

Hebrews 6:9 – 7:19

Day 1

Be Diligent. Read Hebrews 6:9-12

1. How did the writer assure his readers following the warnings in 6:4-8? 6:9 *Note how he addressed his readers. (Compare 1 Thess. 1:3-4)*

FYI: "This verse makes it clear that the author's warning in Hebrews 6:4-6 was not given because he felt these Hebrew Christians were either not saved or were in danger of losing their salvation. He was aware of the things that accompany salvation in their lives (Hebrews 6:10)"
- Defender's Study Bible

2. What are some things that "accompany" salvation?

- Galatians 5:6
- Galatians 5:22-23
- Titus 2:11-14
- Romans 12:1,2; 15:13,14

3. For what did the writer commend them? 6:10 (See Matthew 10:42; 25:37-40) Note the attributes of God in this verse.

- From Hebrews 10:32-34, what do you learn about some of their past actions and attitudes?

Digging Deeper

For what were the following people commended? Acts 10:1,2
Acts 9:36; Luke 1:5,6;
1 Thessalonians 1:3

4. How and with what goal in mind were they to pursue these things? 6:11

FYI: Diligence Strong's NT:4710 *spoude*; "speed", i.e. (by implication) dispatch, eagerness, earnestness

5. What should follow our faith? Ephesians 2:10

- What did Paul say about his own diligence and hard work? 1 Corinthians 15:10

6. What would diligence keep them from being? 6:12a (See Romans 12:11; 2 Peter 1:10)

- Who were they to imitate? 6:12b To whom do you think he was referring? (Note the use of faith, hope and love in verses 9-12.)

FYI: sluggish/lazy NT:3576; *nothros*; sluggish, i.e. (literally) lazy, or (figuratively) stupid: KJV - dull, slothful.

patience/endurance Strong's NT:3115 *makrothumia*

"to be long-suffering. Forbearance, long-suffering, self-restraint before proceeding to actions. The quality of a person who is able to avenge himself yet refrains from doing so."
- Zodhiates
(See Ephesians 4:2; Colossians 1:11)

Promises : See Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4-8

Applying the Word: *Who is someone that you can encourage this week? What strength or positive aspect about them could you focus on?*

Who is someone that you want to imitate for their faith and diligence in following Christ?

Day 2

God's Promise to Abraham: Read Hebrews 6:13-20

7. What promise did God make to Abraham and on what basis? 6:13-14

FYI: "God did not have to swear by an oath, but He did so as a condescension or accommodation to human weakness. Of course, in choosing to make an oath, He could only chose to swear by Himself because there was nothing or no one higher to swear by....
His promise to Abraham, and to us, can do nothing other than come true because God's 'word is truth' (John 17:17) and because God 'does not lie' (Titus 1:2). He is the author or truth, the essence of truth. His oath, though unnecessary, is the double assurance that He cannot lie. Truth has sworn by itself that its truth shall truly be fulfilled."
- R. Kent Hughes (176)

8. What did Abraham do? 6:15 *How long had he waited since God called Him? Compare Genesis 12:2-4 with 21:1-5.*

FYI: "**Waiting patiently/patiently endured** NT:3114 *makrothumeo*; to be long-spirited, i.e. forbearing or (subjectively) patient: KJV - bear (suffer) long, be longsuffering, have (long) patience, patiently endure.

"Despite the unlikelihood of such an event happening to Abraham, who was supposedly too old to beget children, this miracle has been remarkably fulfilled in history. His progeny has multiplied exceedingly, with both Israelites and Arabs his descendants."
- Defender's Study Bible

9. When Abraham doubted, how did God respond? Genesis 15:1-5 How did Abraham respond? 15:6

- What further sign did the Lord give Abraham confirm His promise to do this? Genesis 15:7-20

FYI: "The aged patriarch rested everything on God's word. As a result, he was declared righteous apart from works, fourteen years before circumcision (Genesis 17) and hundreds of years before the Law!... This was one of the greatest events in the history of salvation, and the Lord commemorated it with a further sign when He ordered Abram to make sacrifices and divide them into two piles. Then, when the sun had set, God appeared in the night as 'a smoking firepot with a blazing torch...and passed between the pieces' (vs. 17) in the traditional figure-eight pattern of covenant, signifying that His promise was unconditional and that He (God) would be torn asunder like the pieces if He failed to keep His promise." - R. Kent Hughes (174)

