

Lesson One — Laying the Foundation

Day One — The Book of Hebrews was Written to...

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The author of the epistle called “Hebrews” puts the Bible together. He points his reader back to the Old Testament by way of prophecies and types, then turns his reader’s gaze to what is out ahead, the Coming Kingdom of Christ. The author lays the foundation to the book in chapter one, then builds five specific warnings upon that foundation. These five warnings are warnings which need to be heard (Heb. 2:1) and heeded (2:3) by those who would *press on to maturity*. The author desires to move his reader from the elementary things of God toward the solid food of God’s Word for the purpose of maturity (5:13-6:1).

Understanding the Book of Hebrews becomes necessary for anyone who desires to *press on to maturity*. Hebrews not only tells **how**, it also shows **why** we must *press on to maturity*.

We must begin this study in prayer, and continue in prayer. Please stop right now and ask God, the Holy Spirit to fill you with wisdom and understanding. Pray earnestly through this passage in Ephesians:

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in the one to come.

Ephesians 1:18-21

This very prayer, written by the Apostle Paul for the believers at Ephesus, has to do with the very things which the writer of Hebrews deals with in his letter. We would do well to pray through this prayer in earnest, not only for ourselves, but also for others we know who would *press on*.

You will need a yellow highlighter for your study this week and next.

Day One — The Book of Hebrews was Written to...

When a person begins to study a book of the Bible for the purpose of interpretation and application, it is very important to determine *to whom the book was written* or *for whom the book was written*, or *for what purpose the book was written*. Less important is to determine *who wrote the book*. The Book of Hebrews is unique in that nobody knows who wrote it. And it is futile to try to determine its author, as the Holy Spirit saw fit to conceal this information. We should and will leave it at that.

However, it remains very important to determine to whom this book was written. The reason it is so important is that there are some very serious warnings written therein, and if the very people to whom it is written are not aware that these warnings are written to them, then the warnings fall on deaf ears. Time and time again the Spirit says in the Scriptures, *if anyone has ears to hear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches*. Especially here in Hebrews the author writes of the need of the spoken Word being *heard*. In the passages below underline or highlight the words having to do with *speaking* or *hearing*:

- Hebrews 1:1 God, after He spoke long ago...
- Hebrews 1:2 ...in these last days has spoken to us in *His* Son...
- Hebrews 2:1 For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard,
- Hebrews 2:2 For if the word spoken through angels...
- Hebrews 2:3 ...After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard,
- Hebrews 2:5 For He did not subject to angels the world to come, concerning which we are speaking.
- Hebrews 3:7 Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit says, “TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE,
- Hebrews 3:15 ...while it is said, “TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE...
- Hebrews 3:16 ...For who provoked *Him* when they had heard?
- Hebrews 4:2 For indeed we have had good news preached to us, just as they also; but the word they heard did not profit them, because it was not united by faith in those who heard.
- Hebrews 4:7 He again fixes a certain day, “Today,” saying through David after so long a time just as has been said before, “TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS.”
- Hebrews 5:11 Concerning him we have much to say, and *it is* hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.

Who spoke? And to whom did He speak?

(Can you see how important it is that the ones to whom this letter is written *hear* the warnings therein? *Faith comes by hearing* not hearing just anything...but *hearing the Word of God* [Ro. 10:17]!)

Some people assume that because the book is named *Hebrews*, it must be written to Jews, both believing Jews and non-believing Jews. The fact is that the author doesn't identify a specific group of recipients in its opening verses, as many other epistle writers do, but he does give many hints as to whom the letter is written, then gives a very specific direct address in the first verse of chapter three.

Let's look at specific phrases found in the opening four chapters of this letter to see if we can determine exactly whom the author had in mind while writing this. Remember that in the use of the plural personal pronoun the author includes himself along with his readers. Underline or mark with a highlighter the pronouns *we* and *us* and any *direct addresses* the author uses.

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Hebrews 1:2	in these last days He [God] has spoken to us...
Hebrews 2:1	we must pay closer attention to what we have heard, so as not to drift away from it.
Hebrews 2:3	how will we escape if we neglect...
Hebrews 3:1	Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling...
Hebrews 3:6	whose house we are if we hold fast our confidence and the boast of our hope...
Hebrews 3:12	Take care, brethren,...
Hebrews 3:14	For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold fast...
Hebrews 4:1	let us fear...
Hebrews 4:11	let us be diligent to enter...
Hebrews 4:14	since we have a great High Priest..
Hebrews 4:16	let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we can receive mercy...

