

unfoldingWord® Translation Questions

v92

Hebrews

unfoldingWord® Translation Questions

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Hebrews

Hebrews 1

Hebrews 1:1

ULT	UST
In many portions and in many ways long ago, God, having spoken to our fathers through the prophets,	*In the past, God communicated to the Israelite ancestors through people who proclaimed his message. He did this throughout the time during which the ancestors lived, and he used many different means to do so.*

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	UST
at the last of these days spoke to us through a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom also he made the ages;	*However, when this final time period began, God communicated to us through his own Son. God made the world together with him, and God has chosen him to receive everything.*

How has God spoken in these recent days?

God has spoken in these recent days through a Son.

Through whom were the ages made?

The ages were made through the Son of God.

Hebrews 1:3

ULT	UST
who, being the brightness of his glory and exact representation of his being, upholding all the things by the word of his power and having made purification for sins, sat down at the right of the Majesty on high;	*In God's Son, we see how glorious God is. In fact, God's Son perfectly shows what God is like. By speaking powerfully, he sustains everything that God has made. After he purified his people from the wrong things that they did, he ascended into heaven and began to rule with God his Father.*

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 representation of God's essence.

Hebrews 1:4

ULT	UST
having become far superior to the angels, as he has inherited a more excellent name than they.	*These things about him mean that he is much greater than the spiritual beings. In the same way, the name that God now calls him is greater than their names.*

How does the Son of God compare to the angels?

The Son of God is far superior to the angels.

Hebrews 1:6

ULT	UST
But again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "And let all the angels of God worship him."	*More than that, when God raised his Son into the heavenly world, he commanded: "All the spiritual beings who serve God must honor and praise 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 1:8

ULT	UST
But with regard to the Son, "Your throne, God, is forever and ever, and the scepter of righteousness is the scepter of his kingdom.	*On the other hand, God says this about his 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	UST
You loved righteousness and hated lawlessness. Because of this, God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of exultation more than your companions."	*You loved whatever is just, and you hated whatever breaks God's law. Because of that, I, your God, have caused you to be more powerful and joyful than anyone else who is with you."*

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

The Son loves righteousness and the Son hates lawlessness.

Hebrews 1:10-11

What will happen to the earth and heavens over time?

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

Hebrews 1:13

ULT	UST
But to which of the angels has he ever said, "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet"?	*God did not at any time say these words to any spiritual being: "Rule with me while I defeat all of your enemies!" However, he did say these words to his own Son.*

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	UST
Are they not all ministering spirits, being sent for service for the sake of the ones going to inherit salvation?	*The spiritual beings are all powerful beings who serve God, and God has sent them to help those whom he will soon save.*

For whom do the angels care?

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

Hebrews 2

Hebrews 2:1

ULT	UST
Because of this, it is far more necessary for us to give attention to the things that have been heard, so that we might not drift away from them.	*Because God did say those things to his Son, we need to focus most of all on the good news that we learned. That way, we do not 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	UST
For if the message spoken through angels became valid and every transgression and disobedience received just penalty,	*This is important because, when the spiritual beings gave the law to the people of Israel, what they said was reliable. Further, God justly punished anyone who did not listen to this law or broke it.*

What would every transgression and disobedience receive?

Every transgression and disobedience would receive just punishment.

Hebrews 2:4

ULT	UST
God also testifying together with them by signs and wonders and various miracles and distributions of the Holy Spirit according to his will.	*God also has confirmed to us that this message is true by empowering believers to do powerful and amazing things. Further, he gave the Holy Spirit to believers, to each as God chose.*

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	UST
For it was not to angels that God subjected the world that is coming, about which we are speaking.	*Now God has not put the spiritual beings in charge of the heavenly world that he will bring to earth. It is that world about which I am talking.*

Who will not rule the world to come?

Angels will not rule the world to come.

Hebrews 2:7-8

Who will rule the world to come?

Man will rule the world to come.

Hebrews 2:9

ULT	UST
but we see Jesus, the one made a little lower than the angels, crowned with glory and honor because of his suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste of death on behalf of everyone.	*However, we do observe Jesus. He is the one who was less powerful than the spiritual beings for a short time, and God has now greatly honored and empowered him. God did this because Jesus died. In this way, God graciously had him die for all people who believe in him.*

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	UST
For it was proper for him, because of whom all the things exist and through whom all the things exist, having brought many sons into glory, to perfect the founding leader of their salvation through sufferings.	*Working in that way was appropriate for God, who created and directs everything that exists. When Jesus began to make glorious everyone who believes in him, who are like his own siblings, God used how Jesus suffered to make him able to save them.*

Whom does God plan to bring to glory?

God plans to bring many sons to glory.

Hebrews 2:11

ULT	UST
For both the sanctifying and the ones being sanctified are all from one. For this reason, he is not ashamed to call them brothers,	*Jesus, who sets his people apart for God, and those same people whom he set apart for God, all come from God himself. So, Jesus does not hesitate to refer to them as his own siblings.*

Who are the two who come from the one source, God?

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

Hebrews 2:14

ULT	UST
Therefore, since the little children share in flesh and blood, he likewise also shared in the same things so that through his death he might abolish the one having the power of death, that is, the devil,	*So, because God's children are human beings, Jesus also became a human being just like them. He did that so that he, by dying, could defeat Satan, who uses the fact that people die to control them.*

Who was made ineffective through Jesus' death?

The devil was made ineffective through Jesus' death.

Hebrews 2:15

ULT	UST
and might release those people, as many as, in fear of death throughout all their lives, were held in slavery.	*When he did that, he got rid of the way that dying makes us afraid while we live.*

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 2:17

ULT	UST
from which he was obligated to become like his brothers in all things, so that he would be a merciful and faithful high priest concerning the things pertaining to God in order to make atonement for the sins of the people.	*Because that is why he came, Jesus needed to be exactly like us, who are his siblings. That way, he can be the ruling priest who serves God in a compassionate and trustworthy way, so that God forgives what his people did wrong.*

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 obtain forgiveness for the people's sins.

Hebrews 2:18

ULT	UST
For in that he himself had suffered, having been tempted, he is able to help the ones being tempted.	*Jesus can be that kind of priest because he endured painful things and experienced how doing what is wrong seems to be good. So, he can aid everyone who also experiences how doing what is wrong seems to be good.*

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	UST
Therefore, holy brothers, sharers of a heavenly calling, consider carefully the apostle and high priest of our confession, Jesus,	*My fellow believers, God has set you apart for himself, and he has summoned us together from heaven. Since I have told you what Jesus has done, you should think about him. God sent him to us, and he is the ruling priest in whom we say we believe.*

What two roles does the author of the book of Hebrews say Jesus fills?

