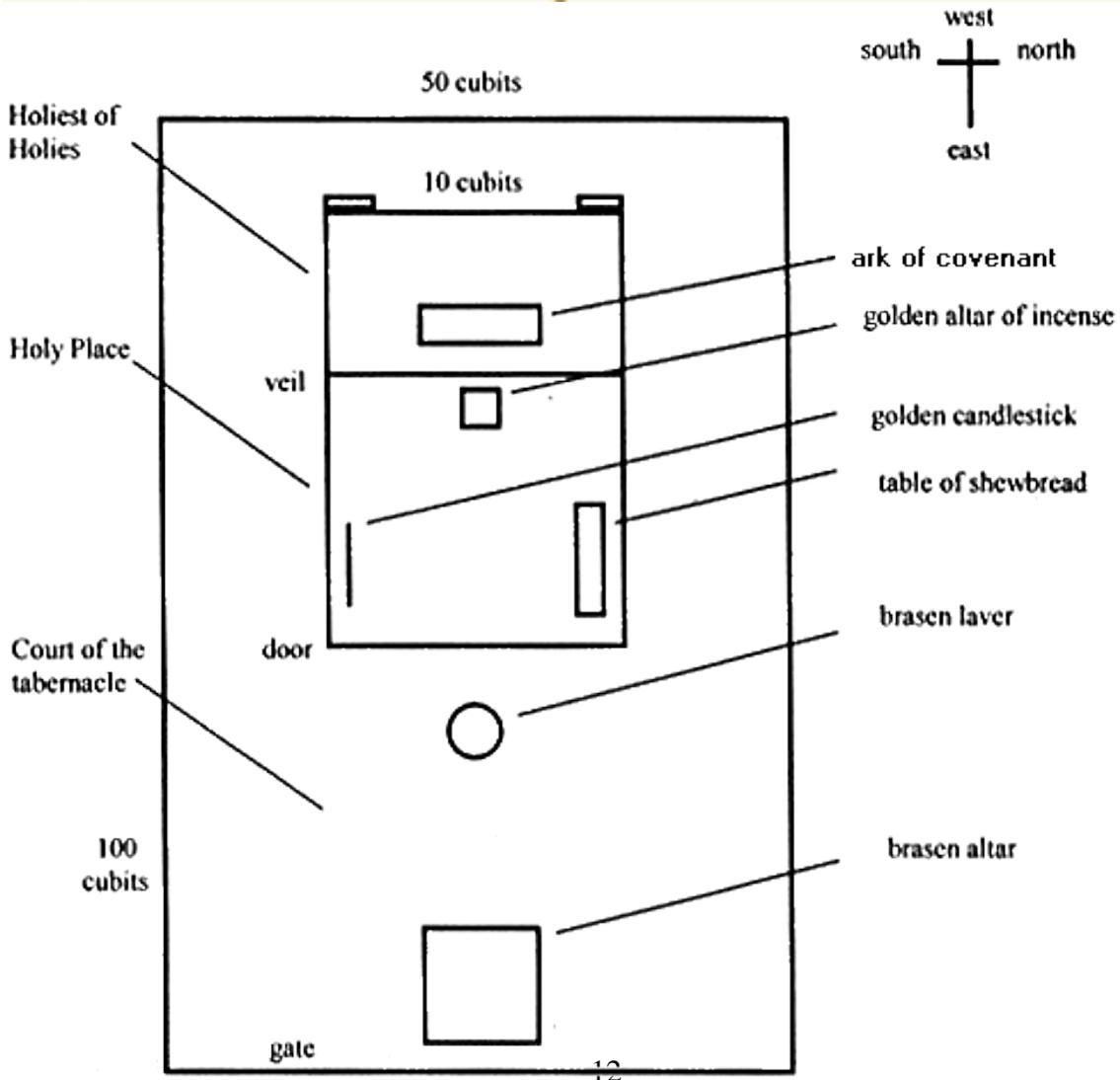
How or where was the original Law written? The New Law? What does this mean?

What is the ultimate outcome of the New Covenant? (Vs. 12)

Verse 13 is very interesting in how it is written. He says the old covenant is obsolete and growing old. The Greek term translated as “growing old” literally means, “Person of extreme age or near death.” To understand what the author is saying, think back to when Hebrews was written. When was this?

What happened in A.D. 70?

How did this fulfill the authors’ word?



Lesson #12
SDG –Hebrews Chapter 9:1-10

Having shown that Jesus is the Great High Priest, in the order of Melchizedeck, who institutes a new covenant, the author of Hebrews begins to tie the Old Covenant and the New Covenant together. His first task is to remind his readers of the rules, regulations and practices of the Mosaic Covenant. Chpater 8 ended with the words, “In speaking of a new covenant, he makes the first one obsolete. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.” What did the old covenant have regulations for? (Vs. 1)

Consider the answer you just wrote down. Who defined how the people were to worship?

Read Exodus 29-31. Who was to lead the people in their worship? (29:9)

What had to be done before he/they could lead in worship?

