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Hebrews

Hebrews 1

Hebrews 1:1

ULT

¹ God, having spoken long ago to {our} fathers through the prophets at many times and in many ways,

UST

¹ In the past God communicated to our ancestors at various times and in many different ways by what he told the prophets to do, say, and write.

How has God spoken in the past?

God has spoken in the past through the prophets at many times and in many ways.

Hebrews 1:2

ULT

² in these last days, has spoken to us through a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom also he made the ages;

UST

² But now when this final age is beginning, God has communicated to us by his own Son. God has chosen him to possess all things. By him God also created the universe.

How has God spoken in these recent days?

God has spoken in these recent days through a Son.

Through whom was the universe made?

The universe was made through the Son of God.

Hebrews 1:3**ULT**

³ who, being the brightness of {his} glory and exact representation of his being, upholding all things by the word of his power and having made cleansing for sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high;

UST

³ By looking at God's Son, we can see how wonderful God is. He shows exactly what God is truly like. He sustains everything by his powerful commands. After he sacrificed himself to take away people's sins, he rose into heaven and sat down at the highest place of honor, where he rules with God as king.

How are all things sustained?

All things are sustained by the word of the Son of God's power.

How does the Son display the glory and essence of God?

The Son is the radiance of God's glory, and the character of God's essence.

Hebrews 1:4**ULT**

⁴ having become far superior to the angels just as he has inherited a more excellent name than them.

UST

⁴ By doing that he demonstrated that he is as much greater than the angels as the name that God has given him, 'Son of God,' is greater than theirs."

How does the Son of God compare to the angels?

The Son of God is superior to the angels.

Hebrews 1:5**ULT**

⁵ For to which of the angels did he ever say, "You are my son, today I have fathered you"? Or again, "I will be as a father to him, and he will be as a son to me"?

UST

⁵ In the scriptures no one ever reported that God said to any angel what he said to his Son: "You are my Son! Today I have declared to all that I am your Father!" And he never said about any angel what he said in another scripture passage about his Son: "I will be his Father, and he will be to me a Son."

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 1:6**ULT**

⁶ But again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "And let all God's angels worship him."

UST

⁶ And again, when he brings his honored Son, his only Son, into the world, he commanded: "All the angels of God must worship him."

What did God command the angels to do when the Son was brought into the world?

God commanded the angels to worship the Son when the Son was brought into the world.

Hebrews 1:7**ULT**

⁷ And with regard to the angels he says, "He who makes his angels spirits, and his servants flames of fire."

UST

⁷ And in the scriptures he said about the angels: "God has made his angels to be like winds, and his ministers who serve him to be like flames of fire."

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 1:8**ULT**

⁸ But to the Son {he says}, "Your throne, O God, {is} forever {and} ever, and the scepter of righteousness {is} the scepter of his kingdom.

UST

⁸ But in the scriptures, he also said about God's Son: "You who are God will rule forever, and you will reign justly over your kingdom.

How long will the Son rule as a king?

The Son will rule as a king for ever and ever.

Hebrews 1:9**ULT**

⁹ You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness. Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of exultation more than your companions.”

UST

⁹ You have loved people’s righteous deeds and you have hated people’s sinful deeds. So God, whom you worship, has caused you to be more joyful than anyone else besides you.”

What does the Son love and what does the Son hate?

The Son loves righteousness and the Son hates lawlessness.

Hebrews 1:10**ULT**

¹⁰ “And in the beginning, O Lord, you laid the earth’s foundation, and the heavens are the work of your hands.

UST

¹⁰ We also know that his Son is superior to angels because someone wrote, “Lord, it was you who created the earth in the beginning. You also made the rest of the universe, the stars and everything in the sky.

What will happen to the earth and heavens over time? (vv10-11)

The earth and heavens will wear out like a garment and perish.

Hebrews 1:11**ULT**

¹¹ They will perish, but you will continue and they will all wear out like a garment.

UST

¹¹ Those things will no longer exist, but you will keep on living forever. They will all wear out as clothing wears out.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 1:12**ULT**

¹² And you will roll them up like a cloak, and they will be changed like a garment. But you are the same, and your years will not end."

UST

¹² You will roll them up like a cloth, as if they were old clothes. Then you will change all that is in the universe for something new, like someone putting on new clothes. But you stay the same, and you live forever!"

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 1:13**ULT**

¹³ But to which of the angels has he said at any time, "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet"?

UST

¹³ God has never said to any angel what he said to his Son: "Sit in the most important place next to me and rule with me while I defeat all of your enemies for you to rule over them!"

Where did God tell the Son to sit, and until what happened?

God told the Son to sit at his right hand until God made the Son's enemies a stool for the Son's feet.

Hebrews 1:14**ULT**

¹⁴ Are they not all ministering spirits, being sent for service for the sake of those who are going to inherit salvation?

UST

¹⁴ The angels are only spirits whom God has sent out to serve and care for believers whom God will soon save completely, as he has promised to do for them.

For whom do the angels care?

The angels care for those who are about to inherit salvation.

Hebrews 2

Hebrews 2:1

ULT

¹ Therefore it is far more necessary for us to give attention to what we have heard, so that we might not drift away from it.

UST

¹ So, since that is true, we must pay very great attention to what we have heard about God's Son, so that we do not gradually stop believing it.

Why must believers pay attention to what they have heard?

Believers must pay attention to what they have heard so that they do not drift away from it.

Hebrews 2:2

ULT

² For if the message spoken through angels became reliable, and every transgression and disobedience received just punishment,

UST

² When the angels spoke God's law to the people of Israel, what they said was valid. God justly punished all who disobeyed him and violated his law.

What does every transgression and disobedience receive?

Every transgression and disobedience receives just punishment.

Hebrews 2:3

ULT

³ how will we escape, having ignored so great a salvation? This, first having been received to be spoken by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard it;

UST

³ We will certainly not escape God. He will certainly punish those who ignore such an important message about how he saves us. It was the Lord Jesus who first told us about this, and the disciples who heard him have assured us that he did so.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 2:4**ULT**

⁴ God also testifying to it by signs and wonders and various miracles, and by the distributions of the Holy Spirit according to his will.

UST

⁴ God also confirmed to us that this message was true by giving believers power to do mighty deeds that prove these things are true. And the Holy Spirit also gives many gifts just as he desires to distribute them.

How did God testify to the message of salvation announced by the Lord?

God testified to the message by signs, wonders, powerful deeds, and by the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Hebrews 2:5**ULT**

⁵ For {it was} not to angels that {God} subjected the world that is coming, about which we are speaking.

UST

⁵ God has not put the angels in charge of the new world he will make. That is the new world about which we are speaking.

Who will not rule the world to come?

Angels will not rule the world to come.

Hebrews 2:6**ULT**

⁶ Instead, someone has somewhere testified, saying, "What is man, that you remember him or a son of man, that you care for him?"

UST

⁶ Someone solemnly spoke to God about this somewhere in the scriptures, saying, "No human being is worthy enough for you to think about him! No human is worthy enough for you to care for him!"

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 2:7**ULT**

⁷ You made him a little lower than the angels; you crowned him with glory and honor. ^[1]

UST

⁷ You created humans a little less important than the angels, Yet you have greatly honored them, as people honor kings.

Who will rule the world to come? (vv7-8)

Man will rule the world to come.

Hebrews 2:8**ULT**

⁸ You subjected everything under his feet." For in subjecting all things, he left nothing not subjected to him. But now we do not yet see all things subjected to him.

UST

⁸ You have put everything under their control." Mankind will rule over everything. That means that nothing will be left out from him ruling it. But now, at this present time, we do not see mankind ruling over everything.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 2:9**ULT**

⁹ But we see Jesus, who was made somewhat less than the angels, crowned with glory and honor because of {his} suffering of death, so that by God's grace he might taste death on behalf of everyone.

UST

⁹ However, we do know about Jesus, who appeared in this life as a little less important than the angels. Because he suffered and died, God has made him the most important of all. He has made Jesus king over everything, because Jesus died for everyone. It was because God was so kind to us that this happened.

Why was Jesus crowned with glory and honor?

Jesus was crowned with glory and honor because of his suffering and death.

For whom did Jesus taste death?

Jesus tasted death for every man.

Hebrews 2:10**ULT**

¹⁰ For it was proper for him, for whom all things {exist} and through whom all things {exist}, having brought many sons into glory, to perfect the author of their salvation through sufferings.

UST

¹⁰ Since by him all things exist and all things are for him, it was proper that he brought many children to share his glory. By means of his suffering God showed that the one who saved them was perfect.

Who does God plan to bring to glory?

God plans to bring many sons to glory.

Hebrews 2:11**ULT**

¹¹ For both the one who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified {are} all from one. For this reason, he is not ashamed to call them brothers,

UST

¹¹ Jesus, the one who sets his people apart for God, and also those same people whom God declares as good before him, are all from the same source, God himself. So Jesus is not embarrassed to proclaim them to be his own brothers and sisters.

Who both come from the one source, God?

Both the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified come from the one source, God.

Hebrews 2:12**ULT**

¹² saying, "I will proclaim your name to my brothers, I will praise you in the midst of the assembly."

UST

¹² The psalmist wrote that the Messiah said to God, "I will proclaim to my brothers how awesome you are. I will sing praise to you in the middle of the assembly of believers!"

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 2:13**ULT**

¹³ And again, "I will trust in him." And again, "Behold, {here am} I and the children whom God has given me."

UST

¹³ And a prophet wrote in another scripture passage what the Messiah said about God: "I will trust him." And in another scripture passage, the Messiah said about those who are his children, "I and the children whom God has given me are here."

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 2:14**ULT**

¹⁴ Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, he likewise also shared in the same, so that through death he might abolish the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil,

UST

¹⁴ So since those whom God calls his children are all human beings, Jesus also became a human being just like them. The devil has the power to cause people to be afraid to die. So that by his dying, Jesus was able to defeat death and make the devil powerless.

Who was made ineffective through Jesus' death?

The devil was made ineffective through Jesus' death.

Hebrews 2:15**ULT**

¹⁵ and might free those, as many as all {their} lives were held in slavery by the fear of death.

UST

¹⁵ Jesus did this in order to free all of us who, all our lives, could not rid ourselves of a fear of dying.

From what slavery are people freed through the death of Jesus?

Through the death of Jesus, people are freed from the fear of death.

Hebrews 2:16**ULT**

¹⁶ For of course {it is} not angels he is concerned with, but {it is} the descendant of Abraham he is concerned with.

UST

¹⁶ For it is not angels that he has come to help. No, it is us who trust God as Abraham did whom he wants to help.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 2:17**ULT**

¹⁷ So he was obligated to become like {his} brothers in all ways, so that he would be a merciful and faithful high priest concerning the things of God to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

UST

¹⁷ So God had to make Jesus to be exactly like us, like his human "brothers." He became a high priest who acts mercifully to the people and who acts faithfully for God, so he could make a way for God to forgive the people's sins.

Why was it necessary for Jesus to be like his brothers in all ways?

It was necessary so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest over God's things, and so he might achieve forgiveness for the people's sins.

Hebrews 2:18**ULT**

¹⁸ For in that he himself suffered, having been tempted, he is able to help those who are tempted.
2:7 ^[1]

UST

¹⁸ Jesus is able to help those who are tempted to sin because he himself suffered and was tempted.

Why is Jesus able to help those who are tempted?

Jesus is able to help those who are tempted because he was tempted also.

Hebrews 3

Hebrews 3:1

ULT

¹ Therefore, holy brothers, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider carefully the apostle and high priest of our confession, Jesus,

UST

¹ My fellow believers, God has set you apart and has chosen you to belong to himself. So consider Jesus. He is God's apostle to us and is also the high priest whom we say we believe in together.

What two titles does the author of the book of Hebrews give Jesus?

The author gives Jesus the titles Apostle and High Priest.

Hebrews 3:2

ULT

² being faithful to the one who appointed him, as also Moses {was} in his house.

UST

² He faithfully served God, who appointed him, just like Moses faithfully served all of God's people, whom we call God's house.

Why has Jesus been considered worthy of greater glory than Moses? (vv2-3)

Jesus has been considered worthy of greater glory because while Moses was faithful in all God's house, Jesus is the one who built the house.

Hebrews 3:3

ULT

³ For he has been considered worthy of greater glory than Moses, just as much greater honor than the house has the one who built it.

UST

³⁻⁴ Now just as every house is made by someone, God made everything. So God has considered that Jesus is worthy for people to honor him more than they honor Moses, just as the one who builds a house deserves for people to honor him more than they should honor the house.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 3:4**ULT**

⁴ For every house is built by someone, but the one who built everything {is} God.

UST

³⁻⁴ Now just as every house is made by someone, God made everything. So God has considered that Jesus is worthy for people to honor him more than they honor Moses, just as the one who builds a house deserves for people to honor him more than they should honor the house.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 3:5**ULT**

⁵ And Moses {was} faithful as a servant in his entire house, for a testimony of what will be spoken of in the future;

UST

⁵ Moses very faithfully served God as he helped all of God's people, just as a servant faithfully serves his master. So Moses testified about what Jesus would say in the future.

What was Moses' role in God's house?

Moses was a servant in God's house.

About what did Moses give testimony?

Moses gave testimony about the things that were to be spoken of in the future.

Hebrews 3:6**ULT**

⁶ but Christ, as a Son over his house—whose house we are if we hold fast to the confidence and the boasting of {our} hope.

UST

⁶ But the Messiah is the Son who rules over God's people. And we are the people he rules if we continue to courageously believe in the Messiah and confidently expect God to do all that he has promised to do for us.

What is Jesus' role in God's house?

Jesus is the Son in charge of God's house.