The author says Jesus is an apostle and a high priest.

Hebrews 3:2-3

Why has Jesus been considered worthy of greater glory than Moses?

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 3:5

ULT	UST
And Moses was indeed faithful as a servant in his entire house, for a testimony of the things that would be spoken in the future;	*Moses faithfully served God as one who helped all God's people. In that way, he already proclaimed what God says now about Jesus.*

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	UST
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).	*But the Messiah is God's Son, who faithfully rules over God's people. As long as we persist in boldly and proudly expecting what God will give us, we belong to those same people.*

What is Jesus' role in God's house?

Jesus' role is as a Son in charge of God's house.

Who is God's house?

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

Hebrews 3:7-8

What did the Israelites in the wilderness do when they heard God's voice?

The Israelites hardened their hearts.

Hebrews 3:10-11

What did God swear concerning the Israelites who went astray in their hearts?

God swore that they would not enter his rest.

Hebrews 3:12

ULT	UST
Watch out, brothers, so that there will not be in any of you a wicked heart of unbelief, in the falling away from the living God.	*Fellow believers, pay attention! Make sure that none of you think in evil and unbelieving ways that would lead you to become disloyal to the only real God.*

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	UST
Instead, exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," so that no one among you is hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.	*Rather, you should encourage each other to be loyal to God daily, during every day that we call "this day." That way, none of you sin and thus deceive yourselves, which would make you unable to obey God.*

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	UST
For we have become sharers of Christ, if indeed we hold firm the beginning of our confidence until the end,	*You should encourage each other, because we share in everything with the Messiah. That is true as long as we persist in trusting him, from when we began to do so until 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 3:17

ULT	UST
And with whom was he very angry for 40 years? Was it not with the ones having sinned, whose corpses fell in the wilderness?	*You know that it was God's people, who did what was wrong, with whom God was angry for a period of 40 years. They died in the wild places.*

With whom was God angry for 40 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 3:19

ULT	UST
And we see that they were not able to enter, because of unbelief.	*So, we can tell that they could not participate in how God rests because they did not trust in him.*

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 4:2

ULT	UST
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 joined in faith with the ones having heard it.	*We need to make sure of this, because we heard the good news just like they did. However, because they were not among those people who believed in what they heard, what they heard did not help them.*

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 in faith with those who believed it.

Hebrews 4:3

ULT	UST
For we, the ones having believed enter into rest, just as he said, "As I swore in my wrath, '...if they will enter into my rest!'" although his works were finished from the foundation of the world.	*That is because only we who believe in the good news participate in how God rests, but those who do not believe do not participate in it. As the Holy Spirit says, "So then, because he was angry with them, he solemnly declared, 'They will never participate in how I rest!'" God said this even though he stopped working and rested after he created the world.*

Who are the ones who enter God's rest?

Those who have believed enter God's rest.

Hebrews 4:3-4

When did God finish his created works and then rest?

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

Hebrews 4:5-6

What did God say about the Israelites and his rest?

God said that the Israelites would not enter his rest.

Hebrews 4:7

ULT	UST
he again sets a certain day, calling it "Today," speaking through David after so much time, just as it has already been said, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts."	*Because of that, the Holy Spirit once more picked a time when we can participate in how God rests. That time is what we call "this day." He did this when he spoke through David a long time after the Israelite ancestors disobeyed. He said, as I have already quoted, "This day, when you hear God speak 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 4:9

ULT	UST
Therefore, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God.	*So, as you can see, God's people can still participate in how God rests, just as people rest on the Jewish day of rest.*

What is still reserved for God's people?

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

Hebrews 4:10

ULT	UST
For the one having entered into his rest has himself also rested from his works, just as God did from his own works.	*In fact, the people who participate in how God rests also finish what they are doing and rest. They do this just like God finished creating everything and rested.*

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

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

Hebrews 4:11

ULT	UST
Therefore, let us be eager to enter into that rest so that no one might fall into the same example of this disobedience.	*Because of all that, we should focus on participating in how God rests. That way, none of us disobeys God like the Israelite ancestors did.*

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 into disobedience as the Israelites did.

Hebrews 4:12

ULT	UST
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.	*You need to pay attention to these things, because what God speaks is like a person who lives and does things, including discerning what people think and plan. It does that as if it were a sword with two very sharp edges that could cut apart people's bones from their tendons and that could divide up people's inner lives.*

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	UST
And no creature is hidden before him. Instead, all things are bare and laid open to the eyes of him to whom is our word.	*God knows everything about every person and thing. Nothing that he created can stay secret when he wishes to examine it. He is the one about whom we are talking.*

Who or what is hidden from God's sight?

No created thing is hidden from God's sight.

Hebrews 4:14

ULT	UST
Therefore, having a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us firmly hold to our confession.	*So, a powerful ruling priest works for us, one who ascended through the heavens. He is Jesus, God's Son. Because of that, we need to persist in believing what we say we believe.*

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	UST
For we do not have a high priest who is not able to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one having been tempted according to all things, according to our likeness, yet without sin.	*Now the ruling priest who works for us can very well understand how weak we are. In fact, he experienced many times how doing what is wrong seems to be good, just like we do. However, he never sinned.*

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 never sinned. Jesus was without sin.

Hebrews 4:16

ULT	UST
Let us then approach with confidence to the throne of grace so that we may receive mercy and find grace for timely help.	*So then, we should boldly go closer to God, who rules graciously. That way, he will act mercifully and kindly toward us when we need him to help us.*

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

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

Hebrews 5

Hebrews 5:1

ULT	UST
For every high priest, being taken from among men on the behalf of men, is appointed in the things related to God so that he may offer gifts and sacrifices for sins;	*When God appoints a person to be a ruling priest, he selects that person from a group of people in order to serve God for that group. The ruling priest then presents to God what people give or sacrifice to take away 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 5:3

ULT	UST
And because of this, he is obligated, just as for the people, so also for himself, to offer sacrifices for sins.	*Further, because each ruling priest is weak, God requires him to present a sacrifice to take away his own sins, just like he presents sacrifices to take away the sins of the rest of the people of Israel.*

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

The high priest also presents sacrifices for his own sins.