What was the purpose of the bull sacrifice? (Vss. 10-14)

What was the purpose of the ram offering?

Vs. 18- _____

Vs. 21- _____

Vs. 25- _____

Vs. 28- _____

How long did it take to consecrate the priest, the tabernacle and the people?
(Vs. 35)

This seems to be quite a bit of preparation. What were the priests and people really preparing for? (Vs. 43)

This is a description of the Covenant. This was how the people fulfilled their responsibility to be God's people. How would God fulfill His responsibilities to be their God?

Vs. 43 – _____

Vs. 44 – _____

Vs. 45 – _____

Once God fulfilled His part of the Covenant and the people had met their responsibility, what would the people know? (Vs. 46)

How often did Aaron/the High Priest make atonement for himself and for the people? (30:10)

What was the purpose of the census tax/ransom? (30:11-16)

What did Aaron and his sons have to do before they performed in any role as priests? (Vs. 30:17-21)

Hopefully you can see that worship was never intended to be a spur of the moment or trivial matter. Great preparation was made because the people were going to meet God. Consider this the next time you prepare to worship.

According to the author of Hebrews, what was found in the first section or holy place of the tabernacle? What did each look like? (Exodus 25:23-39; Leviticus 24:5-9)

According to the author, what was found in the second section or Most Holy Place?

Read Exodus 30:1-6. What difference/contradiction do you find in these verses? [Challenge Question! How do we explain this apparent contradiction?]

According to the author, what was in the ark? Read Deuteronomy 10:1-5; 1 Kings 8:9 and 2 Chronicles 5:10. What is recorded as being in the Ark?

Above the Ark were two cherubim, with their faces down and wings spread over the Ark. What is the first reference to cherubim in the Bible? What is the role of the Cherubim? How does this relate to the ark?

Verse six speaks of the priests going into the first section, the Holy Place to perform their ritual duties. What were these duties?

Exodus 30:7-8 - _____

Exodus 27:21 - _____

Leviticus 24: 8-9 - _____

Numbers 28:3-8 - _____

We have already seen that the High Priest entered the Most Holy Place once each year on the Day of Atonement. What else did he have to take into the Most Holy Place besides the censer of incense? Why?

Read Numbers 15:22-31 for the background on unintentional and intentional sin. Why wasn't intentional sin atoned for?

What did the blood of atonement symbolize?

What did the first section, the Holy Place, symbolize? How?

WORD STUDY: Greek-parabole/English-symbolic

It is very interesting to note that this Greek word is translated as symbolic, symbolizes or illustration. This Greek word from which the English word parable is derived is also used to explain Christ's teaching. A parable is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning. The entire Levitical system and the Tabernacle were parables. They were earthly ordinances and structures with a heavenly meaning.

The author draws heavily on this idea of the parable as he closes out this section of the chapter. If all these gifts, offerings, sacrifices, rituals are parables, they are earthly or physical. If they are earthly or physical, what can they do and what can't they do?

Since these sacrifices and offerings were limited in their efficacy, what did the author look forward to?

With that thought, we bring this lesson to a close and look forward to that time! A time that will be explored in next week's lesson.

Lesson #13
SDG –Hebrew Chapter 9:11-28

In last week's lesson we focused on the Mosaic tabernacle worship. Beginning with verse eleven, the author will now present to us a contrast that is the differences between the old and new covenant. He begins, "But Christ came as the High Priest." What does "Christ" mean? Why is this the appropriate terminology to use?

The NKJV and NASB record that He came as High Priest of the good things to come. The ESV and NIV record that He came as the High Priest of the good things that have come or are already here. One is present tense and the other is future tense. The Greek is neither. Read Mark 10:29-30. What is being referred to? How are both translations correct?

What do we know about the "greater and more perfect tent?" What is this place?

What is the phrase, "by the means of the blood of goats and calves," referring to? What was the purpose of the blood of the calf? The goat?

What did Christ take into the greater and more perfect tent?

What did this accomplish?

WORD STUDY: Greek-lytrosin/English-redemption

The Greek Word lytrosin is a noun. It refers to a state of being that has been purchased. This state of being is freedom. To get this freedom a ransom had to be paid.

How does Christ secure an eternal redemption (lytrosin) for us?

The blood of goats and bulls sanctify the _____. The blood of Christ sanctifies the _____. What does this mean?

We are to serve the Living God. Why is He referred to as the Living God?

WORD STUDY: Greek-mesites/English-mediator

The Greek Word comes from the joining of two Greek words:

- 1) mesos-which means “middle”
- 2) eimi-which means “to go to”

As a result mesites means “a go between.” This word is used in two ways in the New Testament. First, it is used as a reference to an individual who goes between two parties to seek peace. The second is found in Galatians 3:19 where Moses is called a mediator. He was a mediator who represented God to the people and the people to God.

Verse 15 begins, "Therefore he is." What is meant by this phrase or what purpose does it serve?

