



BIBLE

STUDENT BOOK

▶ **6th Grade | Unit 9**

BIBLE 609

Hebrews and General Epistles

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Rock Rapids, IA 51246-1759

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Hebrews and General Epistles

Introduction

In the preceding Bible LIFEPAK® 608 you studied the apostle Paul: his conversion, his journeys, and his writings. Thirteen Epistles among the twenty-one New Testament Epistles bear the name of Paul as writer. Although in the original manuscripts the Epistle to the Hebrews does not bear Paul's name, much evidence supports Paul's authorship.

In this LIFEPAK you will study the Epistle to the Hebrews and the seven General Epistles: James, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, and Jude. Your study of this LIFEPAK will help you understand better the place of Hebrews and the seven General Epistles in the structure and message of the Bible.

Recall that the Bible is the revelation of God's plan for man's redemption. The major emphasis of this course has been the plan of salvation and the principles of Christian growth, or life (salvation) and abundant life (Christian growth) as promised by Jesus in John 10:10.

The New Testament, you should recall, contains twenty-seven books. You will be asked to name those books in this LIFEPAK.

BOOKS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

1	Matthew	10	Ephesians	19	Hebrews
2	Mark	11	Philippians	20	James
3	Luke	12	Colossians	21	1 Peter
4	John	13	1 Thessalonians	22	2 Peter
5	Acts	14	2 Thessalonians	23	1 John
6	Romans	15	1 Timothy	24	2 John
7	1 Corinthians	16	2 Timothy	25	3 John
8	2 Corinthians	17	Titus	26	Jude
9	Galatians	18	Philemon	27	Revelation

Objectives

Read these objectives. The objectives tell you what you will be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFEPAK. When you have finished this LIFEPAK, you should be able to:

1. State some reasons that support Paul's writing Hebrews.
2. Describe the historical occasion of Hebrews.

1. HEBREWS

Hebrews is the nineteenth book of the New Testament as the twenty-seven New Testament books appear in our English Bible. In this section you will study the writer and reader of the Epistle and the purpose and content including the theme and message. You will be asked to write the outline given under “content.”

Section Objectives

Review these objectives. When you have completed this section, you should be able to:

1. State some reasons that support Paul’s writing Hebrews.
2. Describe the historical occasion of Hebrews.
3. State the purpose of Hebrews.
4. Identify the theme of Hebrews.
5. Describe briefly the content of Hebrews.

Vocabulary

Study these words to enhance your learning success in this section.

Judaism (jü’ dē iz um). The religion of the Jews, which is based only on the Old Testament.

superiority (su pir’ ē ôr’ u tē). Above the average condition, very good quality; excellent condition.

Note: All vocabulary words in this LIFEPAC appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used. If you are unsure of the meaning when you are reading, study the definitions given.

Pronunciation Key: hat, āge, cāre, fār; let, ēqual, tērm; it, ĩce; hot, ōpen, ôrder; oil; out; cup, pūt, rüle; child; long; thin; /ʃh/ for then; /zh/ for measure; /u/ represents /a/ in about, /e/ in taken, /i/ in pencil, /o/ in lemon, and /u/ in circus.

THE WRITER AND READERS

Unlike most other New Testament Epistles, Hebrews does not specifically identify either the sender or the receiver, either the writer or the readers, of this Epistle. As a part of the Bible, it is included in those words of Paul to Timothy (2 Timothy 3:16 and 17): “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of

Read Hebrews chapters 1–3



God may be perfect [complete], thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”

Writer. Such early historians as Clement of Rome (A.D. 30 to 100) and Eusebius of Caesarea (A.D. 265 to 340) recognized the apostle Paul as the writer of Hebrews. For more than eleven hundred years, Paul was accepted by the New Testament churches as the writer of Hebrews. Many Bible scholars still maintain that Paul was the writer of Hebrews.

Notice the similarities in the following passages:

compare	Hebrews 4:1–2	with	1 Corinthians 10:1–6
	Hebrews 4:1–4		Colossians 1:15–17
	Hebrews 2:4		1 Corinthians 12:11
	Hebrews 2:8		1 Corinthians 15:27
	Hebrews 2:14–17		Philippians 2:5–8
	Hebrews 8:6		2 Corinthians 3:4–11
	Hebrews 13:25		Romans 16:24; 1 Corinthians 16:23; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Galatians 6:18; Ephesians 6:24; Philippians 4:23; Colossians 4:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:28; 2 Thessalonians 3:18; 1 Timothy 6:21; 2 Timothy 4:22; Titus 3:15; and Philemon 25.

