

*Simply Charlotte Mason presents*

# Jesus is Better

Lessons from Hebrews

*A Family Bible Study*  
*by Sonya Shafer*

## Now you can study Hebrews together as a family.

*Jesus Is Better: Lessons from Hebrews* walks through the book of Hebrews and points out how Jesus is better than angels, than Moses, than the Old Testament high priest, than the Old Covenant sacrifices—better than anything!

### With this Family Bible Study you will

- **Keep Their Attention:** The short lessons encourage your school-age children to keep their minds engaged and interact with the others in the study.
- **Learn Directly from Scripture:** Your children will learn to go to the Bible and see what it says, rather than depending on a human author to tell them. You can use any Bible translation you prefer.
- **Evaluate What They're Learning:** Each lesson provides opportunities for your children to narrate what they remember from the Scripture passage.
- **Challenge Your Older Students:** Additional Studies are included for older students and adults that help them research Greek word meanings, practice more inductive Bible study methods, and look for doctrinal truths as they study.
- **Enrich Your Bible Study:** The optional hymn and Scripture memory suggestions complement and reinforce your studies in Hebrews.

*Exalt the Lord Jesus in your home as you learn together how Jesus Is Better!*

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*.com*

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**Lessons from Hebrews**  
**A Family Bible Study**

by Sonya Shafer

Jesus Is Better: Lessons from Hebrews  
© 2011, Sonya Shafer

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## How to Use

*Jesus Is Better: Lessons from Hebrews* is a family Bible study. The lessons are designed for parents and school-age children to do together. At the end of each lesson Additional Studies are provided for older students and adults who want to dig deeper. Here are the details.

### *Family Study*

- The main lessons are short and written for parents to walk through with their school-age children. If you do one lesson per week, you will be able to finish the study during one school term (12 weeks).
- When doing a study together as a family, be sure to read aloud (or take turns reading aloud) the passages so all participants can hear it. You might also encourage students who can read to follow along in their own copies of the Bible. Use whatever version you prefer.
- In the lessons you will find many opportunities for participants to tell what they have learned. Encourage your children to interact directly with the Scripture verses. Be careful not to fall into a “guess the correct answer” mentality and insist that they say the exact words that you are thinking or that you may see in this book. Encourage what they do find and gently add what they may miss.
- Please don't feel like you have to write the answers to all the questions. You may if you want to, and it may be especially helpful when completing the charts, but keep in mind that the main emphasis of these lessons is to learn and discuss, not just to write down words.
- When you are working on a chart, be sure to show it to the children as you are completing it. You have permission to print copies of the charts for your own household if it would help to have extras during your study. In the back of this book you will find some Chart Guides that can give you a little direction if you're not quite sure what type of comparison to look for. The Chart Guides do not contain the only correct answers; they are simply examples taken from one family's study. By the way, if your family finds more comparisons than

those listed on the charts, feel free to add them to your study.

- An optional hymn to learn, *Join All the Glorious Names*, is given on pages 59 and 60. Don't overlook the value of singing this hymn together as a family. Such a re-telling of what you have been learning in poetry form will enrich your study of Hebrews.
- If you would like some suggested verses for Scripture memory during this study, focus on the verses mentioned in the Application sections.

Hebrews 2:1

Hebrews 2:18

Hebrews 4:11–13

Hebrews 4:14–16

Hebrews 7:25

Hebrews 10:22–25

Hebrews 11:1, 6

Hebrews 12:1, 2

### *Additional Studies*

The second part of each lesson contains Additional Studies for teens and adults who want to dig deeper into Hebrews. These Additional Studies can be done with parents and older students together or as individual work. You have permission to make copies of those pages for your household if needed.

You will need a couple of extra resources to complete the Additional Studies: (1) a *Strong's Concordance* (or another resource that helps you define Bible words in their original languages) and (2) a Bible commentary or study Bible with notes on Hebrews.

Older students who have used other Bible studies from Simply Charlotte Mason will be familiar with the *Discovering Doctrine* notebook. This multi-year project encourages you to watch for truths about the ten major doctrines as you read through the Bible—whether for school work, church, or personal times. (The ten doctrines are The Bible, God, Jesus Christ, Holy Spirit, church, sin, salvation, man, angels, and future events.) Create your own doctrine notebook, or use our professionally printed one available at [SimplyCharlotteMason.com](http://SimplyCharlotteMason.com), as you complete the *Discovering Doctrine* portions of the Additional Studies.