Christ is the mediator of a new covenant. What was the Old Covenant? Read Exodus 24:1-8. What did Moses do in verse 3?

How did the people respond?

Why are these two events significant?

What does Moses do in verse 4a? Why?

What did Moses do next? (Vs. 4b-6)

What did Moses do in verse 7? Why?

What did the people do in verse 7? Why?

What did Moses do in verse 8? Why?

To summarize, the following is a list of the characteristics of the institution of the first/Old covenant:

- 1) The covenant was between two parties.
- 2) The requirements of the covenant were in the “Book of the Covenant.”
- 3) The Covenant was sealed by the death of animals that was sprinkled on the altar and the people.
- 4) The Covenant was ratified by the people.

As we continue this lesson, please keep these points in mind.

Returning to verse 15 of Hebrews, when the author says that Jesus is the mediator of a new covenant who is He being compared/contrasted to?

What promise of inheritance came with the Old Covenant?

What promise of inheritance comes with the New Covenant?

In verse 16 the author refers to a will. It should be noted that the Greek word translated as “will” is the exact same word that was previously translated “covenant.” To the author and the people of his time a will was a covenant and covenant was a will. A will is simply a legal document that states the “will” or desires of a person upon his/her death. A covenant is the will or desire of two parties in agreement. What makes a will take effect?

If a will requires a death to put it into effect, what must take place for a covenant to go into effect? Why?

Why was the old or first covenant inaugurated in blood? (Leviticus 17:14)

What else, besides the institution of a covenant, required the shedding of blood? Why?

Biblical Truth Timeline –

The Wages of Sin is Death-The shedding of blood results in death-There is no forgiveness without the shedding of blood.

Now we will try to bring this all together. This is pretty cool! What exactly did Moses say when he sprinkled the blood of the old covenant?

Read Luke 22:19; Mark 14:24; Matthew 26:28 and 1 Corinthians 11:25. When was the new covenant instituted? How do we know?

Sin separates man from God. This was symbolized by the curtain of separation in the old Tabernacle. The priest could not go behind the curtain to the Most Holy Place or Mercy Seat of God without a payment for sin. Therefore, he took the blood of the atoning sacrifice with him. This blood was payment for his sin and the sin of the people. This blood purified him and he was able to enter the place where God came down to be with his people. Earthly blood was required to enter an earthly tabernacle. In verse 23 we see that the tabernacle and all the ordinances that came with it were copies or symbols for heavenly things. If physical/earthly blood was required to enter the physical throne room of God, what must be required to enter the Heavenly Throne Room?

Why did the High Priest have to enter the Most Holy Place each year?

Why doesn't Jesus have to offer Himself on a yearly basis? What does this mean for us?

If Christ appeared once for all at the end of ages, what does that say about the age in which we live?

What happens when a person dies? (Vs. 27)

Christ died. What will happen next for Him? Us?

Lesson #14
SDG –Hebrews 10:1-18

What is meant by the law in verse one? What were the components of the law?

What is meant by shadow? True form?

How is the true form described?

What could the law never accomplish? How do we know this?

What is meant by a consciousness of sin?

What was the true purpose of the sacrifices?

Why was/is it impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins or make atonement for the people? (Consider Genesis 1:26-27 as you answer this question.)

The author quotes Psalm 40:6-8 as the words of Christ. There is little doubt that David was truly inspired by the Holy Spirit to write this prophecy. How do we know that this is prophecy and that David wasn't referring to himself? (Helpful hint: Pay close attention to vs. 7)

What did God not desire and take no pleasure in? Why?

What did Jesus say about his mission/ministry?

Challenge Question! Where did Jesus say this?

What was the "first" that Christ did away with?

What was the "second" that Christ established?

WORD STUDY: Greek-anairei/English-does away with

This Greek word found in verse nine, is a rather unique word. It is used twenty three times in the New Testament. Ten times it is translated as kill. Eight times it is translated as slay. Twice it is translated as put to death. Only once is it translated does away with. The Greek dictionary defines anairei as, "to take away violently; abolish murder."

Put into the context of verses eight and nine we can see why the author chose this Greek word. Christ did away with the first order, the law and all its requirements, in a very violent way, crucifixion. He did this because this is what the law demands; the wages of sin is death. Christ certainly "took away violently" the curse of the law/death, through His death and victorious resurrection.

What was the end result of God's will for Christ? (Vs. 10)

Look at the diagram of the tabernacle that accompanies this lesson. Where did the priest daily stand at his service?

Why did the priest stand? What provision had God made in the design of the tabernacle to make sure the priest stood?

Where could a priest sit? (1 Samuel 1:9 & 4:18)

The author claims that Christ offered a single sacrifice for all time. What does he use as evidence that this is so?

According to verse 13, what is Christ presently doing? What does that mean?

Verse 14 is interesting in how it is presented. Note the tenses that are used. (Past, Present, or future)

<u>Verse</u>	<u>Tense</u>
For by a single offering He was perfected	_____
For all time	_____
Those who are being sanctified	_____

What does the author mean by this?

