

Hebrews

Study of Chapter 8

Day 1

This week we will spend our time studying Hebrews 8. At the end of the lesson, I'll have you write one or two sentences summarizing the chapter, so you may want to make a few notes on key thoughts, words and phrases as you study.

Read the chapter at least twice before starting the study guide. Ask the Lord to speak to your heart concerning the truths found in this chapter. Listen for the Holy Spirit's leading so that you can make personal applications.

Key thoughts

1. Notice how the author starts by summarizing the truth he has been presenting. Who is the author referring to in Hebrews 8:1-2?

To what two actions does the author direct our attention in these two verses?

Hebrews 8:1 _____

Hebrews 8:2 _____

Key words

2. Read Hebrews 8:3, and consider the responsibilities of the high priest. Think for a few minutes about the two activities, then fill in the chart.

Key phrases

| | The purpose and attitude of the heart (the why behind this act) |
|---|--|
| To offer <u>gifts</u> brought to him | |
| To offer <u>sacrifices</u> brought to him | |

1 Corinthians 16:2

On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income.

2 Corinthians 9:6-7

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.⁷ Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

3. I believe this is a good place to stop and consider the topic of our giving. Read the verses below. List some words that would describe or explain this New Testament teaching in 1 Corinthians and 2 Corinthians?

4. Think back to the last time you gave an offering. Why did you give it? What was the thought behind or the motivating factor(s) for your offering?

5. Can anyone ever out give God? _____

6. According to Hebrews 8:5, where did the Levitical priests serve?

What did you learn about this place of service?

7. Let's ponder what we have seen so far in chapter 8. Men and women were created for worship. The truth is people will worship something. What are the two choices for worship? I have given you one.

- God

- _____

Day 2

8. Moses was instructed by God to construct the tabernacle very carefully, because it was to be a representation of _____

9. According to Hebrews 8:6, what is it that makes Jesus' covenant a better covenant? _____

This new covenant established on _____

Read John 10:28-30 and Proverbs 8:35 to help with your answer.

10. Notice how Jesus' ministry is described in Hebrews 8:6? To whom is His ministry compared? _____

What did you learn by comparing these two ministries? _____

11. He is also the mediator of a new covenant. How is this new covenant described in Hebrews 8:6? _____

John 10:28-30

I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand.²⁹ My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand.³⁰ I and the Father are one."

Proverbs 8:35

For those who find me find life and receive favor from the LORD.

12. Let's take a few minutes to look back at a few other covenants. Covenants involve two or more parties and contain promises and signs.

| | Individuals involved | Promises | Sign/Witness |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|----------|------------------|
| Genesis 6:18-22 | | | Genesis 9:8-17 |
| Genesis 15:18-21 Genesis 17:4-19 | | | Genesis 17:9-11 |
| Genesis 31:43-50 | | | Genesis 31:51-53 |

13. Look up the word covenant, and write a definition. _____

What have you learned about covenants after filling in the chart above?

Galatians 3:21

Is the law then contrary to the promises of God? Certainly not! For if a law had been given that could give life, then righteousness would indeed be by the law.

14. Read Galatians 3:21. What was the fundamental flaw of the old covenant? What was the old covenant unable to provide and why?

Jeremiah 31:34

Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, ³² It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them, declares the LORD. ³³ "This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time," declares the LORD. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. ³⁴ No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, 'Know the LORD,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the LORD. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."

15. The author of Hebrews quotes the Old Testament prophet Jeremiah's writings, which provide many details of the new covenant. Answer the questions below.

Read Hebrews 8:8 and Jeremiah 31:31. When did the Lord say this new covenant would be made? _____

Read Hebrews 8:10 and Jeremiah 31:33. Who are the named parties of this new covenant? _____

Read Hebrews 8:11-12 and Jeremiah 31:34. No longer will they need someone to teach them. What will be the dramatic difference?

Look back to Hebrews 7:22. What is the guarantee of this new covenant?

16. Look up the Hebrew word kaphar, translated atonement in Exodus 30:10. It describes what was provided by the high priest's annual sacrifice.

Now look up the meaning of the Greek word apheisis, translated forgiveness in

Matthew 26:28

This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Matthew 26:28, brought by Jesus sacrifice. Are you beginning to see why Jesus' new covenant was far superior to the old covenant? Write a summary sentence or two comparing these aspects of the old and new covenants.

