# **New Testament Recovery Version**

# **Study Guide**

Book X

THE EPISTLE

TO THE

**HEBREWS** 

### Week 1 Day 1 Heb. 1:1-3

Week I Day I Heb. 1.1-3
I. Key Verse:
Heb. 1:1 God, having spoken of old in many portions and in many ways to the fathers in the prophets,
II. Your Favorite Verses:
II. Truth Quiz:
1. Why is it meaningful that this book is entitled The Epistle to the Hebrews?
2. What does "God spoke in many portions and many ways to the fathers" refer to?
3. How does God at the last of these days speak to us in the Son?
Answer:
1. See 1 Heb. 1:1 note 2 paragraph 2.
2. See 1 Heb. 1:1 note 2.
3. See 1 Heb. 1:2 note 2 paragraph 1.
IV. Further Reading: Life-Study of Hebrews Msg. 1-3.
Note:

### Week 1 Day 2 Heb. 1:4-14

I. Key Verse:
Heb. 1:4 Having become as much better than the angels as to have inherited a more distinguished name than they.
II. Your Favorite Verses:
III. Crucial Points of the Truth:
The intention of Hebrews is to show the Hebrew believers that
God's is superior to Judaism. In Judaism the boast was in
God, angels, Moses, Aaron the high priest, and the Old Testamen
with its services. Initially, the writer points out that in God's salvation
the first superior thing is not only God but God expressed, i.e., God
the (vv. 1:2-3, 5, 8-12). Then he goes on to unfold that Christ is
superior to (1:42:18), to (3:1-6), and to
(4:147:28) and that the new covenant of made by Him is
superior to the old covenant of (See Heb. 1:8 note 1)
IV. Further Reading: Life-Study of Hebrews Msg. 4-5.
Note:

### Week 1 Day 3 Heb. 2:1-18

## I. Key Verse:

Heb. 2:10 For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and through whom are all things, in leading many sons into glory, to make the Author of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

II.	Your Favorite	Verses:	,	
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#### **III. Crucial Points of the Truth:**

### IV. Further Reading: Life-Study of Hebrews Msg. 6-13.

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Note:				

### Week 1 Day 4 Heb. 3:1-19

## I. Key Verse:

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Heb. 3:3 For He has been counted worthy of more glory than
Moses, by as much as He who built the house has
more honor than the house.
more nonor than the nouse.
II. Your Favorite Verses:
III. Crucial Points of the Truth:
As the, He is typified by, who came from
God to serve the house of God (vv. 2-6), and as the High Priest, He is
typified by, who went to God with the house of Israel and
their cases (4:147:28).
Moses had the, which is fit for God's
building, but he did not have the, which is suitable
for being the builder. In contrast, Christ in His is the
good material for God's building (the foundation stone — Isa. 28:16;
the cornerstone — Matt. 21:42; Acts 4:11; the topstone — Zech. 4:7
(ASV); and the that produces us as living stones
— 1 Pet. 2:4-5). Moreover, in His divinity He is the (See
Heb. 3:1 note 4, 3 note 2)
IV. Further Reading: Life-Study of Hebrews Msg. 14-17, 25.
Note:

## Week 1 Day 5 Heb. 4:1-13

I. Key Verse:
Heb. 4:12 For the word of God is living and operative and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing even to the dividing of soul and spirit and of joints and marrow, and able to discern the thoughts and intentions of the heart.
II. Your Favorite Verses:
III. Crucial Points of the Truth:
With them there were three places: (1), from which
they were delivered; (2) the, in which they wandered;
and (3), into which they entered. Their history in these
three places signifies the three stages of their participation in God's
full salvation. This is a type of us, the New Testament believers, in
our participation in the full of God. In the first stage we
receive Christ and are redeemed and delivered from the In
the second stage we become wanderers in following the Lord; our
wandering always takes place in our In the third stage we
partake of and Christ in a full way; this is experienced in our
(See Heb. 4:12 note 2 paragraph 2)
IV. Further Reading: Life-Study of Hebrews Msg. 18-26.
Note:

## Week 1 Day 6 Heb. 4:14-5:10

I.	Key Verse	:
	Heb. 4:16	Let us therefore come forward with boldness to the throne of grace that we may receive mercy and find grace for timely help.
II.	Your Fav	orite Verses:,,
III	. Crucial Po	oints of the Truth:
4:2 how Ch ear Go	4) is also not 2), where the use of God, rist is the th (Gen. 28: d's habitation der that joi	Christ who is sitting on the in heaven (Rom. ow in us (Rom. 8:10), that is, in our (2 Tim. he habitation of God is (Eph. 2:22). At, the the habitation of God, which is the gate of heaven, that joins earth to heaven and brings heaven to 12-17; John 1:51). Since today our spirit is the place of n, it is now the of heaven, where Christ is the ns us, the people on earth, to heaven, and brings (See Heb. 4:16 note 1)
IV.	Further l	Reading: Life-Study of Hebrews Msg. 27-28.
N	lote:	

#### Week 1 Day 7 Heb. 5:11-6:3

I. Key Verse:
Heb. 6:1 Therefore leaving the word of the beginning of
Christ, let us be brought on to maturity
II. Your Favorite Verses:
III. Crucial Points of the Truth:
In the experience of our spiritual life, there is always the Lord's
, on the one side, and our in cooperation with
Him, on the other side.
The Lord wants to bring us on, but we must let Him do it. This is
our willing cooperation with His work. In order to be
brought on to perfection, to maturity, we need to share with
in His attainments (1:9; 3:14), to be diligent to enter into the
remaining Sabbath (4:9, 11), to come forward to the
of grace to receive mercy and find (4:16), and to feed on the
solid food to enjoy Christ as our High Priest according to the order of
(See Heb. 6:1 note 3)
IV. Further Reading: Life-Study of Hebrews Msg. 29-30.
Note:

#### THE SUPERIORITY OF CHRIST

Our God is the expressed God, the God who reaches us, who is received by us, who is experienced by us, and who becomes our enjoyment day by day. This is our God. Surely this God is better than the God of Judaism.

Our Christ, the Son of God, is even more superior to the angels than was the God of Judaism. The angels, which are like winds and flames of fire, are simply the creatures, while the Son is the Creator. As creatures, the angels are much inferior to the Son, and as the Creator, the Son is much superior to the angels.

Moses was only a part of the house, whereas Christ is both the house and the Builder of the house. So Christ is counted worthy of more glory and honor than Moses was (Heb. 3:3). We need to see that Christ as the Builder of the house has more glory and honor than Moses. Hence, Christ is much superior to Moses.

Aaron was established in honor to be the high priest only for his lifetime, for he was prevented by death from continuing. But, as the Son of God, Christ was ordained in glory to be our High Priest forever (v. 6). With Him there is no preventing of death. He is glorified forever to be our High Priest.

The new covenant is better than the old covenant, just as the reality of a person is better than his photograph. The old covenant, like a photograph, had only the outward form, but the new covenant, like the real person, has the inward life with all its reality.

We have received Christ as our Redeemer and Savior, and He has come into us to be our life. This very Christ whom we have received as our life within is also our High Priest in the heavens according to the order of Melchisedec, whose function is not to offer the sacrifice for sin but to minister the riches of God for our supply. In order to grow into maturity we need to enjoy such a God-ministering Christ that we may participate in the riches of the divine element.

This book encourages us to go on by feeding on the solid food and enjoying the heavenly Christ that we may receive the rich element of God for our growth into maturity. (*Life-Study of Hebrews*, pp. 47, 305, 336, 409-410)

#### Week 2 Day 1 Heb. 6:4-20

#### I. Key Verse:

Heb. 6:18 In order that by two unchangeable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we may have strong encouragement, we who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us,

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#### III. Truth Quiz:

- 1. Why is there no need for those who have fallen away to repeat repentance?
- 2. What is to be near a curse? What is the real curse?
- 3. How can we experience the "entering within the veil"?