What scripture does the author quote as validation of Christ's sanctifying work?

What is the ultimate message and meaning of this scripture? (Vs. 18)

Keeping this doctrine in mind, take a look at the Pre-Millennial Eschatology Chart that accompanies this lesson. Look carefully at what is believed to happen during the millennium. How does this compare with the first 18 verses of Hebrews chapter 10?

Re-read verse 6, which is a quotation of Psalm 40:7. Compare this to Psalm 51:16. What does the Lord not take pleasure in?

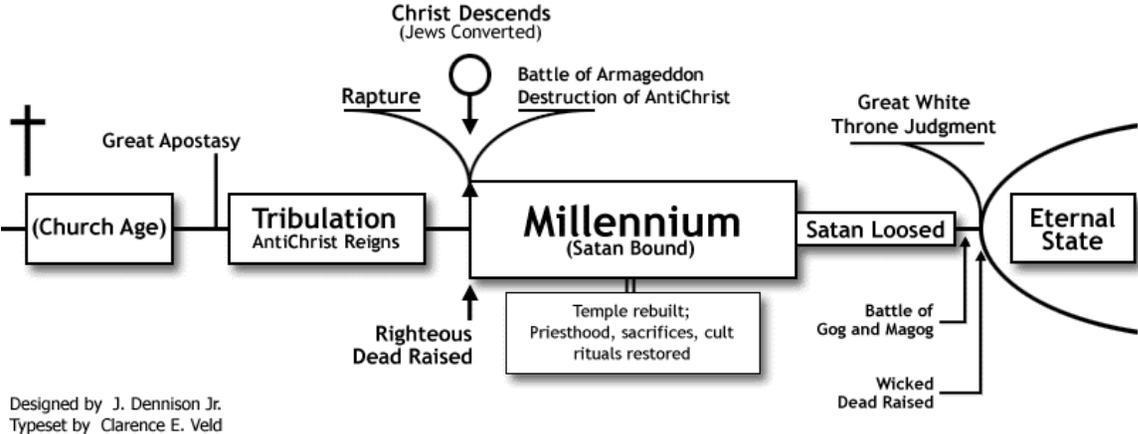
Is there anything that we can offer as a payment for our sin?

What is expected of the believing Christian? Why? (Romans 12:1-2)

