

עַבְדְּיָהוּ

HEBREWS – CHRIST THE LORD OF:

- *THE SPIRITUAL WORLD – CH 1-2
(TWO STUDIES)*
- *THE LAW AND PROPHETS – CH 3-4*
- *THE PRIESTHOOD AND SACRIFICES – CH 5-10
(TWO STUDIES)*
- *THE HEROES OF FAITH – CH 11*
- *OUR DAY TO DAY – CH 12-13*



HEBREWS - CH 1 VS 1-14



TURN ON - WARM UP ACTIVITY

God speaks in various ways and at various times to his people. Share with the person sitting next to you and/or the group a way in which God has spoken recently to you or someone you know.



SEARCH - KEYWORD PHRASE

"THE ONLY BEGOTTEN SON"

In older translations v 5&6 read like this: "...You are my son, today have I begotten you...when God was about to send his only begotten son into the world..."

Trace this phrase and similar phrases back through the Bible: Psalm 2 v 1; Isaiah 9 v 6; John 1 v 14 & 18, Matt 3 v 16-17; John 3 v 16, Acts 13 v 32-33; 1 John 4 v 9.

What do you think the phrase means. How would you translate it into modern English?



DOWNLOAD - PROCESSING KEY CONCEPTS

ANGELS – WHAT ARE THEY AND WHAT ARE THEIR ROLES?

1. List some of the characteristics and key roles described as belonging to angels in this chapter and in other references in the New Testament eg Matt 18 v 10, Acts 12 v 7-10; Luke 1 v 11 & 19; Rev 7 v 1-3; Rev 22 v 6

2. Describe some of the main differences between angels and Jesus as discussed in Hebrews 1.
3. If you were asking God to give you an angel – or a ministering spirit – to minister to you today what need might you ask it to address? Have you ever experienced what you might call the ministrations of an angel?



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V 3 describes Jesus as “the exact likeness” or “express image of God’s own being”. The word likeness comes from the Greek word for character and has the sense of a character or impression being engraved into a solid material like stone or gold. Thinking about yourself, can you see aspects of who and what you are which could be called the exact image of God? Are there other aspects of yourself that are far removed from what you understand to be the nature of God? This week, what changes might you need to make to sharpen up or render more accurate the impression of Christ in you?



FAVOURITES

Write out the verse or phrase from this chapter that you would like to save in your favourite’s folder.

HEBREWS - CH 2



TURN ON - WARM UP ACTIVITY

V 18 says that Jesus can help those who are tempted and who suffer because he himself was tempted and suffered. Share with someone in your group a way in which you were tempted as a child and a way in which you have been tempted as an adult. How did your parents help you to cope with childhood temptations? How do you cope with temptations now?



SEARCH - KEYWORD PHRASE

"HIS FAMILY"

V 11 ...That is why Jesus is not ashamed to call them his family (also translated as brethren or in more modern versions, brothers and sisters!

The Greek word for "family" here means someone from the same womb.

Search back through some of the references to belonging to Christ's family – being brothers and sisters in Christ – to answer the question as to how people come into the family and what characterises God's children: Matt 12 v 49-50; Mark 10 v 29; John 17 v 20-21; Romans 8 v 28-29; Ephesians 2 v 18-19, 3 v 14-18.



DOWNLOAD - PROCESSING KEY CONCEPTS

V 3 ... THIS GREAT SALVATION

Salvation seems a very old-fashioned word today. What does the word mean to you? Is there another word or phrase which might be used to express the same idea?

What might people need to be saved from? What are they saved to?

Unpack some of the meaning of the following verses:

1) *V 1 ...We must pay more careful attention then to what we have heard in case we drift away...*

- What might we drift away from?
- Why do we drift?
- What is drifting?
- How do we prevent the likelihood of drifting?

2) *V 3 ...How shall we escape if we ignore so great salvation?...*

- How might we ignore salvation?
- What are the consequences if we ignore salvation?

3) *V 10*

- In what way is Jesus the author of salvation
- How/why did he need to be made perfect through suffering?



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Through death Jesus destroyed the one who had the power of death and set free all those who through fear of death were subject to slavery...
But is that a reality for you??

Pray this week for yourself and/or for someone close to you who might be a slave to fear or feeling trapped in a way of life that more closely resembles death than living.



FAVOURITES

Write out the verse or phrase from this chapter that you would like to save in your favourite's folder.

HEBREWS – CH 3 & 4



TURN ON - WARM UP ACTIVITY

The writer to the Hebrews warned his readers not to harden their hearts as had been done when God's people in the past rebelled. Thinking about rebelling, can you think of a time that you have been rebellious? Who or what did you rebel against? How did you act out your rebellion? Is it a good thing sometimes to rebel? In what circumstances might you be tempted to rebel against God?