#### Answer:

- 1. See Heb. 6:6 note 1, note 2.
- 2. See Heb. 6:8 note 3.
- 3. See Heb. 6:18 note 3, 19 note 2.

#### IV. Further Reading: Life-Study of Hebrews Msg. 30.

Note:			

#### Week 2 Day 2 Heb. 7:1-28

I.	<b>Key Verse</b>	:
	Heb. 7:25	Hence also He is able to save to the uttermost those
		who come forward to God through Him, since He
		lives always to intercede for them.
II.	Your Favo	orite Verses:,,
III.	Crucial Po	oints of the Truth:
	According	to the work and of Christ, this book has a
turn	at this vers	e, a turn from earth to To the end of ch. 6,
wha	at is reveale	ed is mainly Christ's work on earth, typified by the
prie	esthood of _	That section is the word of foundation. From
this	verse, Chr	rist's ministry in heaven according to the order of
		is unveiled. This section is the word of
whi	ch shows u	s how the heavenly Christ ministers in the heavenly
	•	The Hebrew believers participated in His work on
		ow they had to press on to enter into the enjoyment of
His	ministry on	the (See Heb. 7:1 note 1)
IV.	Further Re	eading: Life-Study of Hebrews Msg. 31-35.
N	ote:	

### Week 2 Day 3 Heb. 8:1-13

#### I. Key Verse:

Heb. 8:10 For this is the covenant which I will covenant with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will impart My laws into their mind, and on their hearts I will inscribe them; and I will be God to them, and they will be a people to Me.

hearts I will inscribe them; and I will be God to them, and they will be a people to Me.
II. Your Favorite Verses:
III. Crucial Points of the Truth:
In the new covenant four are promised: (1) for our unrighteousnesses and the forgetting () of our sins (v. 12); (2) the imparting of the of life by the of the divine life into us (v. 10a); (3) the privilege of having God as our God and of being His — the divine life's enabling us to participate in the enjoyment of God in fellowship with Him (v. 10b); and (4) the of life that enables us to Him in the inward way of life (v. 11). According to the covenant that God consummated, these four blessings are His But according to the testament that the Lord bequeathed to us, they are His (See Heb. 8:12 note 1)  IV. Further Reading: Life-Study of Hebrews Msg. 35-38.
Note:

### Week 2 Day 4 Heb. 9:1-14

#### I. Key Verse:

Heb. 9:14 How much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God?
II. Your Favorite Verses:
III. Crucial Points of the Truth:
The arrangement of the furniture of the tabernacle portrays our experience of In the outer court were the bronze altar and the bronze laver. This signifies that our experience of Christ begins, in an outward sense, with His redemption, which was accomplished on the, and the of the Holy Spirit, which is based on Christ's redemption. In the Holy Place, the showbread table signifies our experience of Christ as our life, and the lampstand, our experience of Christ as the shining The incense altar signifies our experience of Christ as the sweet ascending to God. In the Holy of Holies was the ark of the testimony, in which were the containing the hidden manna; Aaron's ; and the tablets of the (See Heb. 9:4 note 3)
IV. Further Reading: Life-Study of Hebrews Msg. 39-40, 58-64.
Note:

### Week 2 Day 5 Heb. 9:15-28

#### I. Key Verse:

Heb. 9:15 And because of this He is the Mediator of a new covenant, so that, death having taken place for redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, those who have been called might receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

II.	<b>Your Favorite</b>	Verses:		,	,
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#### **III. Crucial Points of the Truth:**

The new covenant consummated with the blood of Christ is not
merely a covenant but a in which all the things that
were accomplished by the death of Christ have been to
us. First, God gave the promise that He would make a new covenant
(Jer. 31:31-34). Then Christ shed His blood to enact the covenant
(Luke 22:20). Since accomplished facts are promised in this covenant
it is also a This testament, this will, was confirmed and
validated by Christ's and is being executed and enforced by
Christ in His The promise of God's covenant is
insured by God's; God's covenant is guaranteed by
God's; and the testament is enforced by Christ's
resurrection (See Heb. 9:16 note 1)