Who is God's house?

The believers are God's house if they hold fast their confidence.

Hebrews 3:7**ULT**

⁷ Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit says: "Today, if you hear his voice,

UST

⁷ So then, it is just as when the Holy Spirit caused the psalmist to write these words in the scriptures to the Israelites: "Now, when you hear God speak to you,

What did the Israelites in the wilderness do when they heard God's voice? (vv7-8)

The Israelites hardened their hearts.

Hebrews 3:8**ULT**

⁸ do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, in the day of testing in the wilderness

UST

⁸ Do not stubbornly disobey him, as your ancestors rebelled against him when he tested them in the wilderness.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 3:9**ULT**

⁹ where your fathers tested {me} by testing {me}, and they saw my works

UST

⁹ There your ancestors repeatedly tested me to see whether I would be patient with them, even though they saw all the amazing things I did.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 3:10**ULT**

¹⁰ for 40 years. Therefore I was displeased with that generation and I said, 'They are always being led astray in {their} hearts and they have not known my ways.'

UST

¹⁰ For forty years I was angry with those people, and I said about them, 'They are never faithful to me. They do not understand how I wanted them to conduct their lives.'

What did God swear concerning the Israelites who went astray in their hearts? (vv10-11)

God swore that they would not enter his rest.

Hebrews 3:11**ULT**

¹¹ As I swore in my wrath, 'If they will enter into my rest ...!'"

UST

¹¹ So then I was angry with them. I solemnly declared, 'They will not enter the land of Canaan where I would let them rest!'"

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 3:12**ULT**

¹² Be careful, brothers, so that there will not be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in falling away from the living God.

UST

¹² So, fellow believers, be careful that none of you develop evil thinking that would lead you to stop obeying the only God who actually lives.

Of what are the brothers warned to be careful?

The brothers are warned to be careful not to turn away from the living God by unbelief.

Hebrews 3:13**ULT**

¹³ Instead, encourage one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” so that no one among you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

UST

¹³ Instead, each of you must encourage each other every day, while you still have the opportunity. If not someone among you could behave stubbornly and lead others to sin.

What are the brothers to do in order to avoid being hardened by the deceitfulness of sin?

The brothers are to encourage one another daily.

Hebrews 3:14**ULT**

¹⁴ For we have become partakers of Christ if we firmly hold to the beginning of {our} confidence until the end.

UST

¹⁴ We are now joined to the Messiah if we continue to seriously and confidently trust in him, from the time we first trusted in him to the time when we die.

As partners of Christ, what must believers do?

As partners of Christ, believers must firmly hold their confidence in him from the beginning to the end.

Hebrews 3:15**ULT**

¹⁵ About this it has been said, “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts, as in the rebellion.”

UST

¹⁵ The psalmist wrote in the scripture that God said, “Now, when you hear me speaking to you, do not stubbornly disobey me. Your ancestors did that when they rebelled against me.”

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 3:16**ULT**

¹⁶ For which ones who heard rebelled? {Was it} not all those who came out from Egypt through Moses?

UST

¹⁶ For remember who it was who rebelled against God, even though they heard him speak to them. It was certainly all of God's people who Moses led out of Egypt.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 3:17**ULT**

¹⁷ And with whom was he angry for 40 years? {Was it} not with those who sinned, whose dead bodies fell in the wilderness?

UST

¹⁷ And remember who it was with whom God was disgusted for forty years. Certainly it was God's people who sinned, and their dead bodies lay there in the desert.

With whom was God angry for forty years?

God was angry with those who sinned in the wilderness.

What happened to those with whom God was angry?

Their dead bodies lay in the wilderness.

Hebrews 3:18**ULT**

¹⁸ And to whom did he swear that they would not enter into his rest, if not to those who disobeyed?

UST

¹⁸ And remember about whom God solemnly declared, "They will not enter the land where I would let them rest." It was certainly those Israelites who disobeyed God.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 3:19

ULT

¹⁹ And we see that they were not able to enter because of unbelief.

UST

¹⁹ From that example we know that it was because they did not trust in God. So they were unable to enter the land where God would allow them to rest.

Why were the disobedient Israelites not able to enter God's rest?

They were not able to enter God's rest because of unbelief.

Hebrews 4

Hebrews 4:1

ULT

¹ Therefore, let us be afraid lest while there remains a promise of entering into his rest, any of you might seem to have failed to attain it.

UST

¹ God's promise that we may enter his place of rest still exists. We are afraid then lest some among you seem to fail to enter his place of rest.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 4:2

ULT

² For we also are having good news proclaimed {to us} just as to them also. But the message of the hearing did not benefit them, not having been united with faith in those who heard it. ^[1]

UST

² Indeed, we have heard the good news about God's promises, just as they did. But that message did not benefit them because they did not go along with those who believed God, listened and obeyed.

What good news had the believers and the Israelites both heard?

The believers and the Israelites had both heard the good news about God's rest.

Why did the good news not benefit the Israelites?

The good news did not benefit the Israelites because they did not join faith to it.

Hebrews 4:3**ULT**

³ For we who have believed enter into rest, just as he said, "As I swore in my wrath, They will never enter into my rest." Even so, {his} works were finished from the foundation of the world.

UST

³ Oh yes, we do enter that rest, as do those who have believed. But those who do not believe do not enter, as he has said, "Because I was angry with the people of Israel, I solemnly declared, 'They will not enter the land where I would let them rest.'" God said this even though his plans for a place of resting had been finished from the time he created the world.

Who are the ones who enter God's rest?

Those who have believed enter God's rest.

When did God finish his created works and then rest? (vv3-4)

God finished his created works at the beginning of the world and then rested on the seventh day.

Hebrews 4:4**ULT**

⁴ For he has somewhere spoken thus about the seventh {day}: "And God rested on the seventh day from all his works."

UST

⁴ What the scriptures say about the seventh day shows that this is true. God spent six days creating the world and then rested. "Then, on the seventh day, God rested from his work of creating everything."

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 4:5**ULT**

⁵ And again in this {same passage}, "They will never enter into my rest."

UST

⁵ But note again what God said about the Israelites in the passage that I quoted previously: "They will not enter the land where I would let them rest."

What did God say about the Israelites and his rest?

God said that the Israelites would not enter his rest.

Hebrews 4:6**ULT**

⁶ Therefore, because it remains for some to enter into it, and those who previously had the good news proclaimed to them did not go in, because of {their} disobedience.

UST

⁶ So then, it is clear that some people still enter God's rest. But the Israelites who first heard God promise that they would rest—they did not enter that place of resting, because they refused to believe God.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 4:7**ULT**

⁷ He has again set a certain day calling it "Today," speaking through David after so much time, just as it had been said, "Today if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts."

UST

⁷ But God set another time when we may enter that place of resting. That time is now! We know that is true because much later than when the Israelites rebelled against God in the desert, he caused King David to write what I have already quoted, "Right now, when you understand what God is saying to you, do not stubbornly disobey him."

What day has God now set for people to enter his rest?

God has set "Today" as the day for people to enter his rest.

What must a person do in order to enter God's rest?

A person must listen to God's voice and not harden his heart.

Hebrews 4:8**ULT**

⁸ For if Joshua had given them rest, he would not have spoken about another day after this.

UST

⁸ If Joshua had led the Israelites to enter the only place of resting God would give them, then much later God would not have spoken again about another day of rest. But he did give them another promise of rest.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 4:9**ULT**

⁹ Therefore there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God.

UST

⁹ So, just as God rested on the seventh day after he finished creating everything, there remains a time when God's people will rest eternally.

What is still reserved for God's people?

A sabbath rest is still reserved for God's people.

Hebrews 4:10**ULT**

¹⁰ For the one who has entered into his rest has himself also rested from his works, just as God {did} from his own.

UST

¹⁰ Whoever enters God's place of resting has also ceased from his work, just as God finished doing his own work of creating everything.

A person who enters God's rest also rests from what?

A person who enters God's rest also rests from his deeds.

Hebrews 4:11**ULT**

¹¹ Therefore let us be eager to enter into that rest, so that no one might fall into the same kind of disobedience.

UST

¹¹ So we eagerly enter into that rest of God, in order that there be no one among us who fails to believe as the others failed to believe.

Why should believers be eager to enter God's rest?

Believers should be eager to enter God's rest so that they do not fall as the Israelites did.

Hebrews 4:12**ULT**

¹² For the Word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing to the dividing of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

UST

¹² God's words are alive and powerful, and they are able to cut sharper than any two-edged sword—cutting so deep that it can separate out the difference between our soul and our spirit. God's words cut deeply, down through the joints into the marrow within the bones. God's words are like a judge, deciding what thoughts are good or what thoughts are bad, and his words show the motives hidden deep within each of our hearts.

What is the word of God sharper than?

The word of God is sharper than any two-edged sword.

What is the word of God able to divide?

The word of God is able to divide soul from spirit, and joints from marrow.

What is the word of God able to discern?

The word of God is able to discern the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Hebrews 4:13**ULT**

¹³ And nothing created is hidden before God. Instead, everything {is} bare and laid open to the eyes of him to whom we {must give} account.

UST

¹³ God knows everything about everyone. Nothing is hidden from him. Everything is completely open to him and he sees everything we do. We must all appear before God and we must tell him how we have lived our lives.

Who is hidden from God's sight?

No created thing is hidden from God's sight.

Hebrews 4:14**ULT**

¹⁴ Therefore, having a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us firmly hold to {our} profession.

UST

¹⁴ So we have a great high priest who ascended through the heavens. He is Jesus, God's Son. So let us courageously say openly that we trust Jesus the Messiah.

Who serves as the great high priest for believers?

Jesus the Son of God serves as the great high priest for believers.

Hebrews 4:15**ULT**

¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is not able to sympathize with our weaknesses, but being tempted in all ways according to {our} likeness without sin.

UST

¹⁵ Our high priest can indeed have mercy on us and encourage us, we who tend to sin easily, because Satan also tempted him to sin in every way that he tempts us to sin—but he did not sin.

Why does Jesus feel sympathy for the weaknesses of believers?

Jesus feels sympathy for the weaknesses of believers because he was in all ways tempted.

How many times did Jesus sin?

Jesus was without sin.

Hebrews 4:16**ULT**

¹⁶ Let us then approach with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace for timely help.

4:2 ^[1]

UST

¹⁶ So let us come boldly to the Messiah, who rules from heaven and does for us what we do not deserve, so that he might kindly help us and have mercy on us when we need him to do so.

In time of need, what are believers to do to receive mercy and find grace?

In time of need, believers are to come up with confidence to the throne of grace.

Hebrews 5

Hebrews 5:1

ULT

¹ For every high priest having been chosen from among men on the behalf of men is appointed in the things concerning God, so that he may offer gifts and sacrifices for sins;

UST

¹ In the case of every high priest God chooses, he selects a man from the people. This man must serve God for the people; he must give God gifts and sacrifice animals to him for the people's sins.

What does every high priest do on behalf of the people?

For the people, every high priest offers gifts and sacrifices for sins.

Hebrews 5:2

ULT

² being able to deal gently with those who are ignorant and who are being deceived, because he also is subject to weakness.

UST

² A high priest can be gentle with those who know little about God and with those who sin against him. This is because the high priest himself is weak with sin.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 5:3

ULT

³ And because of this, he is obligated, just as for the people, so also for himself, to offer sacrifices for sins.

UST

³ As a result, he also must sacrifice animals for himself, because he sins just like the people do.

In addition to the people, for whom does the high priest also present sacrifices?

The high priest also presents sacrifices for his sins.

Hebrews 5:4**ULT**

⁴ And no one takes {this} honor for himself, but {only} when called by God, just as also Aaron {was}.

UST

⁴ But no one can honor himself by deciding to become the high priest. Instead, God chose each man to become a high priest, as he chose Aaron to be the first high priest.

How does a man receive the honor of being a high priest of God?

A man must be called by God to be a high priest of God.

Hebrews 5:5**ULT**

⁵ In the same way also, Christ did not honor himself to become high priest. Instead, the one speaking to him {said}, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father."

UST

⁵ Similarly, the Messiah also did not honor himself by becoming high priest. Instead, God the Father appointed him by saying to him what the psalmist wrote in the scriptures: "You are my son! Today I have declared that I am your father!"

Who declared Christ to be a high priest?

God declared Christ to be a high priest.

Hebrews 5:6**ULT**

⁶ {It is} just as he also says in another {place}, "You {are} a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek."

UST

⁶ It is just as he also said to the Messiah when the psalmist wrote in another scripture passage: "You are a priest eternally in the way that Melchizedek was a priest."

For how long is Christ God's high priest?

Christ is God's high priest forever.

Of what order is Christ as a high priest?

Christ is a high priest of the order of Melchizedek.

Hebrews 5:7**ULT**

⁷ He, during the days of his flesh, offered up both prayers and requests with loud cries and tears to the one who is able to save him from death and was heard because of {his} godly life.

UST

⁷ In the days when the Messiah was living here in the world, he prayed to God and cried out loudly to him in tears. He asked God, who could save him from dying. He prayed and God listened to him, because the Messiah honored him and obeyed him.

Why was Christ heard by God when he prayed?

Christ was heard by God because he revered God.

Hebrews 5:8**ULT**

⁸ Even though being a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered.

UST

⁸ Although the Messiah is God's own son, he learned to obey God by what he suffered

How did Christ learn obedience?

Christ learned obedience from the things he suffered.

Hebrews 5:9**ULT**

⁹ And having been made perfect, he became, for all those who obey him, the source of eternal salvation,

UST

⁹ By accomplishing everything that God wanted him to do, he has now become fully able to save eternally all who obey him.

For whom did Christ become the cause of eternal salvation?