Hebrews 5:4

ULT	UST
And no one takes this honor for himself, but only being called by God, just as also Aaron was.	*Now people cannot decide to become honorable ruling priests on their own. Rather, God chooses each person who will be a ruling priest, just like he chose Aaron, the first ruling 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	UST
In the same way also, Christ did not glorify himself to become a high priest. Instead, the one having spoken to him said, "You are my Son; today I have fathered you."	*Similarly, the Messiah too did not decide to become a glorious ruling priest on his own. Rather, God the Father chose him to be a ruling priest when he said to him, "On this day, I have declared to everyone that I am your father, and you are my son!"*

Who declared Christ to be a high priest?

God declared Christ to be a high priest.

Hebrews 5:6

ULT	UST
It is just as he also says in another place, "You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek."	*Similarly, as you can read in another Psalm, God the Father said to the Messiah: "You will never stop being a priest in the same 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	UST
He, during the days of his flesh, offered up both prayers and requests with loud cries and tears to the one being able to save him from death and he was heard because of his godly life.	*When the Messiah lived with us before he died and came back to life, he often prayed powerfully and sorrowfully to God. He did this because God could rescue him when he died. Because he honored God, God listened to him and made him alive again.*

Why was Christ heard by God when he prayed?

Christ was heard by God because of his godly life.

Hebrews 5:8

ULT	UST
Even though being a son, he learned obedience from the things which he suffered.	*Although he is God's Son, he learned what it means to obey God when bad things happened to him.*

How did Christ learn obedience?

Christ learned obedience from the things he suffered.

Hebrews 5:9

ULT	UST
And having been made perfect, he became, for all the ones obeying him, the source of eternal salvation,	*Then, when God finished making him able to do so, the Son became the one who saves forever every person who does what he requires.*

For whom did Christ become the cause of eternal salvation?

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

Hebrews 5:11

ULT	UST
concerning whom the message to us is great, but hard to speak about since you have become dull in your hearing.	*We have many things to talk about with regard to Melchizedek. However, since you do not listen and understand well, these things will be difficult to explain to you.*

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

The original readers were dull of hearing.

Hebrews 5:14

ULT	UST
But this solid food is for the mature ones, having through habit trained their senses for distinguishing both what is good and what is evil.	*On the other hand, people who know much about God are like adults who eat food. These people have consistently practiced how to recognize and then distinguish between 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	UST
So then, having left the message of the beginning of Christ, let us go forward to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith in God,	*Therefore, we need to learn more so that we become mature. We should not continue to focus on only the most basic things about the Messiah. In other words, we do not need to learn again about how to stop doing useless things or about how to trust in God.*

On to what does the author of Hebrews want the believers to go forward?

The author of Hebrews wants the believers to go forward to maturity.

Hebrews 6:1-2

What teachings does the author list as the foundation of the message of Christ?

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 6:4-6

What is impossible for those who gained so much in Christ but then fell away, to do?

It is impossible for those who gained so much in Christ, but then fell away, to be restored again to repentance.

Hebrews 6:4-5

What had these enlightened people gained?

These enlightened people had tasted the heavenly gift, became sharers of the Holy Spirit, and tasted God’s Word and the powers of the age to come.

Hebrews 6:6

ULT	UST
but having fallen away—to restore them again to repentance since they are crucifying again for themselves the Son of God and exposing him to public shame.	*Think about what would happen were these people to stop believing the good news. In that case, they cannot repent and believe again. That is because what they did is like selfishly crucifying and humiliating God's Son.*

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 and exposed him to public shame.

Hebrews 6:7-8

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

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

Hebrews 6:9

ULT	UST
But concerning you, beloved ones, we are persuaded of things that are better and are accompanying salvation, even if we speak thus.	*Even though I have warned you in this way, fellow believers whom I love, I am sure that you are believing more firmly than I have implied. In fact, I am sure that God has saved you.*

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	UST
For God is not unjust, to forget your work and the love that you have demonstrated toward his name, having served the saints and continuing to serve them.	*Indeed, since God always acts justly, he will not overlook how you act and how you love others. You have proved that you do these things to honor God, particularly when you have helped and continue to help God's people.*

What will God not forget about these believers?

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

Hebrews 6:12

ULT	UST
so that you might not become dull, but imitators of the ones by faith and patience inheriting the promises.	*That way, you will not be lazy. Instead, you will do what other believers have done: they have received what God promised them, because they trusted in him and waited patiently.*

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 6:13-15

What did Abraham have to do in order to obtain what God promised him?

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

Hebrews 6:17

ULT	UST
in which God, intending even more to show to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable quality of his purpose, mediated it with an oath	*In a similar way, God wanted to demonstrate very clearly to those who would receive what he promised that he would not change what he intended to do. So, he guaranteed what he promised, just like humans do.*

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	UST
so that by two unchangeable things, in which things it is impossible for God to lie, we, the ones having fled for refuge, might have a strong encouragement to hold firmly to the hope set before us;	*So, God both promised and swore an oath, and he will not lie about or change either of these things. He did that for us, who have trusted in him to save us. In this way, he encourages us to persist in confidently expecting what he is ready to give us.*

What is it impossible for God to do?

It is impossible for God to lie.

Hebrews 6:19

ULT	UST
which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both reliable and confirmed, and entering into the inside of the curtain,	*When we confidently expect what God will give us, it is as if an anchor holds us very securely so that we do not waver from trusting God. Further, when we confidently expect what God will give us, it is as if we had gone into the inner part of the heavenly sanctuary, behind the cloth hanging, and already received it.*

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

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

Hebrews 6:19-20

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	UST
For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, the one having met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him,	*Now I will say more about Melchizedek. He ruled the city of Salem, and he served the greatest God as a priest. When Abraham was going home after defeating some of his enemies, Melchizedek met with him and blessed him.*

What two titles did Melchizedek have?

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

Hebrews 7:2

ULT	UST
to whom also Abraham apportioned a tenth from all things, first indeed translated as "king of righteousness," and then also "king of Salem," that is, "king of peace,"	*Then Abraham gave to him one tenth of everything that he took when he defeated his enemies. The name "Melchizedek" means "just king" in Hebrew. The title "ruler of the city of Salem" means "peaceful ruler," since "Salem" sounds like the Hebrew word for "peaceful".*

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	UST
without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, he remains a priest perpetually.	*When Moses wrote about Melchizedek, he did not say anything about his father, his mother, his other ancestors, when he was born, or when he died. So, Moses described him as if he were similar to God's Son and as if he always served as a priest.*

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

Melchizedek was without ancestors and has no end of life.