We could go on and on, but you get the point. Just by a cursory glance at these verses, what group of people do you think the author had in mind when he wrote this letter, believers or non-believers or both, and why do you think so?

But in order to nail down beyond any doubt just who the recipients are look at Hebrews 3:1 — *“holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling.”* This can only be referring to the new creation in Christ Jesus, neither Jew nor Gentile, because neither Jew nor Gentile has a heavenly calling. Only the new creation *in Christ* has this high calling. We’ll study more about this in a later lesson, but for now, do you see the direct address of the recipients in Hebrews 3:1?

Before we close for the day, would you please read Hebrews chapter one? We will pick it up tomorrow, but I just want you to begin thinking about the foundation of this letter. I know you might be tempted to think this chapter is “not all that important.” If so, shame on you! Shame on me, too, as I must confess that for years I glossed over chapter one and jumped right into chapter two because I “wanted to get on with it”. (Oh Lord, forgive me!) But we will see what a mistake that is. In fact, the very opening verse of chapter two tells us immediately that we need to pay closer attention to what we just read in chapter one. The opening phrase *‘For this reason’* should turn us right around and cause us to read and re-read chapter one until we understand it. Then we will be ready to move on through the Book of Hebrews and understand its content. May we be found faithful to the intent of the very words penned in 2:1. *“Therefore, we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard...”*

Day Two — The Preeminence of Christ

Begin today with prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to reveal to you why He had the author pen these words in chapter one and why He chose these specific Old Testament quotes. Also ask Him to help you see how chapter one forms the foundation of the book. Stop right now to pray.

Now read through Hebrews chapter one, using the observation worksheet found in the Appendix (pg. 251). Grab a yellow highlighter along with your regular pen. Today we are just going to spend some time observing the text. Read it through once now.

Do you notice all the caps used in the text? Do you know what is indicated in the NASB when all caps are used in a passage in the New Testament? It means that that particular section is an Old Testament quote. Every time

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you read a passage, which is printed in all caps in the New Testament, you can know that an Old Testament passage is being quoted. The reference notation is found in the cross references along the side of most Bibles.

Take your yellow marker and mark through all the caps, reading aloud the words as you go. With this cursory reading, write out below what you think the general gist of these Old Testament quotes are. Be brief.

We will get back to these quotes in the next few days, but for the rest of today we will deal with the first four verses. Read these verses aloud. (Often times it helps to read things aloud because it causes you to *hear* the words as you *see* the words. And remember — *faith comes by hearing.*) Please read vv. 1-4 now.

Verse one begins with the word *God*. Draw a triangle around this word. We will use the triangle to represent the Triune God. A dot on the top point of the triangle Δ will represent God the Father. A dot on the lower left hand side point of the triangle Δ will represent God the Son, and a dot on the lower right hand point of the triangle will represent God the Holy Spirit Δ . This will help quickly identify which part of the Godhead the verse is speaking of. Sometimes we will use these markings to identify which person of the Godhead the pronoun *He* and *His* refers to also.

So place a dot at the top point of the triangle at the beginning of verse one. Then read v. two and find the word *Son*. Draw the appropriate triangle (Δ). Following these two triangles are several uses of the pronouns *He* and *His*. Instead of triangles for these particular pronouns, circle these pronouns and connect them to the appropriate triangle by drawing a line. The phrase *Majesty on High* in v. 3 should also be circled and connected to the appropriate triangle. Work through v. 4.

The reason for doing this exercise is to identify exactly with Whom the author is dealing when using these pronouns. For example, you should now be able to see at a glance *Who* is Whose exact representation of *Whose* nature, and *Who* appointed *Whom* as heir of all things, etc., etc..

Now stop and re-read Hebrews 1:1-4.

We are learning things about Jesus Christ in these four verses. In the space below, make a list of what you have learned about Him.

One thing you should notice about Jesus Christ in this passage is the preeminence¹ of Christ. In just these four verses what do you see of His preeminence?

Let's read a few other passages, which tell us more about His preeminence. Use your "triangle" markings as you study through these passages. It may help you see what each verse is saying.