For everyone who obeys him, Christ became the cause of their eternal salvation.

Hebrews 5:10**ULT**

¹⁰ having been designated by God {as} high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

UST

¹⁰ God has designated him to be our high priest in the way that Melchizedek was a high priest.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 5:11**ULT**

¹¹ Concerning him the message to us {is} great, but hard to say since you have become dull in hearing.

UST

¹¹ I want to tell you much about the many ways in which the Messiah resembles Melchizedek. This is hard for me to explain to you because you find it so difficult to understand.

What was the spiritual condition of the original readers of this letter?

The original readers were dull of hearing.

Hebrews 5:12**ULT**

¹² For even though by this time you ought to be teachers, you again have need of one to teach you some of the basic principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to have need of milk, not solid food!

UST

¹² You became the Messiahians long ago. So by now you should be teaching God's truths to others. But you still need someone to teach you again the elementary truths of the words of God from the scriptures, starting from the beginning. You need those basic truths like babies need milk. You are not ready to learn more difficult things, things that are like the solid food that mature people need.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 5:13**ULT**

¹³ For anyone who takes milk {is} inexperienced with the message of righteousness, because he is a little child.

UST

¹³ Remember that those who are still learning these basic truths do not understand what God says about becoming righteous. For they are just like babies who need milk!

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 5:14**ULT**

¹⁴ But solid food is for the mature, who by practice have trained {their} senses for distinguishing both of good and of evil.

UST

¹⁴ But the more difficult spiritual truth is for people who know God better, just like solid food is for people who are adults. They can tell the difference between what is good and what is evil, because they have trained themselves by learning what is right and what is wrong.

How does the author of the letter say that believers grow from spiritual babies into full-grown adults?

Believers grow spiritually by practicing distinguishing right from wrong, discerning both good and evil.

Hebrews 6

Hebrews 6:1

ULT

¹ So then, having left the beginning of the message of Christ, let us go forward to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith in God,

UST

¹⁻³ So, we must not keep discussing what we first learned about the Messiah, things that all believers must learn at first. Some of these things are how to stop doing sinful deeds, those that lead to death, and how to start trusting in God. There are also important things we teach: various kinds of baptism, why we often pray while putting our hands on each other; and also about how God will raise us all from the dead and judge everyone in a way that will last forever. Indeed, we will discuss these things again later, if God gives us the chance to do it. But now we must discuss things that are harder to understand; these are things that will help us to trust in the Messiah in all times, no matter what happens.

On to what does the author of Hebrews want the believers to press?

The author of Hebrews wants the believers to press on to maturity.

What teachings does the author list as the foundation of the message of Christ? (vv1-2)

The foundational teachings are repentance from dead works, faith in God, baptisms, laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.

Hebrews 6:2

ULT

² teaching about baptisms, and laying on of hands, and resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 6:3**ULT**

³ And this we will do if God permits.

UST

¹⁻³ So, we must not keep discussing what we first learned about the Messiah, things that all believers must learn at first. Some of these things are how to stop doing sinful deeds, those that lead to death, and how to start trusting in God. There are also important things we teach: various kinds of baptism, why we often pray while putting our hands on each other; and also about how God will raise us all from the dead and judge everyone in a way that will last forever. Indeed, we will discuss these things again later, if God gives us the chance to do it. But now we must discuss things that are harder to understand; these are things that will help us to trust in the Messiah in all times, no matter what happens.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 6:4**ULT**

⁴ For {it is} impossible for those who were once enlightened and having tasted the heavenly gift, and having become sharers of the Holy Spirit,

UST

⁴ For it is impossible to persuade some people to turn away from their sinful behavior For although they once had God's light and had experienced the good things given by God and shared in the Holy Spirit,

What had these enlightened people tasted? (vv4-5)

These enlightened people had tasted the heavenly gift, God's word, and the powers of the age to come.

What is impossible for those who were sharers in the Holy Spirit, but then fell away, to do? (vv4-6)

It is impossible for those who were sharers in the Holy Spirit, but then fell away, to be restored again to repentance.

Hebrews 6:5**ULT**

⁵ and who have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come,

UST

⁵ They experienced for themselves the goodness of God's word and the spiritual powers of the age to come.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 6:6**ULT**

⁶ but having fallen away—to restore them again to repentance while crucifying the Son of God for themselves and publicly shaming him.

UST

⁶ But now, if these people reject the Messiah, no one will be able to persuade them to stop sinning and to trust in him again! That is because it is as though these people have nailed the Son of God to his cross again! They are causing people to despise the Messiah in front of others.

Why are these people not able to be restored to repentance?

They are not able to be restored because they have crucified for themselves the very Son of God.

Hebrews 6:7**ULT**

⁷ For land that has drunk the rain that often comes upon it and produces plants useful to those for whom it was also cultivated receives a blessing from God;

UST

⁷ Think about this: God has blessed land on which rain has frequently fallen and on which plants grow for the good use of the farmers who cultivate the soil.

In the author's analogy, what happens to land that receives rain but bears thorns and thistles? (vv7-8)

Land that receives rain but bears thorns and thistles has its end in burning.

Hebrews 6:8**ULT**

⁸ but bearing thorns and thistles, {it is} worthless and close to a curse, the end of which {is} for burning.

UST

⁸ But what will happen to people who do not obey God is like what happens to land on which only thorns and thistles grow. Such land is worthless. It has become land that the farmer will curse and whose plants he will burn away.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 6:9**ULT**

⁹ But concerning you, beloved ones, we are convinced of things better and accompanying salvation, even if we speak thus.

UST

⁹ You can see that I am warning you, dear friends, not to reject the Messiah. At the same time, I am certain that you are doing better than that. You are doing the things that show that God is saving you, even though we speak like this.

What is the author's expectation concerning the believers to whom he is writing?

The author expects better things concerning these believers, things that are about salvation.

Hebrews 6:10**ULT**

¹⁰ For God {is} not unjust, to forget your work and the love that you have shown for his name, having served the saints and serving them.

UST

¹⁰ Since God always acts justly, he will not overlook all you have done for him; he will not overlook how you have loved and helped your fellow believers, and how you are still helping them.

What will God not forget about these believers?

God will not forget their work, love, and service to the saints.

Hebrews 6:11**ULT**

¹¹ And we long for each of you to show the same diligence toward the assurance of {your} hope to the end

UST

¹¹ We greatly desire that each of you continue to show the same effort you are showing now, so that to the very end of your lives, you will be sure you will receive all that God promised to give you.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 6:12**ULT**

¹² so that you might not become lazy, but imitators of those who by faith and patience inherit the promises.

UST

¹² I do not want you to be lazy. Instead, I want you to do what other believers have done, those who are receiving what God promised them, because they trusted in him and were patient.

What should the believers imitate about those who inherit the promises of God?

The believers should imitate the faith and patience of those who inherit the promises of God.

Hebrews 6:13**ULT**

¹³ For God, having made a promise to Abraham, swore by himself, since he had no one greater by {whom} to swear,

UST

¹³ When God promised to do great things for Abraham, there was no one greater than himself whom he could ask to force himself to do those things. So he asked himself.

What did Abraham have to do in order to obtain what God promised him? (vv13-15)

Abraham had to wait patiently to obtain what God promised him.

Hebrews 6:14**ULT**

¹⁴ saying, "I will most certainly bless you, and I will certainly increase you."

UST

¹⁴ Then he said to Abraham, "I will certainly bless you and I will certainly greatly increase the number of your descendants."

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 6:15**ULT**

¹⁵ And in this way, having patiently waited, he obtained the promise.

UST

¹⁵ So after Abraham patiently waited for God to do what he promised, God did for him what he had promised.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 6:16**ULT**

¹⁶ For men swear by someone greater, and the oath {is} for confirmation of the end of each of their disputes.

UST

¹⁶ Keep in mind that when people promise something, they ask a more important person to punish them if they do not do what they promise. This is how all such disputes are settled.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 6:17**ULT**

¹⁷ When God, wanting even more to show to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable quality of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath

UST

¹⁷ So when God wanted to demonstrate very clearly to us who would receive what he had promised that he would not change what he had planned to do, he said that he would declare himself guilty if he did not do what he promised.

Why did God guarantee his promise with an oath?

God guaranteed his promise with an oath to show more clearly the unchangeable quality of his purpose.

Hebrews 6:18**ULT**

¹⁸ so that by two unchangeable things—in which {it is} impossible for God to lie—we, who have fled for refuge, might have a strong encouragement to hold firmly to the hope set before us;

UST

¹⁸ He did that to strongly encourage us, because he has done two things that cannot change: He promised to help us, and would declare himself guilty if he did not. Now, God cannot lie. That is why we have fled to him in order that we might continue confidently to expect to receive what he promised us.

What is it impossible for God to do?

It is impossible for God to lie.

Hebrews 6:19**ULT**

¹⁹ which we have as an anchor of the soul, both reliable and steadfast, and entering into the inner place {behind} the curtain,

UST

¹⁹ Yes, we confidently expect to receive what God has promised to do for us. It is as if we were a ship, whose anchor is holding us firmly in one place. The one we confidently expect to hold us is Jesus. As well, this is why he is just like the high priests who go behind the curtain into the innermost part of the temple, where God is present.

What does the believer's confidence in God do for his soul?

The believer's confidence in God is a secure and reliable anchor for his soul.

Hebrews 6:20**ULT**

²⁰ where Jesus, a forerunner on our behalf, has entered in, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

UST

²⁰ Jesus went into God's presence ahead of us to allow us to enter in that same place with God, too. Jesus has become a high priest forever, in the way that Melchizedek was a high priest.

Where did Jesus enter as the forerunner for the believers?

Jesus entered into the inner place behind the curtain as the forerunner for the believers.

Hebrews 7

Hebrews 7:1

ULT

¹ For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of God Most High, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him,

UST

¹ Now I will say more about this man Melchizedek. He was the king of the city of Salem and was also a priest of God, who rules the universe. He met Abraham and his men who were returning home from defeating the armies of the four kings. Melchizedek blessed Abraham.

What two titles did Melchizedek have?

Melchizedek was king of Salem and priest of God Most High.

Hebrews 7:2

ULT

² to whom also Abraham gave a tenth of everything, first indeed translated as “king of righteousness,” and then also “king of Salem,” that is, “king of peace,”

UST

² Then Abraham gave to him one tenth of all the things he took after winning the battle. Now Melchizedek's name means first, “king who rules righteously,” and, since Salem means “peace,” his name also means “the king who rules peacefully.”

What did Abraham give Melchizedek?

Abraham gave Melchizedek a tenth of everything he had captured.

What does the name Melchizedek mean?

The name Melchizedek means “king of righteousness” and “king of peace”.

Hebrews 7:3**ULT**

³ without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but resembling the Son of God, he remains a priest forever.

UST

³ The scriptures provide us with no record of Melchizedek's father, mother, or ancestors; nor do the scriptures tell us when he was born or when he died. It is as if he continues to be a priest forever. In this way, he is a little like the Son of God.

Who were the ancestors of Melchizedek, and when did he die?

Melchizedek was without ancestors and has no end of life.

Hebrews 7:4**ULT**

⁴ But see how great this one {was}, to whom the patriarch Abraham gave a tenth from the plunder.

UST

⁴ You can realize how great this man Melchizedek was from the fact that Abraham, our famous ancestor, gave him a tenth of the best things he took from the battle with the kings.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 7:5**ULT**

⁵ And those indeed from the sons of Levi who receive the priesthood have a command according to the law to collect tithes from the people, that is, from their brothers, even though they have come from the loins of Abraham.

UST

⁵ According to the laws God gave Moses, the descendants of Abraham's great-grandson Levi, who were priests, should take tithes from God's people who were their relatives, that is even though those people also were fellow descendants of Abraham.

From whom are the priests descended, who are priests according to the Law, and who collect tithes from the people?

The priests of the Law are descended from Levi and Abraham.

Hebrews 7:6**ULT**

⁶ But Melchizedek, whose descent was not traced from them, received tithes from Abraham, and blessed the one having the promises.

UST

⁶ But this man Melchizedek, who was not among the descendants of Levi, received a tenth of everything from Abraham. He also blessed Abraham, the man to whom God promised many descendants.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 7:7**ULT**

⁷ But without any argument, the lesser is blessed by the greater.

UST

⁷ Now everyone knows that the more important people bless the less important people, just as Melchizedek blessed Abraham. So we know that Melchizedek was greater than Abraham.

Who was the greater person, Abraham or Melchizedek?

Melchizedek was the greater person because he blessed Abraham

Hebrews 7:8**ULT**

⁸ And in this case, mortal men receive tithes, but in that case it is testified that he lives on.

UST

⁸ In the case of the priests who are descendants of Levi, they are all men who will die one day, but even they received tithes. However, in the case of Melchizedek, who received a tenth of everything from Abraham—it is as if God testified that Melchizedek keeps on living, since scripture does not speak about him dying.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 7:9**ULT**

⁹ And, so to speak, Levi, the one receiving tithes, also paid tithes through Abraham,

UST

⁹ And it was as though Levi himself, and all the priests descended from him—those who received tithes from the people—paid tithes to Melchizedek because their ancestor Abraham paid tithes to him. When Abraham paid tithes to Melchizedek it was as though they acknowledged that Melchizedek was greater than Abraham.

In what way did Levi himself also pay tithes to Melchizedek? (vv9-10)

Levi also paid tithes to Melchizedek because Levi was in the genitals of Abraham when Abraham paid tithes to Melchizedek.

Hebrews 7:10**ULT**

¹⁰ because he was still in the loins of his father when Melchizedek met Abraham.