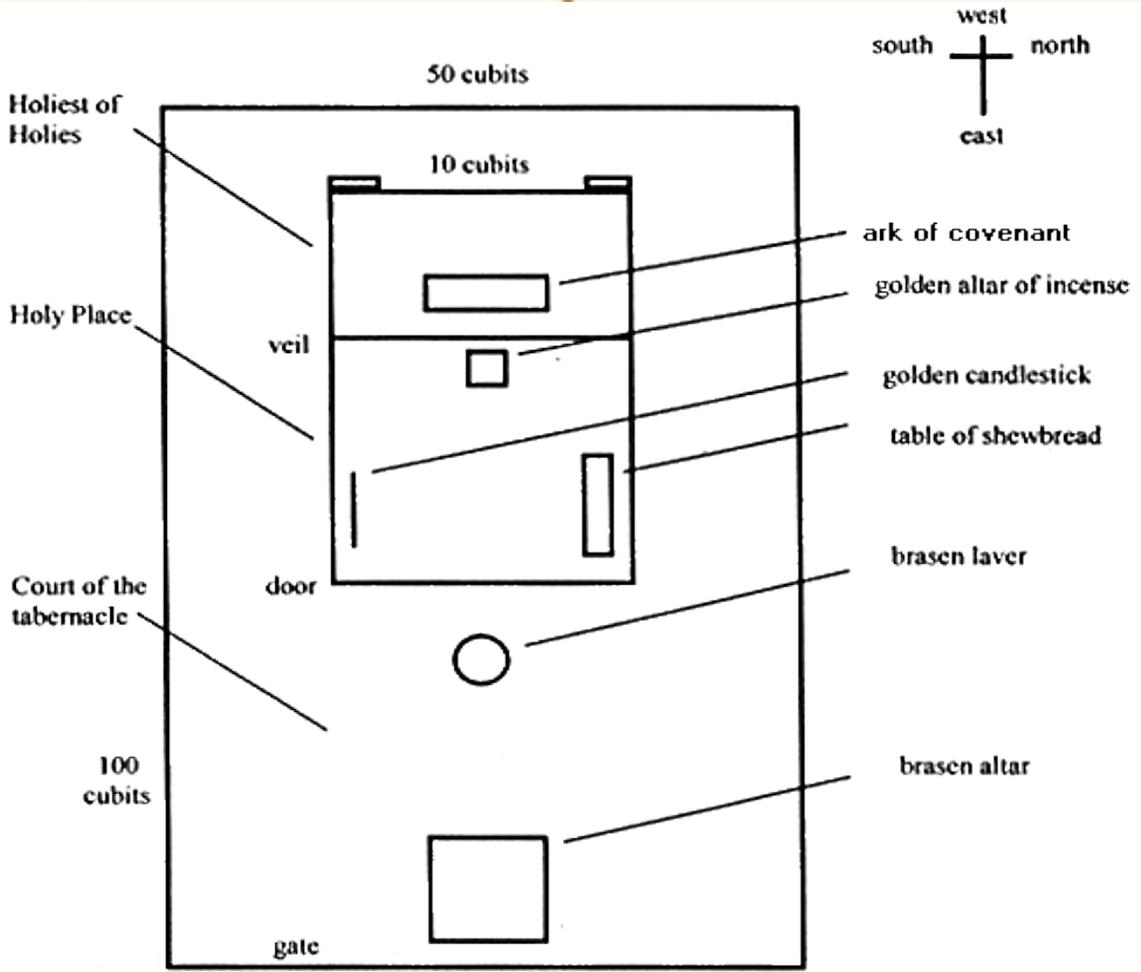
Pre-Millennial Eschatology Chart

There is much talk about what will happen when Christ returns. The belief at Zion is that Christ will return on Judgment Day. At that time all the dead will be raised and all individuals will be judged. Those who have believed in Christ (Old Testament in His promised coming and New Testament in His atoning sacrifice, resurrection and ascension) will inherit the Kingdom of God and live with Christ forever. Those who rejected Christ will be condemned and sent to hell for all eternity.

There are other beliefs on what will actually happen. One is the Pre-millennial viewpoint. Below is a chart that outlines this eschatological viewpoint.



Take a careful look at what is anticipated to happen during the Millennium. How well does this line up with the teaching of Hebrews Chapter 10?



Lesson #15
SDG –Hebrews Chapter 10:19-25

Verse 19 begins with the word therefore. This hearkens back to 4:16 where the author also began the verse with therefore. What point had been made in the verse prior to 4:16 that the author was relying on? What is the point that he refers to as he begins verse 19 of our study today?

What is the result of this point that the author refers to?

Read Exodus 20:18-21. How had the Israelites approached God?

The High Priest was the only person who could go up into the most Holy Place and only one time each year on the Day of Atonement. Review question: What did the High Priest have to take with him into the Most Holy Place?

Why can we approach God/"the holy place" with confidence?

The author says that we come in the "new and living way." What is meant by new? (See Word Study) Living? Way? (Acts 9:2; Acts 19:23)

New-_____

Living-_____

Way- _____

WORD STUDY: Greek-Prospaton/English-New

This Greek word is used only one time in the New Testament. It is a compound word derived from the Greek word “pro” and sphazo.” Pro is a primary preposition that means “fore, i.e. in front of, prior.” By itself it is usually translated into English as “before.” Sphazo is a primary verb that means “to butcher or to slay.” Put together we get prospaton which literally means “previously or newly slain.” Put into the context of Hebrews 10:20 the author is referring to the “newly slain and living way.” Certainly, the Holy Spirit inspired the author to use prospaton in this situation. It is much more appropriate than our English equivalent of “new.”

What does Jesus say about Himself in John 14:6?

What is the curtain that the author mentions in verse 20?

When was it opened to us? (Matthew 27:51)

What is the significance of it being torn and not just pulled to one side or the other?

Verse 21 is a summation of verses 18-20 and serves as a transition to the following verses. How is Christ described in verse 21? Believers?

What is meant by the word over? (Verse 21; Philippians 2:5-11; Acts 4:12)

This section began with the word therefore. Since Christ sacrificed Himself as the atonement for our sins we can come before God with confidence, knowing that our sins are paid for, we are forgiven and that we are now considered to be the “House of God.” In verse 22 the author continues with therefore then. There, he says, “let us...” What are we to do?

Let us (vs. 22)- _____

Let us (vs. 23)- _____

Let us (vs. 24)- _____

Challenge Question! By now you probably realize that you can’t get through three verses from Hebrews with one question. You’re right! Carefully read verses 22-24 again. Read 1 Corinthians 13:13. Do you see any correlation between these verses? If so, what is it and what is the significance of it? If not, you know why this question is labeled a challenge question!

Focusing on these verses a little more carefully, what is meant by a true heart?
(See word study)

WORD STUDY: Greek-Alethines/English-True

Alethines is the Genitive, Singular, Feminine Adjective form of alethinos. This is very unique in its usage in verse 22 for a number of reasons. First of all it is in the Genitive or possessive case. So who possesses this true heart? We do! The author says, “let us.” Secondly, while speaking to us, the author refers to the true heart in the singular number. This is not a call for the church to have a true heart; it is a call for the individual to have a true heart. Thirdly, it is in the feminine gender. Why feminine? Since the Church is the bride of Christ (Revelation 21:9), we are to individually see ourselves as married to Christ, that is, bound together in true love for all eternity. Finally, we have to ask ourselves; where else is the root adjective used?