10. Later when Abraham was well over 100 years of age, what did the Lord ask Abraham to do? Genesis 22:1,2

- What did Abraham reason God would do? Compare Genesis 22:4,5 with Hebrews 11:17-19.
- When Abraham obeyed, how did the Lord respond? Genesis 22:9-19 *By whom did He swear His oath? Genesis 22:16*

FYI: Gen 22:16: "The significance of this from the perspective of the writer of Hebrews is that whereas God had repeatedly *promised* Abraham He would make a great nation from him, He here *swore* an oath to do so." - R. Kent Hughes (175)

12. What is the purpose of oaths? 6:16

- What moved God to make an oath concerning His promise? 6:17

13. How are God's oath and promise described in 6:18a? (See Numbers 23:19; Psalm 33:4)

- What does that do to our hope? 6:18b What advantage do we have even over Abraham?

FYI: "God's swearing an oath was a condescension to human frailty, thus making His word, which in itself is absolutely trustworthy, doubly dependable... **Two unchangeable things.** God's promise, which in itself is absolutely trustworthy, and God's oath confirming that promise." - The NIV Study Bible (1865)

15. What words or phrases describe our hope? 6:19a *What image does an anchor give?*

- *Where* is our hope anchored? 6:19b

Digging Deeper

Where are we in Christ? Ephesians 2:5-7

Philippians 3:20

16. What makes our hope secure and eternal? 6:20

- As our “forerunner,” what does Jesus guarantee? John 14:2,3 (Cf. Heb. 2:10)

FYI: “If the new revelation displaces Moses then the next question would most likely be, ‘Has God forgotten his promises to bless Abraham and his seed?’ The answer comes powerfully in 6:13- 20 that not only has God not forgotten his promises to the Jew but that it is Jesus himself, who, by being a priest like Melchizedek, will fulfill those promises.”
- Dr. Chris Miller

Applying the Word: *How does hope in the Lord Jesus Christ differ from the hope of the world’s religions?*

Day 3

The Greatness of Melchizedek. Read Hebrews 7:1-10

17. 7:1 picks up the theme of 5:10, after the digression in 5:11-6:20. List the titles given to Melchizedek in 7:1a.

Digging Deeper

See “Articles and Commentary Notes” on Melchizedek at the back of the homework.

FYI: “In Hebrew, *Melchi* means ‘my king,’ and *zedek* means ‘righteousness.’ *Salem* is related to *shalom*, which means peace. The order is significant: righteousness comes before peace. A king cannot have true peace in his kingdom unless both he and his kingdom are righteous. Sin brings discord and strife. Righteousness is the foundation for peace.”
- Steven Cole

18. What did the prophecy in Zechariah 6:13 say about Christ’s rule as both king and priest?

FYI: “Outside of Jesus and Melchizedek, Scripture identifies no one as both a king and priest....No priest in the Old Testament could lawfully acts as a king, and no king in the Old Testament could lawfully acts as a priest...Yet Hebrews 7:1 tells us Melchizedek is the king of Salem [ancient name for Jerusalem] and also priest of the Most High God. Shockingly, he is even from outside the tribe of Israel. This is an interesting character indeed.” - Mohler (99)

19. Record the actions on the part of Melchizedek and Abraham in 7:1b,2a (See the blessing given in Genesis 14:19.)

20. List the qualifications of Melchizedek given in 7:2b.

- What was prophesized about the Messiah's reign? Isaiah 9:6,7; Jeremiah 23:5,6

21. How was Melchizedek "*like the son of God*"? 7:3

FYI: "Melchizedek foreshadowed the character of Christ – His Kingship, His priesthood, His righteousness, and His peace."
- R. Kent Hughes (186)

"Melchizedek is a priest of God Most High by divine ordination. He enters into the Genesis story as if he has no mother, no father, and no sons. This kind of priesthood stands in stark contrast with the priesthood of Israel, which was entirely based on Levitical familial descent."
- R. Albert Mohler, Jr. (101)

without genealogy...remains a priest continually "Because of this passage, some have thought Melchizedek was actually a pre-Bethlehem appearance of Jesus...'The question cannot be said to be settled completely... otherwise, the identity of Melchizedek would have been agreed on by Bible scholars long ago.' (Morris). We can say with confidence that if Melchizedek was not an appearance of Jesus Himself, at the very least he is a remarkable type or picture of Jesus."
- David Guzik