UST

¹⁰ This is true because we can say that Levi and his descendants were still in Abraham's body when Melchizedek met Abraham.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 7:11**ULT**

¹¹ So if perfection was through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need {was there} for another priest to arise according to the order of Melchizedek, and to not be called according to the order of Aaron?

UST

¹¹ God gave the law to his people at the same time he gave regulations about the priests. So if the priests who were descended from Aaron and his ancestor Levi could have provided a way for God to forgive people for disobeying those laws. Those priests who came after Aaron would have been adequate. In that case, no other priest like Melchizedek would have been necessary.

Why was there a need for another priest to arise after the order of Melchizedek?

There was a need for another priest to arise after the order of Melchizedek because perfection was not possible through the Levitical priesthood.

Hebrews 7:12**ULT**

¹² For when the priesthood is changed, of necessity a change of the law also happens.

UST

¹² But we know those priests were not adequate, because a new type of priest like Melchizedek has come. And since God has appointed a new type of priest, he also had to change the law.

What must also be changed when the priesthood changes?

The law must be changed when the priesthood changes.

Hebrews 7:13**ULT**

¹³ For he about whom these things are spoken belongs to another tribe, from which no one has attended to the altar.

UST

¹³ Jesus, the one about whom I am saying these things, is not a descendant of Levi. Instead, he came from the tribe of Judah, which never gave any person who served as priest.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 7:14**ULT**

¹⁴ For {it is} clear that our Lord is risen from Judah, a tribe toward which Moses said nothing concerning priests.

UST

¹⁴ For it is clear that our Lord descended from Judah, but Moses never spoke about priests coming from that tribe.

From which tribe did Jesus descend, and had this tribe served before at the altar as priests?

Jesus descended from the tribe of Judah, which had never served before at the altar as priests.

Hebrews 7:15**ULT**

¹⁵ And this is even more clear, if another priest arises according to the likeness of Melchizedek,

UST

¹⁵ Furthermore, we know that the priests descended from Levi were inadequate, since it is even more obvious that another priest has appeared who is like Melchizedek.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 7:16**ULT**

¹⁶ who became {a priest}, not according to a law of fleshly command, but according to the power of an indestructible life.

UST

¹⁶ This priest is Jesus; he became a priest, but not because he fulfilled what God's law required about being a descendant of Levi. Instead, he has the kind of power that came from a life that nothing can destroy.

On what basis did Jesus become a priest after the order of Melchizedek?

Jesus became a priest after the order of Melchizedek based on the power of an indestructible life.

Hebrews 7:17**ULT**

¹⁷ For he is testified to: "You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek."

UST

¹⁷ We know this since God confirmed it in the scripture passage in which he said to his Son, "You are a priest eternally, just as Melchizedek was a priest."

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 7:18**ULT**

¹⁸ For on the one hand, annulment of the former commandment happens because it {is} weak and useless

UST

¹⁸ God withdrew what he had first commanded about the priests because those priests are unable to make sinful people holy.

What has been set aside because it is weak and useless? (vv18-19)

The former commandment, the Law, has been set aside because it is weak and useless.

Hebrews 7:19**ULT**

¹⁹ (for the law made nothing perfect), and on the other hand {is} the introduction of a better hope, through which we come near to God.

UST

¹⁹ No one was able to become good by obeying the laws that God gave Moses. On the other hand, God gave us a better reason to have confidence in him, because he makes it possible for us to come near to him.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 7:20**ULT**

²⁰ And by as much as not without an oath,—for they without an oath are become priests,

UST

²⁰ Furthermore, when God appointed the Messiah as a priest, he made certain of it when he solemnly declared it. The men from the tribe of Levi become priests without such a declaration.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 7:21**ULT**

²¹ but he with an oath-taking, through God saying to him, “The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind: ‘You {are} a priest forever!’”—

UST

²¹ But when he appointed the Messiah to be a priest, it was by these words that the psalmist wrote in scripture: “The Lord has solemnly declared and he will not change his mind, ‘You will be a priest forever!’”

What oath did God swear concerning Jesus?

God swore that Jesus would be a priest forever.

Hebrews 7:22**ULT**

²² in the same way also, Jesus has become the guarantee of a better covenant.

UST

²² Because of that, Jesus himself guarantees that the new covenant will be better than the old one.

Of what is Jesus the guarantee?

Jesus is the guarantee of a better covenant.

Hebrews 7:23**ULT**

²³ And they, on the one hand, who became priests are many, since death prevents them from continuing,

UST

²³ And formerly, priests could not keep serving as priests because they would always die. So there were many priests to take the place of the ones who died.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 7:24**ULT**

²⁴ but Jesus, on the other hand, since he remains forever, he has a permanent priesthood.

UST

²⁴ But because Jesus lives eternally, he will continue to be a high priest forever.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 7:25**ULT**

²⁵ Therefore he is also able to save completely those who approach God through him, always living to intercede for them.

UST

²⁵ So Jesus can completely and eternally save those who come to God, since he lives forever to plead with God to forgive them and keep them safe.

Why is Jesus able to completely save those who draw near to God through him?

Jesus is able to completely save those who draw near to God through him because he always lives to intercede for them.

Hebrews 7:26**ULT**

²⁶ For such a high priest is indeed suitable for us: holy, innocent, pure, separated from sinners, and having become higher than the heavens;

UST

²⁶ Jesus is the kind of high priest that we need. He was holy, he did no wrong, and he was innocent. God has now separated him from living among sinners, and has now taken him up to the highest heaven.

What four attributes does Jesus have that make him the right priest for believers?

Jesus is sinless, blameless, pure, and separated from sinners.

What offering did Jesus need to make for his own sins?

Jesus did not need to make any offering for his own sins because he is sinless.

Hebrews 7:27**ULT**

²⁷ who does not have each day the need, even as the high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people, for he did this, having offered himself once for all.

UST

²⁷ The Jewish high priests need to sacrifice animals day by day as well as year by year. They do this, firstly, to cover their own sins, and then to cover the sins of other people. But because Jesus never sinned, he does not need to do that. The only thing he needed to do to save people was to sacrifice himself once, and that is exactly what he did!

What offering did Jesus make for the sins of the people?

Jesus offered up himself once for the sins of the people.

Hebrews 7:28**ULT**

²⁸ For the law appoints {as} high priests men having weaknesses, but the word of the oath, which {came} after the law, a Son, made perfect forever.

UST

²⁸ We need a high priest like Jesus, because the priests, who were appointed as commanded in the law, sinned like all humans sin. But God solemnly declared after he had given his laws to Moses that he would appoint his Son to be high priest. Now his Son, who is God the Son, Jesus, is forever the only perfect high priest.

How is Jesus different from the priests who were appointed through the Law?

The priests who were appointed through the Law were weak, but Jesus has been made perfect forever.

Hebrews 8

Hebrews 8:1

ULT

¹ Now the point of the things being said {is} this: We have a high priest who has sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens,

UST

¹ The most important part of everything that I have written is that we have a high priest who has sat down to rule as the king in heaven.

Where is the believers' high priest sitting?

The believers' high priest is sitting at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens.

Hebrews 8:2

ULT

² a servant of the holy {place} and the true tabernacle that the Lord, not a man, set up.

UST

² He serves in the sanctuary, that is, in the true place of worship in heaven. That is the true sacred tent, for the Lord set it up, not Moses.

Where is the true tabernacle?

The true tabernacle is in the heavens.

Hebrews 8:3

ULT

³ For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices. Therefore {it is} necessary also for this one to have something that he might offer.

UST

³ God appoints every high priest to offer gifts and sacrifices for the people's sins. So since the Messiah became a high priest, he also had to offer something.

What is necessary for every priest to have?

Every priest must have something to offer.

Hebrews 8:4**ULT**

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;

UST

⁴ Now if Christ were on earth, he would not be a priest at all, since there are those who offer the gifts according to the law.

Where were the priests who offered gifts according to the Law?

The priests who offered gifts according to the Law were on the earth.

Hebrews 8:5**ULT**

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

UST

⁵ The priests in Jerusalem perform rituals that are only a copy of what the Messiah does in heaven. This is because when Moses was about to set up the sacred tent, God told him, "Be sure that you make everything according to what I showed you on Mount Sinai!"

What did the priests on earth serve?

The priests on earth served a copy and shadow of the heavenly things.

According to what pattern was the earthly tabernacle built?

The earthly tabernacle was built according to the pattern God showed Moses on the mountain.

Hebrews 8:6**ULT**

⁶ But now he has received a much better ministry, just as he is also the mediator of a better covenant, which is enacted on better promises.

UST

⁶ But now the Messiah serves in a much better way than the Jewish priests do. In the same way, the agreement that he has agreed to toward his people is made of promises that God has given and so is better than the laws that God gave Moses.

Why does Christ have a superior priestly ministry?

Christ has a superior priestly ministry because he is the mediator of a better covenant, established on better promises.

Hebrews 8:7**ULT**

⁷ For if that first {covenant} was faultless, no place would have been sought for a second.

UST

⁷ God needed to establish this second covenant, because the first covenant was defective.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 8:8**ULT**

⁸ For finding fault with them, he says, "Behold, the days are coming—says the Lord— when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah;

UST

⁸ Because God declared that the Israelites were guilty of not obeying the first covenant, he wanted a new covenant. This is what a prophet wrote about that: "The Lord says, 'Listen! There will soon be a time when I will fulfill a new covenant toward the people of Israel and the people of Judah.

What did God promise when he found fault with the people under the first covenant?

God promised to make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah.

Hebrews 8:9**ULT**

⁹ not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by their hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, because they did not continue in my covenant, and I disregarded them— says the Lord.

UST

⁹ That agreement will not be like the agreement I made with their ancestors when I led them out of Egypt like a father leads his young child. They did not continue to obey, so I let them alone,' says the Lord.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 8:10**ULT**

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 will be my people.

UST

¹⁰ 'This is the agreement that I will make with the Israelites, after the first agreement has ended,' says the Lord: 'I will enable them to understand my laws, and I will enable them to truly obey them. I will be their God, and they will be my people.'

What did God say he would do in the new covenant?

God said he would put his laws into the people's minds, and write them on their hearts.

Hebrews 8:11**ULT**

¹¹ And they will certainly not teach each one his fellow citizen, and each one his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest.

UST

¹¹ No one will need to teach a fellow citizen or tell his fellow kinsmen, 'You acknowledge that the Lord is God,' because all my people will acknowledge me. Everyone among my people, from the least important to the most important, will know me.

In the new covenant, who would know the Lord?

In the new covenant, all would know the Lord, from the least to the greatest.

Hebrews 8:12**ULT**

¹² For I will be merciful toward their evil deeds, and their sins I will certainly not remember any longer.”

UST

¹² I will mercifully forgive them for the wicked things they have done. I will no longer consider that they are guilty for their sins.”

What did God say he would do with the people’s sins in the new covenant?

God said he would remember the people’s sins no more.

Hebrews 8:13**ULT**

¹³ By saying, “new,” he has made the first obsolete, and what has been made obsolete and the disappearance of what grows old {is} near.

UST

¹³ Since God said that he was making a new agreement, we know that he considered that the first agreement was old and no longer in use, decaying and that it would soon disappear.

In announcing a new covenant, what did God make the first covenant?

In announcing a new covenant, God made the first covenant old and ready to disappear.

Hebrews 9

Hebrews 9:1

ULT

¹ Now indeed the first {covenant} had regulations for worship and an earthly holy {place}.

UST

¹ According to the first agreement God made rules for how the people of Israel should worship, and he told them to make a place to worship him.

What was the place of worship for the first covenant? (vv1-2)

The place of worship for the first covenant was the tabernacle on earth.

Hebrews 9:2

ULT

² For a tabernacle was prepared, the first {tent}, in which {were} both the lampstand and the table, and the presentation of the bread, which is called the holy {place}.

UST

² The sanctuary that the Israelites set up was the sacred tent. In its outer room there were the lampstand and the table on which they put the bread on display before God. That room was called the holy place.

What was located in the holy place of the earthly tabernacle?

In the holy place of the earthly tabernacle were the lampstand, the table, and the bread of the presence.

Hebrews 9:3

ULT

³ And behind the second curtain {was} a tent which is called the Holy of Holies,

UST

³ Behind the curtain on one side of the holy place there was another room. That was called the very holy place.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 9:4**ULT**

⁴ having a golden altar for incense and the ark of the covenant, being covered completely with gold, in which {was} a golden jar holding the manna, and the rod of Aaron that had budded, and the tablets of the covenant.

UST

⁴ It had an altar covered with gold for burning incense. It also had the Agreement Chest. All its sides were covered with gold. In it was the golden pot which contained pieces of the food they called manna. In the chest there was also Aaron's walking stick that had budded to prove that he was God's true priest. In the chest were also the stone tablets on which God had written the Ten Commandments.

What was located in the most holy place of the earthly tabernacle?

In the most holy place of the earthly tabernacle were the altar for incense and the ark of the covenant.

Hebrews 9:5**ULT**

⁵ And above it, glorious cherubim are overshadowing the atonement lid, about which it is not now {the time} to speak in detail.

UST

⁵ On top of the chest were figures of winged creatures that symbolized God's glory. Their wings overshadowed the sacred chest's lid where the high priest sprinkled the blood to atone for the sins of the people. I cannot now write about these things in detail.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 9:6**ULT**

⁶ And when these things are thus prepared, the priests always enter into the first tent, performing {their} services;

UST

⁶ After they have arranged all these things in this way, the Jewish priests habitually go into the outer room of the tent to do their tasks.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 9:7**ULT**

⁷ but into the second {tent}, only once a year the high priest {enters}, {and} not without blood that he offers for himself and for the unintentional sins of the people.