SEARCH - KEYWORD PHRASE

"GOD'S HOUSE"

The word house in the Bible is used to refer to many things – such as buildings where people live, a tribe (eg House of Levi) and a people (the House of Israel). The first time God spoke about “living with” his people he was speaking to Moses whom he asked to make a dwelling which was like a tent and is called in the Bible “the tabernacle”. (Exodus 25 v 8-9) After many years, King David wanted to build a permanent house made of wood where God could reside. God's message to David was – Don't build me a house. Instead, I [God] will build of you and your descendents a house that will last forever (1 Chronicles 17). David later wrote a number of psalms where he spoke about living in “the House of the Lord” – perhaps the most famous lines being in Ps 23. Solomon, David's son, did of course build a magnificent physical temple for God, which was rebuilt twice – Herod building the temple which was standing in Jerusalem at the time Hebrews was written.

In the New Testament the phrases the House of the Lord and the temple of the Lord are used to refer to all the people in whom God resides.

Check out these references: 1 Cor 3 v 16; 1 Cor 6 v 19; 2 Cor 6 v 16; Eph 2 v 20-22; 1 Peter 2 v 5.

What significance does this idea of being God's house have for you?



DOWNLOAD - PROCESSING KEY CONCEPTS

"GOD'S REST"

1) ch 4 v 3-4 - *God at rest*

- Why and how did God rest on the 7th day?
- What "work" do you think has been finished since the creation of the world?

2) ch 3 v 8-11, 16-19 ch 4 v 8 – *The Jewish people fail to find rest*

- What "rest" was waiting for the Jews after their wandering in the desert?
- Why didn't they enter it? What do you think ch 4 v 8 means for the people of God today?

3) ch 4 v 9-11 *Ongoing promise of rest*

- What is the "Sabbath-rest" that still remains for the followers of Christ?
- What do we have to do to experience this rest?? (Is Matt 11 v 28 a clue?)



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V 12- 13 The Mirror test. As you go through the next week, if you hold up the mirror of God's word to your thoughts and actions what do you see?

V 16 Hotline/Helpline If you have a cell phone, compose some texts to Jesus as you feel a particular need or weakness (or inadequacy after having looked in the mirror of God's word!). If you don't have a cell-phone write these prayers down to share with your home group next week.



FAVOURITES

Write out the verse or phrase from this chapter that you would like to save in your favourite's folder.

HEBREWS – CH 5 TO 7



TURN ON - WARM UP ACTIVITY

Share with the person next to you or the group as a whole any text prayers you have written during the week as you have approached Jesus, our “great High priest” with your needs, weaknesses, fears, doubts or offerings of praise and worship.



SEARCH - KEYWORD PHRASE

“THE PRIESTHOOD OF MELCHIZEDEK”

Who was Melchizedek, what kind of priest was he and why is the writer of Hebrews comparing him to Jesus?

Check the references to Melchizedek: Genesis 14: 18-20, Psalm 110 1-5; Hebrews 5 v 6; Hebrews 6 v 20, 7 v 1.

Thinking about the role of “priests”, do you think there are people within society who fulfil these roles? What about those who are called priests within different churches. What role or roles do they fill? Are they necessary if Jesus is our great high priest?



DOWNLOAD - PROCESSING KEY CONCEPTS

“A PROMISE THAT CANNOT BE BROKEN”

- 1) ch 6 v 13-17 - *The promise to Abraham*
 - Read Gen 22 v 15-18
 - What was the promise God made to Abraham at this time?

- Why did God make the promise?
- How did he make it?

2) ch 6 v 17-20 - *The promise to Abraham extends to all*

- Who are the “heirs of the promise”.
- What do you think is meant by the phrase:- “the 2 unchangeable things in relation to which it is impossible for God to lie?”
- What is the hope we have as the anchor for our souls?

3) ch 7 v 18-28 - *A new promise extended to now to all for all time*

- What do the old promise and the new promise have in common?
- How are they different?



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Ch 5 v 14.

We are urged to start living on solid food, not going back to a basic “milk diet”. Think about devising a training programme this week that could help you get stronger in the faith, being able to distinguish good from evil and to become more mature?



FAVOURITES

Write out the verse or phrase from this chapter that you would like to save in your favourite’s folder.

Hebrews – Ch 8 to 10



TURN ON - WARM UP ACTIVITY

Think back over your life. Write down 3 or 4 significant wrong doings you can recall – or times when you should have acted to address obvious injustice or wrong and you did not act. If you were a Judge charging a fine for these wrongful acts or omissions, how much do you think you would find yourself. Write the amounts down, then write: PAID IN FULL through the amounts and rip the paper up.

Discuss with the group what you thought during this exercise.



SEARCH - KEYWORD PHRASE

“HEAVENS, HEAVENLY PLACES, HEAVEN”

Check out some of the references to heaven, heavenly places or the heavens in Hebrews: Heb 1 v 10, Heb 3 v 1; Heb 4 v 14; Heb 6 v 4; Heb 7 v 26; Heb 8 v 1; Heb 9 v 23-24; Heb 10 v 34; Heb 11 v 16; Heb 12 v 22-23.

What are some of the characteristics of heaven? What is going on in heaven? What is the connection between heaven and earth (if any?!)



DOWNLOAD - PROCESSING KEY CONCEPTS

“OLD COVENANT/NEW COVENANT”

The word covenant can be understood as meaning a contract or binding agreement between two parties. The writer of Hebrews explores in a lot of depth the 2 contracts that God has made with “his people”.

