

July

Hebrew

July 1 – God speaks to us – Heb. 1:1-4 How “many and various ways” can you think of that God spoke to His people in the Old Testament? How frequent / infrequent were the revelations from God? When and why did God speak to them? Since we are living in “these last days” – how does God speak to us through His Son? I count at least 7 truths about Jesus that this writer tells us about Jesus in these verses – why are each of these of vital importance?

July 2 – Superior to angels – Heb. 1:5-14 How many times can you think of angels being God’s messengers in the Old Testament? The Hebrew Christians would quote one verse from a Psalm and understand that the whole Psalm was also included – Read Psalm 2 with v.5; Psalm 104 with v. 7; Ps. 102 with v.12; Ps. 110 with v.13. Again, read the references to the Old Testament in these verses (your Bible will have a footnote or cross references) to understand better what the writer is saying. How important are angels today? What is the danger of either extreme: too much focus / no focus at all? How would you explain angels to someone who asked you about them?

July 3 – First warning – Heb. 2:1-4 How often in the Old Testament did God’s people “drift away”? How do we “drift”? How did God testify to the message of salvation “by signs, wonders and various miracles”? What examples can you remember / think of? What “gifts of the Holy Spirit” is being referred to?

July 4 – Jesus – true Man for us – Heb. 2:5-18 Many of the cults have angels that deliver messages (Mormon’s – Moroni) – what do these verses say to these false teachings? Read Ps. 8 with v.6-8. Why “at present we don’t see everything subjected to Jesus”? Having just spent many verses saying Jesus is superior to angels, how is Jesus “make a little lower than the angels”? Why is this so very important? Verse 10 (NIV) has the word “perfect” – better translated “completed” – what heresy about Jesus (Arianism and Jehovah Witness) has resulted by a careless translation? Why the references to “family” and “brothers”? Why was it of highest importance that Jesus “have flesh and blood” / true Man? (Note the reference to High Priest and atonement – for reading in ch. 4).

July 5 – Superior to Moses – Heb. 3:1-6 For the Jewish person, how important was Moses? How “faithful” was Moses? How faithful was Jesus? Why the comparison? How was Moses like the “builder of a house”? How was Jesus faithful “as a son”? How are we “God’s house”?

July 6 – Second warning – Heb. 3:7-19 With these verses read Ps. 95. How often in the Old Testament does the Holy Spirit write about “hard hearts”? What “rest” is meant in v.11, 16-19 (see Ex. 33:14-15) – note the difference of “rest” here from “rest” in ch. 4. What is “a sinful, unbelieving heart”? How do we “encourage one another daily” (v.13) and “share in Christ” v.14? How can we do a better job of doing this?

July 7 – Rest in Jesus – Heb. 4:1-11 What “rest” “still stands” for the readers? What about us? How was the message “of no value” to them? To us? What is the “Sabbath rest”? How do we have “Sabbath rest” today? Note the 3 “rests” – 1) “rest” in the Promised Land (v.8); 2) rest from own works (v.10); and 3) rest in heaven (v.10-11).

July 8 – The Word of God – Heb. 4:12-13 How was the Word of God delivered throughout the Old Testament? How was it delivered for the recipients of this letter? How is it delivered to us today? In what ways is it “living and active”? How does it “penetrate and divide”? How is “everything uncovered and laid bare”?

July 9 – Confidence through Jesus – Heb. 4:14-16 What difference does it make that we have a great high priest “who has gone through / into the heavens”? How do we “hold firmly to the faith we profess”? With so many opinions, how can we know what is “the faith”? Since we live so many years after Jesus, with so much technology and temptations – how is it that Jesus was “tempted in every way just as we are”? How do we “approach the throne of grace”? How do we “receive mercy and find grace in time of need”? Do we?

July 10 – Superior High Priest – Heb. 5:1-10 How is Jesus similar / greater than the high priests of the Old Testament? Note the repetition of Ps. 2 here (also 1:5). Keep in mind the introduction of Melchizedek and Ps. 110 here – for ch. 7. Again (see 2:10) “perfect” v.9 should read, “complete”. Note the progression: Jesus greater than the high priest after the priesthood of Aaron – and now introducing – Jesus greater than the priesthood of Melchizedek (more to come in ch. 7). How is Jesus “the source of salvation for all who obey Him”? How do we “obey Him”?

July 11 – Third warning – Heb. 5:11- 6:3 How were the readers “slow to learn”? Does that apply to us too? What is meant by “milk”? “solid food”? What would be examples of each of these today? What is the “teaching about righteousness”? How do we “go on to maturity”? Are we doing this?

July 12 – It is impossible – Heb. 6:4-12 Note the warning the writer gives to those who are in danger of falling away from the truth! How is it possible to “fall away and not be brought back to repentance”? How can this be prevented? How do some “crucify the Son of God all over again”? Why does some land produce “a crop useful” and other land produce only “thorns and thistles”? What does this mean for us today? How were the readers to “make their hope sure” (v.11)? How do we?

July 13 – Hope as an anchor – Heb. 6:13-20 Why would God need to swear? What are the “two unchangeable things” (v.18)? What is “the hope” (v.18-19)? Note the two-fold meaning of high priest (again, refer back to 4:14- 5:10) – v.19 (priesthood of Aaron – “behind the curtain” – Day of Atonement / holy of holies) and v.20 (Melchizedek).