Ephesians 1

20 ...when He raised Him from the dead, and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in the one to come.

Acts 4 (Peter speaking about Jesus)

12 "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved."

Philippians 2 (Paul writing about Jesus)

9 Therefore also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE SHOULD BOW, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

John 16 (Jesus speaking)

13 "...But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. 14 He shall glorify Me; for He shall take of Mine, and shall disclose *it* to you. 15 All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said, that He takes of Mine, and will disclose *it* to you...."

Let's look at that last passage, studying it carefully. Write out exactly what God the Spirit will do:

¹ preeminence: The quality or state of being preeminent: SUPERIORITY; preeminent: to be outstanding, having paramount rank, dignity, or importance: OUTSTANDING, SUPREME.

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In this passage, the word *disclose* is used three times. Exactly what is the Spirit going to disclose to us?

Re-read v. 15 carefully. What does the Father have?

What will the Father do with these things?

Again, exactly what is the Spirit going to disclose to us (end of v. 13)?

Actually the Spirit of Truth has been speaking all along. Note what the very first verse in Hebrews chapter one says. The author of Hebrews, under the inspiration of the Spirit of Truth, tells us that God spoke long ago through the prophets, and under the inspiration of the Spirit of Truth, the author of Hebrews points out to us seven Old Testament prophecies that the Spirit wants to call our attention to in this introductory chapter of Hebrews. These particular Old Testament prophecies have to do with Jesus Christ in the following ways:

- 1) Jesus Christ is the *begotten Son of God* (v. 5). Sonship implies both heirship (vv. 2, 4) and rulership (vv. 8,9).
- 2) God is His Father and Jesus Christ is God's Son (v. 5).
- 3) Jesus Christ is worshipped by angels (v. 6) — only God is to be worshipped.
- 4) Angels are Christ's ministers (v. 7).
- 5) The Son of God, Jesus Christ, has a Throne and a Scepter and He has been anointed above His companions (vv. 8-9).
- 6) In the beginning Jesus Christ laid the foundation of the earth, and created the heavens (taking us back to the beginning of time), and these present things shall perish (marking the end of time) but the Son shall remain (vv. 11-12) — He is eternal.
- 7) Jesus Christ is sitting at the right hand of the Father *until a particular time* — until the enemies of the Son will become His footstool (v.13).

God spoke of these things long ago. He used the mouths and pens of the prophets of old to speak of these things. A good hefty dose of studying the prophets might do all of us some good!

Then in verse two, the author of Hebrews carefully points out that God has spoken to us also *in His Son*. Now let's stop and think about this for a moment. God has spoken to us *in His Son*! Is this different than God speaking to us in the prophets? Well, yes and no. It is the same God speaking, no matter whom He uses. *All Scripture is inspired by God*, that is God-breathed (inspire — breath in, expire — breath out), His very breath speaking these words (II Tim. 3:16). Yet, it is different when God speaks *in His Son* because His Son is very God of very God. His Son is the One Who *made the World* (vv. 2b, 10). His Son *is the radiance of God's glory* (v. 3a), the *exact representation of God's very nature* (v. 3b). His Son *upholds all things by the word of His very own power* (v. 3c). It was God Himself Who spoke when His Son spoke. It was God the Son Who breathed these words.

How important are the words God speaks when He speaks through the prophets? And how important when God Himself, through His very own physical mouth, speaks? Is one more important than the other? Read the following verses —

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John 7:16 Jesus therefore answered them, and said, “My teaching is not Mine, but His who sent Me.

John 5: 37 “And the Father who sent Me, He has borne witness of Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His form.

So, it is one in the same. And so important is His Word that not only did He speak to the fathers long ago through the prophets, He also confirms His very words to us by speaking to us *Himself*. It may be like an exclamation point to what He wants us to hear and heed.

Then, what did He speak about? Before we look to Scripture for the answer to this question, can you answer the question, what did Jesus speak about when He came to the earth?

This is an important question in the light of the fact that the Holy Spirit inspired the author to draw attention to the fact that not only the prophets of old spoke of these things, but also God the Son, Who is *heir of all things*, spoke to us in these last days. So what did He speak about when He walked on the earth, both *before* His death and *after* His resurrection? The Scriptures tell us.

Before His death:

Matthew 4:17 From that time Jesus began to preach and say, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Matthew 10:7 “And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’

Mark 1:14 And after John had been taken into custody, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, 15 and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

Luke 9:2 And He sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God, and to perform healing.