UST

⁷ But into the inner room only the high priest goes once a year. He always takes the blood of animals that they have slaughtered. He offers the blood to God for his own sins and for the sins that the other Israelites have committed. This includes the sins they committed but they did not know they were committing sins.

How often did the high priest enter the most holy place, and what did he do before he entered?

The high priest entered the most holy place once each year, after making a blood sacrifice for himself and the people.

Hebrews 9:8**ULT**

⁸ The Holy Spirit shows that the way into the holy {place} is not yet visible while the first tabernacle still has a place,

UST

⁸ By those things the Holy Spirit indicated that God did not reveal the way for ordinary people to enter into the inner room, the very holy place, while the outer room still existed. In a similar way, he did not reveal the way for ordinary people to enter the presence of God while the Jews offered sacrifices in the old way.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 9:9**ULT**

⁹ which {is} a symbol for the present time, in which both gifts and sacrifices are offered, not being able according to conscience to perfect the worshiper,

UST

⁹ This was a symbol for the time in which we are now living. The gifts and sacrifices offered in the sacred tent cannot make a person always know right from wrong or always do right from our hearts and in a way that he pleases God.

What served as an illustration in the present time for the readers of this letter?

The earthly tabernacle and the gifts and sacrifices being offered there served as an illustration in the present time.

What were the offerings of the earthly tabernacle not able to do?

The offerings of the earthly tabernacle were not able to perfect the worshiper's conscience.

Hebrews 9:10**ULT**

¹⁰ only concerning food and drink and various washings, regulations of the body, imposed until the time of reformation.

UST

¹⁰ Those rules about what to eat and drink, and about what to wash—all those rules were about physical things that applied only until the time when God would make a new agreement for us, by which he would restore everything in the right way.

Until when were the regulations of the earthly tabernacle provided?

The regulations of the earthly tabernacle were provided until the new order would be put in place.

Hebrews 9:11**ULT**

¹¹ But Christ, having come as a high priest of the good things that have come, through the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made by human hands, that is not of this creation; ^[1]

UST

¹¹ But when the Messiah came as our high priest, he brought the good things that we have now. Then he went into God's presence in heaven, which is like the sacred tent. But it is unlike the tent Moses set up here on earth, meaning it is greater and completely perfect. It was not made by human effort.

What is different about the sacred tent in which Christ serves?

The sacred tent in which Christ serves is more perfect, is not made by human hands, and does not belong to this created world.

Hebrews 9:12**ULT**

¹² and not by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood, he entered into the holy {place} once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.

UST

¹² When a high priest goes into the inner room in the tent each year, he takes goats' blood and calves' blood to offer as a sacrifice. But the Messiah did not do that. It was as though he went into that very holy place only once because he gave his own blood on the cross, just one time. By doing that, he paid the price for our sins forever.

What offering did Christ make, by which he entered the most holy place?

Christ made an offering of his own blood by which he entered the most holy place.

What did Christ's offering accomplish?

Christ's offering secured everlasting redemption for everyone.

Hebrews 9:13**ULT**

¹³ For if the blood of goats and bulls and the sprinkling of a heifer's ashes on those who have become unclean sanctify them for the cleansing of {their} flesh,

UST

¹³ The priests sprinkle on people goats' blood and bulls' blood and the water that has been filtered through the ashes of a red heifer that they have completely burned. By performing that ritual, they then say that God will now accept that the people should worship him.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 9:14**ULT**

¹⁴ how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, cleanse your ^[2] conscience from dead works to serve the living God!

UST

¹⁴ Since this is true, much more is accomplished by the blood of Messiah! Through the eternal Spirit he offered himself as a perfect sacrifice to God. His blood will purify our inner criticisms from useless rituals, so that we may serve the living God.

What does Christ's blood do for the believer?

Christ's blood cleanses the believer's conscience from dead deeds in order to serve the living God.

Hebrews 9:15**ULT**

¹⁵ And for this reason, he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that, a death having taken place for redemption of those under the first covenant from their transgressions, those who are called might receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

UST

¹⁵ Because Messiah offered himself to God, he is able to bring about a new agreement from God. Through his death he paid the price to set people free from the sins they committed under the first agreement. He did this so that those who are called to be his children can be guaranteed an inheritance that will last forever.

Of what is Christ the mediator?

Christ is the mediator of a new covenant.

Hebrews 9:16**ULT**

¹⁶ For where {there is} a covenant, {there is} a necessity for the death of the one who made it to be proven.

UST

¹⁶ A covenant is like a will. In the case of a will, in order to put its provisions into effect, someone must prove that the one who made it has died.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 9:17**ULT**

¹⁷ For a covenant {is} valid on the basis of a death, because it never has force when the one who made it is alive.

UST

¹⁷ A will goes into effect only when the one who makes the will has died. Otherwise, it is not in effect when the one who made it is still alive.

What is required in order for a will to be in force?

A death is required in order for a will to be in force.

Hebrews 9:18**ULT**

¹⁸ So not even the first {covenant} was established without blood.

UST

¹⁸ And so God put the first covenant into effect only by means of animals' blood that flowed when the priests sacrificed them.

What death was required for the first covenant? (vv18-19)

The death of calves and goats was required for the first covenant.

Hebrews 9:19**ULT**

¹⁹ For every command according to the law had been spoken by Moses to all the people, having taken the blood of the calves and the goats, with water and red wool and hyssop, he sprinkled both the scroll itself and all the people,

UST

¹⁹ After Moses had declared to all the Israelites everything that God commanded in the laws that God gave him, he took calves' and goats' blood mixed with water. He dipped into this blood scarlet wool that he tied around a sprig of hyssop. Then he sprinkled with some of the blood the scroll itself containing God's laws. Then he sprinkled more of that blood on all the people.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 9:20**ULT**

²⁰ saying, "This {is} the blood of the covenant that God has commanded for you."

UST

²⁰ He said to them, "This is the blood that brings into effect the covenant that God commanded that you obey."

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 9:21**ULT**

²¹ And in the same manner, he sprinkled the blood on both the tabernacle and on all the containers of the service.

UST

²¹ Likewise, he sprinkled that blood on the sacred tent and on every object that they used in working there.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 9:22**ULT**

²² And according to the law, almost everything is cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

UST

²² It was by sprinkling blood that they cleansed almost everything. That was what was stated in God's laws. If blood does not flow when they sacrifice an animal, God does not forgive the sins of those people.

What cannot happen without the shedding of blood?

Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

Hebrews 9:23**ULT**

²³ Therefore {it is} a necessary on the one hand for the copies of the things in the heavens to be cleansed with these, but on the other hand, the heavenly things themselves, with much better sacrifices than these.

UST

²³ So by animal sacrifices it was necessary for the priests to cleanse the things that symbolized what the Messiah does in heaven. But God has to cleanse the things in heaven by means of much better sacrifices than those.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 9:24**ULT**

²⁴ For Christ did not enter into a holy {place} made with hands, a copy of the true one—but into heaven itself, to appear now in the presence of God for us.

UST

²⁴ The Messiah did not enter the very holy place that humans made, which only represented the true very holy place. Instead, he entered heaven itself, in order to now be in God's presence to represent us.

Where does Christ now appear on our behalf?

Christ now appears in heaven itself, in the presence of God, on our behalf.

Hebrews 9:25**ULT**

²⁵ And not in order to offer himself many times, even as the high priest enters into the holy {place} each year with the blood of another;

UST

²⁵ The high priest enters the very holy place once every year, taking blood that is not his own, to offer it as a sacrifice. But when the Messiah entered heaven, it was not in order to offer himself repeatedly like that.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 9:26**ULT**

²⁶ since it is necessary for him to suffer many times from the foundation of the world. But now he has appeared once at the end of the ages for the annulment of sin through the sacrifice of himself.

UST

²⁶ If that were so, he would have needed to suffer and shed his blood repeatedly since the time when God created the world. But instead, in this final age, the Messiah has appeared once so that by sacrificing himself, God will forgive all our sins and will not condemn us any more because we have sinned.

How many times must Christ offer himself to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself?

Christ offers himself one time at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

Hebrews 9:27**ULT**

²⁷ And just as men are appointed to die once, and after that, the judgment,

UST

²⁷ All people must die once, and after that God will judge them for their sins.

For every person, what happens after their death?

After every person dies, they face the judgment.

Hebrews 9:28**ULT**

²⁸ so also, Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time apart from sin, for salvation to those who are eagerly waiting for him.

9:11 ^[1]

9:14 ^[2] instead of .

UST

²⁸ Likewise, when the Messiah died, he offered up himself once to be a sacrifice, he accepted the punishment in the place of the many people who were his. He will come to earth a second time, not in order to sacrifice himself again for those who have sinned, but in order to save us who wait for him and expect him to come.

For what purpose will Christ appear a second time?

Christ will appear a second time for the salvation of those who wait patiently for him.

Hebrews 10

Hebrews 10:1

ULT

¹ For the law, having a shadow of the good things that are coming—not the very image of those things—is never able to make perfect those who approach with the same sacrifices that they continually bring every year.

UST

¹ The law does not show very well the good things that God will give us later. The law is like a shadow of something else. If people come to worship God by offering the same kinds of sacrifices every year, they can never become perfect.

What is the Law compared to the realities in Christ?

The Law is only a shadow of the realities in Christ.

Hebrews 10:2

ULT

² Otherwise, would they not have ceased being offered, because no one would still have consciousness of sins, those who worship having been cleansed once for all?

UST

² If God had removed the guilt of those who brought these sacrifices, they would not feel that they were still guilty. So they would certainly have stopped offering those sacrifices! Those who worship would have been clean from their sin once and for all. Their thoughts toward themselves would have been at peace.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 10:3

ULT

³ But with those sacrifices {there is} a reminder of sins every year.

UST

³ But rather, the fact that they offer those sacrifices each year reminds them that they are still guilty for their sins.

Of what do the repeated sacrifices made through the Law remind the worshipers?

The repeated sacrifices made through the Law remind the worshipers of sins committed year after year.

Hebrews 10:4**ULT**

⁴ For {it is} impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

UST

⁴ So we know that even if we offer animals such as bulls or goats to God, even if he sees their blood flow, that will not stop us from being guilty.

What is it impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to do?

It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

Hebrews 10:5**ULT**

⁵ Therefore, entering into the world, he says, "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me;

UST

⁵ That is why, as the Messiah was coming into the world, he said to his Father, "It is not sacrifices and offerings that you have wanted, but you have prepared for me a body to offer.

What did God prepare for Christ when Christ came into the world?

God prepared a body for Christ.

Hebrews 10:6**ULT**

⁶ in whole burnt offerings and concerning sin {offerings} you did not take pleasure.

UST

⁶ Animals that completely burn up when people offer them to you, these animals have not pleased you, and neither do other sacrifices please you.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 10:7**ULT**

⁷ Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come— {as} it is written about me in a section of a scroll— to do your will, O God.’”

UST

⁷ Because of this, I said, ‘My God, listen! I have come here in order to do what you want me to do, just as they have written about me in the scriptures.’”

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 10:8**ULT**

⁸ When he says above, “Sacrifices and offerings and whole burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor did you take pleasure in them” (which are offered according to the law),

UST

⁸ First the Messiah said, “It is not sacrifices and offerings and animals that the priests have completely burned up and other offerings to atone for those who have sinned that you have really wanted. They have not pleased you.” He said that even though those things were offered according to the laws that God gave Moses!

What practice did God set aside when Christ came into the world?

God set aside the first practice of the sacrifices offered according to the Law.

Hebrews 10:9**ULT**

⁹ then he said, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He takes away the first {practice} in order to establish the second {practice}.

UST

⁹ Then, concerning his offering himself as a sacrifice to atone for people’s sin, he said, “Listen! I have come here to do what you want me to do!” Thus God took away the first way of sacrificing for sin in order to establish the second way by sacrificing the Messiah.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 10:10**ULT**

¹⁰ By that will, we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

UST

¹⁰ Because Jesus the Messiah did what God wanted him to do, God set us apart for himself. This happened when Jesus the Messiah offered his own body once as a sacrifice that he will never need to repeat.

What practice did God establish when Christ came into the world?

God established the second practice of the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Hebrews 10:11**ULT**

¹¹ And indeed every priest stands every day ministering, and repeatedly offering the same sacrifices that never are able to take away sins.

UST

¹¹ As every priest stands daily in front of the altar, he performs rituals and offers the same kind of sacrifices that could never remove the guilt for anyone's sins.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 10:12**ULT**

¹² But he, having offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, sat down at the right hand of God;

UST

¹² But the Messiah offered a sacrifice for sins that will be enough forever, and he offered it only one time! After that, he sat down to rule beside God in the place of highest honor.

For what is Christ waiting as he sits at the right side of God? (vv12-13)

Christ is waiting until his enemies are humbled and made a stool for his feet.

Hebrews 10:13**ULT**

¹³ waiting from then until his enemies might be made a footstool for his feet.

UST

¹³ From now on, he is waiting for God to completely defeat all his enemies.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 10:14**ULT**

¹⁴ For by one offering he has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.

UST

¹⁴ By offering himself once as the sacrifice, he perfected forever those in whom God has worked his cleansing and purity.

What has Christ done for those sanctified by his one offering?

Christ has perfected forever those who are sanctified by his one offering.

Hebrews 10:15**ULT**

¹⁵ And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us, for after saying,

UST

¹⁵ The Holy Spirit also confirms to us that that is true. First he says:

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 10:16**ULT**

¹⁶ "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord. putting my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds."

UST

¹⁶ "When the time of the first agreement on behalf of my people has finished, I will make a new agreement on behalf of them. I will do this for them," says the Lord: "I will cause them to understand my laws and I will cause them to obey my laws."