July 14 – Melchizedek – Heb. 7:1-10 Read Genesis 14:18-20 and Psalm 110. Who and what was Melchizedek? How great was he? How great is Jesus, the Son of God? Now, not only greater than Aaron, a descendent of Levi – but greater than Levi (the Levitical priesthood) himself! What is the meaning of “giving the tenth”? What does this mean for us today?

July 15 Superior to Melchizedek - Heb. 7:11-22 How has perfection been attained? How do these verses help to answer this question? Was there a change in the priesthood, or just a greater level? How could the greatest High Priest come from the tribe of Judah? What is “the power of an indestructible life”? How important are oaths today? What importance did oaths have in Biblical times? (see Ps. 110)

July 16 Able to save completely - Heb. 7:23-28 What is meant by “save completely” (or forever)? What “needs” do we that our High Priest, Jesus meets perfectly? How might the words “once for all” be misunderstood? What does it mean that Jesus was “made perfect” forever? Hasn’t Jesus always been “perfect”? See again 2:10; 5:8)

July 17 Superior Covenant - Heb. 8:1-13 What are the major Biblical covenants? What is the significance that Jesus, the Great High Priest is “sitting down” at the right hand of the throne? How did the Old Covenant priests serve? What was “wrong” with the first covenant? (see v.9) Why a new / superior covenant? What is the “new covenant” for us today?

July 18 Earthly tabernacle - Heb. 9:1-10 What was the purpose of the earthly tabernacle? How familiar would the first readers have been with it? How familiar are we with it? Why the importance of blood? What was the purpose of the thousands of sacrifices and offerings / Tabernacle through the Old Testament?

July 19 Superior tabernacle - Heb. 9:11-15 What is “the greater and more perfect tabernacle”? What was the benefit of the blood of goats and calves and the ashes of the heifer? How do we get a “clean conscience”? What is the purpose of a clean conscience?

July 20 Cleansed with blood - Heb. 9:16-28 What does blood have to do with covenants and wills? Why did Moses sprinkle the blood on the scroll of the covenant and the people? What does it mean for us that Christ was “sacrificed once for all”? What difference will there be when Christ appears a second time? When will this time be?

July 21 Once for All - Heb. 10:1-18 How is the Law “a shadow of the good things that are coming”? Why the “same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year”? How was it that God was not “pleased” with the sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings? How did Christ “do God’s will”? What part does the Holy Spirit have in the new covenant? Why is there no longer any need for sacrifice?

July 22 Call to persevere - Heb. 10:19-25 What does it mean to “enter the Most Holy Place”? Since we enter by blood, how can this be “new and living”? How do we “draw near to God”? How have our hearts been sprinkled / our guilty consciences cleansed / our bodies washed? What keeps us from holding “unswervingly” to the hope we profess? What is the blessing of “meeting together”?

July 23 4th warning - Heb. 10:26-31 Since we all sin daily – what is “deliberately keep on sinning”? Since Jesus is the “once for all sacrifice”, how can it be that “no sacrifice for sins is left”? How is “the Son of God trampled under foot”? How is “the blood of the covenant treated as an unholy thing”? How are God’s “hands” comforting? Threatening?

July 24 Don’t give up - Heb. 10:32-39 What might cause a faithful Christian to “throw away” the truth / “shrink back” – after a strong beginning? How can we “persevere” / “live by faith”? What if we note that we are becoming “slack” in our faith life? What can be done to strengthen it again? What needs to be done to keep it strong?

July 25 By faith - Heb. 11:1-7 How is the definition and examples of “faith” so important after the warning in ch. 10? How does Abel “still speak, even though he is dead”? What is the only way to “please God”? How did Noah “condemn the world”? How does “righteousness” still “come by faith” for us, too?

July 26 By faith Abraham - Heb. 11:8-22 How “faithful” was Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (from what we know about them in Genesis)? How can they be a “hero of faith” in Heb. 11? Why was Abraham willing to sacrifice Isaac?

July 27 By faith Moses - Heb. 11:23-40 How “faithful” was Moses (from what we know about him in Exodus)? Why did Moses leave Egypt? (see v.27) Why did the “people pass through the Red Sea”? (see v.28) What do all of these examples say about the source of faith – from the person or a gift from God? What is the source of our faith?

July 28 Run the Race - Heb. 12:1-13 What is it that “hinders and easily entangles” you? What is the “race marked out for us”? What does it mean “fix our eyes on Jesus”? What do these verses say to the “health and wealth” false theology of our day? What can we expect as we live in this world? How does discipline “produce righteousness and peace”?

July 29 5th warning - Heb. 12:14-29 What is the only way we can be “holy”? What are some “bitter roots” that we may allow to grow up in us? Why couldn’t Esau bring about a change? How is this a warning to us? What is the difference between “Mt. Sinai” (a mountain to be touched) and “Mt. Zion”? How can it be that we “have come” to Mt. Zion / “are receiving an unshakeable kingdom” already? What is the “sprinkled blood and a better word than the blood of Abel”?

July 30 Jesus always the same - Heb. 13:1-14 Are angels still around us today? How does the writer summarize what was just written in the preceding chapters? Why is it so important that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever?

July 31 Sacrifice of praise - Heb. 13:15-25 From what has been written about the OT high priest and Jesus (ch. 8-9) what are the “sacrifices” in which God is pleased? Why are these “pleasing” to Him? What directive do these verses give to leaders? (v.17) Do you note the work of the Trinity in v.20-21? How is this a great comfort to us in this “short exhortation” (v.22)