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Hebrews

The book of Hebrews is a letter or an epistle found in the New Testament of the Christian Bible. It is written to a group of Jewish believers who were experiencing persecution and were considering abandoning their faith in Christ.

The author of Hebrews is unknown, but the book has traditionally been attributed to the apostle Paul. However, there is some debate among scholars about this attribution.

The main theme of Hebrews is the supremacy of Jesus Christ. The author argues that Jesus is superior to the prophets, angels, and even Moses himself. He also emphasizes the importance of faith in Jesus as the only way to obtain salvation and eternal life.

Throughout the book, the author uses many Old Testament references to support his arguments. He shows how Jesus fulfills the prophecies and types of the Old Testament, and how the new covenant in Christ is superior to the old covenant given to Moses.

The book of Hebrews can be divided into two main sections. The first section, chapters 1-10, emphasizes the superiority of Jesus and the new covenant over the old covenant. The author encourages his readers to hold fast to their faith in Christ, despite the persecution they are facing.

The second section, chapters 11-13, is a call to endurance and perseverance in the Christian life. The author gives examples of Old Testament heroes who endured trials and challenges by faith, and encourages his readers to do the same. He also provides practical instructions for Christian living, such as showing hospitality and obeying church leaders. Overall, the book of Hebrews is a powerful and encouraging reminder of the supremacy of Jesus Christ and the importance of faith and endurance in the Christian life.

Here is a brief description of each chapter in the book of Hebrews:

Chapter 1: The author establishes Jesus' supremacy over angels, showing how Jesus is the Son of God and the Creator of all things.

Chapter 2: The author reminds the readers that they must pay close attention to what they have heard about Jesus, because he is the only way to salvation. He also shows how Jesus became fully human to save humanity.

Chapter 3: The author compares Jesus to Moses, showing how Jesus is superior to Moses as the builder of God's house, and how the readers must hold fast to their faith in Jesus.

Chapter 4: The author encourages the readers to enter God's rest by faith in Jesus, showing how Jesus is the great high priest who sympathizes with their weaknesses.

Chapter 5: The author shows how Jesus is the perfect high priest who is able to sympathize with the readers' weaknesses, and how they must grow in their faith in Jesus.

Chapter 6: The author warns the readers against falling away from their faith in Jesus, and encourages them to persevere in faith and hope.

Chapter 7: The author shows how Jesus is a greater high priest than Melchizedek, and how his priesthood is superior to the Levitical priesthood.

Chapter 8: The author shows how Jesus is the mediator of a better covenant than the old covenant, and how his sacrifice is superior to the sacrifices offered under the old covenant.

Chapter 9: The author describes the tabernacle and the sacrifices of the old covenant, and shows how Jesus' sacrifice is superior to them.

Chapter 10: The author shows how Jesus' sacrifice is the final sacrifice for sin, and how the readers must hold fast to their faith in Jesus.

Chapter 11: The author gives examples of Old Testament heroes who demonstrated faith, and encourages the readers to persevere in faith like them.

Chapter 12: The author encourages the readers to persevere in faith, showing how Jesus is the perfect example of endurance and how God disciplines his children for their good.

Chapter 13: The author gives practical instructions for Christian living, such as showing hospitality, obeying church leaders, and avoiding false teaching. He also offers a final benediction.

Overall, the book of Hebrews is a powerful letter that emphasizes the supremacy of Jesus Christ and the importance of faith, endurance, and practical Christian living. The author uses many Old Testament references to support his arguments and encourage his readers to hold fast to their faith in the face of persecution and challenges.

Through its message of hope and perseverance, the book of Hebrews has inspired and encouraged Christians throughout the ages to remain faithful to Jesus and to pursue a life of holiness and service to God.

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Hebrews 1

New International Version

God's Final Word: His Son

1 In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. 3 The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. 4 So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

The Son Superior to Angels

5 For to which of the angels did God ever say,

“You are my Son;
today I have become your Father”[a]?

