

Hebrews Part Two

Lesson #15, Chapter 11 Overview

The goal of this particular lesson is the foundation of all Bible study. It is the practice of observing what's in the text. At this stage in our Bible study you're simply taking note and then recording what God has put into the chapter. You're not making any interpretations about what it means or how it applies to your life—that will come later. Don't rush through this lesson. Set aside time this week to peer into the living and abiding word of God. You'll be glad you did!

On the pages that follow you'll find the text of Chapter 11 in the New American Standard Bible version. *Use those pages to do this lesson.* Feel free to make notes on the page or mark it up as much as you like to help you do this lesson. Using the same Bible version to do this lesson will cut down on any confusion that would arise if we were all using different versions of the Bible when we get together for class discussion.

1. To begin, read through Chapter 11. Now, summarize the contents of Chapter 11. This is not the time to be super detailed; instead, think of trying to tell a 4th grader the contents of the chapter.¹
 - a. Summarize the contents of the first paragraph (verses 1-7).
 - b. Summarize the contents of the second paragraph (verses 8-12).
 - c. Summarize the contents of the third paragraph (verses 13-16).

¹ The method and process of observation in Bible study does God honor as we stop, observe, and consider each and every one of His recorded Words, in their context. I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge the debt I owe to the Precept Inductive Bible Studies observation method, which I have adapted in my studies. As far as I know, the method is the brainchild of Kay Arthur, though I've encountered a number of others who have also come up with similar ways for observing the text. The point of observation is to slow down and really look at what God has preserved for us in His Word. What I've created here is simply another variation to help us peer more closely at the Scriptures—for our good and His glory.

- d. Summarize the contents of the fourth paragraph (verses 17-22).

 - e. Summarize the contents of the fifth paragraph (verses 23-29).

 - f. Summarize the contents of the sixth paragraph (verses 30-31).

 - g. Summarize the contents of the seventh paragraph (verses 32-38).

 - h. Summarize the contents of the eighth paragraph (verses 39-40).
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- 2. After reviewing the chapter and what you wrote for your summaries, ask yourself: *What is the main point of this chapter?* How do all the details and events reveal the main idea of the chapter? Record your answer below.

 - 3. Now you're ready to title your chapter. Your title should reflect the contents of the chapter in an abbreviated way. Remember, a title's purpose is to help you remember what is in each chapter.

 - 4. On the *Hebrews Bible Text* handout at the end of this lesson, mark *key* words. *God, Jesus Christ, Holy Spirit* are always key words. Start with these first. Then mark words or phrases that are repeated at least 3 times. Mark any other words that seem important to the chapter or are strongly emphasized.

Mark words or phrases by creating a symbol or using a certain colored pencil every time it appears. This will enable you to see at a glance how often a word is used in the chapter or note a progression of thought.

5. Next, *list the phrase containing the key words* on a separate sheet of paper. This step will allow you to pull together the information you noted from marking the key words. Be sure to cite the verse references when you list your key word information.

For example, with *God* as your key word, you would begin to make a list of the information you discovered every time God is mentioned in Hebrews Chapter 1. Your Chapter 1 list about *God* should begin by looking something like the one below. Include the details that you learn about Him. For example: verse 1—*He* spoke long ago to the fathers; verses 1-2—*God...has* spoken to us in *His* Son.

6. Mark any *commands* that are listed in the chapter. It helps to look for any actions that are required of the reader or things they are told to do or be.
7. Now, list the commands on your separate sheet of paper in the same way you did for the key words.
8. Mark words or phrases that are being *compared or contrasted*. Words like *as, likewise, in the same manner, or like* will help you find words or phrases being compared. Contrasting words like “light/dark” or “love/hate” and the word “but” will help you find words or phrases that are being contrasted.
9. Now list the comparisons and contrasts you discovered on the extra paper you’ve been using.
10. Mark transition terms: *therefore, wherefore, finally*. Sometimes an author has his own kind of transition term that lets you know he is making a switch to a new topic, so be sure to look for those kinds of terms. (Generally, these are at the beginning of a paragraph.)
11. Mark expressions of time—words like *shortly, quickly, soon, for a little while*.
12. Mark words that are synonyms of each other. For example: *God* and *Father* from 1:1.
13. List any *attributes* of God, Christ, or the Holy Spirit that you notice in this chapter and add them to your list paper.