It is used in 26 other places to describe:

1. God Himself, God is true-He is A) Real B) Ideal C) Genuine (John 7:28)
2. Jesus Christ, He is true God (1 John 5:20)
3. Christ’s Judgment, It is true (John 8:16)
4. God’s Word is true (John 4:37)
5. The ways of God are true (Revelation 15:3)

Put this all together and you get a feeling for what the author is speaking of when He speaks of a true heart. It is the heart of every real, ideal genuine Christian that loves Christ as truly as He has loved us.

What is faith?

This true heart is to be sprinkled clean from an evil conscience. What does this mean? (Hint-Think about what was done with the blood of the atoning sacrifice)

Our bodies are washed. What is this a reference to? (Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; 1 Corinthians 6:11)

Remember this letter is written to the Hebrew people. What would they understand “pure water” to be? (Leviticus 11:36; Numbers 5:17; Ezekiel 36:25)

What is the confession that the author refers to in verse 23? (1 Corinthians 15:3-7)

What is hope?

Why would the confession lead to hope without wavering?

WORD STUDY: Greek-paroxysmon/English-Stir (up)

Paroxysmon is the root word for the English paroxysm which is a medical term for a convulsion. Paroxysmon is defined as, “an incitement, a sharp contention, the effect of irritation.” It is a “cause” of a cause and effect relationship. It is a cause that brings about a powerful or convulsive effect.

When then the author asks his audience to “consider,” what is he really asking them to do?

The Hebrews were to consider how to stir up one another to love. How does Christ define love? (John 15:13)

What is a good work?

While we are to stir up or encourage one another to love and good works, the author warns us of what we are not to do. What is this?

Why did the author give this warning?

If we see someone who is neglecting to do what he is supposed to do, what are we to do? Why?

Lesson #16
SDG –Hebrews Chapter 10:26-39

As we come to the end of Hebrews chapter 10, the author issues a warning concerning apostasy. What is apostasy?

Who is the author referring to when he says, “we?”

What is the first act of apostasy that is mentioned? Why would this be considered an act of apostasy? What is the ultimate result of such an act? Why?

Having known the truth, rejected it and acted against it, what emotion would this person experience? Why?

These first two verses touch on a controversial subject. Many people would say, “God is love,” which is a true statement. However, they often follow up by saying, “A loving God would not judge and send someone to hell.” To back up their logic they might add, “God has told us not to judge, therefore we know God won’t judge us or send us to hell.” Read 1 Corinthians 5:9-13. What does the Bible actually say about judging?

What does Jesus say about judging? (Matthew 7:1-5. Be careful on this, read all the verses and consider what the message really is.”

Eternal judgment is not a happy topic and it certainly could lead to “a fearful expectation.” Who taught that there will be judgment and eternal punishment? (Matthew 25:31-46)

How did Jesus describe hell?

Matthew 25:30- _____

Matthew 25:41- _____

Luke 16:23- _____

Luke 16:25- _____

Revelation 20:14 (Remember the title of this book of the Bible is actually, “The revelation of Jesus Christ to John.”- _____

Was this a new teaching? Read Isaiah 26:11 and Zephaniah 1:18. What do these verses teach?

Did the people of the New Testament take this literally? Read 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; 2 Peter 3:7 and Jude 23. What do these verses teach?

About this time, you might be questioning if any Christian really doubts the existence of hell. If you would like to see what this looks like, go to www.godsplanforall.com. You can also Google, “polls Christians and belief in hell,” to find some rather alarming trends in Christianity.

Verse 28 takes the Hebrew people back to their heritage. What happened to an apostate in the Old Testament? What was used as the measure of apostasy? What was needed for conviction? (See also Deuteronomy 17:1-6)

Verse 28 sets us up for verse 29. Remember, “Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy.” How was the Law given to Moses? (Or, what was the Law written on? How did the Children of Israel receive the Law?)

Looking to verse 29 how was the message of the Gospel delivered?

So, if someone rejected the Law, which was written on two pieces of stone, they were stoned to death without mercy. What could be expected of those who rejected the Gospel, which was delivered by God's own Son?

WORD STUDY: Greek-Katapateo/English-Spurned

While the ESV translates this Greek word a spurned, both the NKJV and NASB translate it as trampled. In fact, this Greek word is also found in Matthew 5:13 and 7:6 as well as Luke 8:5 and 12:1. In all four of these passages the ESV also translates it as trample. In the Old Testament (Psalm 41:9, 2 Kings 9:33, Isaiah 14:19, Micah 7:10, Zechariah 10:5) to "lift up the foot" or trample someone was to show utter contempt or scorn. In Hebrews 10:29, this Greek word is used to show a complete rejection of Christ out of contempt and scorn for Him.

WORD STUDY: Greek-hegeomai/English-Profaned

This Greek word is a strengthened form of another Greek verb which means "to lead, bring or drive to." In its strengthened form it means "to lead, bring or drive to with authority or command."

Consider the meaning of spurned and profaned as described in the Word studies.