Luke 4:43 But He said to them, “I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, for I was sent for this purpose.”

What did Jesus preach before His death?

After His death and resurrection:

Acts 1:3 To these He also presented Himself alive, after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over *a period of forty days*, and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God.

What did Jesus speak about after His death?

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Jesus, God the Son, spoke of the very things that God had spoken through the prophets so long ago. And the Holy Spirit led the author of Hebrews to bring attention to seven places where God spoke through the Old Testament prophets about the same thing God the Son spoke about when He came the first time.

Now go all the way back to our passage in John 16:13 (pg. 5). What is the Spirit of Truth going to disclose to us?

This is a lot to think about, isn't it? But there is one more thing to ponder before we close for the day. This may blow your mind, if you understand it. As we look at it, ask the Holy Spirit to enlighten you to the ramifications of what this could mean for you. This understanding will most likely come gradually. In fact, these truths are so awesome that the only way we could come to an understanding of these things **is gradually**, otherwise we just wouldn't be able to handle it!

Look at Hebrews 1:2. What is the **very first thing** the Spirit of Truth discloses to us about the Son as soon as the Son is mentioned in these opening verses of Hebrews? God has appointed Him as _____.

Compare that to what Jesus said in John 16:15. Jesus said, "All things that the Father has are _____.

What do you think that means? Write it out.

And all of this has to do with what the Spirit of Truth will disclose to us about *what is to come*. **WHEW!** If you have any other thoughts, please feel free to write them out now.

Day Three — Psalm Two

Yesterday we looked at the first four verses of Hebrews chapter one. We also skimmed the Old Testament prophecies. We have seen that by His very nature Jesus Christ is preeminently above all created beings. He is very God of very God. He is God the Son. His preeminence above the angels is something we will learn more about a little later. But we also need to be aware of something else — *He was made for a little while lower than the angels* (Heb. 2:9). This is not a contradiction in Scripture, for contradictions in Scripture do not exist. We simply must strive to understand what is involved in these first two chapters of Hebrews and see how it all fits together. We will get there, just hang on!

Remember, the first chapter of Hebrews is foundational in understanding the book. And it is a chapter so easily overlooked. We don't want to overlook it, we want to *look it over* — closely! So, please be patient as we tediously work through this chapter and its corresponding Old Testament texts. It will be beneficial to you later.

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As has been noted, there are seven Old Testament prophecies in Hebrews chapter one. These prophecies point to certain things which lead us into the warnings of Hebrews. We will work through these prophecies one at a time, taking each of them back to their original text and studying them within that text. While doing this, we will want to continually tie it all together in Hebrews.

So let's get started. The pages in the Appendix marked with the heading *The Old Testament Prophecies of Hebrew One* contain all the chapters we will need. Find Psalm Two in the Appendix now.

Remember that the first verse of Hebrews points to the fact that *God spoke long ago in the prophets*. Let's see what the Holy Spirit wants us to see about what the prophets wrote. The first Old Testament prophecy mentioned in Hebrews is taken from Psalm Two. Read and study this Psalm in its entirety now, marking the last half of verse seven with a highlighting pen. This highlighted portion is the part of the verse which is quoted in Hebrews chapter one.

Notice one thing about the position of this Old Testament quote within Hebrews chapter one. It is found in the form of a question. The author asks, *To which of the angels did He [God] ever say, 'YOU ARE MY SON, TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU'?* (We won't cover the angel question this week, but we will in the next lesson.) There is a reason why the question is asked, and we will want to understand it. But the one thing to keep in mind while working through these first two chapters of Hebrews is the comparison between Christ and the angels. Though preeminently above, Jesus Christ was made *for a little while* lower than the angels.

We'll come back to this Psalm tomorrow. There is too much in it to cover it all today. Please continue to pray for understanding.

Day Four — The Only Begotten One

Begin with prayer again today. Pray for continued understanding.

We'll begin our study today by reading through Psalm Two several times again. It seems that there are *three simple divisions of time* within this Psalm. Draw a line across the sheet between vv. 5 and 6, and another line between vv. 9 and 10. Look at the individual segments and see what time these segments are dealing with. In the margin of your sheet, write down what period in time you think each segment deals with, along with a brief description of what is taking place. Then answer the questions below.