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 10:17**ULT**

¹⁷ And {then}, "Their sins and their lawless deeds I will certainly not still remember."

UST

¹⁷ Then he said: "I will forgive them for their sins, and I will consider that they are no longer guilty for having sinned."

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 10:18**ULT**

¹⁸ Now where {there is} forgiveness for these, {there is} no longer sacrifice for sin.

UST

¹⁸ When God has forgiven someone's sins, that person does not need to make any more offerings to make up for his sin!

What is no longer required where there is forgiveness of sins?

Additional offerings are no longer required where there is forgiveness of sins.

Hebrews 10:19**ULT**

¹⁹ Therefore, brothers, having confidence to enter the holy {place} by the blood of Jesus,

UST

¹⁹ So, my fellow believers, because we trust in what Jesus accomplished when his own blood flowed for us, we can confidently go into God's very presence that was symbolized by the very holy place in the sacred tent.

Into what place can believers now enter by Jesus' blood?

Believers can now enter the most holy place by Jesus' blood.

Hebrews 10:20**ULT**

²⁰ which has established for us a new and living way through the curtain, that is, his flesh,

UST

²⁰ He has enabled us to go into God's presence by making a new way in which we can live forever. This new way is Jesus, who died for us.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 10:21**ULT**

²¹ and a great priest over the house of God,

UST

²¹ The Messiah is a great priest who rules over us, we who are God's people.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 10:22**ULT**

²² let us approach with true hearts in full assurance of faith, {our} hearts having been sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and {our} bodies having been washed with pure water.

UST

²² So we must approach God sincerely by confidently trusting in Jesus. It is he who has made our thinking clear after having sinned. It is as if he sprinkled his own blood over our thinking and purified our desires, and as if he had washed our bodies in pure water.

What has been sprinkled and what has been washed in the believer?

The believer's heart has been sprinkled clean from an evil conscience, and his body has been washed with pure water.

Hebrews 10:23**ULT**

²³ Let us hold tightly the confession of {our} hope without wavering, because the one who has promised {is} faithful.

UST

²³ We must unwaveringly keep stating what we believe. Since God faithfully does all he promised to do, we must confidently expect him to do these things.

To what must believers hold tightly?

Believers must hold tightly to the confession of their confident expectation.

Hebrews 10:24**ULT**

²⁴ And let us consider one another, to stimulate love and good deeds,

UST

²⁴ And let us think how each of us can best encourage each other to love one another and to do good deeds.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 10:25**ULT**

²⁵ not abandoning our own meeting together, just as {is} the habit of some, but encouraging, and even more as you see the day approaching.

UST

²⁵ We must not cease assembling ourselves to worship the Lord, as some people have done. Instead, each one of us must encourage the others. Let us do that all the more since we know that the time that the Lord will return is near.

What must believers do as they see the day drawing near?

Believers must encourage one another more and more as they see the day drawing near.

Hebrews 10:26**ULT**

²⁶ For if we deliberately keep on sinning after we receive the knowledge of the truth, a sacrifice for sins no longer remains,

UST

²⁶ If we deliberately and habitually sin after we have learned the true experience about the Messiah, no other sacrifice will help us.

What is the expectation of those who deliberately go on sinning after receiving the knowledge of the truth? (vv26-27)

The expectation of those who deliberately go on sinning after receiving the knowledge of the truth is judgment and a fire that consumes God's enemies.

Hebrews 10:27**ULT**

²⁷ but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and of fiery zeal being about to consume the enemies.

UST

²⁷ Instead, we must fearfully expect that God will judge us, and then he will righteously punish all his enemies in a furious fire.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 10:28**ULT**

²⁸ Anyone who has rejected the law of Moses dies without mercy at {the testimony of} two or three witnesses.

UST

²⁸ Everyone who rejected the laws that God gave Moses had to die without mercy when at least two or three people testified against him.

What does the person deserve who treats the blood of Christ by which he was sanctified as something unholy? (vv28-29)

The person who treats the blood of Christ by which he was sanctified as something unholy deserves punishment without mercy beyond the punishment given under the Law of Moses.

Hebrews 10:29**ULT**

²⁹ How much worse punishment do you think will deserve the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has considered the blood of the covenant—by which he was sanctified—{as} profane, and has insulted the Spirit of grace!

UST

²⁹ That is severe punishment. But the Messiah is God's Son, and he is also God. If anyone rejects the agreement that he has made and despises the blood that flowed from him—if that person rejects the blood in exchange for which God forgave him—if that person rejects the Spirit of God, who acted so kindly toward him—then God will punish him very, very severely.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 10:30**ULT**

³⁰ For we know the one who said, "Vengeance {is} mine; I will pay back." And again, "The Lord will judge his people."

UST

³⁰ We can be sure of this, since we know that God said, "The right and power to give people what they deserve for having sinned belongs to me. I will punish them as they deserve." And Moses wrote, "The Lord will judge his people."

To whom does vengeance belong?

Vengeance belongs to the Lord.

Hebrews 10:31**ULT**

³¹ {It is} a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God!

UST

³¹ It will be a terrible thing if the all-powerful God who really lives seizes and punishes you!

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 10:32**ULT**

³² But remember the former days, in which, having been enlightened, you endured a great struggle of suffering,

UST

³² Remember the earlier times when you first understood the truth about the Messiah. You endured much hardship, and when you suffered, you continued to trust God.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 10:33**ULT**

³³ sometimes being publicly exposed to both ridicule and persecution, and other times having become partners of those who are are being treated in this way.

UST

³³ At times people insulted you in public; at other times they made you suffer. At other times you suffered with other believers in their hardships.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 10:34**ULT**

³⁴ For you also showed compassion to the prisoners, and you accepted with joy the seizure of your possessions, knowing yourselves to have a better and everlasting possession. ^[1]

UST

³⁴ You not only were kind to those who were in prison because they believed in the Messiah, but you also accepted it joyfully when unbelievers took away your possessions. You accepted it because you yourselves knew very well that you had possessions in heaven forever, possessions that are much better than those that they took from you!

How had the believers who received this letter reacted to the seizure of their possessions?

The believers had accepted with joy the seizure of their possessions, knowing they had a better and everlasting possession.

Hebrews 10:35**ULT**

³⁵ So do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward.

UST

³⁵ So do not become discouraged when they cause you to suffer, because if you continue to trust in God, he will greatly reward you.

What does the believer need so he may receive what God has promised? (vv35-36)

The believer needs confidence and patience so he may receive what God has promised.

Hebrews 10:36**ULT**

³⁶ For you have need of endurance so that, having done the will of God, you might receive the promise.

UST

³⁶ You must patiently continue to trust in him in order that, because of your doing what God wants you to do, he will give you what he has promised.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 10:37**ULT**

³⁷ "For in a very little {while}, the one who is coming will come and will not delay.

UST

³⁷ A prophet wrote in the scriptures that God said about the Messiah: "In just a short time the one I promised would come will surely come; he will not delay coming.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 10:38**ULT**

³⁸ But my righteous one will live by faith, and if he would shrink back, my soul is not pleased with him.”

UST

³⁸ But those who belong to me, who act righteously, will continue to live trusting in me. If they are cowards and stop trusting in me, I will not be pleased with them.

How will the righteous live?

The righteous will live by faith.

What does God think of those who turn back?

God is not pleased with those who turn back.

Hebrews 10:39**ULT**

³⁹ But we are not of shrinking back to destruction, but of faith to the preservation of the soul.
10:34 ^[1]

UST

³⁹ But we are not people who are cowards and cause God to destroy us. Instead, we are people who trust in him, so that he will save us forever.

What is the author's expectation for those who received this letter?

The author's expectation is that those who received this letter will have faith for keeping their souls.

Hebrews 11

Hebrews 11:1

ULT

¹ Now faith is assurance {of things} being hoped for, proof of things not being seen.

UST

¹ Faith is when people trust God and they are sure they will receive the things they confidently expect him to give them. Faith is when people are certain they will see those things happen, though, for now, those things cannot be seen.

What attitude does a person of faith have toward God's promises that are yet to be fulfilled?

A person of faith confidently expects and has certainty toward God's promises that are yet to be fulfilled.

Hebrews 11:2

ULT

² For by this the elders were approved.

UST

² Because our ancestors trusted in God, he approved of them.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 11:3

ULT

³ By faith we understand the ages to have been prepared by the command of God—what is seen was not made from what is visible.

UST

³ Because we trust in God, we understand that God formed the universe by commanding that it exist. So the things we see were not made from things that already existed.

From what were the visible things of the universe created?

The visible things of the universe were not made out of things that were visible.

Hebrews 11:4**ULT**

⁴ By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain, through which he was attested to be righteous, God testifying because of his gifts, and through faith, having died, he still speaks.

UST

⁴ Because Adam's son Abel trusted God, he sacrificed something better to God than what his older brother Cain offered to God. So God spoke well about what Abel sacrificed, and God declared that Abel was righteous. And although Abel is dead, we still learn from him about trusting God.

Why did God praise Abel for being righteous?

God praised Abel because Abel by faith offered God a more appropriate sacrifice than Cain did.

Hebrews 11:5**ULT**

⁵ By faith Enoch was taken up, not seeing death, and "He was not found, because God took him." For before {his} removal, he was reported to have pleased God.

UST

⁵ Because Enoch believed God, God took him up to heaven. Enoch did not die, because God took him, but no one could find him. Before God took him away, he testified that Enoch pleased him well.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 11:6**ULT**

⁶ Now without faith {it is} impossible to please him, for it is necessary for the one who comes to God to believe that he exists and is a rewarder of those who seek him.

UST

⁶ Now it is possible for people to please God only if they trust him, because anyone who wants to come to God must first believe that God exists and that he rewards those who try to know him.

What must one who comes to God believe about God?

One who comes to God must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

Hebrews 11:7**ULT**

⁷ By faith Noah, having been given a divine message about things not yet being seen, having become reverently obedient, built an ark for salvation of his household, through which he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that is according to faith.

UST

⁷ God warned Noah that he would send a flood, which Noah had never seen before, and Noah believed him. He honored God by building a ship to save his family. In this way he showed that the rest of the people deserved for God to punish them. So Noah became a person whom God made right with himself, because Noah trusted him.

How did Noah demonstrate his faith?

Noah demonstrated his faith by building a ship to save his family according to God's warning.

Hebrews 11:8**ULT**

⁸ By faith, Abraham, being called, obeyed to go out to a place that he was going to receive for an inheritance and went out, not knowing where he is going.

UST

⁸ God called Abraham to go to the land that he would give his descendants. Because Abraham trusted him, he obeyed God and left his country, even though he did not know where he was going.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 11:9**ULT**

⁹ By faith he lived in a land of promise as a foreigner, having lived in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the fellow heirs of the same promise,

UST

⁹ Because Abraham trusted God, he lived as though he were a foreigner in a land that God had promised to give his descendants. Abraham lived in tents, and his son Isaac and his grandson Jacob did also. God promised to give to Isaac and Jacob the same things that he promised to give Abraham.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 11:10**ULT**

¹⁰ for he was looking forward to the city having foundations, whose architect and builder {is} God.

UST

¹⁰ Abraham was waiting to live in the permanent city that God himself would design and build.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 11:11**ULT**

¹¹ By faith, even Sarah herself received ability for the conception of a descendant, even beyond the time of full age, since she considered {to be} faithful the one who had promised. ^[1]

UST

¹¹ And even though Sarah was unable to have children because of her old-age, by faith she received the ability to bear a child, because she considered Yahweh to be faithful because he had made the promise to her that she would have a son.

What promise did Abraham and Sarah receive by faith?

Abraham and Sarah received by faith the power to conceive even when they were too old.

Hebrews 11:12**ULT**

¹² Therefore, also from one {man}—and he being made dead—these were born, just as the stars of the sky in number, and countless as the sand along the shore of the sea.

UST

¹² So, although Abraham was too old to have children, from that one man people descended who are as many in number as the stars in the sky and are as countless as the grains of sand along the shore, just like God promised him.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 11:13**ULT**

¹³ In faith all these died without receiving the promises, but seeing and greeting them from far off, and having confessed that they are foreigners and exiles on the earth.

UST

¹³ While they still trusted in God, all these people died. Even though they had not yet received the things that God had promised to give them, it was as though they had seen those things in the distance, and they were glad. It was as though they had admitted that they did not belong to this earth, but that they were only here temporarily.

What did the ancestors of faith see from far off?

The ancestors of faith saw and welcomed God's promises from far off.

What did the ancestors of faith consider themselves on the earth?

The ancestors of faith considered themselves strangers and aliens on the earth.

Hebrews 11:14**ULT**

¹⁴ For those who say such things make it clear that they seek a homeland.

UST

¹⁴ As for people who say such things, they clearly show that they long for a place that will become their true native land.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 11:15**ULT**

¹⁵ And if indeed they had been thinking of that one from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return.

UST

¹⁵ If they had been thinking that their true native land was the place from which they had come, they could have simply returned there.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 11:16**ULT**

¹⁶ But now, they desire a better one, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed of them, to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

UST

¹⁶ But, instead, they desired a better place in which to live. They desired a home in heaven. So God has prepared a city for them to live with him, and he is pleased for them to say that he is their God.

What has God prepared for those of faith?

God has prepared a heavenly city for those of faith.

Hebrews 11:17**ULT**

¹⁷ By faith Abraham, being tested, offered Isaac, even the one who had received the promises offered up {his} one and only {son}.

UST

¹⁷ Because Abraham trusted God, he was ready to kill his son Isaac as a sacrifice when God tested him. Abraham, to whom God promised to give a son, was going to sacrifice the very son whom he had given him, the only son whom his own wife had borne!

