

Hebrews 1-3 – A Brief Review

New American Standard Bible 1995

God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, ²in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. ³And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than they. ⁵For to which of the angels did He ever say,

“You are My Son,

Today I have begotten You”? [1:1-5a/Psalm 2:7]

For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away *from it*. [2:1]

¹⁰For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to perfect the author of their salvation through sufferings. ¹¹For both He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from one *Father*; for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, ...

¹⁷Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

¹⁸For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.[2:10-11,17-18]

⁷Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit says,

“Today if you hear His voice,

⁸Do not harden your hearts as when they provoked Me, As in the day of trial in the wilderness,

⁹Where your fathers tried *Me* by testing *Me*, And saw My works for forty years.

¹⁰“Therefore I was angry with this generation, And said, ‘They always go astray in their heart, And they did not know My ways’;

¹¹As I swore in My wrath, ‘They shall not enter My rest.’”

¹²Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God. [3:7-12]

For each of these for excerpts (about 30% of the complete text):

Observation (What does it say?):

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

- What seem to be the key words in each excerpt?

➤ _____
➤ _____
➤ _____
➤ _____

- How would you describe the “tone” or the “atmosphere” of each excerpt?

➤ _____
➤ _____
➤ _____
➤ _____

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

After observing the passage:

- How would you title each excerpt?

➤ _____
➤ _____
➤ _____
➤ _____

- How do the excerpt relate to each other? How would you describe the “flow” of the first three chapters?

Application (What does it mean for me?):

- Based on these excerpts, how would you expect chapter 4 to begin? How do you think the writer is preparing his audience (you) for the rest of this sermon?

Observation – What does it say? **Interpretation** – What does it mean? **Application** – What does it mean for me?
For additional thought and discussion:

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.