### IV. Further Reading: Life-Study of Hebrews Msg. 41-42.

Note:			

#### Week 2 Day 6 Heb. 10:1-25

I.	Key	Verses:
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1.	ixcy	VCISCS	) <b>:</b>
	Heb.	10:19	Having therefore, brothers, boldness for entering the
			Holy of Holies in the blood of Jesus,
	Heb.	10:20	Which entrance He initiated for us as a new and
			living way through the veil, that is, His flesh,
II.	You	r Favo	orite Verses:,
III.	Cru	cial Po	ints of the Truth:
	This	is the	second veil (Heb. 9:3) within the tabernacle, which
veil	typif	ies the	of Christ. When Christ's flesh was crucified,
this	veil v	was	(Matt. 27:51), thus opening the for us, those
			ated from God, who is signified by the tree of life
			to enter into the of to contact Him
			s the of for our enjoyment. This implies
			r old man was with Christ, we have an
ope	n way	y to co	ntact and enjoy God in our as our life and
life	suppl	y. (See	Heb. 10:20 note 2)
IV.	Furt	her Re	eading: Life-Study of Hebrews Msg. 43-44.
N	ote:		

#### Week 2 Day 7 Heb. 10:26-39

I. Key Verse:
Heb. 10:35 Do not cast away therefore your boldness, which has great reward.
II. Your Favorite Verses:,
III. Crucial Points of the Truth:
The reward is something in addition to eternal salvation. Eternal salvation is obtained through, having nothing to do with our (Eph. 2:8-9), whereas the reward is given for the that we do after we are saved (1 Cor. 3:8, 14). We may not receive a but may suffer loss, even though we are saved, because we are void of the work that the Lord approves (1 Cor. 3:15). The reward will be given to us at the Lord's back, according to our works (Matt. 16:27; Rev. 22:12; 1 Cor. 4:5). What we receive will be decided at the of Christ (2 Cor. 5:10) and will be enjoyed in the coming (See Heb. 10:35 note 1)
IV. Further Reading: Life-Study of Hebrews Msg. 44-46.
Note:

#### THE BETTER COVENANT

Christ is the Mediator of a better covenant (8:6). The new covenant is better than the old covenant, just as the reality of a person is better than his photograph. The old covenant, like a photograph, had only the outward form, but the new covenant, like the real person, has the inward life with all its reality. The old covenant was lifeless, but the new covenant is constituted with the indestructible life. Everything in the new covenant is much better than the things in the old covenant because everything in the new covenant is the reality. Hence, it is a better covenant.

The new covenant has replaced the old covenant (8:7, 13). When a real person comes, he replaces his photograph, for the reality replaces the picture, the shadow. The old covenant had fault and became old, decrepit, and near to disappearing, and the new covenant has been consummated to replace it. Now it is meaningless for anyone to still remain in the old covenant.

In the new covenant the primary blessing is the imparting of the divine life which brings in the inner law of life, the blessing of having God and of being His people, and the inward ability of knowing the Lord.

For God to do this, He had to be propitious to our unrighteousnesses and forget our sins. The propitiation for our unrighteousnesses and the forgiveness of our sins give Him the ground to impart His life into us. The little word "for" in verse 12 proves this. He imparts life to us, "for" He is propitious to our unrighteousnesses and forgets our sins. God's original intention for His eternal purpose was to impart His life into man, but sin came in to frustrate this. In order to carry out His original intention, God made propitiation through Christ for our sins and granted us the forgiveness of sins so that He might impart the divine life into us for the fulfillment of His purpose. This divine life brings in the law of life, our relationship with God in life, and the inward ability of knowing the Lord.