Hebrews 7:5

ULT	UST
And the ones indeed from the sons of Levi having received the priesthood, have a command according to the law to collect a tithe from the people, that is, from their brothers, even though they have come from the loin of Abraham.	*In Moses' law, God spoke to the men who are part of the clan of Levi and who serve as priests. He commanded them to receive one tenth of what the rest of the Israelites, who are their relatives, earned or grew. God commanded this despite the fact that all the Israelites are 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 before him, from Abraham.

Hebrews 7:7

ULT	UST
But without any dispute, the lesser is blessed by the greater.	*Now everyone agrees that more important people bless less important people. So, because he blessed Abraham, Melchizedek is more important than Abraham.*

Who was the greater person, Abraham or Melchizedek?

Melchizedek was the greater person because he blessed Abraham.

Hebrews 7:9-10

In what way did Levi himself also pay tithes to Melchizedek?

Levi also paid tithes to Melchizedek, because Levi was of the seed of Abraham, and Abraham paid tithes to Melchizedek.

Hebrews 7:12

ULT	UST
For when the priesthood is changed, from necessity a change of the law also takes place.	*You can tell that God made the law depend on having the descendants of Levi serve as priests, because the law must change whenever the way that people serve as priests changes.*

What must also be changed when the priesthood changes?

The law must be changed when the priesthood changes.

Hebrews 7:14

ULT	UST
For it is obvious that our Lord has sprung up from Judah, a tribe in regard to which Moses said nothing concerning priests.	*In fact, we all know that our Lord Jesus is a descendant of Levi's brother Judah, and Moses did not write down anything about descendants of Judah serving as priests.*

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 before served at the altar as priests.

Hebrews 7:16

ULT	UST
who has become a priest not according to a law of a fleshly command, but according to the power of an indestructible life.	*He serves as a priest because nothing can keep him from living, which makes him a powerful priest. As this kind of priest, he does not depend on what God commanded in Moses' law about how human priests are descendants of Levi.*

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 7:18-19

What has been set aside because it is weak and useless?

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

Hebrews 7:21

ULT	UST
but he with an oath-taking, through the one saying to him, "The Lord swore and will not change his mind: 'You are a priest forever'"—	

What oath did God swear concerning Jesus?

God swore that Jesus would be a priest forever.

Hebrews 7:22

ULT	UST
and according to so much more, Jesus has become a guarantor of a better covenant.	*so also there is a better agreement, which Jesus guarantees.*

Of what is Jesus the guarantee?

Jesus is the guarantee of a better covenant.

Hebrews 7:25

ULT	UST
because of which he is also able to save completely the ones approaching God through him, always living to intercede on behalf of them.	*Because he always serves as a priest, he can fully rescue anyone who, because of what he has done, goes closer to God. He can do that because he will never die and thus can always ask God to help them.*

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	UST
For such a high priest was indeed suitable for us: holy, innocent, pure, separated from the sinners, and having become higher than the heavens;	*Jesus is exactly the kind of ruling priest that we need. He honors God, he does not think about what is evil, and he does not do what would defile him. He is not one of the people who sin, and he now lives in the highest heaven.*

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

Jesus is holy, innocent, 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	UST
who does not have each day a need, even as the high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first on behalf of his own sins and then on behalf of those of the people, for he did this, having offered himself once and never again.	*Now each descendant of Levi who serves as a ruling priest has to present sacrifices to God every day. First, he presents a sacrifice to take away his own sins, and after that he presents a sacrifice to take away the sins of the rest of the Israelites. However, Jesus took away everyone's sins when he presented himself as a sacrifice one time, so he does not need to present many sacrifices.*

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	UST
For the law appoints as high priests men having weakness, but the word of the swearing of an oath, which came after the law, appoints a Son, having been made perfect forever.	*In the end, God commanded through Moses that some people should serve as priests, but these priests are weak and die. In contrast, when God guaranteed what he said, which he did after he had commanded those things through Moses, he enabled his Son to serve always as the most effective 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	UST
Now the point concerning the things being said is this: We have such a high priest who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens,	*Here is the main idea that I am writing about: a ruling priest like the one I have described is serving for us. He has gone to be with God the Father in the heavenly places, and he has begun to rule.*

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	UST
a servant of the holy place and the true tabernacle that the Lord, not a man, set up.	*He serves in the Most Holy Place and in the most real sacred tent. The Lord God, not any human, made this sanctuary.*

Where is the true tabernacle?

The true tabernacle is in the heavens.

Hebrews 8:3

ULT	UST
For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices, because of which it is necessary also for this one to have something that he might offer.	*Now God makes people ruling priests so that they can present sacrifices. Because that is what ruling priests do, Jesus too needed to present a sacrifice.*

What is necessary for every priest to have?

Every priest must have something to offer.

Hebrews 8:4

ULT	UST
Now if indeed he were on earth, he would not be a priest at all, since there are the ones offering the gifts according to the law;	*So, because the priests who are descendants of Levi already present sacrifices on earth as God commanded, Jesus would not be serving as a priest were he on earth right now.*

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	UST
who serve an example and a shadow of the heavenly things, just as Moses had been warned, being about to complete the tabernacle, for he says, "See that you will make everything according to the type that was shown to you on the mountain."	*Those priests do what God requires in a sanctuary that models the heavenly sanctuary. You can tell that this is true, because God revealed it to Moses when Moses was going to have the Israelites construct the sacred tent. At that time, God spoke to him, "Make sure that everything about the sacred tent matches the original sanctuary that I revealed to you when you were with me on Mount Sinai!"*

What did the priests on earth serve?