Deuteronomy 11:22-28

If you carefully observe all these commands I am giving you to follow—to love the LORD your God, to walk in obedience to him and to hold fast to him—²³ then the LORD will drive out all these nations before you, and you will dispossess nations larger and stronger than you. ²⁴Every place where you set your foot will be yours: Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the Euphrates River to the Mediterranean Sea. ²⁵No one will be able to stand against you. The LORD your God, as he promised you, will put the terror and fear of you on the whole land, wherever you go. ²⁶See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse—²⁷the blessing if you obey the commands of the LORD your God that I am giving you today; ²⁸the curse if you disobey the commands of the LORD your God and turn from the way that I command you today by following other gods, which you have not known.

James 5:16

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

Romans 15:5-6, 13

May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, ⁶ so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Day 3

17. God made a covenant promise to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob to give them the land and to make their descendants into a great nation. Moses reminded those descendants they would be living in an unfamiliar land with a vastly different value system from their own. He warns them to stay focused. The old covenant was filled with, "If..., then" promises for God's people. In Deuteronomy 11:22-28 to the left circle the "if" requirements for God's people, and underline the "then" promises of God.

18. Jeremiah is often referred to as the "weeping prophet." Jeremiah loved his fellow Israelites. But he knew they were missing out on a true relationship with God. Do you have friends or loved ones you have wept over? Why not stop and pray for them again right now?

19. So often, James 5:16b has been quoted to encourage us to pray over a need. But is it simply any prayer that moves the heart of God? Are all prayers powerful and effective? _____

What is James referring to when he says, the prayer of a righteous person? Righteous is the Greek word dikaios, meaning in a wide sense, upright, virtuous, keeping the commands of God. _____

According to James 5:16, are there things we should take care of first before praying for others? _____

20. In Hebrews 8:11, we see the Greek word ginosko, translated "know." This is a relational word. It is more than merely acknowledging that God exists. Our hearts must experience true repentance of sin to enjoy God's gift of salvation. Then the Scripture says God will change the way we think and reason. What are the other benefits mentioned for a follower of Christ in verses 10-12? _____

21. When we come to a saving knowledge of Christ and place our trust in Him, in what way is our thinking changed? _____

Romans 12:2

Do not be conformed to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

- 22. The mind of Christ is not something that is reserved only for "perfect" people. Every believer has access to the mind of Christ through faith. However, we also still have the old mind. We still give in to the lure of sin from time to time. According to Romans 12:2, what must we do in order to live pleasingly to our heavenly Father?

- 23. Look up the word "obsolete" or "old" and define it. Then write Hebrews 8:13 in your own words.

Day 4

- 24. Since the old covenant is obsolete, why would anyone choose to go back and live under the law? _____

- 25. If we have enjoyed the freedom brought by the new covenant, and have experienced salvation by grace, where do works come in? Read Ephesians 2:8-9 and James 2:17 to help you answer this question. _____

- 26. Fill in the chart with all you have learned about these two covenants.

| The Old Covenant | The New Covenant |
|------------------|------------------|
| | |

Ephesians 2:8-9

"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast."

James 2:17

"In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."

- 27. What impact has Hebrews 1-8 had on your relationship with Christ and with others? Take time to think—please do not rush through this question.

Day 5

John 19:30

When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Revelation 21:11-13

Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. The earth and the heavens fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. ¹²And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. ¹³The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done.

28. Looking back to Hebrews 8:1, what is the significance of our high priest being seated? _____

What might we understand about the work Christ came to do? Read John 19:30 in Jesus' own words. _____

29. Our high priest is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven. Verse 1 tells us he is serving now, but if we read Revelation 21:11-13, what does Jesus say he will one day be doing from this position of authority?

30. What are some words that might be used to describe this position at "the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven?" It is a position of:

31. When you read verse 12, what thoughts went through your mind?

32. This may not have been the first time you read this verse or possibly heard this wonderful truth, but it is such an amazing promise. We are to have the mind of Christ. How are you at forgiving and forgetting?

33. At the start of the study guide this week, I asked you to be watching for the overall theme of this chapter. Write one or two sentences telling what this chapter is about. What is the author trying to help us see?