Keeping that in mind, now think of the progression the author established:

Law-two tables of stone-transgress-death

Gospel-Son of God-transgress-worse than death

What is the message of verse 29?

Verse 20 adds to the outrage of the Spirit. What two things are promised for those who have spurned or profaned Christ?

What does it mean to be fearful? (Vs. 31)

We have just finished some of the scariest verses in the Bible. Thankfully verse 32 begins with the word but; but what?

What kinds of persecution had the Hebrew people endured?

How did they respond to such persecution?

Why did they do this?

Verses 35-39 serve as a final encouragement. Notice how it incorporates the three “let us” statements from verses 22-24. What do you see?

Faith- _____

Hope- _____

Love- _____

Congratulations! It only took three weeks but you have finished Hebrews chapter 10; one of the most powerful, challenging and inspiring chapters of the Bible.

Lesson #17
SDG –Hebrews Chapter 11:1-7

Chapter 11 is often called God’s Hall of Fame of Faith. The chapter devotes itself to defining faith and giving examples of faith in action. Why did the author include a chapter on faith? The answer is quite simple when we put into the context of everything we have studied so far. Read Hebrews 3:12; 3:19; 4:2 and 10:38. What is spoken about in each of these verses?

Hebrews chapter 11 serves as a contrast to these verses and the problem they contain. But, before we actually delve into chapter 11, let’s do one more little exercise in laying the groundwork for our study. What do the following verses say about faith?

Galatians 1:23- _____
Romans 3:22- _____
Romans 10:17- _____

To the New Testament Christian or first century Christian faith was:

1. Adhering to the promises of God
2. Depending on the Word of God
3. Remaining faithful to the Son of God

Keeping this in mind, what is the author’s two part definition of faith? What is meant by each part?

1. Faith is: _____
Meaning: _____

2. Faith is: _____
Meaning: _____

What had the “people of old” been commended for?

What is the first doctrine of faith that we accept? Why do we do this?

How many times does the author use the phrase “by faith” in chapter 11?

I guess we could say the theme of the chapter is not just faith. Chapter 11 is about the action that faith brings about. So we begin. By faith, what did Abel do?

What was the result of Abel’s action that came by faith?

This first by faith example is unique because it contrasts Abel’s offering with that of Cain. Read Genesis 4:3-16. The Septuagint, which is the Greek version of the Old Testament used in the first century, translates Genesis 4:7 like this: “Did you not sin when you offered (your sacrifice) correctly, but did not divide it correctly?” Why was Cain’s sacrifice not accepted by God?

Why was Abel’s sacrifice acceptable?

Not only was Abel’s sacrifice accepted by God; what else has come from Abel’s faith? (Vs. 4)

Enoch is next in the faith Hall of Fame. What were the two outcomes of Enoch’s faith?

Read 2 Kings 2:11 and Matthew 3:17. With whom does Enoch share these traits?

Read Psalm 69:30-31. What does this say about the goal of worship?

If this is the goal of worship, what is the ultimate way to please God? (Romans 12:1-2)

There is no doubt Enoch was a “good man.” We often look at people and what they do and say, “He/she is a good person.” What does this say about our good or righteous works? (Isaiah 64:6) Why? (Jeremiah 17:9)

What is the criterion for a work to be a “good work?” (Vs.6)

Read Mark 10:18. Where does all goodness originate?

Read Luke 17:10. What is our attitude supposed to be when it comes to doing good works?

What is required for someone to come near to God or have a relationship with Him? (Vs. 6)

Noah is the next Hall of Famer. Carefully consider what is being said. What is meant by “events as yet unseen?” (Warning! This is a challenge question. There are two parts to the answer. Read Genesis 2:5-6)

What is meant by reverent fear?

How did Noah condemn the world? (1 Peter 3:20; 2 Peter 2:5)

What is the key to being an heir of righteousness?

Lesson #18
SDG –Hebrews Chapter 11:8-40

As we continue through the Hall of Fame of Faith, we come to Abraham. In one word, how was Abraham's faith displayed?

Where was Abraham living? (Genesis 11:31) Where did God tell him he was to go? (Genesis 12:1) How does this command fit the definition of faith found in verse 1?

Describe Abraham's life in the Promised Land.

What was Abraham looking forward to? What is meant by this?

What did Sarah receive through faith? (Genesis 17:17) Why?

Why was Abraham considered as good as dead? (Genesis 17:17)

What came from this "dead man?"

What did Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham and Sarah have in common?

If we are to be people of faith how are we to view our lives in this world? Why?

Why is God not ashamed to be called the God of Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sarah and us? Why should he be ashamed of us?

In verse 17, the author continues his account of Abraham's faith. What did Abraham do by faith?

Why would this act have been difficult for Abraham to do?

How did Abraham reconcile his action?

How did Isaac show his faith?

How did Jacob show his faith?

How did Joseph show his faith?

Whose faith is commended in verse 23? How was this faith expressed?

How did Moses express his faith?

Vs. 24- _____

Vs. 25- _____

Pharaoh's house.

