**Lesson One**

[**Hebrews 1**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+1&t=NKJV)

1) Hebrews was written to believers who were under persecution. There was a great temptation for them to turn away -- drift away -- shrink back from the faith, and not “press on toward the goal for the prize of the high call of God in Christ.” ([Philippians 3:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Philippians+3.14&t=NKJV))

2) The epistle to the Hebrews has much to say about living a “life of faith.” It also has much to say about the reward of living one’s life in faith, as well as the consequences of not living by faith, i.e., the consequences of walking in the flesh (one's own strength and abilities)

3) Nowhere in the book of Hebrews does it explain how to “get saved” – "by grace thru faith." It is a book written to believers about how to successfully and victoriously live the Christian life by faith.

4) It is all about:

a) “working out our salvation with fear and trembling” ([Philippians 2:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Philippians+2.12&t=NKJV))

b) not saving my life, but losing it for Christ’s sake, i.e., not living to gratify one's self by the seen things of the world, but choosing to lose one's life for Christ’s sake and things not seen, realizing that Christ will “recompense every man according to his deeds.” ([2 Corinthians 5:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Corinthians+5.10&t=NKJV))

5) Why does this book bear the name Hebrews? You would assume that it is written to Jews -- Israelites. Not so! It is written to all believers -- Jew and Gentile. Some conclude it is written to Jews regarding Jewish problems and not to the saved. Wrong!

6) It is written to Hebrews in the true sense of the word. The word Hebrews is taken from the Hebrew word “eber”. Eber is a word which means to cross. It signifies one who crosses over or passes through.

7) Get this -- Abraham was called Abram the Hebrew long before there was a Hebrew nation. In [Genesis 14:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+14.13&t=NKJV) we read, “Then a fugitive came -- and told Abram – THE HEBREW"…that Lot had been captured by five kings.

8) Abraham was a Hebrew in the sense that:

“By faith, when he was called, obeyed by going to a place, which he was to receive for an inheritance; and went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise; for he was looking for a city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.” ([Hebrews 11:8-10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+11.8-10&t=NKJV))

9) As a Hebrew (a sojourner), Abraham received the promise of a land and "as many descendants as the stars of Heaven in number, and as innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore." But he died "in faith without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.” ([Hebrews 11:12-13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+11.12-13&t=NKJV))

10) So Abraham as the “FIRST HEBREW” had his hope fixed on a land and the certain promise of God, which he never got to see fulfilled. This **HOPE & PROMISE** was a great motivation and encouragement for him to continue in faith and not shrink back.

We look forward to the **same HOPE & PROMISE**.

11) Therefore, Abraham (the Hebrew) gives us a reliable pattern to follow: Abraham’s example teaches us that we, who also are Hebrews (sojourners) in this world, **should live our lives with our hope fixed on the promised coming kingdom in which we will be co-heirs sharing with Christ in His inheritance** ([Ephesians 1:17-18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+1.17-18&t=NKJV)) **— and ruling and reigning with Him** ([2 Timothy 2:11-13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=2Timothy+2.11-13&t=NKJV)) **over the world during His 1,000 year reign. That is the great hope that we have as believers.**

12) The true Hebrew can say -- in the words of a song, “This world in not my home, I’m just-a-passing through.” He is one (true Hebrew) who in the words of the apostle Paul “has chosen to suffer the loss of all things in order to gain Christ” and “is pressing on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” ([Philippians 3:7-8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Philippians+3.7-8&t=NKJV), [14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Philippians+3.14&t=NKJV))

13) The book of Hebrews is built around five major admonitions -- five warnings, the purpose of which is to make us successful in our life of faith and keep us from turning back, shrinking back, losing heart, giving up and forfeiting our reward. It is a motivational book.

14) There are 13 chapters in Hebrews. My goal is to present this material in 13 lessons -- one chapter per lesson.

15) The outline in [Hebrews 1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+1&t=NKJV) sets the stage for the entire book of Hebrews.

**Message of** [**Hebrews 1**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+1&t=NKJV)

[Hebrews 1:1-3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+1.1-3&t=NKJV) Christ is the Heir (owner – Ruler) of all things. It gives us major qualifications of this “heir of ALL THINGS”. It gives a picture of this One who is to rule the world.

[Hebrews 1:4-14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+1.4-14&t=NKJV) Understand that Jesus, in his humanity, was made a little lower than the angels, (redemption, salvation), but is now exalted to the right hand of the Father, exalted far above angels.

**Read:** [**Hebrews 1:1-4**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+1.1-4&t=NKJV)

[Hebrews 1:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+1.1&t=NKJV) God spoke to the Fathers long ago. Who were the fathers? Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and those that followed: Joseph, Daniel, Moses, Joshua, etc. How did He speak? Through the prophets.

[Hebrews 1:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+1.2&t=NKJV) God has spoken to us. When? Those last days after the cross. How? Through His SON, Heir [owner – ruler] of all things including heavens and earth.

[Hebrews 1:3-4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+1.3-4&t=NKJV) A brief Summary of the resume' and list of attributes of Christ Jesus.

