

## *Study Questions: Lesson 11*

### **22. Hebrews: Drawing Near**

**First please read chapter 22 in the text.**

#### **RESPONSE**

#### **Why Written**

1. Explain the driving purpose for the writing of *Hebrews*.

#### **Christ's Sacrifice as Our Priest - Ch. 5 - 10**

2. Identify the following:
  - a. Melchizedek priesthood
  - b. New Covenant (read Hebrews 8:8-13 several times).
3. In what way is Christ superior to angels, prophets, high priests, and the leaders of Israel?

#### **Christ's Sufficiency as Our Provision - Ch. 11 - 13**

4. Read Hebrews 11. What lessons do you learn here about "faith?"

#### **The Temple and the Destruction of Jerusalem**

5. In two or three sentences, describe the circumstances during AD 66 to 70 surrounding the destruction of the Second Temple.

#### **MAKING IT PERSONAL**

6. *Hebrews* is among the longer of the New Testament epistles. But it develops step-by-step, unfolding a beautiful progression of understanding. What value is there in reading a book of the Bible in its entirety at one sitting? Would you be willing to make an effort, if it is not now your practice, to read a book of the Bible in its entirety in one sitting? Which one will be your first reading?

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## 23. *James: Faith Proven by Works*

**First please read chapter 23 in the text.**

### **RESPONSE**

#### **James “the Just”**

7. a. Distinguish between the four men named James in the New Testament.
- b. Describe the author of *James*.

#### **Why Written *and* Test of Works - Ch. 2**

8. Explain the harmony that exists between the *Epistle of James* and the *Epistle to the Romans* in the matter of works and faith.

#### **Test of Words - Ch. 3**

9. a. Read James chapter 3. Why is this emphasis on the words which come out of our mouths so important?
- b. Do you need to work on this area? If so, what will you do to become more obedient with the use of your mouth?

### **REFLECTION**

10. Once Christians asked, “How close can I get to heaven and still miss it?” Today, it seems that Christians ask, “How far away can I stray from the Christian life and still get to heaven?” What are the implications of this shifting of emphasis on practical Christianity?

### **MAKING IT PERSONAL**

11. Do people know that *you* are a Christian by your works? Because you have been asked, please share some “works” which testify to saving grace in your own soul.

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## Lesson 11      Hebrews and James

### *Chapter 22 - Hebrews: Drawing Near*

1. Many Jews who professed faith in Christ, continued to participate in the Temple worship. When Nero began persecuting Christians, it became clear that Judaism would continue as a protected religion, but that Christians would be expelled from all Jewish rites (including the Temple), and persecuted as well. These professing Christians were therefore forced to make a choice: to return to Judaism, or to continue to follow Christ. The writer explains and exhorts them to continue on with Christ to make their faith sure, because He is superior to the Old Testament practices in every way.
2.
  - a. This priesthood stands from before time and is everlasting, in contrast to the Levitical priesthood established under the Mosaic Law, which fades away.
  - b. The Old Covenant of Works was in reality a Covenant of Death, because men could not fulfill their good works to receive God's blessing. The New Covenant is written upon a heart of flesh by the finger of God. It includes God's putting His laws into our minds and hearts, whereby all His children may know Him, and He will remember our sins no more because of Christ's finished work on the cross.
3.
  - 1) Christ is superior to angels in that He is the Son of God.
  - 2) Christ is superior to the prophets for He is the One of whom the prophets spoke.
  - 3) Christ is superior to the High Priest for He has an eternal ministration in heaven.
  - 4) Christ is superior to the Leaders of Israel for they all died and were limited in wisdom, power and ability.
  - 5) In all these areas He is without precedent.
4. Personal answer, hopefully to include some of the following: Faith is the basis of
  - 1) our hope and
  - 2) spiritual reality. It is by faith that we can come to God through the sacrificial blood of Christ (like Cain). We please God by acting in faith, knowing that He is our reward as we seek Him. When we obey God's commands, not knowing the outcome in our circumstances, we are acting by faith (like Abraham). By faith we do not look to this world for our satisfaction, but to Christ and the celestial city. By faith we refuse sin's pleasure (like Moses). By faith we trust God to do His will, even work miracles. By faith we endure suffering, trusting God no matter what.
5. Jewish zealots in Jerusalem rebelled against the Roman Empire in AD 66. The Roman legions under Titus laid siege in AD 70, trapping 600,000 inside the city walls. There was massive starvation. Five months later the walls were broken through, and most of those remaining were killed – more from the murderous zealots than by the hands of the Romans.

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### ***Chapter 23 - James: Faith Proven by Works***

7. a. Four men in the New Testament bear the name of James. They are James the son of Zebedee and the brother of John, James the son of Alphaeus, James the brother of Jesus, and James the father of the Apostle Jude.
  - b. After refusing to follow Jesus (his older half-brother) during His life on earth, James was saved of God and became a leader in the church at Jerusalem. He was called “the Just” because he was a man of good works and prayer; and history records he was martyred for refusing to deny Jesus before the Sanhedrin.
8. While *Romans* stresses our **position** in Christ, *James* places great emphasis on our walk with Christ: the **practical** outworking of an inward state of grace evidenced in a holy life. “Faith without works is death.”
9. a. Because 1) our words reflect what is in our hearts, and 2) it is with our words that we so often offend others and start unnecessary conflicts.
  - b. Personal answer.

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