Think about the similarities and differences between the 2 by answering these legal questions for each of the contracts (you don't have to be a lawyer to do so!!).

	Old Contract	New Contract
Who were the parties to the contract?		
When did the contract begin and end?		
Who "mediated" the contract (ie bought the parties together to set up the contract?)		
What did each of the parties have to do to enter the contract?		
What did the contract promise to deliver?		
What were the conditions of the contract – ie how might it be breached?		
What was the "consideration" for the contract? ie the payment that had to be made to bring it into effect?		



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Ch 10 v 19-25.

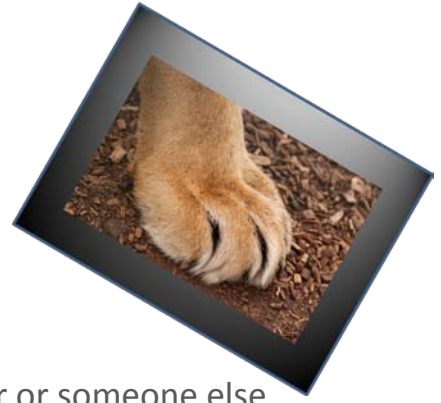
What 4 courses of action are we being urged to follow in these verses?
Which one do you do best? Which one do you think you might need to
work on this week?



FAVOURITES

Write out the verse or phrase from this chapter that you would like to
save in your favourite's folder.

HEBREWS – CH 11 & 12 v 1



TURN ON - WARM UP ACTIVITY

Choose one of the heroes of the faith from this chapter or someone else who has inspired you. Tell the group why this particular person has inspired you.

Write a verse about yourself to add to this chapter!



SEARCH - KEYWORD PHRASE

"ABRAHAM – FATHER OF THE FAITHFUL"

Read Romans 4 v 16-18 and Hebrews 11 v 8-12 and compare with the accounts in Genesis 15 and 17 v15- 23.

What was the nature of Abraham's interactions with God? Was the faith that he had "blind faith". If not, what adjective would you use to describe it? Do you see Abraham as being your father? If so, how?



DOWNLOAD - PROCESSING KEY CONCEPTS

"FAITH"

- 1) c 11 v 1 - How would you define faith in your own words?
- 2) What are some of the common characteristics of faith as they are seen in the lives of the characters listed in this chapter?

- 3) What is the source of faith, the purpose of faith and some of the outcomes of faith?
- 4) V 40 - What is the “something better” planned for us? How will the heroes and heroines of the faith who have gone before be “made perfect” through us?



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Ch 12 v 1 – Weightlifting exercise

Identify some of the weights which are preventing you from running as a Christian. Imagine the hero of the faith you chose at the beginning of this study is standing beside you, coaching you. What advice would they give in terms of shifting the weights and running the race this week?



FAVOURITES

Write out the verse or phrase from this chapter that you would like to save in your favourite’s folder.

HEBREWS – CH 12 v 2 TO CH 13



TURN ON - WARM UP ACTIVITY

This chapter talks about discipline. Thinking about methods of discipline, share with the group which methods you have responded best to/least to over the course of your life. Thinking about being disciplined, think to yourself about the following question:

Which of the following do you find most difficult to be disciplined about: Overeating, restraining your temper, being accountable in terms of money, spending time praying, watching what comes out of your mouth, coveting, putting your partner/families needs before your own?



SEARCH - KEYWORD PHRASE

“RUNNING THE RACE”

Several sporting images are used by the New Testament writers – in particular the image of running a race. Have a look at some of these references:

Phil 3 v 13-14; Coloss 4 v 12; 1 Tim 1 v 18; 1 Tim 6 v 12; 2 Tim 2 v 5; 2 Tim 4 v 6-8, Heb 12 v 1.

What are some of the obvious parallels between being a sports person and being a follower of Jesus?



DOWNLOAD - PROCESSING KEY CONCEPTS

“LOVING AND LIVING AS FAMILY”

The writer of Hebrews concludes this book by, as it were, coming right into the heart of our lives as families – contrasting good and healthy relationships with unhealthy relationships with each other and with God.

1) ch 12 v 4-11 - *Healthy discipline*

- List the reasons why God disciplines us, the methods he uses and the responses He looks for.

2) ch 12 v 12 – 17, ch 13- 5 - *Healthy lifestyle*

- List the key “dos” and “do nots” in maintaining a healthy lifestyle in relationship with others.

3) ch 12 v 18-29 - *Healthy fear*

- In what way do you understand the phrase “our God is a consuming fire”.
- How do you respond to this concept?



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Ch 13 v 20-21 - An equipment list. Put together an equipment list and spend time in prayer asking God to give you the equipment you feel you need to live a life that is pleasing to Him.



FAVOURITES

Write out the verse or phrase from this chapter that you would like to save in your favourite’s folder.

OSUMMARY

JESUS BETTER THAN?

WARNINGS BETTER NOT?

ENCOURAGEMENT BETTER DO



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FOR TITAHİ BAY COMMUNITY CHURCH
JUNE 2010