The emphasis here is *Messianic*, as this is a Messianic Psalm, focusing on the reign of Christ over the earth. What are the nations doing in vv. 1-3? What is their attitude? Who is their attitude against? What do they want to do?

Psalm 2:4 speaks of God Who *sits in the heavens*. The words *sits* means *enthroned*. To put this verse in perspective, write the word *enthroned* above the word *sits*. Re-read the verse with that perspective.

What relationship do you see between v. 5 and v. 12? What do you think *the wrath* may be referring to?

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Do you see how the third segment of time relates to the first segment of time in the way of warning? Check it out.

Now look at the middle segment. Notice that the vv. 6-9 form *two* quotes. Let's take this apart and see what we have. We have seen that the nations are in uproar, and they (the nations) devise a vain plan against God and His Anointed. But in their plan, God Who is seated enthroned above, laughs at them, even scoffs at them. And as He speaks to them in His anger, HE SAYS: ***“But as for Me, I have installed My King Upon Zion, My holy mountain”*** (Ps 2:6). CLOSE QUOTE! This is spoken *by* the One seated enthroned above, *about* the One He will yet seat on His Holy Mountain. (Do you understand what you just read?)

The quote that follows is a quote by the One Who *is installed as King* on Mt. Zion: ***“I will surely tell of the decree of the LORD: He said to Me ...***

Stop here for a moment. Make sure you see what is happening. First, God the Father speaks of His Son being installed as King upon Mt. Zion. Then the King, God the Son, speaks, saying that He (the Son) is going to tell of the “decree” of what the LORD (the Father) has told Him (the Son). The Son quotes the Father by saying, ***‘Thou art My Son, Today I have begotten Thee. Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Thine inheritance, And the very ends of the earth as Thy possession. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron, Thou shalt shatter them like earthenware’*** (Ps. 2:7-9). Now re-read the entire quote of the Son on your Psalm Two sheet again. Understand His quote.

Let's look at the word *begotten*. This word is used most frequently in the New Testament with the idea of childbirth, whether physical or spiritual. And it encompasses *the whole process* from the begetting by the father (point of conception) to the time of giving birth by the mother. The Greek word is transliterated *gennao* and it has two main definitions, “begat” and “bear” which encompass the whole process. We need to understand that the idea of “begetting” encompasses the whole process — conception to birth.

The Scriptures speak of the word *begotten* in several places in relationship between the Father and the Son, but specifically we want to look at this portion of Psalm Two which is quoted in three places in the New Testament — Hebrews 1:5, 5:5 and Acts 13: 33. All three places where this quote is used is Messianic in context. In each of these places the word *begotten* is a verb used in the *perfect tense*, meaning that ***the action is completed at a past point in time, and presently exists in a completely finished state.*** So, the begetting of the Son by the Father is spoken of in the perfect tense.

As we study about the Father begetting the Son, it may be helpful to keep two things in mind:

- 1) *Begotten* refers to the whole process of childbirth — from conception to birth.
- 2) When it is used of Jesus being *begotten* of the Father, it is used in the *perfect tense*, which means that it is a past completed action that presently exists in a completely finished state.

The begetting of the Son encompasses the period of time beginning with the Holy Spirit coming upon the virgin Mary, to the time of her giving birth to the Son of God. This act was completely finished, and presently exists in a completed state and, as revealed in the passage, has been completed *for a purpose yet future*. Read what the angel Gabriel spoke to Mary:

Luke 1: 30 And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb, and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. 32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; 33 and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and His kingdom will have no end.”

Write out what the Angel said of this Son, keeping in mind the full panorama of what seems to be in the mind of God from the moment of conception to the kingdom reign:

Now note the use of the word in the Psalm Two, “*Thou art My Son, Today I have begotten you.*” A good way to look at this may be “...**for this day**, I have begotten you”. For WHAT day? It is for the day of coronation, when the Father installs His King on Mt. Zion. We can know that the Father begot the Son at a point in time **past for the purpose of seating Him on the Throne** at a point in time future. It is exactly as the angel gave it to Mary.

Let’s see the connection as it is presented in the passages in the Book of Hebrews. We have seen how the verse is presented in Hebrews 1:5. You can also see it in Hebrews 5:5- 6. In keeping these two verses together, you can know the time frame:

Hebrews 5

5 So also Christ did not glorify Himself so as to become a high priest, but He who said to Him, “THOU ART MY SON, TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN THEE”; 6 just as He says also in another passage, “THOU ART A PRIEST FOREVER ACCORDING TO THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK.”