Or again,

“I will be his Father,
and he will be my Son”[b]?

6 And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says,

“Let all God's angels worship him.”[c]

7 In speaking of the angels he says,

“He makes his angels spirits,
and his servants flames of fire.”[d]

8 But about the Son he says,

“Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever;
a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom.

9 You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;
therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions
by anointing you with the oil of joy.”[e]

10 He also says,

“In the beginning, Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth,
and the heavens are the work of your hands.

11 They will perish, but you remain;
they will all wear out like a garment.

12 You will roll them up like a robe;
like a garment they will be changed.

But you remain the same,
and your years will never end.”[f]

13 To which of the angels did God ever say,

“Sit at my right hand
until I make your enemies
a footstool for your feet”[g]?

14 Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?

Footnotes

Hebrews 1:5 Psalm 2:7

Hebrews 1:5 2 Samuel 7:14; 1 Chron. 17:13

Hebrews 1:6 Deut. 32:43 (see Dead Sea Scrolls and Septuagint)

Hebrews 1:7 Psalm 104:4

Hebrews 1:9 Psalm 45:6,7

Hebrews 1:12 Psalm 102:25-27

Hebrews 1:13 Psalm 110:1

Chapter 1 of Hebrews begins with the author emphasizing the superiority of Jesus Christ over angels. He writes that in the past, God spoke to his people through the prophets, but in these last days, he has spoken to them through his Son, Jesus Christ. The author goes on to describe Jesus as the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being.

The author then argues that Jesus is superior to the angels, showing how God has never said to any of the angels, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father." The author also quotes several Old Testament passages that demonstrate the superiority of Jesus over the angels, such as Psalm 2:7 and 2 Samuel 7:14.

The author concludes chapter 1 by reminding his readers that the angels are simply servants of God, while Jesus is the Son of God and the rightful heir of all things. He emphasizes that the angels worship Jesus and are sent to serve those who will inherit salvation.

Overall, chapter 1 of Hebrews sets the stage for the rest of the book by establishing Jesus' supremacy over the angels and his status as the Son of God. The author uses Old Testament references to support his arguments, and he emphasizes the importance of faith in Jesus as the only way to obtain salvation and eternal life.

Here are some important verses from Hebrews chapter 1 of the Christian Bible, along with a brief explanation and reference to their location in the chapter:

Verse 1: "In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways," - This verse establishes that God has communicated with humanity throughout history through various means, including the prophets of the Hebrew Scriptures.

Verse 2: "but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe." - This verse asserts that God has spoken to us most clearly through his Son, who is not only his heir, but also the agent of creation.

Verse 3: "The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven." - This verse describes the nature of Jesus Christ as the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being. It also asserts that Jesus Christ provided purification for sins and now sits at the right hand of God in heaven.

Verse 4: "So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs." - This verse highlights the superiority of Jesus Christ over the angels.

Verse 5: "For to which of the angels did God ever say, 'You are my Son; today I have become your Father'? Or again, 'I will be his Father, and he will be my Son'?" - This verse asserts that God has never said such things to any angel, but rather only to his Son.

Verse 6: "And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, 'Let all God's angels worship him.'" - This verse speaks of the worship that all of God's angels are to give to Jesus Christ.

These verses can be found in Hebrews chapter 1, verses 1-6.

The Book of Hebrews in the New Testament is a complex and theological text that has had a significant influence on Christian theology throughout history. Here are some key theological thoughts and influences from Hebrews chapter 1:

The Deity of Jesus Christ: Hebrews chapter 1 emphasizes the deity of Jesus Christ. It portrays Jesus as the Son of God who is superior to angels. In verses 2-3, it states that God appointed Jesus as heir of all things and that He is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His nature. This teaching has had a profound influence on the development of the doctrine of the Trinity and the understanding of Jesus as fully divine.

