



HOPE CHURCH

HEBREWS: NOT GOING BACK



AND LET US RUN WITH PERSEVERANCE THE RACE
MARKED OUT FOR US, FIXING OUR EYES ON
JESUS, THE PIONEER AND PERFECTER OF FAITH.



SUMMER JOURNAL



LOVE GOD
Love People

HOW TO S.O.A.P

Items needed for each day:

1. Bible
2. Pencil
3. Journal

S – SCRIPTURE

Which verse stood out to you?

Open your Bible to your reading for the day. Take time reading and allow God to speak to you. When you are done, look for a verse that particularly spoke to you that day, and write it in your journal.

O – OBSERVATION

What is God saying to you?

What do you feel God is saying to you in this scripture? Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you and reveal Jesus to you.

A – APPLICATION

How can you apply it today?

Personalize what you have read, by asking yourself how it applies to your life right now. Perhaps it is instruction, encouragement, a new promise, or corrections for a particular area of your life. Write how this scripture can apply to you today.

P – PRAYER

Ask God to help you use what you've learned.

This can be as simple as asking God to help you use this scripture, or even a prayer for a greater insight on what He may be revealing to you. Remember, prayer is a two-way conversation, so be sure to listen to what God has to say! Now, write it out.



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

FROM: This letter has always been anonymous. Some have thought the apostle Paul wrote it, while others have suggested an apostle more known for his polished Greek, such as Apollos.

TO: These Jewish believers had brains and education, and had followed Christ for some time. They should have been mature and teaching the faith to others, but instead they were obsessing about how their neighbors looked down on them. They thought about going back to Judaism without Jesus in order to be popular again.

RE: Sometime in the 60s A.D. For a brief period in A.D. 64, Christians in the city of Rome were actually rounded up and executed. But otherwise around the empire between A.D. 30 and 90, Christians rarely got the death penalty simply for being Christians. They were seen as a sect within Judaism, a legal faith. Instead of systematic persecution, Christians endured bigotry. In crowded cities, people lived in close-knit and competitive ethnic enclaves. Jobs, apartments, and marriages depended on loyalty to the “godfather” of one’s family or social group. To become Christian was to turn one’s back on family traditions and so to risk the loss of job and home. The local butcher wouldn’t sell you meat. And if somebody denounced you to the governor, you could be executed if you refused to offer the sacrifice to the divine emperor that was a sign of loyal citizenship.



WEEK

01

The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.

WEEK 01

WEEKDAY: MONDAY, 20	TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: HEBREWS 1:1-14
TIME:	Grab your Bible and read today's scripture. Write down the verses that stand out to you the most.

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WEEK 01

WEEKDAY: TUESDAY, 21	TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: HEBREWS 2:1-9
TIME:	Grab your Bible and read today's scripture. Write down the verses that stand out to you the most.

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WEEK 01

<p>WEEKDAY:</p> <p>WEDNESDAY, 22</p>	<p>TODAY'S SCRIPTURE:</p> <p>HEBREWS 2:10-18</p>
<p>TIME:</p>	<p>Grab your Bible and read today's scripture. Write down the verses that stand out to you the most.</p>

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WEEK 01

WEEKDAY: THURSDAY, 23	TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: HEBREWS 3:1-11
TIME:	Grab your Bible and read today's scripture. Write down the verses that stand out to you the most.

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WEEK 01

WEEKDAY: FRIDAY, 24	TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: HEBREWS 3:12-19
TIME:	Grab your Bible and read today's scripture. Write down the verses that stand out to you the most.

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INTRODUCTION TO HEBREWS

It seems odd to have to say so, but too much religion is a bad thing. We can't get too much of God, can't get too much faith and obedience, can't get too much love and worship. But *religion*—the well-intentioned efforts we make to “get it all together” for God—can very well get in the way of what God is doing for us. The main and central action is everywhere and always *what God has done, is doing, and will do for us*. Jesus is the revelation of that action. Our main and central task is to live in responsive obedience to God's action revealed in Jesus. Our part in the action is the act of faith.

But more often than not we become impatiently self-important along the way and decide to improve matters with our two cents' worth. We add on, we supplement, we embellish. But instead of improving on the purity and simplicity of Jesus, we dilute the purity, clutter the simplicity. We become fussily religious, or anxiously religious. We get in the way.

That's when it's time to read and pray our way through the letter to the Hebrews again, written for “too religious” Christians, for “Jesus-and” Christians. In the letter, it is Jesus-and-angels, or Jesus-and-Moses, or Jesus-and-priesthood. In our time it is more likely to be Jesus-and-politics, or Jesus-and-education, or even Jesus-and-Buddha. This letter deletes the hyphens, the add-ons. The focus becomes clear and sharp again. God's action in Jesus. And we are free once more for the act of faith, the one human action *in* which we don't get in the way but *on* the Way.