Readers. The title and the content of the Epistle suggest that the receivers of the Epistle, the readers, were believing Jews. Hebrews was not addressed to Jewish believers in general,

but to a specific group, to members of a church in a definite location (see Hebrews 10:25 and 13:19 and 23), which is not given.



Complete the following statements.

- 1.1** Unlike most other New Testament Epistles, Hebrews does not identify either the
a. _____ or the b. _____ of this Epistle.
- 1.2** Early historians recognized _____ as the writer of Hebrews.
- 1.3** The title and the content of Hebrews suggest that the receivers of this Epistle were
_____.
- 1.4** Hebrews was not addressed to a. _____ in general, but to a
specific group, to members of a b. _____ in a definite
c. _____, which is not given.

Complete the following activity.

- 1.5** Use the numbers 1 (for the earliest book) to 10 (for the latest book) to indicate the order that the following books appear in the New Testament.
- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| a. _____ Jude | b. _____ Mark |
| c. _____ Hebrews | d. _____ 2 Peter |
| e. _____ Ephesians | f. _____ Philippians |
| g. _____ Acts | h. _____ Titus |
| i. _____ 2 Thessalonians | j. _____ 2 Timothy |

THE PURPOSE AND CONTENT

Although the location of the Jewish believers is not given in the Epistle, the purpose of the Epistle becomes clear as the content is studied.

Purpose. The Jewish believers addressed in this Epistle may have broken away from the main group in their locality because of persecution. They may also have begun to emphasize their Jewish background and religious practices more than their Christian faith and practice to avoid persecution. The main purpose of this writer was to prevent the Jewish believers from going back to **Judaism** by proving to them that Judaism had come to an end in Christ.

Content. The message, or theme, of Hebrews is the **superiority** of the Christian faith over Judaism. The comparative word *better* is used thirteen times in Hebrews. The theme of Hebrews is expanded in the following outline of the content.

You will be expected to know this outline and the Scripture references:

- I. Christ is better than the prophets and angels (Hebrews 1:1–2:18)
- II. Christ is better than Moses and Joshua (Hebrews 3:1–4:13)



Answer the following questions.

1.6 What may have caused the Jewish believers addressed in this Epistle to begin to emphasize Judaism more than their Christian faith? _____

Read Hebrews ch. 11–13



| Jewish Priest

III. Christ is better than Aaron and the Old Testament priests (Hebrews 4:14–8:6)

IV. The New Covenant (Hebrews 8:7–13:25)

In chapter 11 the writer defined and illustrated *faith*. Faith is defined (Hebrews 11:1) as “... the substance [assurance] of things hoped for, the evidence [conviction] of things not seen.” In chapter 6, verses 18–20, the writer presents Christ as our hope, as the anchor of our souls, both sure and steadfast. In Hebrews 13:1, the writer tells his readers to “let brotherly *love* continue.” (Italics are added for emphasis.)

1.7 What was the main purpose of the Hebrews writer? _____

1.8 What is the theme of Hebrews? _____

Complete the following activities.

1.9 In your own words, write a definition of *faith* based on Hebrews 11:1. _____

TEACHER CHECK



_____ initials

_____ date

1.10 Complete the outline of Hebrews by writing the missing words and references on the lines.

I. Christ is better than the a. _____ and angels (Hebrews 1:1 through b. _____).

II. Christ is better than Moses and c. _____ (Hebrews d. _____ through 4:13).

III. Christ is better than e. _____ and the Old Testament priests

_____ (Hebrews 4:14 through f. _____).

IV. The New Covenant is better than the Old Covenant (Hebrews g. _____).

Match the following words and references.

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| 1.11 _____ faith | a. Hebrews 6:18–20 |
| 1.12 _____ hope | b. Hebrews 5:11–14 |
| 1.13 _____ love | c. Hebrews 11:1 |
| | d. Hebrews 13:1 |

Complete the following reading activity.

1.14 Outlining is a reading activity that helps the student to identify main ideas and supporting details: Well-written material has been written according to an outline. An outline is the organization of the material. In outlining, the material is divided into small units. Main topics of an outline should be written in similar form, and subtopics under the same topic should be written in similar form. Scan this section of your LIFEPAK and complete the outline of Hebrews.