Jesus as the Mediator: The chapter also presents Jesus as the mediator between God and humanity. He is the one through whom God has spoken to us in these last days (verse 2). This concept of Jesus as the mediator has played a significant role in Christian soteriology (the study of salvation) and the understanding of Jesus' role in reconciling humanity with God.

The Superiority of Christ: Hebrews 1 highlights the superiority of Jesus over the angels and all created beings. This emphasis on Christ's supremacy has influenced Christian theology's understanding of Jesus as the ultimate authority and ruler over all creation.

The Incarnation: While not explicitly stated in this chapter, the idea of the incarnation (God becoming human in the person of Jesus Christ) is foundational to the book of Hebrews and is a central theological concept in Christianity. The fact that Jesus, as the Son of God, took on human flesh to accomplish redemption is a key theological thought in the New Testament.

The Fulfillment of Old Testament Prophecies: Hebrews often references the Old Testament and demonstrates how Jesus fulfills various prophecies and types found in the Hebrew Scriptures. This underscores the continuity between the Old and New Testaments and shows how Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promises.

The theological influence of Hebrews chapter 1 can be seen in its contribution to the development of key doctrines in Christianity, such as the deity of Christ, the role of Jesus as mediator, and the supremacy of Christ. It has been cited and expounded upon by theologians throughout Christian history and continues to be a significant source of theological reflection for believers.

Hebrews 2

New International Version

Warning to Pay Attention

2 We must pay the most careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away. 2 For since the message spoken through angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment, 3 how shall we escape if we ignore so great a salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him. 4 God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

Jesus Made Fully Human

5 It is not to angels that he has subjected the world to come, about which we are speaking. 6 But there is a place where someone has testified:

“What is mankind that you are mindful of them,
a son of man that you care for him?

7 You made them a little[a] lower than the angels;
you crowned them with glory and honor

8 and put everything under their feet.”[b][c]

In putting everything under them,[d] God left nothing that is not subject to them.[e] Yet at present we do not see everything subject to them.[f] 9 But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

10 In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered. 11 Both the one who makes people holy and those who are

made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters.[g] 12 He says,

“I will declare your name to my brothers and sisters;
in the assembly I will sing your praises.”[h]

13 And again,

“I will put my trust in him.”[i]

And again he says,

“Here am I, and the children God has given me.”[j]

14 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil— 15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. 16 For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham’s descendants. 17 For this reason he had to be made like them,[k] fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. 18 Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Footnotes

Hebrews 2:7 Or them for a little while

Hebrews 2:8 Psalm 8:4-6

Hebrews 2:8 Or 7 You made him a little lower than the angels;/ you crowned him with glory and honor/ 8 and put everything under his feet.”

Hebrews 2:8 Or him

Hebrews 2:8 Or him

Hebrews 2:8 Or him

Hebrews 2:11 The Greek word for brothers and sisters (adelphoi) refers here to believers, both men and women, as part of God’s family; also in verse 12; and in 3:1, 12; 10:19; 13:22.

Hebrews 2:12 Psalm 22:22

Hebrews 2:13 Isaiah 8:17

Hebrews 2:13 Isaiah 8:18

Hebrews 2:17 Or like his brothers

Chapter 2 of Hebrews begins with the author reminding his readers of the importance of paying close attention to what they have heard about Jesus, so that they do not drift away from it. He argues that if the message spoken by angels was binding, then how much more binding is the message about Jesus, who is the Son of God and the one who will bring salvation?

The author then goes on to describe how God has placed all things under Jesus' feet and has made him the perfect leader of salvation. He shows how Jesus became fully human, so that he could suffer and die on behalf of humanity, and that through his death, he destroyed the power of death and the devil. The author argues that Jesus' sacrifice was necessary in order to make propitiation for the sins of humanity, and that he was able to do this because he himself suffered and was tempted.

The author then encourages his readers by showing how Jesus is able to help those who are being tempted. He argues that because Jesus suffered and was tempted, he is able to sympathize with their weaknesses and is able to help them when they are tempted.