Greater than Abraham

22. By giving Melchizedek a tithe, what did Abraham recognize about him? 7:4

FYI: Spoils Strong's NT:205 *akrothinion*;

"from *akron* (206) the extreme, and *this*, a heap. The top of the heap, the best of choice parts, the firstfruits of the field, of booty. In Hebrews 7:4 it means the best of warfare spoils. Abraham gave Melchizedek tithes not only of the chief spoils, but that which he gave as a tenth of all was of the chief and best of the spoils."
- Zodiates

"Abraham *voluntarily* gave tithes to Melchizedek. This makes Abraham's **giving** to Melchizedek greater than Israel's **payment** of tithes to the priesthood instituted by Moses."
- David Guzik

Greater than the Levitical Priesthood

23. By law, what were the Levitical priests, to be given and by whom? 7:5

- Why was it surprising for Melchizedek to receive tithes from Abraham? 7:6a

24. Because Abraham was blessed by Melchizedek, who was greater? 7:6b,7

FYI: ""In the ancient world, paying tithes to another was recognition of the other's superiority and a sign of subjection to that person....Moreover, in the eyes of succeeding generations of Jews, [Abraham] would be considered to be the greatest of men....But when he met Melchizedek, he recognized that personage's super greatness and paid him a 'tenth of the plunder'...This was a calculated recognition by Abraham that he was in the presence of one greater than himself!"
- R. Kent Hughes (187,188)

"Since Melchizedek pronounced God's blessing on Abraham, he is greater than this great man who had God's promises! But Melchizedek is only a type of the one who is greater still, the Lord Jesus Christ...If Melchizedek, who was a sign and shadow, is preferred to Abraham and to all the Levitical priests, how much more Christ, who is the truth and the substance!"
- Steven Cole

25. How was the Melchizedek priesthood superior to the Levitical priesthood? 7:8 (cf. 7:3)

- How did the priesthood that was established later honored Melchizedek, so to speak, with tithes? 7:9,10

FYI: 7:8 witnessed/declared to be living. "This 'witness' was in Psalm 110:4, where the coming Messiah was recognized by God as 'a high priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.'" – Defender's Study Bible

"The author of Hebrews is making the point that Jesus is our high priest. But He is not just the fulfillment of the Levitical priesthood. He is something more, a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek. To view Him on a par with the Levitical priests would be to make a spiritually fatal mistake. That entire old system was designed to point ahead to Jesus Christ, who superseded and fulfilled it. To go back to the old way would be to abandon God's only way of entrance into His holy presence. It would be to turn from the only One who can save us from our sins and go back to an inferior system." – Steven Cole

26. Review the 4 ways that Melchizedek as a foreshadowing of Christ (or Jesus incarnate) was shown to be greater:

- 7:4,6a
- 7:6b
- 7:8
- 7:9,10

Applying the Word: What are examples of the "top of your spoils" you could give to God?

Day 4

Jesus: A Perfect and Eternal Priest. Read Hebrews 7:11-22

27. Why was there a need for a new type of priest different than the past order of Levitical priests? 7:11

FYI: "Moses initiated the priesthood when he gave the Law. Priests were appointed from the tribe of Levi. Aaron was the first of these priests." – Irving Jensen (99)

"The announcement of the coming one who would be a priest forever (Ps. 110:4) was written midway in the history of the Levitical priesthood, which could only mean that the existing system was to give way to something better." – The NIV Study Bible (1866)

"The term **Levitical priesthood** simply describes the Jewish priesthood of the Old Testament. It is called Levitical because most of the instructions for the Old Testament priesthood are found in the Book of Leviticus. [book of law] The Old Testament priesthood is the priesthood associated with the Law of Moses. The priesthood of Melchizedek is associated with Abraham, not with Moses." – David Guzik

28. If the priesthood changed, what else changed? 7:12 Why?

29. Why didn't Jesus qualify for the priesthood according to the law? 7:13,14

FYI: "The priesthood of Aaron was connected to the Law of Moses. So if the priesthood is changed we should also anticipate some change of the Law's status or place...Under the Law of Moses, God strictly commanded that only those from the family of Aaron could serve **at the altar** in sacrifice.