The priests on earth served an example and a 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	UST
But now he has obtained a far superior ministry, in as much as he is also the mediator of a better covenant, which has been legislated on better promises.	*But here is what is true about Jesus: he serves in a much better way than the descendants of Levi do. In the same way, the agreement that God has made with his people through Jesus is greater than the agreement that God made with the Israelites. That is because God promised greater things when he made this new agreement.*

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 8:8

ULT	UST
For finding fault with them, he says, "Behold, days are coming, says the Lord, when I will complete a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah;	*You can tell that the first agreement was not perfect, because God declared that the Israelites did not perfectly keep that agreement when he said, "Here is what I say to you: Pay attention! Soon I will make a new agreement with all my people from both the kingdom of Israel and the kingdom 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 8:10

ULT	UST
For this is the covenant that I will covenant with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord, putting my laws into their mind, and I will write them on their hearts, and I will be to them as God, and they will be to me as a people.	*This is the kind of agreement that I will make with my people, the Israelites, very soon. Here is what I say: I will enable them to understand and obey my laws. I will be the God whom they worship, and they will be the people whom I care for.*

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	UST
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.	*No one will ever have to instruct another Israelite, 'Trust and worship the Lord God.' That is because all my people will trust and worship me, no matter how important or unimportant they are.*

In the new covenant, who will know the Lord?

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

Hebrews 8:12

ULT	UST
For I will be merciful toward their unrighteousness, and their sins I will certainly not remember any longer."	*That will happen because I will mercifully forgive them for the wrong things that they have done. I will never again punish them for the sins that they have committed."*

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	UST
By saying "new," he has made the first obsolete, and what is being made obsolete and growing old is near disappearing.	*When God uses the word "new," he means that the earlier agreement with the Israelites is now old. Further, what is old will soon cease to exist.*

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

In announcing a new covenant, God made the first covenant obsolete, growing old and disappearing.

Hebrews 9

Hebrews 9:1-2

What was the place of worship for the first covenant?

The place of worship for the first covenant was the earthly holy place which was called the "tabernacle."

Hebrews 9:2

ULT	UST
for a tabernacle was prepared, the first one, in which were both the lampstand and the table, and the presentation of the loaves, which is called "Holy,"	*The sanctuary that the Israelites set up was a sacred tent that had two sections. They called the outer section the Holy Place. In it, they put a stand for lamps and a table on which they laid out special bread.*

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 9:3-4

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 9:7

ULT	UST
but into the second tent, once in the year only the high priest enters, and not without blood that he offers on behalf of himself and of the unintentional sins of the people.	*On the other hand, on only one day a year does the current ruling priest go into the inner section of the sacred tent. He has to take blood from an animal with him, which he presents to God to take away his own sins and the sins that the rest of the Israelites committed by accident.*

How often did the high priest enter the Holy of Holies, and what did he do before he entered?

The high priest entered the Holy of Holies once each year, after making a blood sacrifice for himself and the people.

Hebrews 9:9

ULT	UST
which is a parable for the present time, according to which both gifts and sacrifices are being offered, not being able according to the conscience to perfect the worshiper,	*This first section of the earthly sacred tent figuratively describes the time in which those Israelites lived. In that time, priests presented offerings that could not enable the people who brought the offerings to distinguish properly between what is right and what is wrong.*

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	UST
only concerning foods and drinks and different baptisms, regulations of the body, being imposed until a time of new order.	*They also followed rules that were only about bodily things, including rules about what to eat and drink and how to wash with water often. God gave them these rules to follow until he made a new agreement with his people.*

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	UST
But Christ, having come as a high priest of the good things having come into existence, through the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made by human hands, that is, not of this creation;	*In contrast, when the Messiah began to serve as a ruling priest, he gave us the good things that we now have. He passed through the heavenly sacred tent that functions better than the earthly one. God, not humans, made this sacred tent, and it does not belong on the earth.*

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	UST
and not by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood, he entered into the holy places once and never again, having himself obtained eternal redemption.	*Then, when he went into the heavenly Most Holy Place only one time, he did not present blood from animals that someone sacrificed, like the priests who are descendants of Levi do. Instead, he presented his own blood and freed his people from their sins forever.*

What offering did Christ make, by which he entered the Holy of Holies?

Christ made an offering of his own blood by which he entered the Holy of Holies.

What did Christ's offering accomplish?

Christ's offering secured everlasting redemption for everyone.

Hebrews 9:14

ULT	UST
how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God!	*Since that is true, what the Messiah does with his blood cleanses people much more! He presented himself as a perfect sacrifice to God, and the Spirit who lives forever enabled him to do so. He cleanses the inside of you all, removing what you do that accomplishes nothing and enabling you to do what the only real God requires.*

What does Christ's blood do for the believer?

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

Hebrews 9:15

ULT	UST
And for this reason, he is a mediator of a new covenant, so that, a death having happened for redemption of the transgressions related to the first covenant, the ones called might receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.	*Because the Messiah cleanses the inside of people, God has made a new agreement through him. That way, God gives to those whom he chose what he promised that they would receive forever. That can happen because Jesus died to free his people from what they did wrong when they disobeyed the agreement that God made with Israel.*

Of what is Christ the mediator?

Christ is the mediator of a new covenant.

Hebrews 9:17

ULT	UST
For a covenant is in force on the basis of the dead, because it never has force when the one covenanting it lives.	*In fact, every will is valid only because of a dead person. That is because a will is not effective while the person who set it up is 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 9:18-19

What death was required for the first covenant?

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

Hebrews 9:22

ULT	UST
And according to the law, almost everything is cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.	*Further, God commanded in Moses' law that the priests should use blood almost every time they cleansed people or things. In fact, God does not forgive anyone unless a priest presents blood from an animal that someone has sacrificed.*

What cannot happen without the shedding of blood?

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

Hebrews 9:24

ULT	UST
for Christ did not enter into holy places made with hands—copies of the true ones—but into heaven itself, to be made visible now in the presence of God on our behalf,	*When he presented that offering, the Messiah went into the highest heaven, where he reveals himself right now before God to help us. He did not go into a Most Holy Place that humans have made, which is a model of the most real Most Holy Place.*

Where does Christ now appear on our behalf?

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

Hebrews 9:26

ULT	UST
since it was necessary for him to suffer many times from the foundation of the world. But now he has been revealed once at the end of the ages for the annulment of sin through the sacrifice of himself.	*If Jesus had actually needed to present himself as an offering more than once, then he would have needed to die very often since the time when God created everything. But here is what is true about Jesus: during this final time period, he presented himself one time only as an offering to make sin powerless.*

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	UST
And just as it is appointed to men to die once, and after that, the judgment,	*Humans will each die one time only, and then God will decide whether they are guilty or innocent.*

For every person, what happens after their death?

After every person dies, they face the judgment.