Finally, the author concludes chapter 2 by showing how Jesus has become the mediator between God and humanity, and how through faith in Jesus, they are able to enter into the family of God and share in his inheritance.

Overall, chapter 2 of Hebrews emphasizes the importance of faith in Jesus as the only way to obtain salvation and eternal life. The author uses Old Testament references to support his arguments, and he encourages his readers by showing how Jesus is able to sympathize with their weaknesses and help them in their struggles.

Here are some important verses from Hebrews chapter 2 of the Christian Bible, along with a brief explanation and reference to their location in the chapter:

Verse 1: "We must pay the most careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away." - This verse warns the readers to pay close attention to what they have heard in order to avoid drifting away from the truth.

Verse 2: "For since the message spoken through angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment," - This verse asserts that the message spoken through angels was authoritative and that those who violated or disobeyed it were justly punished.

Verse 3: "how shall we escape if we ignore so great a salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him." - This verse poses a rhetorical question about the consequences of ignoring such a great salvation, which was first announced by the Lord and confirmed by those who heard him.

Verse 4: "God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will." - This verse speaks of the various ways in which God has testified to the truth of this salvation, including signs, wonders, miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Verse 9: "But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone." - This verse speaks of Jesus, who suffered death and was crowned with glory and honor, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

Verse 14: "Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—" - This verse speaks of how Jesus shared in our humanity and suffered death in order to defeat the devil and break the power of death.

These verses can be found in Hebrews chapter 2, verses 1-4 and 9-14.

Hebrews chapter 2 continues to present important theological thoughts and has had theological influence in Christian theology. Here are some key theological thoughts and influences from Hebrews chapter 2:

Warning Against Neglecting Salvation: Hebrews 2:1-4 begins with a warning against neglecting salvation. The author urges the readers to pay careful attention to what they have heard, lest they drift away from it. This emphasis on the importance of salvation and the need to remain steadfast in faith has been a recurring theme in Christian theology, promoting the idea that salvation is a precious gift that should not be taken lightly.

The Humanity of Jesus: In Hebrews 2:5-18, there is a significant emphasis on the humanity of Jesus. The author highlights that Jesus became fully human, identifying with humanity in every way except sin. This theological thought has played a crucial role in discussions about the Incarnation, the nature of Christ, and the understanding of Jesus as both fully divine and fully human.

The Suffering and Exaltation of Jesus: Hebrews 2:9-10 emphasizes that Jesus, through His suffering, was crowned with glory and honor. This theological idea reflects the Christian belief that Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross led to His exaltation and victory over sin and death. It has influenced discussions about Christ's redemptive work and His role as the exalted Lord.

Identification with Humanity: Hebrews 2:14-18 emphasizes that Jesus partook of flesh and blood to deliver humanity from the fear of death and to become a merciful and faithful high priest. This theological concept highlights Jesus' role as a compassionate mediator who can empathize with human weaknesses, which has been influential in discussions about Christ's intercessory work and His ability to relate to human struggles.

Redemption and Deliverance: The chapter also addresses the theme of redemption and deliverance. It speaks of Jesus liberating those who were enslaved by the fear of death and sin. This theological thought has influenced discussions on the atonement and the idea of Jesus as the Redeemer who sets humanity free from bondage.

Theological influences from Hebrews 2 include its contributions to the understanding of Jesus' humanity, His role as a merciful high priest, and the significance of His suffering and exaltation in the work of redemption. The chapter's teachings have been foundational in the development of Christian soteriology and Christology, and they continue to be central to Christian theology and preaching.

