

Hebrews 6:19 – 7:11

New American Standard Bible 1995

1 ¹⁹This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a *hope* both
2 sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil,
3 ²⁰where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us, having
4 become a high priest forever according to the order of
5 Melchizedek.

6 **7** For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most
7 High God, who met Abraham as he was returning from the
8 slaughter of the kings and blessed him, ²to whom also
9 Abraham apportioned a tenth part of all *the spoils*, was
10 first of all, by the translation of *his name*, king of
11 righteousness, and then also king of Salem, which is king
12 of peace. ³Without father, without mother, without
13 genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of
14 life, but made like the Son of God, he remains a priest
15 perpetually.

16 ⁴Now observe how great this man was to whom Abraham,
17 the patriarch, gave a tenth of the choicest spoils. ⁵And
18 those indeed of the sons of Levi who receive the priest's
19 office have commandment in the Law to collect a tenth
20 from the people, that is, from their brethren, although these
21 are descended from Abraham. ⁶But the one whose
22 genealogy is not traced from them collected a tenth from
23 Abraham and blessed the one who had the promises. ⁷But
24 without any dispute the lesser is blessed by the greater. ⁸In
25 this case mortal men receive tithes, but in that case one
26 *receives them*, of whom it is witnessed that he lives on.

27 ⁹And, so to speak, through Abraham even Levi, who
28 received tithes, paid tithes, ¹⁰for he was still in the loins of
29 his father when Melchizedek met him.

30 ¹¹Now if perfection was through the Levitical priesthood
31 (for on the basis of it the people received the Law), what
32 further need *was there* for another priest to arise according
33 to the order of Melchizedek, and not be designated
34 according to the order of Aaron?

Read the passage through completely before looking at these questions.

Observation (What does it say?):

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

- What is the context, the “this hope” in v. 19?
- List the information given about Abraham
- List the information given about Melchizedek:
- What else do you observe in this passage?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

After observing the passage:

- Read Genesis 14:15-20 and Psalm 110:1-4. What did the writer of Hebrews take directly from those passages?
- What interpretive additions did the writer make?
- What clarifications did the writer make?
- How would you summarize the point of this passage?

Application (What does it mean for me?):

- Why would this passage be important for the first-century Hebrew audience?
- Why would this passage be important for us (or would it)?
- How does the passage relate to the “anchor” of hope in v. 19?

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.

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