## ***Lesson 1***

### **Introduction Hebrews 1:1–4**

We all like to choose what is better. Let's say you go to a bakery and pay for a piece of cake. You can choose any slice in the whole display case. Two pieces of cake catch your eye. One is thin and plain with just a little frosting. The other is your favorite flavor. Seven-layers of your favorite flavor. Which of the two would you choose?

But sometimes we don't realize what would truly be the better choice. That's when it is helpful for someone to come alongside and compare the two choices. For example, let's imagine that your friend who works at that bakery explains that the 7-layer slice of cake was dropped on the floor earlier that day, while the thin piece has been safely sitting in the display case. Your friend's comparison would certainly help you make a better decision.

The people who lived long ago at the same time as the Apostle Paul had a decision to make, a much more important decision than just selecting a piece of cake. They had to decide whether they were going to trust Jesus to make them right before God or trust their Jewish religion to make them right before God. It wasn't an easy choice.

On the one hand, those around them who trusted Jesus were being killed by Emperor Nero. He even murdered the great Apostles Peter and Paul because of their faith in Jesus. Most everyone in Rome hated the Christians and made their lives as difficult as possible. So, at first glance, it looked like the better choice might be to turn away from Jesus and trust their Jewish religion.

But someone came alongside to help them compare the two choices and discover which was truly better. That someone was the author of the book of Hebrews.

You will remember that the Jews spoke the Hebrew language, so they were often called Hebrews. This author wrote a comparison between Jesus and the Jewish religion to help the Hebrews discover which one was better.

Who was that author? No one is quite sure. He didn't sign his message. But one thing we do know for sure. He wanted to show the Hebrews that Jesus is better. One by one he went through the parts of the Jewish religion and showed how Jesus is better than all of them. Jesus is better than anything.

*Jesus Is Better*

And that will be our theme as we walk together through the book of Hebrews. No matter what else tries to catch your attention and entice you to trust it, Jesus is better. Set them up side-by-side and do the comparison. You'll see that Jesus is always better.

***Hebrews 1:1–4***

The very beginning of the book of Hebrews gives us a glorious description of Jesus. Read Hebrews 1:1–3 and list all the names and descriptions of Jesus that you see there. Who is He and what has He done? Tell everything you can find about Him. Here's one to get you started.

God's Son (verse 2)

Verse 4 reveals what the first comparison will be. Read that verse and determine what Jesus is better than.

We will look at that comparison in the next lesson.

## **Additional Studies**

### *Background Research*

Read an introduction to Hebrews in a Bible commentary, study Bible, or other Bible reference book to find out more about the writer, the readers, and any other background information given. Note important details here.

### *Discovering Doctrine*

You will learn a lot if you develop the habit of looking for doctrinal truths as you read your Bible. In each lesson you will have the opportunity to record doctrinal truths found in Hebrews. By the final lesson you will have quite a collection of truth and know exactly where it is found in the Bible.

The main doctrinal truths found in Hebrews 1:2–4 are about Christology, or the study of Jesus Christ. You should have already listed truths from these verses in the Family Study. If you did not write them down, or if you find other truths about Jesus Christ in those verses that were not mentioned, record them here; if you have a *Discovering Doctrine* notebook, record your findings there in the Christology section.

Compare	Jesus	Angels
Relationship to God	(1:5)	(1:7)
Position in God's Kingdom	(1:8, 9)	(1:6)
Status in God's Kingdom	(1:10–13)	(1:14)
Delivered __ to man	(2:3, 4)	(2:2)

## ***Lesson 2***

# **Jesus Is Better Than the Angels**

## **Hebrews 1:5—2:4**

Angels are special creatures. We often think of them as cute little cherubs in paintings or as golden-haired men wearing long white robes and smiles on their faces. But every time we read in the Bible about an angel appearing to a person, that person is terrified at the sight.

Angels are powerful and knowledgeable, more so than people are. But Hebrews 1:4 tells us that Jesus is better than the angels. The rest of chapter 1 gives the comparison. Let's read through the verses bit by bit and see what we can find out. Pay close attention, for you will be asked to tell about what you discover there.

### ***Hebrews 1:5–9***

Use the chart on page 10 to record your findings and make your own side-by-side comparison between Jesus and the angels.

Read Hebrews 1:5–9 and watch for the descriptions and actions of Jesus and of angels. The verse numbers on the chart will help you pop those descriptions into a quick comparison. (If you would like to see an example of what you might write on the chart, see page 55. But don't feel like your chart must match that one exactly. Write down what you and your family notice.)