Hebrews 3

New International Version

Jesus Greater Than Moses

3 Therefore, holy brothers and sisters, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, whom we acknowledge as our apostle and high priest. 2 He was faithful to the one who appointed him, just as Moses was faithful in all God's house. 3

Jesus has been found worthy of greater honor than Moses, just as the builder of a house has greater honor than the house itself. 4 For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything. 5 “Moses was faithful as a servant in all God’s house,”[a] bearing witness to what would be spoken by God in the future. 6 But Christ is faithful as the Son over God’s house. And we are his house, if indeed we hold firmly to our confidence and the hope in which we glory.

Warning Against Unbelief

7 So, as the Holy Spirit says:

“Today, if you hear his voice,
8 do not harden your hearts
as you did in the rebellion,
during the time of testing in the wilderness,
9 where your ancestors tested and tried me,
though for forty years they saw what I did.
10 That is why I was angry with that generation;
I said, ‘Their hearts are always going astray,
and they have not known my ways.’
11 So I declared on oath in my anger,
‘They shall never enter my rest.’ ”[b]

12 See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. 13 But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called “Today,” so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness. 14 We have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original conviction firmly to the very end. 15 As has just been said:

“Today, if you hear his voice,
do not harden your hearts
as you did in the rebellion.”[c]

16 Who were they who heard and rebelled? Were they not all those Moses led out of Egypt? 17 And with whom was he angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies perished in the wilderness? 18 And to whom did God swear that they would never enter his rest if not to those who disobeyed? 19 So we see that they were not able to enter, because of their unbelief.

Footnotes

Hebrews 3:5 Num. 12:7

Hebrews 3:11 Psalm 95:7-11

Hebrews 3:15 Psalm 95:7,8

Chapter 3 of Hebrews begins with the author urging his readers to fix their thoughts on Jesus, who is the apostle and high priest of their faith. He argues that Jesus was faithful to

God, just as Moses was faithful in his duties, but that Jesus deserves more honor than Moses, because he is the builder of the house of God.

The author then uses the example of the Israelites in the wilderness to illustrate the importance of faithfulness and obedience to God. He shows how the Israelites rebelled against God and were unable to enter into the promised land because of their unbelief. He argues that just as the Israelites needed to have faith in God and obey him in order to enter into the promised land, so too do his readers need to have faith in Jesus and obey him in order to obtain salvation.

The author then warns his readers not to harden their hearts against God, as the Israelites did in the wilderness, and to encourage one another daily so that they do not fall away from their faith. He shows how God was angry with the Israelites because of their disobedience, and how he swore that they would not enter into his rest.

Finally, the author concludes chapter 3 by showing how Jesus is greater than Moses and how he is able to lead his people into the promised rest. He argues that his readers must hold fast to their faith in Jesus, just as they did in the beginning, in order to obtain the rest that God has promised them.

Overall, chapter 3 of Hebrews emphasizes the importance of faithfulness and obedience to God, using the example of the Israelites in the wilderness. The author encourages his readers to hold fast to their faith in Jesus and warns them not to harden their hearts against God. He also shows how Jesus is greater than Moses and is able to lead his people into the promised rest.

Here are some important verses from Hebrews chapter 3 of the Christian Bible, along with a brief explanation and reference to their location in the chapter:

Verse 1: "Therefore, holy brothers and sisters, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, whom we acknowledge as our apostle and high priest." - This verse encourages the readers to focus their thoughts on Jesus, whom the author acknowledges as both an apostle and high priest.

Verse 6: "But Christ is faithful as the Son over God's house. And we are his house, if indeed we hold firmly to our confidence and the hope in which we glory." - This verse speaks of Jesus' faithfulness over God's house, which includes believers who hold firmly to their confidence and hope.

Verse 7: "So, as the Holy Spirit says: 'Today, if you hear his voice,'" - This verse introduces a quotation from the Psalms, which speaks of the importance of hearing God's voice.

Verse 8: "'do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion, during the time of testing in the wilderness,'" - This verse quotes from Psalm 95 and speaks of the danger of hardening one's heart against God, as the Israelites did during their time of testing in the wilderness.

