

*New American Standard Bible 1995*

**Read the passage through completely before looking at these questions.**

Consider the observation questions on the back of this page. What do you notice in this passage?

- Mark **G** or **S** for each of the pronouns (He, His, Him, who, whom) or other words that indicate God or the Son
- Underline unusual or symbolic language
- What else do you observe in this passage?

*After observing the passage:*

- Application (What does it mean for me?):***

- *How would you respond if you received a correspondence that began like this (no greeting, no introductory comments)? What would you expect from the next fifteen pages?*
- *How might this passage affect your understanding of God, of Jesus, of anything else about the Faith?*

**For additional thought and discussion:**

- How might phrases such as “appointed heir” (v. 2), “having become better” (v. 4), or “has inherited” (v. 4) be interpreted as indicating changes in the status of the Son?
- What parts of the passage (if any) suggest the eternal unchangeableness of the Son?
- How do you fit these together for a coherent picture of the Son?

For more suggested methods of study: <http://www.goodnotsafe.com/methodical-bible-study/>

For examples of inductive studies: <http://www.goodnotsafe.com/inductive-bible-study-examples-2/>

## Inductive Bible Study

(A few general ideas)

### **Observation** (What does it say?)

What facts do you **observe** about the passage that help bring out the writer’s thought process?

- Who are the people involved?
- What action takes place?
- What type of literature is it (poetry, history, didactic, etc.)?
- What details are included or left out?
- Are any unusual words used?
- Is there symbolic language?
- What is the grammar of the passage (pronouns, prepositions, verb tenses)?
- Are words or ideas repeated?
- Any comparisons or contrasts?
- Any cause and effect?
- Are there indications of purpose (“in order that...”)?
- Are there conclusions (“Therefore...”)?
- Are there explanations?
- Does the passage logically break into sections?
- How would you summarize the passage?
- What would be a good “headline” for the passage?

### **Interpretation** (What does it mean?)

What questions come to mind about the facts that would help you **interpret** the meaning?

- How would the original readers have understood the passage?
- What is the main emphasis?
- Why does the writer use repetition, or contrast, or unusual words?
- What does the grammar or structure of the passage reveal about the writer’s thought pattern?
- Is there a logical sequence in the passage?
- How are different ideas in the passage connected?
- Are there any new ideas or concepts presented?
- Are there difficulties in the passage?

### **Application** (What does it mean for me?)

What is the impact on your life? What **application** does the Holy Spirit want to show you?

- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to be thankful for?
- Is there an attribute of God to worship?
- Is there an example to follow?

**Read nothing into the Scriptures,  
but draw everything from them,  
and suffer nothing to remain  
hidden that is really in them.  
J.A. Bengel (1687-1752)**

For a much more detailed description of the methodology, see

Robert A. Traina, *Methodical Bible Study*. Wilmore, Kentucky: Asbury Theological Seminary, 1952.

Hebrews 1\_1-4.doc