Topic	Hebrews
Main Topic	I. The Writer and Readers
Subtopics	A. Writer
a. and	B. _____
Main topic	II. The Purpose and Content
b. Subtopics	A. _____
c. and	B. _____



Review the material in this section in preparation for the Self Test. The Self Test will check your mastery of this particular section. The items missed on this Self Test will indicate specific areas where restudy is needed for mastery.

SELF TEST 1

Answer true or false (each answer, 2 points).

- 1.01** _____ In the New Testament Epistle to the Hebrews, the writer is identified.
- 1.02** _____ Early historians recognized the apostle Paul as the writer of Hebrews.
- 1.03** _____ Both the title and the content of Hebrews suggests the receivers of this Epistle were believing Jews.
- 1.04** _____ The Epistle to the Hebrews was addressed to Jewish believers in general.
- 1.05** _____ The main purpose of Hebrews was to prevent the Jewish believers from going back to Judaism.
- 1.06** _____ Judaism is the religion of the Jews and is based only upon the Old Testament.
- 1.07** _____ The theme of Hebrews is the superiority of the Christian faith over Judaism.
- 1.08** _____ *Superiority* means *below the average condition*.
- 1.09** _____ *Faith* is defined and illustrated in Hebrews chapter 13.
- 1.010** _____ In Hebrews 6:18–20, the writer presents Christ as the believer’s hope.

Write the correct letter and answer on the blank (each answer, 2 points).

- 1.011** The writer of Hebrews tells his readers in chapter _____, to “let brotherly love continue.”
 a. 13 b. 11 c. 7 d. 9
- 1.012** According to Hebrews 1:1–2:18, Christ is better than _____ .
 a. the Old Covenant b. the prophets and angels
 c. Aaron and the priests d. Moses and Joshua
- 1.013** According to Hebrews 4:14–8:6, Christ is better than _____ .
 a. the Old Covenant b. the prophets and angels
 c. Aaron and the priests d. Moses and Joshua
- 1.014** That all Scripture is given by inspiration of God is stated by the apostle Paul in _____ .
 a. 2 Timothy 3:16 b. 1 Timothy 1:16 c. Titus 3:5 d. 2 Timothy 2:17

- 1.015** The Jewish believers addressed in Hebrews may have broken away from the main group in their locality because of _____ .
 a. Judaism b. persecution c. sanctification d. superiority
- 1.016** Many Bible scholars believe that _____ was the writer of Hebrews.
 a. Barnabas b. Luke c. Paul
- 1.017** Which book is *not* one of the General Epistles? _____
 a. Jude b. Revelation c. 1 John
- 1.018** The comparative word “ _____ ” is used thirteen times in Hebrews.
 a. good b. better c. best
- 1.019** Hebrews 11:1 defines _____ .
 a. love b. hope c. faith
- 1.020** In Hebrews 13:1 the writer tells his readers to “let brotherly _____ continue.”
 a. faith b. love c. hope

Complete the following statements (each answer, 3 points).

- 1.021** Early historians recognized _____ as the writer of Hebrews.
- 1.022** Judaism, the religion of the Jews, is based only upon the _____ .
- 1.023** All Scripture is given by inspiration of _____ .
- 1.024** The title and the content of Hebrews suggest that the receivers of this Epistle are believing _____ .
- 1.025** Six of the General Epistles are a. _____ , b. _____ ,
 c. _____ , d. _____ , e. _____ ,
 and f. _____ .

Answer the following questions (each answer, 5 points).

1.026 Why may the Jewish believers addressed in Hebrews have broken away from the main group in their locality? _____

1.027 What was the main purpose of Hebrews? _____

1.028 What is the theme of Hebrews? _____

1.029 How does the writer of Hebrews present Christ in chapter 6, verses 18–20? _____

Match the following items (each answer, 2 points).

- | | | |
|--------------|---|-----------------------|
| 1.030 | _____ Christ is better than Moses and Joshua. | a. Hebrews 8:7–13:25 |
| 1.031 | _____ Faith is defined and illustrated. | b. Hebrews 13:1 |
| 1.032 | _____ The new Covenant is better than the Old Covenant. | c. Hebrews 4:14–8:6 |
| 1.033 | _____ Christ is our hope. | d. Hebrews 3:1–4:13 |
| 1.034 | _____ “Let brotherly love continue.” | e. Hebrews chapter 11 |
| | | f. Hebrews 6:18–20 |

80
100

SCORE _____ **TEACHER** _____

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800-622-3070
www.aop.com

BIB0609 – Apr '15 Printing

ISBN 978-0-86717-159-4



9 780867 171594