WEEK

02

**Let us then approach
God's throne of grace
with confidence, so that
we may receive mercy
and find grace to help us
in our time of need.**

WEEK 02

<p>WEEKDAY:</p> <p>MONDAY, 27</p>	<p>TODAY'S SCRIPTURE:</p> <p>HEBREWS 4:1-7</p>
<p>TIME:</p>	<p>Grab your Bible and read today's scripture. Write down the verses that stand out to you the most.</p>

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WEEK 02

WEEKDAY: TUESDAY, 28	TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: HEBREWS 4:8-16
TIME:	Grab your Bible and read today's scripture. Write down the verses that stand out to you the most.

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WEEK 02

WEEKDAY: WEDNESDAY, 29	TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: HEBREWS 5:1-14
TIME:	Grab your Bible and read today's scripture. Write down the verses that stand out to you the most.

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WEEK 02

WEEKDAY: THURSDAY, 30	TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: HEBREWS 6:1-12
TIME:	Grab your Bible and read today's scripture. Write down the verses that stand out to you the most.

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WEEK 02

<p>WEEKDAY:</p> <p>FRIDAY, 31</p>	<p>TODAY'S SCRIPTURE:</p> <p>HEBREWS 6:13-20</p>
<p>TIME:</p>	<p>Grab your Bible and read today's scripture. Write down the verses that stand out to you the most.</p>

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OLD & NEW

The Puritan theologian, Thomas Manton, once said: “The great skill of Christians is to find the New Testament prefigured in the Old, and the Old Testament fulfilled in the New.”

What helps us most in this endeavor is that it doesn't take long when reading through the New Testament to come across one of the 250+ citations of the Old Testament. As we study the way the Apostles interpreted the Old Testament, we actually discover the Holy Spirit's infallible interpretation of the Old Testament passage. The principles of interpretation that we glean from the apostolic examples then serve as a guideline for how we ought to interpret other portions of the Old Testament.

Of the New Testament books that cite portions of the Old Testament, almost none is so full and instructive as the letter to the Hebrews. In the first chapter alone we find seven Old Testament citations given in close proximity to one another (verses 5-14). Unpacking these citations takes time, but each passage reveals another layer of the underlying truths. As Christians, discovering connections between the Old and New Testaments serves to deepen our understanding of the overarching plan of God revealed throughout the Bible.

If you're not sure where to start, here are five steps to strengthening this skill. When you encounter an Old Testament reference in the New Testament, do these five things:

1. **Follow the Flow** —
What comes before and after the reference?
2. **Catch the Context** —
What was happening in the Old Testament passage?
3. **Watch the Wording** —
Have any words or phrases been changed?
4. **Consider the Connection** —
Why have these references been placed together?
5. **Assess the Aim** —
What did the author intend?

The whole Bible is about Jesus. The more we see the connections, the more we will discover his character. As we see him more clearly, everything else will come into focus.



WEEK

03

Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

WEEK 03

WEEKDAY: MONDAY, 03	TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: HEBREWS 7:1-10
TIME:	Grab your Bible and read today's scripture. Write down the verses that stand out to you the most.

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WEEK 03

WEEKDAY: TUESDAY, 04	TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: HEBREWS 7:11-28
TIME:	Grab your Bible and read today's scripture. Write down the verses that stand out to you the most.

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WEEK 03

WEEKDAY: WEDNESDAY, 05	TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: HEBREWS 8:1-13
TIME:	Grab your Bible and read today's scripture. Write down the verses that stand out to you the most.

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WEEK 03

WEEKDAY: THURSDAY, 06	TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: HEBREWS 9:1-10
TIME:	Grab your Bible and read today's scripture. Write down the verses that stand out to you the most.

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WEEK 03

WEEKDAY: FRIDAY, 07	TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: HEBREWS 9:11-28
TIME:	Grab your Bible and read today's scripture. Write down the verses that stand out to you the most.

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OUR HIGH PRIEST

“And what we have said is even more clear if another priest like Melchizedek appears, one who has become a priest not on the basis of a regulation as to his ancestry but on the basis of the power of an indestructible life.”

Hebrews 7:15-16

Names, from the biblical perspective, tell you a lot about the character and purpose of a person. If we want to know more about who Jesus is and what he came to do, we can start by studying the different names we find for him in the Bible. In the New Testament, Jesus is referred to as our *priest*. His priestly ministry involves both his self-sacrifice and his ongoing intercession for His people. These, the book of Hebrews explains, are effective for salvation, whereas the work of the old covenant priests was not. The effectiveness of Christ’s priestly work is tied to its superiority over the old covenant order, and this superiority is due to Jesus being “a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek” (Hebrews 6:20).

Jesus, who was descended according to the flesh from the tribe of Judah, could not serve in the Levitical priesthood that God established through Moses (Hebrews 7:14). Yet that does not mean he is unqualified to be our High Priest; rather, it means his high priesthood derives from a different—and superior—priestly lineage. Hebrews 7, quoting from Psalm 110, makes an extended argument that Jesus’ priestly qualifications come from his belonging to the line of Melchizedek with respect to the priesthood.