In the new covenant, life with its riches has been brought in and sin with its sinfulness has been put away. This is the content of the new covenant. Praise the Lord! (*Life-Study of Hebrews, pp. 410, 413-414*)

### Week 3 Day 1 Heb. 11:1-19

I. Key Verse:	I. Key Verse:
Heb. 11:1 Now faith is the substantiation of things hoped for,	Heb. 11:26 Considering the reproach of the Christ greater riches
the conviction of things not seen.	than the treasures of Egypt; for he looked away to
II. Your Favorite Verses:,	the reward.
III. Crucial Points of the Truth:	II. Your Favorite Verses:,
The word <i>substantiate</i> is <i>substance</i> in verb form; to	III. Crucial Points of the Truth:
is to give substance to the reality of the substance not	Christ, as the Angel of the, was always with the children
seen. This is the action of faith. Therefore, it says here that is	of Israel in their Furthermore, the Scripture identifies
the substantiation of	Him with them. Hence, the falling on them was considered
All things hoped for are things (Rom. 8:24-25). As	His reproach, and the reproaches of those who reproached God fell
people of hope, we should our life not at the things that are seen	also on Him. The New Testament believers, as His followers, bear
but at the things that are not seen; for the things that are seen are	His and are reproached for His name. Moses, choosing to be
, but the things that are not seen are (2 Cor.	ill treated with the of God, considered this kind of reproach,
4:18). Hence, we walk by, not by (See Heb.	the reproach of the Christ of God, greater riches than the
11:1 note2, note 5)	of Egypt in Pharaoh's palace; for Moses looked away to the
IV. Further Reading: Life-Study of Hebrews Msg. 47-48.	(See Heb. 11:26 note 2)
Note:	IV. Further Reading: Life-Study of Hebrews Msg. 48.
	Note:

Week 3

Day 2 Heb. 11:20-40

## Week 3 Day 3 Heb. 12:1-14

[.	Key Verse	:
	Heb. 12:2	Looking away unto Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down on the right hand of the throne of God.
II.	Your Favo	orite Verses:,,
III.	. Crucial Po	oints of the Truth:
		vercoming saints in the Old Testament are only faith, whereas Jesus is the of faith. He is
he		the Inaugurator, the source, and the cause of faith. In
	_	we have no believing We do not have faith
		he faith by which we are is the faith
		eceived from the Lord (2 Pet. 1:1). When we
		as the life-giving Spirit (1 Cor. 15:45) transfuses us
		with His believing Then, spontaneously, a
		ng arises in our being, and we have the to
oen	ieve in Him.	(See Heb. 12:2 note 3)
IV.	Further Re	eading: Life-Study of Hebrews Msg. 49-51.
N	ote:	

## Week 3 Day 4 Heb. 12:15-24

I.	Key Verse:
	Heb. 12:16 Lest there be any fornicator or profane person l

Heb. 12:16 Lest there be any fornicator or profane person like
Esau, who for one meal gave up his own birthright.
II. Your Favorite Verses:
III. Crucial Points of the Truth:
We Christians, born of God, are the of His
creatures that He has reaped in His creation. As the firstborn sons of
God, we have the This includes the inheritance of the
(2:5-6), the (Rev. 20:6), and the
(Rev. 20:4), which will be the main blessings in the coming
and which the profane, worldand-seeking Christians will
at the Lord's coming back. Eventually, this birthright will be a
reward given to the Christians in the millennial
kingdom. Any enjoyment, even one meal, could cause us to
this birthright of ours. (See Heb. 12:16 note 1 paragraph 2)
<b>IV. Further Reading:</b> Life-Study of Hebrews Msg. 52-53, 65-69.
Note:

## Week 3 Day 5 Heb. 12:25-13:7

I. K	Xey Verse:
Н	Ieb. 12:28 Therefore receiving an unshakable kingdom, let us have grace, through which we may serve God well-pleasingly with piety and fear;
II.	Your Favorite Verses:,
III. C	Crucial Points of the Truth:
manif miss manif comir we w	If we take the Spirit's exercise and God's in the of the kingdom today, we will receive the Lord's enter into the enjoyment of the coming Sabbath rest in the festation of the kingdom in the coming age; otherwise, we will the coming, we will not be rewarded with the festation of the kingdom at the Lord's coming back. To miss the log kingdom and to forfeit our does not mean that ill It means that we will lose the reward but not our We will suffer loss but still will be, yet so as gh This is the basic concept on which all five warnings is book are given. (See Heb. 12:28 note 1 paragraph 2)
IV. F	urther Reading: Life-Study of Hebrews Msg. 54-55.
Not	e:

## Week 3 Day 6 Heb. 13:8-15

I. Key Verse:
Heb. 13:13 Let us therefore go forth unto Him outside the camp,
bearing His reproach.
II. Your Favorite Verses:,
III. Crucial Points of the Truth:
Outside the camp and within the veil are two very striking
points in this book. To enter within the veil means to enter into the
Holy of Holies, where the Lord is enthroned in, and to go
outside the camp means to come out of, whence the
Lord was cast in rejection. This signifies that we must be in our
, where experientially the practical Holy of Holies is today,
and outside, where the practical camp is today. The more
we are in our spirit, enjoying the Christ, the more we will
come outside the camp of religion, following the Jesus.
(See Heb. 13:13 note 1)
IV. Further Reading: Life-Study of Hebrews Msg. 56-57.
Note:

#### Week 3 Day 7 Heb. 13:16-25

I.	Key	Verse:
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Heb. 13:17 Obey the ones leading you and submit to them, for they watch over your souls as those who will render an account, that they may do this with joy and not groaning; for this would be unprofitable to you.

	II.	<b>Your Favorite</b>	Verses:		
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#### **III. Crucial Points of the Truth:**

To realize and participate in all the things unveiled in Hebrews,
we need grace. To have grace we need to come forward to the
of grace that we may find grace for help. It is
when we touch the of grace in the Holy of Holies through
the exercise of our spirit that we enjoy the of grace and that
our heart is by grace. By such an enjoyment of grace we
run the race set before us that we may reach the goal of God's
(See Heb. 13:25 note 1)

#### **IV. Further Reading:** *Life-Study of Hebrews Msg.* 55, 57.

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#### FAITH -THE UNIQUE WAY

Suppose you are driving an automobile and come to an intersection where there are two signs, one indicating that a road is closed and the other indicating that a road is open. Would you drive on the road that has been closed? If you did, you would run the risk of losing your life. It would be much better to drive on the open way. The clear comparison given in the first ten chapters of Hebrews is a sign for our driving, showing which way has been closed and which way is open. Over the old way is a sign—Closed, Terminated. Over the new way is also a sign—Open, Freshly Slain. This contrast is the consummation of these ten chapters. After presenting such a contrast, the writer tells us how to take this open, freshly slain way—it is by the unique way of faith.

Faith is the unique way to receive the word of the gospel. The proper gospel is the gospel of bequests. If anyone would receive the gospel of bequests, he must have faith. Suppose someone would offer you a document which said that a large amount of money had been deposited in your bank account. In order to receive this document, you must have faith. If you do not have faith, you will say, "This is just a piece of paper. It doesn't mean anything to me." When we preach the gospel, we must infuse people with faith. The power of the proper gospel preaching is that people are infused with faith to such an extent that they believe whatever we tell them. People must have faith if they are to receive the word of the gospel.

To gain our soul in the coming age of the kingdom requires that we have faith (10:39; 1 Pet. 1:9). If we would not care for today's enjoyments but for the coming day, we must have faith. Furthermore, if we would be sure that we shall have something better in the future and that it is worthwhile to sacrifice the enjoyments and entertainments of today in order to have it, we must have faith. As we shall see, faith is the conviction of things not seen. Since we cannot see into the future, how do we know that a glorious tomorrow is ahead of us? We know it by faith. Deep within me, I am fully convinced that a glorious tomorrow is awaiting me. This conviction comes by faith. (Life-Study of Hebrews, pp. 527, 529, 531-532)