

Hebrews Part Two

Lesson #2, Chapter 8 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 8 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 8. Now, summarize the contents of Chapter 8. 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 paragraph 1 (verses 1-6).

 - b. Summarize paragraph 2 (verses 7-13).

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.

¹The 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.

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 which 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!

The Holy Spirit, when He invites men to come to Christ, never says, “Tomorrow” but always “Today.” If you can find me one place in the Bible where the Holy Spirit says, “Believe in Christ tomorrow” or “Repent and be saved tomorrow” I will come out of the pulpit and stay out of it—for I would have no gospel to preach. ~Clarence Macartney from his sermon in 1915, called “Come Before Winter” from 2 Timothy 4:21.

Hebrews Chapter 8

1 Now the main point in what has been said is this: we have such a high priest, who has taken His seat at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens,

2 a minister in the sanctuary and in the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, not man.

3 For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices; so it is necessary that this high priest also have something to offer.

4 Now if He were on earth, He would not be a priest at all, since there are those who offer the gifts according to the Law;

5 who serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things, just as Moses was warned by God when he was about to erect the tabernacle; for, "See," He says, "that you make all things according to the pattern which was shown you on the mountain."

6 But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, by as much as He is also the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted on better promises.

7 For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion sought for a second.

8 For finding fault with them, He says, "Behold, days are coming, says the Lord, When I will effect a new covenant With the house of Israel and with the house of Judah;

9 Not like the covenant which I made with their fathers On the day when I took them by the hand To lead them out of the land of Egypt; For they did not continue in My covenant, And I did not care for them, says the Lord.

10 “For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel After those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws into their minds, And I will write them on their hearts. And I will be their God, And they shall be My people.

11 “And they shall not teach everyone his fellow citizen, And everyone his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ For all will know Me, From the least to the greatest of them.

12 “For I will be merciful to their iniquities, And I will remember their sins no more.”

13 When He said, “A new covenant,” He has made the first obsolete. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to disappear.