



**BETTER**

# READING GUIDE

a series in  
the book of Hebrews

**“ Having an unshakable confidence in Jesus helps us hold on, turn to him and encourage others when times are tough. Hebrews was probably written sometime between 65-70 AD with two important goals. First, the author wanted to present Jesus as supreme and in every way surpassing the Old Testament system of religion. Second, the Hebrews were challenged to remain faithful to Jesus and their New Testament faith, even in times of difficulty and persecution. Be on the look-out for numerous contrasts and comparisons with the way they understood coming to God before and after Jesus, and many serious warnings not to lose hope but to hold fast to faith in Christ. ”**

# Week 1

## Day 1

Read all of Hebrews 1 and take note of what really stands out and what questions you have. Pray and ask the Spirit to deepen your understanding of the Word through the messages, reading and meditating on the scripture.

## Day 2

Read Hebrews 1:1-3. List the things that you learn about Jesus in these few verses, and spend some time in prayer praising Him for all these things that prove He is supreme above all.

## Day 3

Read Hebrews 1:4-14. What arguments does the author make to declare that Jesus is superior to angels? It's common today to believe that any spiritual things are equally valuable. How do these truths help us hold Jesus up above all other gods and spiritual beings?

## Day 4

Read Hebrews 1:4-14. What do you learn about the role and position of angels? How might this contradict popular mythology about angels?

## Day 5

Re-read Hebrews 1:10-12. How does the author contrast Jesus with the world around us? What certainty does this give us about the future and where we should place our confidence?

# Week 2

## Day 1

Read all of Hebrews 2. Observe the repeated words and who else is added to the comparison from chapter 1. What stands out and what don't you understand?

## Day 2

Read Hebrews 2:1-4. This passage starts off with a “therefore” – so remember: what was the author trying to prove in chapter 1? This is the first of several warnings in Hebrews. What are we being warned about and why? How does this apply to us?

## Day 3

Read Hebrews 2:5-9. What amazing news does this give us about the position of humans compared to angels (look for the specifics)? How does timing matter? Pay attention to the time references in v. 8,9. Praise God for this truth!

## Day 4

Read Hebrews 2:10-13. How does this give us insight to calling Jesus our Brother? How is this possible? What “made Jesus perfect,” when he was already God? Meditate on Jesus’ great love for you and write a prayer of thanks.

## Day 5

Read Hebrews 2:14-18. One of the key beliefs in orthodox Christianity is that Jesus was fully man and fully God. Why did Jesus have to become like us? Look for 3 different reasons in these 4 verses. How does this encourage you today?



# Week 3

## Day 1

Read slowly all of Hebrews 3. Take note of what really stands out and what you don't understand.

## Day 2

What is the “therefore” referring to in 3:1? Who is Jesus compared to in this passage? How is Jesus explained to be BETTER? What did Moses represent to the Hebrews? If you don't know, go back and read in your Bible Exodus 19:25, 20:1-22 and Google a biography of Moses.

## Day 3

Read Hebrews 3:7-11. What are we warned against in this passage? Pray and ask God if there are areas where you are not fully listening to His voice.

## Day 4

Read the Old Testament story in Numbers 14 that is referred to in chapter 3. God was using Moses to lead people to the promised land, but they wanted to go back to Egypt – why? Do we/you sometimes give up on the better destination God has for us for the same reasons? Pray for the confidence in Christ to receive every promise of God, despite what you see.

## Day 5

Read Hebrews 3:12-19 What are we told to do and not to do? In what areas of your faith life do you need encouragement from others? Where are you tempted to be lazy, or have you given up? Find one person to encourage in their faith TODAY; bless them, affirm them, or ask how you can pray for them.

# Week 4

## Day 1

Read Hebrews 4. Take note of what stands out, any contrasts/comparisons, or things you don't understand.

## Day 2

Read Hebrews 4:1-3 We have the promise of both present and future rest. What does it look like to fall short of entering his rest in the present? The future? What is the key to fully entering that rest, our peace in the promised land, according to v. 2?

## Day 3

Read Hebrews 4:4-11. The author repeats himself here to emphasize why there was another promise of rest made. What do you think is different between the Old Covenant (Law) rest and New Covenant (grace) rest? If our rest is by grace through faith, what do you think it means to “make every effort to enter that rest”? What could that look like in your spiritual life?

## Day 4

Read Hebrews 4:12-13 Why is reading the Bible different than reading a textbook – how is the Word described here and what does it do? How is that related to v. 13, our need to give an account?

## Day 5

Read Hebrews 4:14-16. These verses are the good news after the serious statement in v. 13; why can we have confidence instead of anxiety according to these 3 verses? What kind of picture are you getting of what goes on in heaven when you pray?

# Week 5

## Day 1

Read all of Hebrews 5. Mark what stands out, repeated words, and questions you have.

## Day 2

Read Hebrews 4:14-Hebrews 5:3 What comparison is being made in these verses? What do you understand about the role of a human priest, and why the people needed priests (even consider the concept of a Catholic priest, and how Jesus makes a better High Priest)?

## Day 3

Read Hebrews 5:4-6 The author quotes Psalm 2. Read that Psalm and consider how Jesus fulfills the words written by the psalmist long before.

## Day 4

Read Hebrews 5:7—10 How did God answer Jesus' prayer in the Garden (see Mark 14:32-42) to be saved from death? How can that kind of perspective help us when we need to turn to Jesus as our High Priest?



## Day 5

Read Hebrews 5:11-14. Why does the author seem to scold the Hebrews? Pray about the metaphor here of babies/adults. How does the Spirit want you to take a step in growing up?



# **SAGE HILLS**

## **CHURCH**

Thanks for following along in this Reading Guide. You can find all of the messages from the series on our website ([sagehillchurch.com](http://sagehillchurch.com)) and app.