What did Abraham believe God would be able to do even as he offered up Isaac his only son? (vv17-19)

Abraham believed God would be able to raise up Isaac from the dead.

Hebrews 11:18**ULT**

¹⁸ To him it had been said, "Through Isaac your descendants will be named,"

UST

¹⁸ It was about this son that God had said, "It is only from Isaac that I will consider your family to descend."

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 11:19**ULT**

¹⁹ having reasoned that God is able to raise up even from the dead, and in a parable, he received him back from there.

UST

¹⁹ Abraham considered that to fulfill that promise, God could make Isaac live again even if he died after Abraham had sacrificed him! The result was that when Abraham did receive Isaac back after God told him not to harm Isaac, it was as though he received him back even after he died.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 11:20**ULT**

²⁰ By faith also, concerning what is coming, Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau.

UST

²⁰ Because Isaac trusted God, he prayed that God would bless his sons Jacob and Esau after he died.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 11:21**ULT**

²¹ By faith Jacob, when he is dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, {leaning} on the end of his staff.

UST

²¹ Because Jacob trusted God, as he was dying, he prayed God would bless each of the sons of his own son Joseph. He worshiped God as he leaned upon his walking stick before he died.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 11:22**ULT**

²² By faith Joseph, coming to an end, spoke about the departure of the sons of Israel from Egypt and instructed them about his bones.

UST

²² Because Joseph trusted God, when he was about to die in Egypt, he thought ahead to the time when the Israelites would leave Egypt, and he instructed his people to carry his bones with them when they left Egypt.

What did Joseph prophesy by faith when his end was near?

Joseph prophesied of the departure of the children of Israel from Egypt when his end was near.

Hebrews 11:23**ULT**

²³ By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents because they saw {he was} a beautiful child, and they were not afraid of the command of the king.

UST

²³ Because Moses' father and mother trusted God, they hid their son for three months shortly after he was born, because they saw that the child was beautiful. They were not afraid of disobeying what the king of Egypt had commanded, that all the Jewish male babies must die.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 11:24**ULT**

²⁴ By faith Moses, having become great, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter.

UST

²⁴ The daughter of the king, whom they called Pharaoh, raised Moses, but when Moses had grown up, because he trusted God, he refused to accept the royal privileges that would have been his if people considered him as "the son of Pharaoh's daughter."

What did Moses choose to do by faith when he had grown up? (vv24-26)

Moses chose by faith to share mistreatment with God's people, considering the disgrace of following Christ as greater riches.

Hebrews 11:25**ULT**

²⁵ Instead, he chose to suffer with the people of God, rather than to have the temporary enjoyment of sin.

UST

²⁵ He decided that it was better for others to mistreat him for a time along with God's people, than to temporarily enjoy living sinfully in the king's palace.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 11:26**ULT**

²⁶ He reasoned that the reproach of the Christ {was} greater riches than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking away to {his} reward.

UST

²⁶ He decided that if he suffered for the Messiah, it would be worth far more in God's sight than owning the treasures of Egypt that he would receive as one of Pharaoh's family. He looked forward to the time when God would give him an eternal reward.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 11:27**ULT**

²⁷ By faith he left Egypt, not having feared the anger of the king, for he endured as if he were seeing the unseen one.

UST

²⁷ Because he trusted God, Moses left Egypt. He was not afraid that the king would be angry because he left. He kept going because it was as though he kept seeing God, whom no one can see.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 11:28**ULT**

²⁸ By faith he performed the Passover and the sprinkling of the blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch them.

UST

²⁸ Because Moses believed God would save his own people, he obeyed God's commands about Passover, which became a yearly festival. He commanded the people to kill lambs and sprinkle their blood on their doorposts so that the angel who causes people to die would not kill the oldest male Israelites with the oldest sons in each Egyptian family.

What did Moses observe by faith in order to save the Israelites' firstborn sons?

Moses observed the Passover and the sprinkling of the blood by faith in order to save the Israelites' firstborn sons.

Hebrews 11:29**ULT**

²⁹ By faith they passed through the Sea of Reeds as if over dry land. When the Egyptians took this attempt, they were swallowed up.

UST

²⁹ Because the Israelites trusted God when they walked through the Sea of Reeds, it was as though they were walking on dry land! But, when the army of Egypt also attempted to cross where the sea had been, they drowned, because the sea came back and flooded them!

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 11:30**ULT**

³⁰ By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, having been encircled for seven days.

UST

³⁰ Because the Israelite people trusted God, the walls around the city of Jericho collapsed, after the Israelites marched around the walls for seven days.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 11:31**ULT**

³¹ By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who disobeyed, having received the spies with peace.

UST

³¹ Rahab was a prostitute, but because she trusted God, she did not perish with those inside Jericho who disobeyed God. Joshua had sent spies into the city to find ways to destroy it, but God saved Rahab because she welcomed those spies peacefully.

What did Rahab do by faith which prevented her from perishing?

Rahab by faith received the spies in safety which prevented her from perishing.

Hebrews 11:32**ULT**

³² And what more might I say? For the time will fail me, telling about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, and also Samuel and the prophets,

UST

³² I do not know what more I should say about others who trusted in God. It would take too much time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and the other prophets.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 11:33**ULT**

³³ who through faith conquered kingdoms, worked justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions,

UST

³³ Because they trusted God, some of them did great deeds for him. Some conquered lands ruled by powerful men. Some ruled Israel and justly treated men and nations. Some received from God the things that he promised to give them. Some forced lions to keep their mouths shut.

What did some of the ancestors of faith accomplish in war? (vv33-34)

Some of the ancestors of faith conquered kingdoms, escaped the sword, became mighty in war, and caused foreign armies to flee.

Hebrews 11:34**ULT**

³⁴ extinguished the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were healed from illnesses, became mighty in battle, {and} defeated foreign armies.

UST

³⁴ Some escaped from burning up in fire. Some escaped from others who tried to kill them with swords. Some became well again after being sick. Some became powerful when they fought wars. Some caused armies that came from foreign lands to run away from them.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 11:35**ULT**

³⁵ Women received back their dead from resurrection, but others were tortured, not accepting release, so that they might experience a better resurrection;

UST

³⁵ Some women who trusted God received their relatives back again when God made them live again after they had died. But others who trusted God were tortured until they died. They were tortured because they refused to agree when their enemies said, "We will release you if you deny that you believe in God." They refused to do that, because they wanted to live with God forever, which is better than continuing to live on earth.

What did some of the ancestors of faith suffer? (vv35-38)

Some of the ancestors of faith suffered torture, mocking, whippings, chains, imprisonments, stoning, sawing in two, death, and destitution.

Hebrews 11:36**ULT**

³⁶ and others received trials of mocking and of whippings, and even of chains and of imprisonment.

UST

³⁶ Other people who trusted God were mocked. Some had their backs cut open by being struck with whips. Some were chained and put in prison.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 11:37**ULT**

³⁷ They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tested, they died with slaughter of the sword, they went about in sheepskins {and} in goatskins, destitute, oppressed, mistreated; ^[2]

UST

³⁷ Some of those believers were stoned to death. Others were sawn completely in two. Others were killed with swords. Others of these people who trusted God wandered around the land wearing garments made only of skins from sheep and goats. They did not have any money. People constantly oppressed them and harmed them.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 11:38**ULT**

³⁸ (of whom the world was not worthy), being caused to wander about in deserts and mountains and caves and holes in the ground.

UST

³⁸ The people on earth who caused those who trusted in God to suffer like this were so bad that they did not deserve to live with people like those who trusted God. Some who trusted God wandered in deserts and mountains. Some lived in caves and in other large holes in the ground.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 11:39**ULT**

³⁹ And all these, having been commended because of {their} faith, did not receive the promise,

UST

³⁹ Although God approved of all these people because they trusted him, he did not give them what he had promised them.

Despite the faith of these ancestors, what did they not receive in their earthly lives?

Despite the faith of these ancestors, they did not receive in their earthly lives what God had promised them.

Hebrews 11:40

ULT

⁴⁰ God having planned something better concerning us, so that without us, they would not be made perfect.

11:11 ^[1]

11:37 ^[2]

UST

⁴⁰ God knew ahead of time that what he would give us and them later would be better than giving them immediately what he promised. What God intends is that only when they and we are together will we have all that God intends us to have.

With whom will the ancestors of faith receive the promises of God and be perfected?

The ancestors of faith will receive the promises of God and be perfected with the new covenant believers in Christ.

Hebrews 12

Hebrews 12:1

ULT

¹ Therefore, we also, having so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, having laid aside every weight and the easily entangling sin, let us run with endurance the race that is placed before us,

UST

¹ We know about many people like these who proved that they trusted in God. Let us put off everything that weighs us down and so we put away the sin that clings to us. Then let us run our race patiently and do everything God gives us to do until we make it to the finish line.

Why should the believer throw off the sin that easily entangles him?

Since he is surrounded by such a large crowd of witnesses, the believer should throw off the sin that easily entangles him.

Hebrews 12:2

ULT

² looking away to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of the faith, who because of the joy that is placed before him, endured the cross, despising its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

UST

² And let us keep thinking about Jesus and give him all our attention. He is the one who leads us and he makes our faith complete. He is the one who endured the terrible suffering on the cross and he paid no attention to the people who tried to shame him. He did this because he knew how joyful God would make him later. He now sits at the place of highest honor in the throne where God rules in heaven.

Why did Jesus endure the cross and despise its shame?

Jesus endured the cross and despised its shame for the joy that was set before him.

Hebrews 12:3**ULT**

³ For think about the one who has endured such opposition by sinners against himself, so that you might not become weary in your souls, giving up.

UST

³ Jesus patiently endured it when sinful people hatefully acted against him. Strengthen your hearts and minds with Jesus' example so that you will not give up trusting God or become discouraged.

How can a believer avoid becoming weary or fainthearted?

By considering Jesus who endured hateful speech from sinners, a believer can avoid becoming weary or fainthearted.

Hebrews 12:4**ULT**

⁴ You have not yet resisted to the point of blood, struggling against sin,

UST

⁴ While you have struggled against being tempted to sin, you have not yet bled and died because of resisting evil, as Jesus did.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 12:5**ULT**

⁵ and you have forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons: "My son, do not think lightly of the Lord's discipline, nor be wearied when you are reproved by him;"

UST

⁵ Do not forget these words that Solomon spoke to his son, which are the same with which God encourages you as his children: "My son, pay attention when the Lord is disciplining you, and do not be discouraged when the Lord punishes you,

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 12:6**ULT**

⁶ For whom the Lord loves, he disciplines, and he punishes every son whom he receives.

UST

⁶ because everyone the Lord loves he also disciplines, and he severely corrects everyone he calls his own."

What does the Lord do to those whom he loves and receives?

The Lord disciplines those whom he loves and receives.

Hebrews 12:7**ULT**

⁷ {If} you endure in discipline, God offers himself to you as to sons. For what son {is there} whom {his} father does not discipline?

UST

⁷ God may discipline you by requiring you to endure difficult things that happen to you. When God disciplines you, he is treating you as a father treats his children. All fathers discipline their children.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 12:8**ULT**

⁸ But if you are without discipline, of which all {men} have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not {his} sons.

UST

⁸ So if you have not experienced God disciplining you like he disciplines all his children, you are not true children of God. You are like illegitimate children who have no father to correct them.

What is a person who is without the Lord's discipline?

A person without the Lord's discipline is an illegitimate child and not God's child.

Hebrews 12:9**ULT**

⁹ Furthermore, on the one hand, we had the fathers of our flesh {as} discipliners and we respected them; on the other hand, will we not much more be subjected to the Father of spirits and live?

UST

⁹ Furthermore, our natural fathers disciplined us when we were young, and we respected them for doing that. So we should certainly more readily accept God our spiritual Father disciplining us so we will live eternally!

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 12:10**ULT**

¹⁰ For on the one hand, they disciplined us for a few days according to what they think {best}, but he, on the other hand, for {our} benefit, to partake of his holiness.

UST

¹⁰ Our natural fathers disciplined us for a short time as they considered right, but God always disciplines us to help us share in his holy nature.

Why does God discipline his children?

God disciplines his children for their good so they can share in his holiness.

Hebrews 12:11**ULT**

¹¹ Now every discipline does not seem to be joy at the time, but pain, but afterward it produces the peaceful fruit of righteousness for those who have been trained by it.

UST

¹¹ During the time God is disciplining us, it does not seem to be anything about which we can rejoice. Instead, it pains us. But later it causes those who have learned from it to live righteously, which produces peace in us.

What does discipline produce?

Discipline produces peaceful fruit of righteousness.

Hebrews 12:12**ULT**

¹² Therefore, strengthen the hands that are weak and the knees that are paralyzed,

UST

¹² So, instead of acting as though you were spiritually tired out, trust God's discipline to renew you.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 12:13**ULT**

¹³ and make straight paths for your feet, so that the lame might not be sprained, but rather might be healed.

UST

¹³ Go straight forward following the Messiah so that believers who are weak in trusting the Messiah will gain strength from you and not become crippled. Instead, they will be spiritually restored as an injured and useless limb becomes well again.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 12:14**ULT**

¹⁴ Pursue peace with all {men}, and the holiness without which no one will see the Lord,

UST

¹⁴ Try to live peacefully with all people. Do your best to be holy, since no one will see the Lord if he is not holy.

What should believers pursue with all people?

Believers should pursue peace with all people.

Hebrews 12:15**ULT**

¹⁵ exercising care that no one is lacking from the grace of God, not any root of bitterness is growing up to cause trouble, and by this many might become defiled,

UST

¹⁵ Make sure that everyone among you experiences the kind things that God does for us. Kind things that we do not deserve. Be on guard so that none of you act in an evil way toward others, because that will grow like a root grows into a big plant, leading many believers to sin.

