

The Letter to the Hebrews and to Us



Week One

inTro



Read This Week's Passage:
Hebrews 10:23–39

ONE COMPLETE SERMON

Have you ever imagined what it would be like to hear Jesus or one of the apostles preach? We possess written excerpts and summaries of some of their sermons, but these provide only a limited idea of what it was like to hear them. God preserved in the Scriptures at least one complete sermon for us, however: Paul's letter to the Hebrews.

Paul, the author of Hebrews, referred to his own work as a “word of exhortation” (Heb. 13:22). This expression was used to identify sermons both at the synagogue (Acts 13:15) and at Christian worship (1 Tim. 4:13). Thus, it has been argued that Hebrews is the earliest “complete Christian sermon” that we have. Hebrews was addressed to believers who accepted Jesus but then experienced difficulties. Some were publicly shamed and persecuted (Heb. 10:32–34). Others faced financial problems (Heb. 13:5, 6). Many were tired and had begun to question their faith (Heb. 3:12, 13). Can any of us today relate?

The apostle Paul, in a stirring sermon, challenged them (and, by extension, us) to persevere in faith in Jesus and to fix their eyes upon Him who is now in the heavenly sanctuary.



inScribe

Write out Hebrews 10:23–39 from the translation of your choice. If you're pressed for time, write out Hebrews 10:34–39. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, or outline or mind-map the chapter.



Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

Circle repeated words/phrases/ideas

Underline words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you



Draw **Arrows** to connect words/phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?



Memorize your favorite verse in Hebrews 10:23–39. Write it out multiple times to help memorization.

What does it mean to suffer for Christ's sake?

How much suffering that we face is for Christ's sake, and how much is brought about by our own poor choices?



Read more at www.inverseible.org/heb01-3



After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks seem to point to overall?



What questions emerge after studying all of Hebrews 10:23–39? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

Think about those times when you have failed in your Christian life and try to understand the circumstances and factors that contributed to the collapse. What could you have done differently?



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www.inverseible.org/heb01-4



What relationship do the following verses have with the background of the letter to the Hebrews?

- 1 Peter 4:14, 16
- Hebrews 13:1-9, 13
- 1 Kings 19:1-18
- Hebrews 3:12-14
- Numbers 13, 14, 24, 25



What other verses come to mind in connection with Hebrews 10:23-39?

Review your memorized verse from Hebrews 10:23-39.

A large grid of small dots for writing answers.



Meditate on Hebrews 10:23–39 again and look for where Jesus is.



What is He saying to you through these texts?

Considering the biblical understanding of the state of the dead—and that as soon as we close our eyes in death, the next thing we know is the Second Coming—why can we say that all people have lived in the “last days”?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

Prayer: How do you respond to seeing Jesus in this way?



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Review the memory verse.
How does it apply to your
life this week?



After this week's study of
the passage, what are some
decisions that must be in your
personal life?

What are some practical
decisions you must make in
your school, family, workplace,
and church?

A large grid of small dots for writing answers to the questions above.



Read more inSight from the
Spirit of Prophecy at
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inquire

Share insights from this week's memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.



What are your expectations for this study on Hebrews?

What has been your experience with persecution thus far and how have you dealt with it?

What are the elements to remedy disheartened souls?

How can these elements be applied in your life in real time?

The word *exhortation* in the Bible can refer either to reproof or to encouragement. What care should we take in reproofing a person who is discouraged?

What similarities do you find between the experience of the readers of Hebrews and that of the Laodicean church of Revelation 3:14–22?

In what ways is our experience today, two thousand years later, similar to that of the early Christians, and what can we learn from the similarities?