STUDY GUIDE



Hebrews: Jesus is Better

October 25
-
December 27

AN EXPOSITIONAL STUDY THROUGH THE BOOK OF HEBREWS

October 25 - December 27

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Hebrews: Jesus is Better

October 25

"Better Messenger" - Hebrews 1:1-2:18

Sermon Series

October 25, 2026	Hebrews 1:1-2:18	Better Messenger
November 1, 2026	Hebrews 3:1-4:13	Hold on to Jesus
November 8, 2026	Hebrews 4:14-7:28	Better High Priest
November 15, 2026	Hebrews 8:1-10:18	Better Sacrifice
November 22, 2026	Hebrews 10:19-39	Better Guarantee
November 29, 2026	Hebrews 11:1-39	Better Reward
December 6, 2026	Hebrews 12:1-17	Better Example
December 13, 2026	Hebrews 12:18-24	Better Covenant Mediator
December 27, 2026	Hebrews 13:1-25	Better Life Now

Book Overview

There is no exact understanding of who the author of Hebrews was, due to the author not mentioning himself and not mentioning who he is writing to. The book is called “the book of Hebrews”, because it reflects the ancient assumption of who is tradition thinks it was written to. Some people think it was written by Barnabas, Paul Clement, Luke, or Apollos. But the early church father Origen says: “only God knows who wrote this book”.

From what we know, the author did know the recipient of the letter and longed to be with them (Hebrews 13:19). They even had a mutual friend – Timothy (13:23).

The book was probably written before 70 AD (destruction of the temple), as it speaks about the Jewish sacrificial system as one that is still present there.

The main theme of the book is just like our sermon title: that Christ is better then any sacrificial system, angel, priest, or old covenant institution. The book encourages believers to hold on through faith to rest in Christ and encourages other church members to persevere.

This is the only book that doesn’t have an introduction that any other epistles have. However, it does have greetings and blessings at the end, as well as author identification of writing to someone (13:22). Most of the scholars agrees that it is more of a sermon than of a letter.

The book encourages believers to endure and warns against leaving Christ by remaining faithful. The big part of the book shows that Jesus is superior to angels, Moses, the tabernacle sacrificial system, and priesthood. So it would be a failure for those who believe in Jesus to return to them. The author encourages believers to hold on to faith that is grounded in the most superior revelation.

This makes us think that the church was going through the persecution and trials of life (12), and needed to grow more attentive to the Christ instructions (5:11-14), as well as not to forget to meet with other believers (10:25). They are also encouraged to continue to love each other even in the midst of persecution (10:32-34).

Sermon Overview

This week we begin a nine-week sermon series in the book of Hebrews. The focus of the entire work is the superiority of Jesus to the systems established under the Old Covenant, the Law of Moses. This “word of exhortation” as the writer refers to his letter was meant to encourage early Jewish believers to hold fast to their faith in Jesus because of who he is and all that he has done.

This book is especially relevant for contemporary Christians as it assists us in understanding the relationship between the Old and the New Testaments. Yet, it is far more than academic or intellectual, replete with practical application that helps shape how we live today, transcending differences in time and culture.

Before plunging deeper into specifics in later chapters, the writer devotes his introduction to comparing Jesus with the angels. The angels were the messengers of the Old Covenant and Jesus is the messenger of the new. While this may be an overlooked element today, establishing the credibility of those whom God entrusts with his message for the world matters. God has sent his Son to both announce and execute his redemptive mission, a far greater hope for the people of God than the message declared by the angels at Mt. Sinai. We look forward to seeing you this Sunday as we reflect on the supremacy of God’s Son, the one through whom our great salvation comes.

Ps Zach Mazrim

Sermon Outline



Spoken to us by his Son

Text: Hebrews 1-2
Title: Better Messenger
Proppsition: Jesus is the supreme messenger of God, so we must reckon with who he is and what he has done.