Melchizedek, whose name means “king of righteousness,” was the ancient priest-king of Salem (Jerusalem), and he gave a blessing to Abraham after the patriarch rescued his nephew Lot from a group of Canaanite rulers. Abraham, in turn, paid tithes to Melchizedek (Genesis 14:17–20). The author of Hebrews uses this episode to show that Melchizedek’s priestly ministry existed prior and was superior to the work of the Levitical priests. A lesser party pays tithes to a greater party. Since Levi descended from his great-grandfather Abraham, when Abraham paid tithes to Melchizedek it was as if Levi paid tithes to the greater party as well (Hebrews 7:1–10).

The order of Melchizedek is superior because Christ holds it not by virtue of mere physical descent but “by the power of an indestructible life” (Hebrews 7:16). Psalm 110 foresaw that the Messiah would hold the Melchizedekian priesthood forever, and Jesus overcoming death means he will never set aside his priesthood. If we come to God through the priestly ministry of Jesus, we can be sure that like his priesthood, our lives will be eternal.



WEEK

04

**Now faith is confidence
in what we hope for and
assurance about what
we do not see.**

WEEK 04

WEEKDAY: MONDAY, 10	TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: HEBREWS 10:1-18
TIME:	Grab your Bible and read today's scripture. Write down the verses that stand out to you the most.

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WEEK 04

WEEKDAY: TUESDAY, 11	TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: HEBREWS 10:19-39
TIME:	Grab your Bible and read today's scripture. Write down the verses that stand out to you the most.

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WEEK 04

WEEKDAY: WEDNESDAY, 12	TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: HEBREWS 11:1-12
TIME:	Grab your Bible and read today's scripture. Write down the verses that stand out to you the most.

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WEEK 04

WEEKDAY: THURSDAY, 13	TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: HEBREWS 11:13-31
TIME:	Grab your Bible and read today's scripture. Write down the verses that stand out to you the most.

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WEEK 04

WEEKDAY: FRIDAY, 14	TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: HEBREWS 11:32-40
TIME:	Grab your Bible and read today's scripture. Write down the verses that stand out to you the most.

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THE HALL OF FAITH

We often refer to Hebrews 11 as the “Hall of Faith” — a play on words with the phrase “Hall of Fame.” So many of the famous names in the Bible are mentioned in Hebrews 11: Abel, Noah, Abraham, Jacob, Moses, and David.

The first 35 verses of Hebrews 11 remember hero after hero from the Old Testament and all the great things they accomplished through faith. All of these heroes “who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. Women received back their dead, raised to life again.”

And if you read Hebrews 11 to that point in the chapter, you might be tempted to believe that what the author is saying is this: “If you just have faith like these people, then you can do great things for God, too! You can conquer! You can be strong! You can subdue kingdoms!” It really does read like the ancient equivalent of a modern-day Hall of Fame. Until you get to verse 35.

From there, we begin to read about the “others” of the chapter. These are the ones who never conquered kingdoms, tore down walls or pillars, slew giants, or escaped fiery furnaces. These are the obscure children of God in the eyes of the world.

“There were others who were tortured, refusing to be released so that they might gain an even better resurrection. Some faced jeers and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were put to death by stoning; they were sawed in two; they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated—the world was not worthy of them.”

Hebrews 11:35-38

From the dimly lit corners of the Hall of Faith, the earthly afterthoughts find their way into Hebrews 11 to testify alongside Abraham and Moses: obscurity in the world is not obscurity with God. The world was not worthy of these great people.



WEEK

05

**Consider him who
endured such opposition
from sinners, so that you
will not grow weary and
lose heart.**

WEEK 05

WEEKDAY: MONDAY, 17	TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: HEBREWS 12:1-13
TIME:	Grab your Bible and read today's scripture. Write down the verses that stand out to you the most.

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WEEK 05

WEEKDAY: TUESDAY, 18	TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: HEBREWS 12:14-17
TIME:	Grab your Bible and read today's scripture. Write down the verses that stand out to you the most.

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WEEK 05

WEEKDAY: WEDNESDAY, 19	TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: HEBREWS 12:18-29
TIME:	Grab your Bible and read today's scripture. Write down the verses that stand out to you the most.

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WEEK 05

WEEKDAY: THURSDAY, 20	TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: HEBREWS 13:1-19
TIME:	Grab your Bible and read today's scripture. Write down the verses that stand out to you the most.

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WEEK 05

WEEKDAY: FRIDAY, 21	TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: HEBREWS 13:20-25
TIME:	Grab your Bible and read today's scripture. Write down the verses that stand out to you the most.

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FOR THE WORD OF GOD IS ALIVE AND ACTIVE. SHARPER THAN ANY DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD, IT PENETRATES EVEN TO DIVIDING SOUL AND SPIRIT, JOINTS AND MARROW; IT JUDGES THE THOUGHTS AND ATTITUDES OF THE HEART.