Jesus is obviously not from the family of Aaron or even the tribe of Levi. The tribe of **Judah** (the tribe of Jesus' lineage) had nothing to do with Aaron's priesthood, the priesthood associated with the Law of Moses. Therefore according to the priesthood of Aaron and the Law of Moses, Jesus could never be a priest. If He is our High Priest, it must be under another principle."
- David Guzik

"So his overall point in 7:11-14 is that the Law and the Levitical priesthood were inferior because they could not make anyone perfect. His readers must not go back to Judaism!"
- Steven Cole

30. On what basis were Levitical priests chosen? 7:16a (see Exodus 28:1)

- On what basis did Jesus Christ qualify? 7:16b (Contrast 5:3b;7:28a)

31. Why do you think the writer is quoting this phrase from Psalm 110:4 so often? 7:17 (See 5:6,10; 6:20; 7:21)

32. Record the phrases that describe the limitations of the law.

- 7:18
- 7:19a (Cf. 7:11) See also 7:28a

FYI: "The law does a great job of setting God's perfect standard but it does not give the power to keep that standard...**The law made nothing perfect:** Therefore, the law is valuable as it shows us God's perfect standard, but it was not ultimately intended to be the basis of a man's walk with God. This is because the law is weak and unprofitable when it comes to saving my soul or giving me power over sin."
- David Guzik

"The Law was an excellent institution. This real problem was that man was sinful – 'the law was powerless'... (Romans 8:3,7)...The Law could neither impart spiritual life (Galatians 3:21) nor were they able to clear the conscience (Heb. 9:9) Sacrifices could ease the conscience because one was doing what was required, but total clearing never took place through the system. As to the crucial matter of access, F.F. Bruce says, 'The whole apparatus of worship associated with sacrifice and ritual and priesthood was calculated rather to keep men at a distance from God than to bring them near.' Clearly, the Old Covenant had profound limitations as to making *atonement*, imparting *life*, clearing the *conscience*, and providing *access*."
- R. Kent Hughes (195, 196)

33. Underline the limitations of the law:

- Romans 8:3 For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. NIV
- Hebrews 10:1 The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming-not the realities themselves. NIV
- Galatians 3:10-11 All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law."

30. With what was the law replaced? 7:19b (Cf. 6:18b,19) What access does this give us? (See also 7:24,25)

FYI: “The law is perfect in the sense that it does what God designed it to do, but it does not lead to salvation. Only Christ can do that...The law was not unprofitable in regard to its utility-it still adequately performed its given responsibilities Paul tells us we should be grateful for the law since it exposes great need for a Savior....The law reveals sin...it certainly cannot save, for it was never intended to do such a thing. The former commandment is laid aside in order to give way to a better hope that is ours in Christ. In the old covenant, the law functioned in many ways the Israelites desperately need, but it could not draw them closer to God. The law exposed the pervasive sinfulness of man and, as a result, the great need for a great Savior.” - R. Albert Mohler, Jr. (109)

“What absurdity...to think that our problems are beyond His power, because His priesthood was established’ on the basis of the power of an indestructible life.’ He brings to our lives the same power with which He self-resurrected. [Ephesians 1:19,20] Whatever our problem. Jesus is the answer!” - R. Kent Hughes (199)

31. Why was Jesus’ priesthood superior? 7:20,21

- What is said about God’s word? Numbers 23:19; Romans 11:29; Hebrews 6:18

FYI: “They have become priests without an oath: The high priest of the order of Aaron was appointed by heredity, not by personal character or an oath of God. Not so with Jesus and the priestly order of Melchizedek. God even sealed His choice by an oath.” - David Guzik

32. On what other occasion had God made an oath? Hebrews 6:13-15 (See Gen. 22:16-18) *Why did He do that? Heb. 6:17*

33. Because of God’s oath, what did Jesus become for us? 7:22 (Mark the word “better” in 7:18,22.)

FYI: Guarantee/surety “The ancient Greek word translated **surety** (*egguos*) described someone who gave security, who cosigned a loan to guarantee payment, or put up bail for a prisoner. **Jesus Himself** is the guarantee of **a better covenant**... The Old Covenant had a mediator (Moses), but no one to guarantee the people’s side of the covenant. Therefore they continually failed under it. But the New Covenant – a better covenant – has a cosigner to guarantee it on our behalf. Therefore, the New Covenant depends on what Jesus did, not on what we do. *He* is the surety and *we* are not.” - David Guzik

Applying the Word: What does God’s sending His Son to die to give us a “better hope” and to be the “guarantor of a better covenant” say about His character and love for us?