**Some of the attributes of Heir of all things.**

Made the world — set the ages in place ([John 1:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+1.3&t=NKJV))

The radiance of His (God’s) glory: Sun = God, Sun’s ray = Jesus Christ. ([Hebrews 1:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+1.3&t=NKJV))

Exact representation (full of glory) of God’s nature (substance). What did Jesus tell Phillip? "Seen Me, seen the Father." ([John 14:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+14.9&t=NKJV))

Upholds all things by the Word of His Power: Keeps everything from electrons to planets in their orbits. ([Hebrews 1:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+1.3&t=NKJV), [Colossians 1:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Colossians+1.17&t=NKJV))

Made purification for sins. How? See [Philippians 2:6-8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Philippians+2.6-8&t=NKJV), [Ephesians 1:21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Ephesians+1.21&t=NKJV).

Now exalted above angels and inherited better name: What is his Name? See [Philippians 1:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Philippians+1.2&t=NKJV); [2:9-11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Philippians+2.9-11&t=NKJV).

Heir of all things. See [Hebrews 1:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+1.2&t=NKJV).

16) Do you realize who is speaking to you? Not the world’s richest person, most powerful ruler, greatest athlete or musician, most creative writer or inventor. No, the Heir of all things is speaking to you and me.

(Aside: Remember the Old commercial: “When EJ Hutton speaks, PEOPLE LISTEN.”

WHEN THE HEIR OF ALL THINGS SPEAKS, WE MUST PAY THE UTMOST ATTENTION.)

[Hebrews 12:25](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+12.25&t=NKJV) says, “See that ye refuse not Him that speaketh.”

**Read:** [**Hebrews 1:4-14**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+1.4-14&t=NKJV)

What about angels who are great in power? Are they equal to the Lord Jesus Christ? Some Jews thought maybe so. Involved in giving laws at Sinai.

[Hebrews 1:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+1.4&t=NKJV) “He sat down at the right hand of the majesty on high; having become much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than they.”

[Hebrews 1:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+1.5&t=NKJV) for to which of the angels did He ever say, "YOU ARE MY SON, TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU"?

**Now the seven scripture composite prophetic sketch:**

[Psalm 2:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Psalm+2.7&t=NKJV) “He said to Me, You are My Son. Today I have begotten you. Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, and the very ends of the earth as thy possession."

Then the writer refers to [Psalm 97:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Psalm+97.7&t=NKJV) pointing out when God does again bring this first born Son (Heir) into the world, all the angels of God will worship Him

[Hebrews 1:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+1.7&t=NKJV) makes His angels winds and ministers a flame of fire (contrasting angels and Jesus).

In the [Psalm 45:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Psalm+45.6&t=NKJV) the writer continues to speak of the Son, the Heir; He speaks of His reign saying, “Thy throne O God is forever and ever.” “The righteous scepter is the scepter of Thy Kingdom.”

In [Psalm 45:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Psalm+45.7&t=NKJV) the Holy Spirit indicates that the Son will have companions in His rulership. “Therefore God, Thy God has anointed Thee with the OIL OF GLADNESS (for ruling – reigning in joy) above thy companions.” (Not oil of consecration for suffering and death.)

In [Psalm 102:25-27](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Psalm+102.25-27&t=NKJV) God shows how the present heaven and earth won’t last forever, but will one day be changed --- i.e., a new heaven and new earth. But Christ the Heir, the King (is) the same yesterday today and forever and His “years will not come to an end.”

(Aside: Duration of Reign – Forever Christ will rule from His throne in the New Jerusalem above the earth. With His companions/co-heirs He will rule earth 1,000 years, during the millennium.

During the eternal ages, beyond the millennium, Christ will sit alongside His Father on the "Throne of God and the Lamb," ([Revelation 21:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+21.1&t=NKJV), [3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+21.3&t=NKJV)), which will be in the New Jerusalem on the new earth. Universal rule will emanate from His throne. Christ's companions will continue to rule with Him, and in this sense, Christ's rule with His saints lasts forever.

Companions:

[Hebrews 2:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+2.10&t=NKJV) -- bringing many sons to glory.

[Hebrews 3:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+3.1&t=NKJV) – fellows/companions/partakers of heavenly calling.

[Hebrews 3:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+3.14&t=NKJV) – have become fellows/companions/partakers of Christ IF…

So the holy brethren are fellows or companions or associates of God's anointed King - Jesus.)

The Prophetic sketch is completed with the seventh prophetic scripture, [Psalm 110:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Psalm+110.1&t=NKJV), which begins by saying:

The Lord (God) says to my Lord (Jesus Christ), “sit at my right hand until I make Thine enemies a footstool for Thy feet." ([Psalm 110:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Psalm+110.1&t=NKJV))

The writer points out that God NEVER said such a thing to an angel and then says of the angels:

“Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service to those who inherit salvation.” ([Hebrews 1:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+1.14&t=NKJV))

(Aside: In a future lesson we will discuss an inherited salvation for which we can qualify.)

17) So now at the end of the Prophetic sketch, [Hebrews 1:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+1.13&t=NKJV), we see Christ the King-Priest having ascended the throne, having brought His enemies into subjection and now ready to rule with His companions for 1,000 years.

We can learn more about this initial bringing of His enemies under subjection by reading the remainder of [Psalm 110:2-7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Psalm+110.2-7&t=NKJV).