Hebrews 9:28

ULT	UST
so also, Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many people, will appear for a second time, apart from sin, for salvation to the ones eagerly waiting for him.	*Much like that, the Messiah presented himself one time only as an offering to take away many people's sins. Then, he will come again to earth, not to take away sins, but to rescue his people, who are persistently expecting him.*

For what purpose will Christ appear a second time?

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

Hebrews 10

Hebrews 10:1

ULT	UST
For the law, having a shadow of the good things that are coming—not the image itself of those things—is never able to make perfect the ones approaching with the same sacrifices that they continually bring every year.	*The law that God gave through Moses is not itself one of the wonderful things that God will give to his people. Rather, it only points to those wonderful things. So, even though the people who go closer to God always present offerings year after year, doing so never enables them to be what God wants them to be.*

What is the law as compared to the realities in Christ?

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

Hebrews 10:3

ULT	UST
But with those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year.	*But here is what is true about those offerings: they remind people year after year of 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	UST
For it is impossible for blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.	*Those offerings can only do that, because blood from animals that someone sacrificed cannot remove people's sins.*

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	UST
Therefore, entering into the world, he says, "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me;	*That is why, when the Messiah came to earth, he spoke to his Father, "You did not want people to present offerings. Instead, you made a human body ready for me.*

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

God prepared a body for Christ.

Hebrews 10:8

ULT	UST
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 things are offered according to the law),	*Here is what the Messiah said to God first: "You did not want or enjoy the offerings that people present or the sacrifices that people present to take away their sins." Those offerings and sacrifices are the ones that the Israelites present to God as he required in the laws that he gave through 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 10:10

ULT	UST
By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once and never again.	*Here is what God wanted: Jesus the Messiah presented his body as an offering one time only, and by that offering, God set us apart for himself.*

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 10:12-13

For what is Christ waiting as he sits at the right side of God?

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

Hebrews 10:14

ULT	UST
For by one offering he has perfected for all time the ones being sanctified.	*The Messiah remains there, because he presented a single offering, by which he always makes the people whom God is setting apart for himself to be what God wants them to be.*

By his one offering, what has Christ done for those sanctified?

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

Hebrews 10:18

ULT	UST
Now where there is forgiveness for these things, there is no longer sacrifice on behalf of sin.	*When God forgives people for the sinful and disobedient things that they have done, no one again presents sacrifices to take away sins.*

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

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

Hebrews 10:19

ULT	UST
Therefore, brothers, having confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus,	*So then, fellow believers, we can be totally sure that there is a way into the heavenly Most Holy Place for us, because of Jesus' blood.*

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

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

Hebrews 10:22

ULT	UST
let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, our hearts having been sprinkled clean from a wicked conscience and our body having been washed with pure water.	*Because those things are true, we should go closer to God, completely serving him and fully believing in him now that he has purified us on the inside and on the outside so that we no longer feel guilty about evil things that we have done.*

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	UST
Let us hold tightly the confession of our hope without wavering, because the one having promised is faithful.	*God, who promised these things to us, will do what he has said. So, we need to persist in fully believing what we say we confidently expect.*

To what must believers hold tightly?

Believers must hold tightly to the confession of their hope.

Hebrews 10:25

ULT	UST
not abandoning our own meeting together, just as is the habit for some people, but exhorting one another, and so much more in as much as you see that day approaching.	*We can do that by always continuing to gather together to worship God and encouraging each other, even though some people often do not do this. Since we know that Jesus is coming back soon, we should be very eager to do those things.*

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 10:26-27

What is the expectation of those who deliberately go on sinning after receiving the knowledge of the truth?

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

Hebrews 10:28-29

What does the person deserve who treats the blood of Christ, by which he was sanctified, as something unholy?

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 10:30

ULT	UST
For we know the one having said, "Vengeance is mine; I will pay back." And again, "The Lord will judge his people."	*We know that is true, because we have encountered God, who spoke, "I am the one who will punish people when they act against me. I will do so in a way that they deserve." Further, he also spoke, "I, the Lord, will decide whether my people are guilty or innocent."*

To whom does vengeance belong?

Vengeance belongs to the Lord.

Hebrews 10:34

ULT	UST
For you also sympathized with the prisoners, and you welcomed with joy the seizure of your possessions, knowing yourselves to have a better and abiding possession.	*More specifically, you acted compassionately toward those in jail. Also, you rejoiced even when people took away what you owned. You did that because you recognized that God has something greater and more lasting for 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 10:35-36

What must the believer need not throw away so he may receive what God has promised?

The believer needs to retain his confidence so he may receive what God has promised.

Hebrews 10:38

ULT	UST
But my righteous one will live by faith, and if he would shrink back, my soul is not well-pleased with him."	*Further, those who serve me righteously will trust in me while they are alive. But suppose they stop trusting in me. Then, they will not please me."*

How will the righteous live?

The righteous will live by faith.

What does God think of those who shrink back?

God is not pleased with those who shrink back.

Hebrews 10:39

ULT	UST
But we ourselves are not of shrinking back to destruction, but of faith to the preservation of the soul.	*However, we are not those who stop trusting in God, whom he will destroy. Rather, we are those who trust in God, so he saves us.*

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	UST
Now faith is assurance of things being hoped for, proof of things not being seen.	*When people trust God, it makes them sure that they will receive what they confidently expect. When people trust God, it makes them certain about things that they do not see.*

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 11:3

ULT	UST
By faith we understand the ages to have been prepared by the word of God—so that what is seen was not made from what is visible.	*Because we trust God, we recognize that, by speaking, God set up everything that exists. So then, the things we see did not come from other things we can see.*

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	UST
By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain, through which he was testified to be righteous, God testifying because of his gifts, and through faith, having died, he still speaks.	*Because he trusted God, Adam's son Abel presented a more acceptable offering to God than did his older brother Cain. Because he trusted God, God approved of him for what he presented and declared that he did what was right. Although Abel died, we can still learn from how he trusted 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 11:6

ULT	UST
Now without faith it is impossible to be well-pleasing, for it is necessary for the one coming to God to believe that he exists and is a rewarder of the ones seeking him.	*In fact, people can only please God when they trust him. That is because people who go closer to God have to believe that he is real and that he will reward people who want to serve and worship 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	UST
By faith Noah, having been warned about the things not yet being seen, having become reverent, built an ark for salvation of his household, through which he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.	*Because he trusted God, Noah honored God by believing him when God revealed to him what he could not yet experience. So, Noah built the ark to rescue his family from the flood that God would send. Since Noah trusted God in this way, he proved that everyone else was guilty. Further, 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 an ark to save his family according to God’s warning.