### ***Hebrews 1:10–14***

Read Hebrews 1:10–14 and notice the descriptions given there about Jesus and about angels. What does each do? What is done for them? Record your findings on the chart and summarize each one's status in God's Kingdom?

### ***Hebrews 2:1–4***

Chapter 2 finishes up the comparison between Jesus and the angels. Read verses 1–4 and record on the chart what each one delivered to mankind.

Now tell what you have learned about Jesus and about angels. Why is Jesus better than the angels? Tell about every reason you can remember from the verses you read.

### ***Application***

Read Hebrews 2:1 again and listen closely to what it says. Since Jesus is better than the angels, we should pay closer attention to His words than to what anyone else says. Let's not drift away from Jesus' words.

## **Additional Studies**

### ***More on Hebrews 2:1–4***

Let's look a little more closely at Hebrews 2:1–4.

First find the original Greek meaning for the last word/phrase in verse 1. In the King James Version that word is translated into the English word “slip.” In some other versions, “drift” is used. Check what word is used in your Bible, then look up its original meaning in Greek and record it here.

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*A Strong's Concordance is a great tool for discovering the original meaning of the words of the Bible in their original languages. Here's how to use one.*

- 1. Find the English word in the alphabetical listing.*
  - 2. In that word's listing, find the Bible reference that you are studying; in this case, the listing for Hebrews 2:1.*
  - 3. Note the number to the right beside your selected reference.*
  - 4. Look up that number in the back of the Strong's Concordance to see your word's original definition. Be sure to use the Greek word dictionary in the back; Hebrews was originally written in Greek.*
-

Let's ask ourselves some questions to make sure we understand what verses 1–4 are saying. Read the surrounding verses to see if you can figure out the answers by context. If you're still not sure, check your Hebrews commentary or study Bible. Please understand, these questions are not answered by choosing a "correct word" from the passage. You will have to do some research and some thinking.

1. What message was declared by angels?
2. What is it we want to escape?
3. Who are "those" (or "them," depending on your translation), the ones who confirmed or attested the salvation message?
4. When did God bear witness to that salvation message? What is the writer referring to?

Now combine everything you just learned and rewrite the paragraph (verses 1–4) in your own words. Try to be as complete as you can.

## ***Discovering Doctrine***

Here are some verses from Hebrews 1:5—2:4 that contain doctrinal truths about angels (Angelology) and salvation (Soteriology). Read those verses and look for truths to record. What can you learn about angels and about salvation from those verses? If you have a *Discovering Doctrine* notebook, record your findings there.

Angelology

1:6, 7

1:14

Soteriology

2:3, 4



### ***Lesson 3***

## **Why Jesus Became a Man Hebrews 2:5–18**

In the last lesson we saw how Jesus is better than the angels in many ways. Verse 5 gives one more powerful way that Jesus is better. But it also raises a question. Read on.

### ***Hebrews 2:5***

Hebrews 2:5 tells us something else God the Father did for Jesus, His Son, that He never did for the angels. Read that verse to discover what God did.

### ***Hebrews 2:6–9***

The writer of Hebrews guessed that some people would have a question at this point when reading his message. We can almost imagine his readers asking it: “Wait a minute. I don’t see everything being subject to, bowing down to, Jesus. And wasn’t Jesus a man? Psalm 8 (which is quoted in Hebrews 2:6 and 7) says that man is lower than the angels, not better than the angels. How can this man, Jesus, be better than the angels?”

It is a good question, is it not? Read Hebrews 2:8 and 9 to discover the answer.

### ***Hebrews 2:10–18***

Jesus became a man and for a little while was made lower than the angels. But he became a man in order to do many wonderful things that only God can do, for He is both fully God and fully man.

Read the verses below to see what Jesus did as the God-man. Record your findings next to each verse.

Verse 14:

*Jesus Is Better*

Verses 15 and 16:

Verse 17:

Verse 18:

Tell what you learned about Jesus in Hebrews 2. Tell all you can remember about why Jesus became a man and what He accomplished as fully God and fully man.

### ***Application***

Read Hebrews 2:18 again and think carefully about what it says. Matthew 4:1–11 tells us that Jesus was tempted to satisfy his body’s desires apart from God, to draw attention to Himself in a proud way, and to seek after all the world gives instead of seeking after God. When we are tempted in those same areas, it helps to remember that Jesus knows what we’re going through and will help us resist those temptations.

## **Additional Studies**

### ***More on Hebrews 2:10–18***

In the Family Study, we looked at the wonderful things Jesus did for us when He became a man, fully God and fully man. We call Jesus’ becoming man the “incarnation.”