How to identify attributes: Look back over the list you compiled about God and identify any of His attributes that you may see. Identifying attributes is easy when you differentiate between what God is *doing* versus *who He is*. Begin your attribute statements with *God is...*and then finish the sentence. List the verse that identified that particular characteristic for you. For clarity’s sake you may want to explain why you identified that particular attribute as shown in the examples. For example: God is sovereign from verse 1 (because He ordained His plan and how it

would be revealed to the world); God is knowable from verse 2 (because He has spoken to us in Christ and made His will known).

14. Look for *lists of words, phrases, or related thoughts* in the chapter text. Number any lists you find within the Bible text, then write out your list to the side in the margin or on a separate sheet of paper of the Hebrews Chapter 1 Bible text. This step will help you see the thought progression of the author or the results of some action. For example, in Hebrews 1:1-2 *we find a list about God speaking*. We discover 1) God spoke long ago; 2) God spoke to the fathers; 3) God spoke through the prophets; 4) God spoke through the prophets in many portions; 5) God spoke through the prophets in many ways; 6) and now in these last days God has spoken; 7) God has spoken to us; and 8) God has spoken to us in His Son.
15. Be sure to mark or write down any “nuggets” you observed that you thought were interesting.

Remember, the purpose of this lesson is to observe and take note of what is in each chapter. You are not making any interpretations or applications to your life at this time. Your task at this time is to look for the treasures that God has put in each chapter. Have fun digging into God's word!

Hebrews Chapter 11

1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

2 For by it the men of old gained approval.

3 By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.

4 By faith Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained the testimony that he was righteous, God testifying about his gifts, and through faith, though he is dead, he still speaks.

5 By faith Enoch was taken up so that he would not see death; and he was not found because God took him up; for he obtained the witness that before his being taken up he was pleasing to God.

6 And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

7 By faith Noah, being warned by God about things not yet seen, in reverence prepared an ark for the salvation of his household, by which he condemned the world, and became an heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

8 By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going.

9 By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise;

10 for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

11 By faith even Sarah herself received ability to conceive, even beyond the proper time of life, since she considered Him faithful who had promised.

12 Therefore there was born even of one man, and him as good as dead at that, as many descendants as the stars of heaven in number, and innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore.

13 All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.

14 For those who say such things make it clear that they are seeking a country of their own.

15 And indeed if they had been thinking of that country from which they went out, they would have had opportunity to return.

16 But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them.

17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten son;

18 it was he to whom it was said, "In Isaac your descendants shall be called."

19 He considered that God is able to raise people even from the dead, from which he also received him back as a type.

20 By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau, even regarding things to come.

21 By faith Jacob, as he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff.

22 By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the exodus of the sons of Israel, and gave orders concerning his bones.

23 By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's edict.

24 By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter,

25 choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin,

26 considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking to the reward.

27 By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured, as seeing Him who is unseen.

28 By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of the blood, so that he who destroyed the firstborn would not touch them.

29 By faith they passed through the Red Sea as though they were passing through dry land; and the Egyptians, when they attempted it, were drowned.

30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days.

31 By faith Rahab the harlot did not perish along with those who were disobedient, after she had welcomed the spies in peace.

32 And what more shall I say? For time will fail me if I tell of Gideon,
Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets,
33 who by faith conquered kingdoms, performed acts of righteousness, obtained
promises, shut the mouths of lions,
34 quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from weakness
were made strong, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight.
35 Women received back their dead by resurrection; and others were tortured,
not accepting their release, so that they might obtain a better resurrection;
36 and others experienced mockings and scourgings, yes, also chains and
imprisonment.
37 They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were put
to death with the sword; they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins, being
destitute, afflicted, ill-treated
38 (men of whom the world was not worthy), wandering in deserts and mountains
and caves and holes in the ground.
39 And all these, having gained approval through their faith, did not
receive what was promised,
40 because God had provided something better for us, so that apart from us they
would not be made perfect.