

Hebrews in a Nutshell
Choral reading

CHARACTERS: A, B, VOG (Voice of God), All
 SETTING: bare stage
 RUN TIME: 2 minutes/page
 SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Hebrews (HCSB)

The Nature of the Son

A: Long ago God spoke to the fathers by the prophets at different times and in different ways.
 B: In these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.
 ALL: God has appointed Him heir of all things and made the universe through Him.
 A: Jesus is the exact expression of God's nature,
 ALL: sustaining all things by His powerful word.
 B: After making purification for our sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.
 ALL: So He became higher in rank than the angels, just as the name He inherited is superior to theirs.

A: Your throne, God, is forever and ever,
 ALL: and the scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of justice.
 B: In the beginning, Lord, You established the earth,
 ALL: and the heavens are the works of your hands;
 A: they will perish, but you remain.
 ALL: They will all wear out like clothing;
 B: You will roll them up like a cloak, and they will be changed like a robe.
 ALL: But you are the same, and your years will never end.

Chapter 2

A: We must, therefore, pay even more attention to what we have heard,
 ALL: so that we will not drift away.
 B: Jesus was made lower than the angels for a short time
 ALL: so that by God's grace He might taste death for everyone.
 A: Through His death He destroyed the one holding the power of death
 ALL: —that is, the Devil—
 B: Jesus freed those who were held in slavery all their lives by the fear of death.
 ALL: Jesus became a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God.
 A: Since He Himself was tested and has suffered
 ALL: He is able to help those who are tested.

Our Apostle and High Priest (chapter 3-4)

A: Jesus is the apostle and high priest
 ALL: He was faithful to the One who appointed Him, just as Moses was.
 B: But Jesus is considered worthy of more glory than Moses,

ALL: just as the builder has more honor than the house.

A: Moses was faithful as a servant in all God's household,

ALL: But Christ is faithful as a Son over His household.

B: We have a great high priest who has passed through the heaven

ALL: Jesus the Son of God

A: We do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses,

ALL: but One who has been tested in every way as we are, yet without sin.

B: Therefore let us approach the throne of grace with boldness,

ALL: so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us at the proper time.

A: The Messiah did not exalt Himself to become a high priest,

ALL: but the One who said to Him,

VOG: You are My Son; today I have become Your Father,

ALL: also said in another passage

VOG: You are a priest forever in the order of Melchizedek.

B: During His earthly life, He offered prayers and appeals with loud cries and tears to the One who was able to save Him from death,

ALL: and He was heard because of His reverence.

A: Though He was God's Son,

ALL: He learned obedience through what He suffered.

B: Jesus became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey Him,

ALL: and He was declared by God a high priest in the order of Melchizedek.

Chapter 6-7

A: God is not unjust; He will not forget your work and the love you showed for His name when you served the saints

ALL: —and you continue to serve them.

B: It is impossible for God to lie,

ALL: so we might have strong encouragement to seize the hope set before us.

A: We have this hope as an anchor for our lives, safe and secure.

ALL: It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain.

B: Jesus has entered there on our behalf as a forerunner,

ALL: because He has become a high priest forever in the order of Melchizedek.

A: Jesus did not become a priest based on a legal command concerning physical descent

ALL: but based on the power of an indestructible life.

B: Levitical priests are prevented by death from remaining in office.

ALL: But because He remains forever, Jesus holds His priesthood permanently.

A: Therefore, He is always able to save those who come to God through Him,

ALL: since He always lives to intercede for them

A Heavenly Priesthood (chapter 8-10)

A: We have a high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens.

ALL: Jesus has a superior ministry to earthly priests

B: He is the mediator of a better covenant,

ALL: which has been legally enacted on better promises.

A: The Messiah entered the most holy place once for all, not by the blood of goats and calves,
 ALL: but by His own blood, having obtained eternal redemption.
 B: Therefore, He is the mediator of a new covenant
 ALL: The Messiah appears in the presence of God for us.
 A: It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.
 ALL: But we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once and for all.
 B: Since we have Jesus, a great high priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith,
 ALL: Let us hold on to the confession of our hope without wavering,
 A: for He who promised is faithful.
 ALL: And let us be concerned about one another in order to promote love and good works,
 B: not staying away from our worship meetings, as some habitually do,
 ALL: but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day drawing near.
 A: Don't throw away your confidence, which has a great reward.
 B: For you need endurance, so that after you have done God's will,
 ALL: you may receive what was promised.