What must not grow up and cause trouble and pollute many?

A root of bitterness must not grow up and cause trouble and pollute many.

Hebrews 12:16**ULT**

¹⁶ not any sexually immoral or profane one such as Esau, who in exchange for one meal sold his own birthright.

UST

¹⁶ Do not let anyone be immoral or disobey God like Esau. He exchanged the rights he had as a firstborn son for only one meal.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 12:17**ULT**

¹⁷ For you know that even afterwards, desiring to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, because he found no opportunity for repentance, even though he sought it with tears.

UST

¹⁷ For you know that Esau later wanted to get back his birth rights and all that his father Isaac's blessing would give him. But Isaac refused to do what Esau requested. For Esau found no way to change what he had done, even though he sought it tearfully.

What happened to Esau when he desired to inherit the blessing with tears after selling his own birthright?

Esau was rejected when he desired to inherit the blessing with tears after selling his own birthright.

Hebrews 12:18**ULT**

¹⁸ For you have not come to what that can be touched and to a blazing fire and to darkness and to gloom and to a storm,

UST

¹⁸ In coming to God, you have not experienced things like what the Israelite people experienced at Mount Sinai. They approached a mountain that God commanded them not to touch because he himself had come down to that mountain. They approached a blazing fire, and it was gloomy and dark, with a violent storm.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 12:19**ULT**

¹⁹ and to a trumpet blast and to a voice of words whose hearers begged for not a word to be added to them.

UST

¹⁹ They heard a trumpet sound, and they heard God speak a message. It was so powerful that they pleaded for him not to speak to them like that again.

For what did the Israelites beg at the mountain where God spoke?

The Israelites begged that not another word be spoken to them.

Hebrews 12:20**ULT**

²⁰ For they could not endure what was commanded: "If even an animal might touch the mountain, it must be stoned."^[1]

UST

²⁰ For God had commanded them, "If a person or even an animal touches this mountain, you must kill him." The people were terrified.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 12:21**ULT**

²¹ And what appeared was so fearful {that} Moses said, "I am terrified and trembling."

UST

²¹ Truly, because Moses was terrified after seeing what happened on the mountain, he said, "I am trembling because I am very afraid!"

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 12:22**ULT**

²² But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels, to the assembly

UST

²² Instead, you have come to the presence of God who truly lives in heaven, to the "New Jerusalem." That is like what your ancestors did when they came to worship God on Mount Zion in Israel, upon which the earthly Jerusalem was built. You have come to where there are countless angels who are rejoicing as they have gathered together.

To where do believers in Christ come instead of the mountain where the Israelites heard the voice of God?

Believers in Christ come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God.

Hebrews 12:23**ULT**

²³ and to the church of the firstborn, who have been registered in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous ones made perfect,

UST

²³ You have joined the assembly of all the believers who have privileges as firstborn sons, whose names God has written down in heaven. You have come to God, who will judge everyone. You have come to where the spirits of God's people are, people who lived righteously before they died, and whom God has now made perfect in heaven.

To what assembly do believers in Christ come?

Believers in Christ come to the assembly of all the firstborn registered in heaven.

To whom do believers in Christ come? (vv23-24)

Believer in Christ come to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous, and to Jesus.

Hebrews 12:24**ULT**

²⁴ and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood speaking better than Abel's.

UST

²⁴ You have come to Jesus, who arranged a new covenant between us and God by the blood that flowed when he died on the cross. Jesus' blood made it possible for God to forgive us, and his blood confirms better promises for us than Abel's blood.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 12:25**ULT**

²⁵ See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused the one who warns them on earth, much less we who turn away from the one from heaven;

UST

²⁵ Beware that you do not refuse to listen to God who is speaking to you. The Israelite people did not escape God punishing them when they rejected his warning to them here on earth. For we shall surely not escape God punishing us if we reject what he says when he warns us from heaven!

What will happen to those who turn away from the one who warns them from heaven?

Those who turn away will not escape from God.

Hebrews 12:26**ULT**

²⁶ the voice of whom at that time shook the earth, but now he has promised, saying, "Once more I will shake not only the earth, but also the heavens."

UST

²⁶ When God spoke from Mount Sinai his voice shook the earth, but now he makes another promise: "Once again I will shake not only the earth but the heavens also."

What has God promised to shake?

God has promised to shake the earth and the heavens.

Hebrews 12:27**ULT**

²⁷ But this {phrase}, "Once more," indicates the removal of the things that are shaken, that is, of what has been created, so that what is not shaken might remain.

UST

²⁷ The words "again, one more time" indicate that God will remove those things on earth that he will shake, everything that he has created. He will do this in order that the things in heaven that cannot shake may remain forever.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 12:28**ULT**

²⁸ Therefore, receiving an unshakeable kingdom, let us have gratitude, through which we may worship in a manner pleasing to God, with reverence and awe,

UST

²⁸ So let us thank God that we are becoming members of a kingdom that nothing can shake. And in this kingdom we please God by worshiping him and by showing him great honor and respect.

What will the believers receive instead of the things that can be shaken?

The believers will receive a kingdom that cannot be shaken.

How should believers worship God?

Believers should worship God with reverence and awe.

Hebrews 12:29**ULT**

²⁹ for indeed our God {is} a consuming fire.

12:20 ^[1]

UST

²⁹ Remember that the God we worship is like a fire that burns up everything that is impure!

Why should believers worship God in this way?

Believers should worship God in this way because he is a consuming fire.

Hebrews 13

Hebrews 13:1

ULT

¹ Let brotherly love continue.

UST

¹ Continue to love your fellow believers.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 13:2

ULT

² Do not forget hospitality, for through this, some have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.

UST

² Do not forget to be hospitable to needy travelers. By caring for strangers, some people have welcomed angels into their home without knowing it.

What have some done by welcoming strangers?

Some have welcomed angels without knowing it.

Hebrews 13:3

ULT

³ Remember the prisoners, as if you were bound with them, {and} those who are mistreated, as if you also were with them in body.

UST

³ Remember to help those who are in prison because they are believers, as though you were in prison with them and were suffering physically as they are suffering physically.

How should believers remember those in prison?

Believers should remember them as if they were in prison also, and as if their bodies were being mistreated also.

Hebrews 13:4**ULT**

⁴ Marriage {is} honorable in all, and the marriage bed {is} pure, for God will judge sexually immoral people and adulterers.

UST

⁴ Men and women who are married to each other must respect each other in every way, and they must be faithful to each other. God will surely condemn those who act immorally or adulterously.

What must be respected by all?

Marriage must be respected by all.

What does God do with the sexually immoral and adulterers?

God judges the sexually immoral and adulterers.

Hebrews 13:5**ULT**

⁵ {Your} conduct {is to be} free from the love of money, being content with the things you have, for he himself has said, "I will never leave you, nor never will I forsake you."

UST

⁵ Live without constantly wanting money, and be happy no matter how much or little you own in your present circumstances. Remember what Moses wrote that God said: "I will never leave you; I will never stop providing for you."

How can a believer be free from the love of money?

A believer can be free from the love of money because God has said he will never leave nor forsake him.

Hebrews 13:6**ULT**

⁶ So then, we are confident to say, "The Lord is {my} helper, and I will not be made afraid. What will a man do to me?"

UST

⁶ So we can say confidently as the psalmist said, "Since the Lord is the one who helps me, I will not be afraid! People can do nothing to me that will keep God from helping me."

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 13:7**ULT**

⁷ Consider your leaders, who spoke the Word of God to you, of whom considering the result of {their} conduct, imitate {their} faith.

UST

⁷ Your spiritual leaders have told you the message of God about the Messiah. Remember how they have conducted their lives and imitate how they have trusted in the Messiah.

Who's faith should believers imitate?

Believers should imitate the faith of those who have led them and who have spoken God's word to them.

Hebrews 13:8**ULT**

⁸ Jesus Christ {is} the same yesterday and today and forever.

UST

⁸ Jesus the Messiah is the same now as he always has been, and he will be the same forever.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 13:9**ULT**

⁹ Do not be carried away by various and strange teachings. For it is good for the heart to be confirmed by grace, not by foods that do not help those who walk by them.

UST

⁹ So do not let other people mislead you to believe other things about God, strange things that you have not learned from us. For our true strength comes from God's acts of kindness towards us, rather than following various rules about what to eat and not to eat.

About what kind of strange teachings does the author warn the believers?

The author warns the believers about strange teachings involving rules about food.

Hebrews 13:10**ULT**

¹⁰ We have an altar from which those who serve in the tabernacle do not have the right to eat.

UST

¹⁰ Those who serve in the sacred tent have no right to eat at the sacred altar where we worship the Messiah.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 13:11**ULT**

¹¹ For the blood of those animals is brought for sins by the high priest into the holy {place}, {but} the bodies of these are burned outside the camp.

UST

¹¹ After the high priest brings into the very holy place the blood of animals that they have sacrificed to atone for sins, other people burn the bodies of those animals outside the camp.

Where were the bodies of the animals used for sacrifice in the holy place burned?

The bodies of the animals were burned outside the camp.

Hebrews 13:12**ULT**

¹² So Jesus also suffered outside the gate, in order to sanctify the people through his own blood.

UST

¹² Similarly, Jesus suffered and died outside the gates of Jerusalem in order that he might make us, his people, special for God. He did this by offering his own blood as a sacrifice for our sins.

Where did Jesus suffer?

Jesus suffered outside the city gate.

Hebrews 13:13**ULT**

¹³ Let us therefore go to him outside the camp, bearing his reproach.

UST

¹³ So we must go to Jesus to be saved. We must leave behind other rules and rituals and allow others to insult us just like people insulted him.

Where must believers go, and why?

Believers must go to Jesus outside the camp, bearing his disgrace.

Hebrews 13:14**ULT**

¹⁴ For we do not have a permanent city here, but we are seeking one that is to come.

UST

¹⁴ Here on earth, we believers do not have a city such as Jerusalem. Instead, we are waiting for the heavenly city that will last forever.

What permanent city do believers have here on earth?

Believers have no permanent city here on earth.

What city do believers seek instead?

Believers seek the city that is to come instead.

Hebrews 13:15**ULT**

¹⁵ Through him, let us offer up a sacrifice of praise through all to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name.

UST

¹⁵ Because Jesus has died for us, we must continually praise God no matter what happens. That will be something we can sacrifice to him instead of animals. We must be ready to openly say to others that we trust in the Messiah.

What sacrifice should believers constantly offer up to God?

Believers should constantly offer up sacrifices of praise to God.

Hebrews 13:16**ULT**

¹⁶ But let us not neglect the doing of good and sharing, for God is pleased with such sacrifices.

UST

¹⁶ Always be doing good deeds for others and sharing the things you have, because doing things like that will be as though you are offering sacrifices that will please God.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 13:17**ULT**

¹⁷ Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls, as those who will give account, in order that they might do this with joy and not with groaning, for this would be useless to you.

UST

¹⁷ Obey your leaders and do what they tell you, since they are the ones who are guarding your welfare. Some day they will have to stand before God so that he can say if he approves of what they have done. Obey them in order that they can do the work of guarding you joyfully and not have to do it sadly, because if you cause them to do it sadly, that will certainly not help you at all.

What attitude should believers have toward their leaders?

Believers should obey and submit to their leaders.

Hebrews 13:18**ULT**

¹⁸ Pray for us, for we are persuaded that we have a good conscience, desiring to live rightly in all things.

UST

¹⁸ Pray for me and those with me. I am certain that I have not done anything that displeases God. I have tried to act well toward you in every way.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 13:19**ULT**

¹⁹ But I encourage you even more to do this, so that I will be returned to you sooner.

UST

¹⁹ I urge you earnestly to pray that God will quickly remove the things that stop my coming to you.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 13:20**ULT**

²⁰ Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great shepherd of the sheep, our Lord Jesus, by the blood of the eternal covenant,

UST

²⁰ Jesus provides for us, protects us, and guides us as a great shepherd does for his sheep. And God, who gives us inner peace, raised our Lord Jesus from the dead. By doing that God confirmed his eternal covenant with us by the blood that flowed from the Messiah when he died on the cross.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 13:21**ULT**

²¹ may he equip you with everything good to do his will, working in us what {is} pleasing before him, through Jesus Christ, to whom {be} the glory forever {and} ever. Amen.

UST

²¹ So I pray that God may equip you with everything good that you may do what he desires. May he accomplish in us what pleases him, as he watches us follow Jesus, who offered up himself for us. May all people praise Jesus the Messiah forever. Amen!

What does God work in the believer?

God works in the believer that which is well pleasing in God's sight.

Hebrews 13:22**ULT**

²² Now I encourage you, brothers, bear with the word of encouragement, for only in a few {words} I have written to you.

UST

²² My fellow believers, since this is a short letter that I have written to you, I ask you that you patiently consider what I have just written to encourage you.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 13:23**ULT**

²³ Know that our brother Timothy has been set free, with whom I will see you if he comes soon.

UST

²³ I want you to know that our fellow believer Timothy has gone free from prison. If he comes here soon, he will accompany me when I go to see you.

With whom will the author come when he visits the believers?

The author will come with Timothy when he visits the believers.

Hebrews 13:24**ULT**

²⁴ Greet all your leaders and all the saints. Those from Italy greet you.

UST

²⁴ Tell all your spiritual leaders and all your other fellow believers who belong to God in your city that I greet them. The believers in this area who have come from Italy greet you also.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Hebrews 13:25**ULT**

²⁵ Grace {be} with you all.

UST

²⁵ May God continue to love you and protect you by his kindness.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

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