



## Getting started with Hebrews

Is it all worth it?

Being a Christian is hard. The cost is high. The first listeners to the book of Hebrews knew that to be true; they were subject to public abuse, loss of property, loss of freedom and even threat on their lives!

Is it all worth it?

Hebrews is a written sermon, preached to the listeners to encourage them to stand firm and endure faithfully to the end. The writer wants us to know it really IS worth it, and his message can be summarised in one symbol.

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Greater than.

The writer of Hebrews wants us to be sure that Jesus is GREATER.

Jesus is GREATER than angels, Jesus is GREATER than Moses, Jesus' covenant is a GREATER covenant, Jesus is a GREATER priest and Jesus is a GREATER sacrifice.

Hebrews picks up on rich Jewish history and writings to show that the whole of the Old Testament was a huge signpost pointing towards Jesus. And the point is this: It's worth it! Don't turn aside; endure faithfully; stick with Jesus no matter what – He is the GREATEST.

### **Structure**

Hebrews is one sermon; probably delivered in one sitting. The whole thing hangs together in a logical flow. Like any good preacher, the writer of the Hebrews repeatedly switches between explanation and exhortation: "This is what is true, THEREFORE this is what we should do." (See for example chapter 11-chapter12v3).

Sometimes the chapter division aren't helpful – instead look out for the key word: “THEREFORE”. This gives us the logical link, and helps us follow the argument.

### **Things to watch out for...**

- The audience was probably primarily Jewish. Hebrews picks up on the rich history and OT writings to show that this is one story climaxing in the Son.
- There are only 13 chapters – so read slowly and enjoy the detail.
- Look up the OT quotes. The original context is often very interesting and informative.



**RBT Grow Group is on  
Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> September**

Bring along some things from your reading of Hebrews to share with others.

### **Some RBT reading ideas:**

- Meet up once a week to read it with a friend.
- Listen online at [Biblegateway.com](http://Biblegateway.com)
- Write down a verse that struck you that day.
- Encourage someone by texting them a thought from what you've read.

### **Grow 1:1 questions to unlock the passage:**

**What** does this teach me about God?

**How** does this point me to the Lord Jesus and His cross?

**What** does this teach me about myself?

**How** does this help me to pray?

**What** difference will this make to my week?



Here are some questions the Bible wants you to ask of itself. Use these to help you as you read your way through this month's book: (please don't feel like you have to fill in every question in loads of detail. These are a guide to help you learn from what you are reading.)

- What did you learn about Jesus and what it means to trust him? (Luke 24:45-47)
- What did you learn about yourself? (James 1:23 & 2 Tim 3:16-17)
- How were you corrected or rebuked or equipped for every good work? (2 Tim 3:16-17)
- What did you learn from the book that will help you keep going as a follower of Jesus? (Romans 15:4)
- What did you learn that will help you serve and build up the church? (Eph 4:11-16)
- What have you learnt that helps you love the Lord your God with all your heart & with all your soul & with all your mind? (Matt 22:37-40)
- What has helped you love your neighbour as yourself? (Matt 22:37-40)