Heroes of Faith (chapter 11-12)

A: Faith is the reality of what is hoped for,
 ALL: the proof of what is not seen.
 B: Our ancestors won God's approval by it.
 A: By faith we understand that the universe was created by God's command,
 ALL: so that what is seen has been made from things that are not visible.
 B: By faith Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain did.
 ALL: and even though he is dead, he still speaks through his faith.
 B: By faith Enoch was taken away so he did not experience death
 ALL: since he had pleased God.
 A: Now without faith it is impossible to please God,
 ALL: for the one who draws near to Him must believe that He exists and rewards those who seek Him.
 B: By faith Noah, built an ark to deliver his family.
 ALL: By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed and went out not knowing where he was going.
 B: By faith he stayed as a foreigner in the land of promise, living in tents
 ALL: because he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.
 A: By faith Sarah conceived offspring, even though she was past the age
 ALL: since she considered that the One who had promised was faithful.
 B: These all died in faith as foreigners and temporary residents on the earth.
 ALL: They desired a better place—a heavenly one.
 A: Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God,
 ALL: for He has prepared a city for them.
 B: By faith Abraham offered up Isaac.
 ALL: He considered God to be able even to raise someone from the dead.
 A: By faith, after Moses was born, he was hidden by his parents for three months,
 ALL: By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter
 B: He chose to suffer with the people of God

ALL: rather than to enjoy the short-lived pleasure of sin.

A: He considered the reproach because of the Messiah to be greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt,

ALL: since his attention was on the reward.

B: By faith he left Egypt behind, not being afraid of the king's anger,

ALL: for Moses persevered as one who sees Him who is invisible.

A: By faith the Israelites crossed the Red Sea.

ALL: By faith the walls of Jericho fell down

B: By faith Rahab received the spies in peace and didn't perish with those who disobeyed.

ALL: Time is too short to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson,

A: Jephthah, David, Samuel, and the prophets,

ALL: who by faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises,

B: shut the mouths of lions, quenched the raging of fire,

ALL: escaped the edge of the sword, gained strength after being weak,

A: became mighty in battle, and put foreign armies to flight.

ALL: Women received their dead—they were raised to life again.

B: Some men were tortured, not accepting release,

ALL: so that they might gain a better resurrection.

A: Others experienced mockings and scourgings, as well as bonds and imprisonment.

ALL: They were stoned, they were sawed in two, they died by the sword,

B: They wandered about in sheepskins, in goatskins,

ALL: destitute, afflicted, and mistreated.

A: The world was not worthy of them.

ALL: They wandered in deserts and on mountains, hiding in caves and holes in the ground.

B: All these were approved through their faith,

ALL: but they did not receive what was promised,

A: since God had provided something better for us,

ALL: so that they would not be made perfect without us.

B: Therefore, since we also have such a large cloud of witnesses surrounding us,

ALL: let us lay aside every weight and the sin that so easily ensnares us.

A: Let us run with endurance the race that lies before us,

ALL: keeping our eyes on Jesus the source and perfecter of our faith.

B: who for the joy that lay before Him

ALL: endured a cross and despised the shame and has sat down at the right hand of God's throne.

A: Consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself,

ALL: so that you won't grow weary and lose heart.

Discipline (chapters 5, 12-13)

A: The word of God is living, effective and sharper than any double-edged sword,

ALL: penetrating as far as the separation of soul and spirit, joints and marrow.

B: It is able to judge the ideas and thoughts of the heart.

A: Endure suffering as discipline:

ALL: God is dealing with you as sons.

B: What son is there that a father does not discipline?

ALL: No discipline seems enjoyable at the time, but painful.

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A: Later on, however, it yields the fruit of peace and righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

ALL: Pursue peace with everyone, and holiness—without it no one will see the Lord.

B: Since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken,

ALL: let us hold on to grace.

A: By it, we may serve God acceptably, with reverence and awe,

ALL: for our God is a consuming fire.

B: Let brotherly love continue.

ALL: Don't neglect to show hospitality, for by doing this some have welcomed angels as guests without knowing it.

A: Marriage must be respected by all,

ALL: and the marriage bed kept undefiled, because God will judge immoral people and adulterers.

B: Your life should be free from the love of money.

ALL: Be satisfied with what you have.

A: God has promised

VOG: I will never leave you or forsake you.

ALL: Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

B: We do not have an enduring city here;

ALL: instead, we seek the one to come.

A: Don't neglect to do what is good and to share,

ALL: for God is pleased with such sacrifices.

B: Now may the God of peace, who brought up from the dead our Lord Jesus

ALL: —the great Shepherd of the sheep—

A: equip you with all that is good to do His will,

B: working in us what is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ.

ALL: Glory belongs to Him forever and ever. Amen.

Online review games for Hebrews

Hall of Faith People

<http://www.quia.com/jg/1445341.html>

Hall of Faith Rags to Riches

<http://www.quia.com/rr/365311.html>

Hebrews 1 - 8 Star Saver Game

<http://www.quia.com/hm/439845.html>

Hebrews 1 & 2 Scrambled words

<http://www.quia.com/jw/253843.html>

Hebrews 11 matching and more

<http://www.quia.com/jg/1668325.html>

Hebrews 12 & 13

<http://www.quia.com/ba/199846.html>

Hebrews 3 & 4 Battleship

<http://www.quia.com/ba/201755.html>

Hebrews 5 - 8 Rags to Riches

<http://www.quia.com/rr/370190.html>

Hebrews 9 & 10 matching

<http://www.quia.com/jg/1441829.html>

Hebrews Jeopardy!

<http://www.quia.com/cb/441816.html>