Vs. 26- _____

would win for him.

Vs. 27- _____

seen.

Vs. 28- _____

Whose faith is commended in verse 29? Why?

Whose faith is commended in verse 30? Why?

Why is Rahab commended for her faith?

By faith, what did the following individuals do?

Gideon (Judges 6-9) _____

Barak (Judges 4-5) _____

Samson (Judges 13-16) _____

Jephthah (Judges 11-12) _____

David (1 & 2 Samuel) _____

Samuel (1 Samuel 1-12) _____

Lesson #19
SDG –Hebrews 12:1-29

Who makes up the great cloud of witnesses spoken of in verse one?

Who or what is a witness?

What is being witnessed?

When the author writes, “let us also...” what is he saying about us?

What are we to lay aside? Why? What does this mean?

Let us run! What does this tell us about the ministry of the Gospel?

Run with endurance. What does this tell us?

Nike had several commercials that focused on Michael Jordan, arguably one of the greatest basketball players of all time. The theme of the commercials was, “I wanna be like Mike.” This was done to encourage young basketball players to follow in Michael Jordan’s shoes (literally!) Who are we to follow or look to for encouragement?

How is He the founder of our faith?

How is He the perfecter?

We are called to run with endurance. What did Christ endure?

What was the culmination or finish line of Christ's race/ministry?

In previous chapters the author was rather critical of some of the Hebrew people to whom he was writing. In verse four we get another insight into why he was critical. What hadn't these people faced yet?

What Bible passage does the author quote in verses 5-6? What is the purpose for quoting this passage?

Discipline is rarely enjoyed. But the fact that God disciplines us shows us something. What is that?

If a parent does not discipline a child, what does this show?

Why would all Christians need discipline?

Why would someone who is not disciplined be illegitimate?

How do earthly father's discipline? Our heavenly Father?

What is the goal of spiritual discipline?

What does the author indicate in verses 12-13?

“Strive for peace with everyone.” What does this mean? (Romans 12:18-21)

What is meant by holiness? Why is this necessary? (Exodus 20:3-5)

What potential problem is addressed in verse 15? What is the cure for it?

What problem is warned about in verse 16?

What does the author compare this sin to? Why?

Why didn't Esau inherit the blessing?

What promises do we have when it comes to our own sin and repentance?
(1 John 1:9-10)

Read Exodus 19:12-25 and 20:18-21. What is the writer to the Hebrews referring to in verse 18-21?

While the Israelites came to Mt. Sinai with fear and trembling for the giving of the Law by God, how do we now approach God?

What is meant by enrolled? (Daniel 7:10; Philippians 4:3; Revelation 20:12-15)

What is the difference between the blood of Able and the blood of Christ

How had the Hebrew people refused God? (Vs. 25) What was the result?

When God spoke at Mt. Sinai the earth shook. What does God promise will happen the next time He speaks?

How are we to react to this promise?

Let us offer to God acceptable worship. What does this imply?

What awaits those who do not worship God?

Lesson #20
SDG –Hebrews 13

As we come to the final chapter of Hebrews, the author embarks on a list of exhortations and remarks to his Hebrew recipients. He begins by acknowledging something they are already doing. What does he ask them to continue in?

Why would he lead off with this exhortation? (1 Cor. 13:13)

What is the second exhortation? Why?

Who do we know that actually did entertain angels?

Genesis 18:1-33- _____

Genesis 19:1-2- _____

Judges 6:11-24- _____

Judges 13:6-20- _____

What is the third exhortation? How was this to be done?

What is meant by the phrase “since you also are in the body?” (1 Cor. 12:20-27)

What is the fourth exhortation?

How is marriage not honored?

How is marriage defiled?

What will happen to those who dishonor or defile marriage?

What are the two parts of the fifth exhortation?

How do these two parts interact?

What does the Bible teach about the love of money? (1Timothy 6:10)

Why should we be content with what we have?

Who are the leaders that are to be remembered?

What was the outcome of their way of life?

What is meant by strange and diverse teachings? (Hint: consider what is said immediately after this exhortation.)

Looking at verse 10, what is meant by: “the altar?”

Looking at verse 10, what is meant by: “those who serve the tent?”

What was done with the animals that were sacrificed on the Day of Atonement? (Remember these animals, the goat and the bull, are the animals whose blood the High Priest took into the Most Holy Place.)

Where was Christ crucified?

What point is the author making by pointing out what was done with the sacrificed animals and where Christ was crucified?

The author calls on the people, in a figurative sort of way to go outside of the city and be with Christ. What is meant by this?

Since we have membership in this city that is to come, what are we to do? Why?

Who are the leaders spoken of in verse 17?

What is the job of these leaders?

What will these leaders be asked to do?

Why would it be of no advantage if these leaders were groaning instead of serving with joy?

What is the final exhortation? Why?

How is God identified in verse 20? Why?

What is the prayer of the author for his Hebrew friends?

Looking at verses 22-25, what do we learn about the author?