1. Superior Name (1:1-14)
- **A. Identity (1:2,5)**
- **B. Status (1:3, 6)**
- **C. Essence (1:4, 7-14)**

2. Superior Message (2:1-4)
- A. Content (2:1-3)
- B. Confirmation (2:3-4)

3. Superior Mission (2:5-18)
- A. Incarnate (2:5-8, 14, 17)
- B. Suffer (2: 9-10
- C. Help (2: 16-18)

Sermon Notes

Sermon Applications

1. Pay Attention and Have Faith

2. Assess the Alternatives

3. Testify to Jesus' Supremacy



Discussion Questions

1. Which comment on Jesus' superiority from chapters 1 and 2 do you find most fascinating and why?

2. The writer lists several aspects of Jesus' mission, including his incarnation, suffering, atonement, and ascension, among others. Which of these do you understand the best and which do you understand the least and perhaps would like to learn more about?

3. What types of circumstances in your life, or that you have seen in the lives of others, might lead to drifting away from faith in Jesus?

4. The encouragement here is to pay attention. Come up with at least three practical ways for you, both as an individual and as a community of believers, to pay closer attention to the gospel message that you have heard.

5. In what specific ways has Jesus helped you when facing temptation? Who can you share this testimony with outside of your small group to also encourage during the coming week?



Prayer & Praise

End your time together by reflecting on the goodness of God and praying for one another.

Prayer Requests

Praise Reports

STUDY GUIDE



Hebrews: Jesus is Better

November 1

Hold on to Jesus - 3:1-4:13

Sermon Overview

Life as a foreigner in Beijing can be challenging. Between the pressures of daily life, study/work, and the struggles we carry, it can be easy to slowly drift away from God, from fellowship, and from the daily spiritual disciplines that help us grow in faith. Often, we don’t drift away all at once; it happens little by little.

The book of Hebrews speaks to this very struggle. When hardship comes and our hearts are tempted by sin and unbelief, how do we keep holding on to Jesus? And how do we help one another remain faithful along the way? This Sunday, we will be reminded why Jesus is worth holding on to, why we need one another, and how the hope of the rest He promises gives us strength to Hold on to Jesus.

Holding on to Jesus with you
Elder Bemnet

Sermon Outline



Title: Hold on to Jesus.
Text: Hebrews 3:1-4:13
Proposition: Hold on to him, because he is our apostle and high priest. Hold on to him, because unbelief will slowly turn your heart away. Hold on together, because none of us can do this alone. And hold on, because God's promise of rest still stands.

1. Fix your eyes on Jesus (Hebrews 3:1-6)
- **a. Consider Jesus, our apostle and high priest (Hebrews 3:1)**
- **b. Jesus Is Greater Than Moses (Hebrews 3:2-6)**

2. Lesson from Israel: Unbelief Can Keep Us From God's Rest (Hebrews 3:7–19)
- **a. Do Not Harden Your Heart (Hebrews 3:7–11, 15)**
- **b. The Warning Is for Us (Hebrews 3:12, 16–19)**

3. How to Hold on Jesus
- **a. Hold on together (Hebrews 3:12–14)**
- **b. God's Word Is Our Greatest Tool Against Sin's Deceit (Hebrews 4:12–13)**
- **c. God's Promise of Rest Still Stands (Hebrews 4:1–11)**

Sermon Notes

Sermon Applications



Discussion Questions

1. Hebrews 3:1 says to "consider" Jesus, which means to look steadily and think carefully. Which pressures in Beijing compete for a believer's attention? What tends to pull your eyes and attention away from him in a normal week?

2. Read Hebrews 3:7–11. A hard heart rarely happens overnight. Can you think of a time, in your life or someone else's, when you slowly drifted from God? What did the early signs look like?