Psalm Two is connected with Psalm 110, both speaking of the time when Jesus will come in the order of Melchizedek, the time when He comes as King-Priest. This is obviously Messianic in scope!

Scripture interprets Scripture. The same quote from Psalm Two is also used in a text in Acts. Below, I have printed the entire passage because the whole text draws a beautiful picture for us. Paul is giving a brief history of the Jews to a crowd mostly made up of Jewish people. He wants to draw their attention to something they have obviously missed. Read the passage carefully:

Acts 13

16 And Paul stood up, and motioning with his hand, he said, “Men of Israel, and you who fear God, listen:

17 “The God of this people Israel chose our fathers, and made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt, and with an uplifted arm He led them out from it. 18 And for a period of about forty years He put up with them in the wilderness. 19 And when He had destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan, He distributed their land as an inheritance-- all of which took about four hundred and fifty years.

20 And after these things He gave *them* judges until Samuel the prophet. 21 And then they asked for a king, and God gave them Saul the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years. 22 And after He had removed him, He raised up David to be their king, concerning whom He also testified and said,

**‘I HAVE FOUND DAVID the son of Jesse, A MAN AFTER MY HEART,
who will do all My will.’**

23 From the offspring of this man, according to promise, God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus...

Stop for just a moment. Before we continue in this passage, notice what Paul is dealing with here. He has pointed out their inheritance in the land, then he reminded them of Saul’s reign, then David’s reign, and about a promised descendant of David Who was to be a Savior. Paul has drawn attention to the fact that the descendant of David will be a Savior according to the promise. We are going to learn more about this promise next week,

but keep in mind that David was given a promise concerning a Son, who would be the Savior of Israel. Now continue reading, paying close attention to what the leadership of the Jews missed in v. 27, and what they did as a result...

23 From the offspring of this man, according to promise, God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus, 24 after John had proclaimed before His coming a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. 25 And while John was completing his course, he kept saying, ‘What do you suppose that I am? I am not *He*. But behold, one is coming after me the sandals of whose feet I am not worthy to untie.’

26 Brethren, sons of Abraham’s family, and those among you who fear God, to us the word of this salvation is sent out. 27 For those who live in Jerusalem, and their rulers, recognizing neither Him nor the utterances of the prophets which are read every Sabbath, fulfilled *these* by condemning *Him*.

28 And though they found no ground for *putting Him to death*, they asked Pilate that He be executed. 29 And when they had carried out all that was written concerning Him, they took Him down from the cross and laid Him in a tomb. 30 But God raised Him from the dead; 31 and for many days He appeared to those who came up with Him from Galilee to Jerusalem, the very ones who are now His witnesses to the people.

32 And we preach to you the good news of the promise made to the fathers,

What was Paul preaching to them at that very moment? He was preaching the good news (the gospel) concerning *the promise made to the fathers...*

33 that God has fulfilled this *promise* to our children in that He raised up Jesus, as it is also written in the second Psalm,

‘THOU ART MY SON; TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN THEE.’

And if *the Men of Israel and those who feared God* (Acts 13:16) looked back at the context of this prophecy in the second Psalm, they would have realized that the gospel which Paul was preaching to them concerned the promise of the Greater Son of David sitting on David’s Throne, which would be an eternal Throne. (Don’t miss that!) If they missed it up to this point, or if you missed it, Paul narrows down just what the good news (the promise) is in the following statement:

34 And as for the fact that He raised Him up from the dead, no more to return to decay, He has spoken in this way:

‘I WILL GIVE YOU THE HOLY *and SURE blessings* OF DAVID.’

What are *THE HOLY and SURE blessings of DAVID*? The text tells us that they have to do with the promise that a Son would sit on an eternal Throne, a Son Who would build a house for the Lord, and through Whom God would build a house for David. This is can only be Messianic in scope!

Just to make sure you get the flow of thought, would you please go back reread vv. 26-34 in the previous passage? You need to see the flow.

Before we close for the day, be sure to notice that the author of the Book of Hebrews connects Psalm Two quoted in Hebrews 1:5a with the promise given to King David quoted in Hebrews 1:5b from the passage in II Samuel chapter seven where the promise was given to David concerning his descendant being the Son of God. We will look at that next week.

