

LESSON 1

GOD'S BEST!

HEBREWS INTRODUCTION



1 Outside of your family, which people had the greatest positive influence on your childhood?

2 Describe one way their influence has lasted in your life.



Read the introduction to Hebrews, Hebrews 1:1–3, and the following notes:

☐ 1:1 ☐ 1:1, 2 ☐ 1:2, 3

3 What factors made it difficult for devout Jews to accept Jesus as their Messiah (see Introduction)?

4 In what ways do people settle for less than Christ (see Introduction)?

5 Who is Jesus and what did he do (1:1–3)?

When the book of Hebrews was written, many people were questioning Jesus' identity as God's Son. The author wanted to reassure Jewish believers that Jesus was the perfect revelation of God, the perfect sacrifice for sin, and the only intermediary they needed before God. Christ is better than the old system of sacrifices and forgiveness that many wanted to resume. Nothing—no system and no person—can take Jesus' place. Jesus' identity and qualifications are still questioned today. It doesn't matter what people say about Jesus. The truth stands—he is the God-man and our only hope for eternal life. "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever" (13:8).



6 In what ways is Jesus superior to the old system of sacrifices and priests?

7 What wrong ideas do people have about Jesus today?

8 What are some reasons people give for rejecting Christ?

9 How does the book of Hebrews answer objections to following Christ?



10 Hebrews says that Jesus is superior to the old system of priests and sacrifices. What is Jesus superior to today?

11 Why is Jesus' superiority important to the way we live?

12 What situations might cause you to doubt the superiority of Christ?

13 How can a correct understanding of his superiority help you live by faith each day?

14 Read the first paragraph of “The Blueprint” section, and check the box that best represents your present level of commitment to the point of view of Hebrews:

- ☐ Convinced of the superiority of Christ
- ☐ Growing confident of the superiority of Christ
- ☐ Seeking understanding of the superiority of Christ
- ☐ Have many questions about the superiority of Christ
- ☐ Have many doubts about the superiority of Christ
- ☐ Unconvinced of the superiority of Christ

15 What kind of influence do you want Christ to have in your life?



16 As you study Hebrews, ask God to give you a deeper appreciation for Jesus Christ.

- A** What does the book of Hebrews contribute to the New Testament? How does it challenge you in ways that other books do not?
- B** Is it easier to keep the faith when you are harassed for it or when you receive a lot of support for it? What steps can you take to strengthen your faith?
- C** Given the writing style and subject matter of Hebrews, who would you think wrote this book? How does the author’s identity affect your understanding of the book?
- D** Which of the last three Megathemes (Maturity, Faith, Endurance) would you most like to see grow in your life as a result of this study? Why?

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