3. Read 3:12–14. What danger do these verses name (v. 12), and what is God's remedy (v. 13)? Why do you think the writer says "daily" and "as long as it is called today"? Who has encouraged or lovingly corrected you when you were drifting? What did they do, and how did it help? Why is it hard for us to speak up when we see another believer drifting?

4. Read 4:12–13. What words does the writer use to describe God's Word, and what does it do to us? How has God's Word worked on you recently? Is there an area God's Word has been gently pointing to that you have been putting off dealing with? What step could you take this week?

5. Read 4:3 and 4:11 together. 4:3 says we "who have believed enter that rest", while 4:11 says "strive to enter that rest". In your own words, how do these two statements fit together? What do you think "striving" looks like here? Look at 3:6, 3:14 and 4:1. Is it earning rest, or something else?

6. Read Hebrews 4:13–16. When you look at Jesus, what encourages you to keep holding on to him and fixing your eyes on him?



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Prayer Requests

Praise Reports

STUDY GUIDE



Hebrews: Jesus is Better

November 8

A Better High Priest - 4:14-7:28

Sermon Overview

What do you do when temptation feels overwhelming? When your faith is weak and you're struggling to keep going? When life as a Christian seems overwhelming and perhaps too difficult in this secular age? The faith you once held so firmly seems cold, lifeless, and unsatisfying?

Do you try harder? Rely on your own strength to push through? Do you begin looking elsewhere, to other faiths, other philosophies, other systems, other loves, that might make life easier, better satisfy your longings, or more closely align with the current cultural milieu?

When a group of Hebrew Christians faced these same struggles and temptations, the writer of Hebrews encouraged them by reminding them that Jesus is our Great High Priest. For many of us today, the title High Priest may seem unfamiliar or have little significance. Yet understanding what it means for Jesus to be our High Priest is essential to living the Christian life with confidence, hope, and perseverance.

Join us this Sunday as we explore Hebrews 4:14–7:28 and discover why Jesus is a Better High Priest. Please take time to read the passage beforehand and come prepared to hear from God through His Word.

Ps TJ Johnson

Sermon Outline



Title: A Better High Priest
Text: Hebrews 4:14-7:28
Proposition: Jesus' life, death, and resurrection is a priestly work that makes us right with God by forgiving us of sin and enabling us to faithfully serve Him until death, so don't turn away, but hold fast to Jesus as you draw near to the throne of grace.

Jesus is a Great High Priest Because He is the:

1. **Ascended High Priest. Hebrews 4:14**
2. **Sympathetic High Priest. Hebrews 4:15a**
3. **Sinless High Priest. Hebrews 4:15b**
4. **Selected High Priest. Hebrews 5:5**
5. **Ceaseless High Priest. Hebrews 6:20**
6. **Sacrificial High Priest. Hebrews 7:27**

Therefore, Let Us:

1. **Hold Fast. Hebrews 4:14**
2. **Draw Near. Hebrews 4:16**
3. **Grow Up. Hebrews 6:1**

Sermon Applications



Discussion Questions

1. Read Hebrews 4:14. In what ways does Jesus' ascension and current enthronement in heaven give us confidence and hope as we face the uncertainties of life?

2. Read Hebrews 4:15; 5:7-10. What weaknesses or struggles are you currently facing, how is Jesus able to sympathize with them, and how does knowing this encourage you to draw near to God?

3. Read Hebrews 4:15; 7:26-28. Why does it matter that Jesus lived a sinless life?

4. Read Hebrews 5:1-6. What evidence does Scripture give us of Jesus' divine appointment to His High Priestly Office? Can we be confident of this evidence today?

5. Read Hebrews 7:1-3, 20-24. Who do you think Melchizedek was, and why is he central to the writer's argument? What is the importance of Jesus' ETERNAL priesthood (emphasis on eternal)?

6. Read Hebrews 7:27. Why was it necessary for Jesus to die? In what ways do you regularly meditate upon Jesus' death, and what effect does this have upon daily living in a sinful and suffering-filled world?



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