Paul spoke of the incarnation in Philippians 2:5–11. What additional information or descriptions can you glean from that passage?

Read Hebrews 2:10–18 carefully and see if you can determine why Jesus had to become a man in order to pay for the sins of people.

### *Discovering Doctrine*

Here are some verses from Hebrews 2:5–18 that contain doctrinal truths about mankind (Anthropology), Jesus Christ (Christology), and God the Father (Theology Proper). Read those verses and look for truths to record. If you have a *Discovering Doctrine* notebook, record your findings there.

Anthropology

2:6, 7

Christology

2:9

*Jesus Is Better*

2:14, 15

2:17, 18

Theology Proper

2:10

## Chart Guides

Here are some guides to help you with the charts. These are not given as the only correct answers, but simply to help you if you get stuck on any of the charts. The main goal of this study is not necessarily to guess the right words, but to think through the comparisons given in Hebrews and record what you find.

### Lesson 2

Compare	Jesus	Angels
Relationship to God	(1:5) Son	(1:7) Ministers or servants
Role in God's Kingdom	(1:8, 9) Reigns on the throne forever	(1:6) Worship the Son
Status in God's Kingdom	(1:10–13) Created the world; will live forever; sits at the right hand of God the Father; enemies defeated	(1:14) Serve those who will inherit salvation
Delivered __ to man	(2:3, 4) Delivered salvation that was confirmed by signs and wonders, miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit	(2:2) Delivered "the word"; i.e., the Law with its set punishments for violations

### Lesson 4

Compare	Jesus	Moses
Quality Shown in God's Household	(3:1, 2) Faithful over God's house	(3:1, 2) Faithful in God's house
Position in God's Household	(3:6) A son	(3:5) A servant

## **Join All the Glorious Names** Isaac Watts, 1709

A fitting addition to your study of Hebrews would be learning this wonderful hymn together. Isaac Watts wrote twelve stanzas in all; the ones in boldface are most closely tied with the message of Hebrews. You may want to learn all twelve stanzas during the weeks of your study or just the six boldface ones. Either way your heart will be blessed as you learn how Jesus is better and then sing His praises. (If you don't have a hymnal, do an Internet search to hear the melody or to find the musical score.)

**Join all the glorious names  
Of wisdom, love, and power,  
That ever mortals knew,  
That angels ever bore:  
All are too mean to speak His worth,  
Too poor to set my Savior forth.**

But O what gentle terms,  
What condescending ways,  
Doth our Redeemer use  
To teach his heav'nly grace!  
Mine eyes with joy and wonder see  
What forms of love He bears for me.

**Arrayed in mortal flesh,  
He like an angel stands,  
And holds the promises  
And pardons in His hands;  
Commissioned from His Father's throne  
To make His grace to mortals known.**

Great Prophet of my God,  
My tongue would bless Thy Name,  
By Thee the joyful news  
Of our salvation came,  
The joyful news of sin forgiv'n  
Of hell subdued, and peace with Heav'n.

Be Thou my Counsellor,  
My Pattern, and my Guide,  
And through this desert land  
Still keep me near thy side:  
Nor let my feet e'er run astray  
Nor rove nor seek the crooked way.

I love my Shepherd's voice,  
His watchful eyes shall keep  
My wand'ring soul among  
The thousands of His sheep:  
He feeds His flock, He calls their names,  
His bosom bears the tender lambs.

**To this dear Surety's hand  
Will I commit my cause;  
He answers and fulfils  
His Father's broken laws:  
Behold my soul at freedom set!  
My Surety paid the dreadful debt.**

**Jesus, my great High Priest,  
Offered His blood, and died;  
My guilty conscience seeks  
No sacrifice beside:  
His powerful blood did once atone,  
And now it pleads before the throne.**

**My Advocate appears  
For my defense on high;  
The Father bows his ears,  
And lays his thunder by:  
Not all that hell or sin can say  
Shall turn his heart, his love away.**

My dear almighty Lord,  
My Conqueror and my King,  
Thy scepter and Thy sword,  
Thy reigning grace I sing:  
Thine is the power; behold I sit  
In willing bonds beneath Thy feet.

Now let my soul arise,  
And tread the tempter down;  
My Captain leads me forth  
To conquest and a crown:  
A feeble saint shall win the day,  
Though death and hell obstruct the way.

**Should all the hosts of death,  
And powers of hell unknown,  
Put their most dreadful forms  
Of rage and mischief on,  
I shall be safe, for Christ displays  
Superior power, and guardian grace.**