You may want to ask the Lord to help you meditate upon these things as you go about your day. See you tomorrow.

Day Five — Begotten for a Purpose

Begin with prayer.

Now let's put this whole idea of the Father begetting the Son together. In the womb of Mary, the Father *begot* the Son through the power of the Holy Spirit, and she gave birth. This act of begetting the Son was for the purpose of installing His King on Mount Zion. It was an act completed at a point in time past, and which presently exists in a completely finished state, with the purpose a future day in view. That future day will come when the Father installs the Son as King on Mt. Zion, His Holy Mount. *Don't miss that!* In fact read what Jesus said about His coming when facing His crucifixion:

John 18:37 Pilate therefore said to Him, “So You are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say *correctly* that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.”

Additionally, this was the focus at the announcement of the angel to Mary just prior to the conception. And this is the statement Jesus made just prior to His death. *He was begotten for this purpose.* Why is it so easy to miss?

And on **the day that the LORD has decreed**, the Son will remind the kings of the earth exactly what the *LORD Who sits enthroned above* (the Father) has stated about the Son:

‘Thou art My Son, Today I have begotten Thee. 8 Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Thine inheritance, And the very ends of the earth as Thy possession. 9 Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron, Thou shalt shatter them like earthenware.’”
(Ps. 2:7b-9)

Now, hang on! There is a lot to put together here. **Keep your eyes on Psalm Two.** WHEN will God the Father say to God the Son, “*Today I have begotten Thee*”? (Refer back to Ps. 2:5, 6.)

Then on THAT day, **what** is the Son to ask of His Father? Write it down word for word (v.8):

When the Son receives this inheritance, what does the text say the Son will do?

Whom will the Son break with a rod of iron? Whom will He shatter as earthenware? Draw your answer from the text of Psalm Two.

Speaking of inheritance, Hebrews chapter one mentions something about Jesus Christ's inheritance in two different places. Look at Hebrews 1:2, 4. Write down what it says:

Now tie together what you just wrote about the inheritance of Christ, with what you learned that God is going to give to the Son (John 16:15 [printed on p. 5]) and what you see about inheritance in Psalm Two. What does Christ's inheritance have to do with?

We'll talk more next week about what it means that Christ has inherited a more excellent name than the angels. Before we close for today, I want to give you a preview of *what is to come* — remember what John wrote about the Holy Spirit in John 16:13? “... *and He will disclose to you what is to come.*” Here is a sneak preview of *what is to come*. I will not comment on these passages right now, I just want you to be meditating upon them. These are the seven promises given to overcomers in Revelation chapters two and three and another promise in Revelation 21:7.

Revelation 2:7 ‘He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.’

Revelation 2:11 ‘He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death.’

Revelation 2:17 ‘He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give *some* of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, and a new name written on the stone which no one knows but he who receives it.’

Revelation 2:25 ‘Nevertheless what you have, hold fast until I come. 26 And he who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, TO HIM I WILL GIVE AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONS; 27 AND HE SHALL RULE THEM WITH A ROD OF IRON, AS THE VESSELS OF THE POTTER ARE BROKEN TO PIECES, as I also have received *authority* from My Father; 28 and I will give him the morning star. 29 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’

Revelation 3:5 ‘He who overcomes shall thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father, and before His angels.

Revelation 3:12 ‘He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore; and I will write upon him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God, and My new name.

Revelation 3:21 ‘He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

Revelation 21:7 “He who overcomes shall inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son.

Now *that* is something to meditate upon! See you in class.

If you are doing commentary, work here is your assignment according to which book you are reading.

Arlen Chitwood's book So Great Salvation,² read chapter one *Heirs of Salvation*.

Philip Mauro's book God's Pilgrim, read chapter one *Their Dangers, Their Resources, Their Rewards*.

(A note concerning commentary work — If you desire to read further on the topics covered in the week's lesson, there will be listed some suggested writings at the end of most weeks. Some weeks will not have any suggestions.)

2 If you do not have a copy of this book, it may be downloaded and copied off of the Internet. The address is: www.lampbroadcast.org, then go to the BOOK section and find So Great Salvation. It may be downloaded in either HTML or Microsoft Word (Macintosh or Windows).