Hebrews 11:11

ULT	UST
By faith, even Sarah herself received ability for the conception of an offspring, even beyond the time of full age, since she considered to be faithful the one having promised.	*Because he believed, Abraham was able to have a son with his wife Sarah even though he was old enough that he could not normally have had a child. That happened because he reckoned that God would certainly do what he said.*

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 11:13

ULT	UST
According to their faith all these died without receiving the promises, but seeing and greeting them from far off, and having confessed that they are strangers and foreigners on the earth.	*All those people trusted God until they died. While they lived, they did not experience what God had promised to give them, but they knew that God would soon do what he had promised. They showed everyone that they did not really belong in this world.*

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 11:16

ULT	UST
But now they reach for a better land, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore, God is not ashamed of them, to be called their God, for he prepared a city for them.	*But here is what is true about them: they longed for a greater country that is in heaven. Because of that, it honors God when other people describe him as the God of these people who trusted him. You can tell that this is true, because God has made a city for them to live in.*

What has God prepared for those of faith?

God has prepared a heavenly city for those of faith.

Hebrews 11:17-19

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

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

Hebrews 11:22

ULT	UST
By faith Joseph, coming to an end, mentioned about the exodus of the sons of Israel and commanded them about his bones.	*Because he trusted God, when he was about to die, Joseph spoke about how the Israelites would leave the land of Egypt. Also, he commanded them to take his bones with them when they left.*

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 11:24-26

What did Moses choose to do by faith when he had grown up?

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

Hebrews 11:28

ULT	UST
By faith he has performed the Passover and the sprinkling of the blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch them.	*Because he trusted God, Moses led the Israelites in celebrating the first Passover festival and spreading blood from lambs on their doors. They did that so that the spiritual being who killed the eldest children of the Egyptians would not kill their eldest children.*

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 11:31

ULT	UST
By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish together with the ones having disobeyed, having welcomed the spies with peace.	*Because she trusted God, Rahab, who was a prostitute, kept the spies whom Joshua had sent safe. Because she did that, the Israelites did not kill her when they killed everyone else who lived in Jericho, everyone who did not obey God.*

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 11:33-34

What did some of the ancestors of faith accomplish in war?

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

Hebrews 11:35-38

What did some of the ancestors of faith suffer?

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

Hebrews 11:39

ULT	UST
And all these people, having been commended because of their faith, did not receive the promise,	*Although God approved of all these people because they trusted him, he did not yet give them what he had promised to give 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	UST
God having provided something better concerning us, so that without us, they would not be made perfect.	*Rather, God prepared ahead of time to give us something greater than what those people received while they lived. That way, only when we and they are all together will we all be what God wants us to be.*

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	UST
For that very reason, 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,	*So then, because all those people who trusted God are watching us, we need to persevere in trusting God too. To do that, we need to stop sinning and avoid anything else that could hinder us.*

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

The believer should throw off the sin that easily entangles him in order to run with endurance the race placed before him.

Hebrews 12:2

ULT	UST
looking away to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of the faith, who, for the joy that is placed before him, endured a cross, despising its shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.	*We need to focus on Jesus, the one who enables us to trust God at first and then to do so until we die. He himself persevered when he died on the cross, and he did not care that he died shamefully. He acted in those ways because he knew that God would make him joyful afterward. Now, he is with God the Father, where he sits on the throne and rules.*

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	UST
For consider the one that has endured such opposition by sinners against themselves, so that you might not become weary in your souls, giving up.	*You need to think about Jesus, who persevered when sinners quarreled with him, although they only hurt themselves. That way, you can be strong on the inside and persevere.*

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 12:6

ULT	UST
For whom the Lord loves, he disciplines, and he whips every son whom he welcomes.”	*You should do that, because the Lord God trains everyone he loves. Indeed, he severely corrects every child 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 12:8

ULT	UST
But if you are without discipline, of which all men have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not his sons.	*Suppose God did not train you, even though he trained everybody else. In that case, you would not actually be God’s children.*

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 12:10

ULT	UST
For indeed, they were disciplining us for a few days according to what seems best to them, but he, to benefit us, so that we might share his holiness.	*Further, our human parents trained us for a short time in the ways that they thought were right. However, God our Father trains us in the ways that are best for us. That way, we become those whom he has set apart, just as he sets himself apart.*

Why does God discipline his children?

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

Hebrews 12:11

ULT	UST
Now every discipline does not seem to be joy at the present, but pain, but afterward it produces the peaceful fruit of righteousness for the ones having been trained by it.	*Whenever God trains us, we hurt rather than rejoice while it is happening. However, once we learn from how God is training us, we are able peacefully to do what is right.*

What does discipline produce?

Discipline produces peaceful fruit of righteousness.

Hebrews 12:14

ULT	UST
Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord,	*You should seek to live peacefully with everybody. Also, you should seek to set yourselves apart for God. Only if you do that will you eventually be with the Lord.*

What should believers pursue with all people?

Believers should pursue peace with all people.

Hebrews 12:15

ULT	UST
carefully watching that no one is falling short from the grace of God, not any root of bitterness is growing up to cause trouble, and by this many might become defiled,	*Make sure that your fellow believers fully receive what God has given you. Be alert for anyone who begins to behave resentfully and disturbs fellow believers. That may lead many other believers to behave that way as well.*

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 12:17

ULT	UST
For you know that even afterwards, desiring to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, because he found no place for repentance, even though he sought it with tears.	*You should avoid being like Esau, because you realize what happened to him later. He wanted his father to bless him, but his father refused to do so. As you can see, Esau could not change what he had done, even when he cried while he tried to change it.*

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 12:19

ULT	UST
and to a sound of a trumpet and to a voice of words of which the ones having heard begged for not a word to be added to them.	*They heard someone playing a trumpet and God speaking a message. When they heard God speaking, they pleaded for him not to say any more to them.*

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

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

Hebrews 12:22

ULT	UST
But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, to the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels, to the assembly	*In contrast to that, you have gone closer to a heavenly place, Mount Zion. On this mountain is the city Jerusalem in heaven that belongs to the only real God. In the city are very many spiritual beings who celebrate 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	UST
and to the church of the firstborn ones, who have been registered in the heavens, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous ones made perfect,	*Also in the city are those whose names God has recorded in heaven. They are God's people, his special children. There also is God, the one who decides whether all people are guilty or innocent. There too are those who obeyed God. They died, but God has now made them what he wants them to be.*

To what assembly do believers in Christ come?

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

Hebrews 12:23-24

To whom do believers in Christ come?

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

Hebrews 12:25

ULT	UST
See that you do not refuse the one speaking. For if those did not escape, having refused the one warning them on earth, much less we who are turning away from the one from heaven,	*Make sure that you obey God, who is speaking to you. Consider how some of the Israelites did not obey what God revealed to them from Mount Sinai. God certainly punished them. Now consider how much more God will punish any of us who do not obey what he reveals to us from Mount Zion.*

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	UST
the voice of whom at that time shook the earth, but now he has promised, saying, "Still once I myself will shake not only the earth, but also the heaven."	*When God spoke from Mount Sinai, it made the earth quake. However, at this time he promises, "One more time, I will make the earth and also heaven quake."*

What has God promised to shake?

God has promised to shake the earth and the heaven.

Hebrews 12:28

ULT	UST
Therefore, receiving an unshakeable kingdom, let us have gratitude, through which let us serve well-pleasingly to God, with reverence and awe,	*So, we will live in a kingdom that God will not quake. Because of that, we should thank God. By doing that, we respectfully worship God in a way that pleases him.*

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 serve God?

Believers should serve God with reverence and awe.

Hebrews 12:29

ULT	UST
for indeed our God is a consuming fire.	*We should do so respectfully, because the God we worship is as powerful and dangerous as a raging fire.*

Why should believers worship God in this way?

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

Hebrews 13

Hebrews 13:2

ULT	UST
Do not neglect hospitality, for through this, some have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.	*Make sure that you are welcoming other people. You should do that because some people who welcomed others actually welcomed spiritual beings, although they did not know that they were spiritual beings.*

What have some done by welcoming strangers?

Some have welcomed angels without knowing it.

Hebrews 13:3

ULT	UST
Remember the prisoners, as having been bound with them, and the ones being mistreated, as yourselves also being in body.	*Be sure to help those who are in jail. You should help them as you would want others to help you were you in jail with them. Also, do not forget to help those whom others treat badly. You should do that because you too are humans who can suffer.*

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	UST
Marriage must be honorable among all, and the marriage bed pure, for God will judge sexually immoral people and adulterers.	*All of you should greatly value how God joins people together when they marry. Further, people who marry should have sex only with their spouses. You should do those things because God will declare guilty anyone who has sex with a married person or who has improper sex in any way.*

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	UST
Your manner of life must be free from the love of money, being content with the things being present, for he himself has said, "I will never leave you, nor never will I forsake you,"	*You should always avoid desiring money. You can do that by being happy with whatever you have. You should behave in this way, because God has spoken these words to each of you: "I will definitely not abandon you. Yes, I will always be with 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 13:7

ULT	UST
Remember your leaders, who spoke the Word of God to you, of whom considering the outcome of their conduct, imitate their faith.	*Pay attention to the people who were in charge of your group. I mean the ones who told you about what God has done. Examine the good things that happened because of how they lived. You should imitate how they trusted God.*

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 13:9

ULT	UST
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 with which the ones walking in them were not benefitted.	*Do not let other people mislead you by teaching you many kinds of things that do not fit with the good news. You should reject what they teach, because only what God gives us rightly makes us strong. The food that we eat cannot do that. In fact, people who act as if food could do that gain nothing.*

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 13:11

ULT	UST
For the blood of which animals is brought on behalf of sin by the high priest into the holy places, but the bodies of these animals are burned up outside the camp.	*In the Most Holy Place, the ruling priest would present blood from animals that he had killed. He did that to take away sins. Someone then would completely burn the remains of these animals away from where the Israelites were staying.*

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	UST
So Jesus also suffered outside the gate, so that he might sanctify the people through his own blood.	*Therefore, Jesus too died away from where people lived in the city of Jerusalem. He did that to set God's people apart for himself by offering his own blood.*

Where did Jesus suffer?

Jesus suffered outside the city gate.

Hebrews 13:13

ULT	UST
Let us therefore go to him outside the camp, bearing his reproach.	*So then, we should abandon everything that could separate us from the Messiah. As we do that, we should accept it when people insult us like they insulted him.*

Where must believers go, and why?

Believers must go to Jesus outside the camp, bearing his disgrace.

Hebrews 13:14

ULT	UST
For we do not have a lasting city here, but we are seeking the one coming.	*We should do that because, here on earth, we do not live in any city that will last forever. Rather, we desire to live in the city that God will soon give us.*

What permanent city do believers have here on earth?

Believers have no permanent city here on earth. They seek the one coming.

What city do believers seek instead?

Believers seek the city that is to come.

Hebrews 13:15

ULT	UST
Through him, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips acknowledging his name.	*With Jesus helping us, we should frequently praise God, as if we were presenting offerings to him. We do that when we say that we believe in Jesus.*

What sacrifice should believers constantly offer up to God?

Believers should constantly offer up a sacrifice of praise to God.

Hebrews 13:17

ULT	UST
Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls, as ones who will give account, in order that they might do this with joy and not with groaning, for this would be unprofitable to you.	*Those who are in charge of your group know that God considers them responsible for you, and so they always focus on taking care of you. Because of that, you should respectfully do what they require. That way, they can lead your group joyfully instead of sadly. Indeed, if they led sadly, that would not help you at all.*

What attitude should believers have toward their leaders?

Believers should obey and submit to their leaders.

Hebrews 13:21

ULT	UST
may he prepare you in every thing good to do his will, working in us what is well-pleasing before him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.	*We pray that God will provide you with all his good gifts. That way, you can do what he wants you to do. In fact, he works through Jesus the Messiah to enable us to do what pleases him. So, let us honor God forever! May it be so!*

What does God work in the believer?

God works in the believer that which is well pleasing in God’s sight.

Hebrews 13:23

ULT	UST
Know that our brother Timothy has been set free, with whom I will see you if he comes soon.	*I want you to be aware that the authorities have released Timothy, our fellow believer. If he arrives here quickly, we will visit you together.*

With whom will the author come when he visits the believers?

The author will come with Timothy when he visits the believers.