Verse 13: "But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called 'Today,' so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness." - This verse encourages believers to encourage one another daily, in order to avoid being hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. These verses can be found in Hebrews chapter 3, verses 1, 6-8, and 13.

Hebrews chapter 3 contains several important theological thoughts and has had theological influence in Christian theology. Here are some key theological thoughts and influences from Hebrews chapter 3:

Warning Against Unbelief: Hebrews 3 begins with a warning against the sin of unbelief. The author compares the readers to the Israelites in the wilderness who rebelled against God due to their unbelief. This theological thought emphasizes the importance of faith and the consequences of turning away from God. It has been influential in discussions about the role of faith in the Christian life.

Jesus as the Apostle and High Priest: In Hebrews 3:1-6, Jesus is referred to as the Apostle and High Priest of our confession. This theological concept highlights the unique role of Jesus as the ultimate mediator between God and humanity. It has influenced discussions about the priesthood of Christ and His authority as the one who brings us to God.

Rest as a Theological Symbol: Hebrews 3:7-19 introduces the concept of rest as a theological symbol. The author references God's rest after creation and the rest promised to the people of Israel in the Promised Land. This theological thought is developed further in subsequent chapters of Hebrews and has influenced discussions about the rest that believers enter into through faith in Christ.

Exhortation to Persevere: Throughout Hebrews 3, there is an exhortation for believers to persevere in their faith and not harden their hearts as the Israelites did in the wilderness. This emphasis on perseverance and faithfulness has been influential in discussions about the Christian's responsibility to remain steadfast in their walk with God.

Comparison to the Old Covenant: Hebrews 3 draws a comparison between the faithfulness of Jesus as the builder of God's house (representing the New Covenant) and the unfaithfulness of Moses and the Israelites (representing the Old Covenant). This theological thought has been instrumental in discussions about the superiority of the New Covenant in Christ.

Theological influences from Hebrews 3 include its teachings on faith, unbelief, the role of Jesus as Apostle and High Priest, the concept of rest, and the comparison between the Old and New Covenants. These teachings have had a lasting impact on Christian theology, particularly in discussions related to faith, perseverance, and the superiority of the New Covenant in Christ.

Hebrews 4

New International Version

A Sabbath-Rest for the People of God

4 Therefore, since the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it. 2 For we also have had the good news proclaimed to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because they did not share the faith of those who obeyed.[a] 3 Now we who have believed enter that rest, just as God has said,

“So I declared on oath in my anger,
‘They shall never enter my rest.’”[b]

And yet his works have been finished since the creation of the world. 4 For somewhere he has spoken about the seventh day in these words: “On the seventh day God rested from all his works.”[c] 5 And again in the passage above he says, “They shall never enter my rest.”

6 Therefore since it still remains for some to enter that rest, and since those who formerly had the good news proclaimed to them did not go in because of their disobedience, 7 God again set a certain day, calling it “Today.” This he did when a long time later he spoke through David, as in the passage already quoted:

“Today, if you hear his voice,
do not harden your hearts.”[d]

8 For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken later about another day. 9 There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; 10 for anyone who enters God’s rest also rests from their works,[e] just as God did from his. 11 Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will perish by following their example of disobedience.

12 For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. 13 Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

Jesus the Great High Priest

14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven,[f] Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. 16 Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Footnotes

Hebrews 4:2 Some manuscripts because those who heard did not combine it with faith

Hebrews 4:3 Psalm 95:11; also in verse 5

Hebrews 4:4 Gen. 2:2

Hebrews 4:7 Psalm 95:7,8

Hebrews 4:10 Or labor

Hebrews 4:14 Greek has gone through the heavens

Chapter 4 of Hebrews begins with the author urging his readers to enter into God's rest. He argues that just as the Israelites in the wilderness were not able to enter into the promised land because of their unbelief, so too will his readers not be able to enter into God's rest if they do not have faith in Jesus.

The author then shows how God's rest is not just a physical rest, but a spiritual one. He argues that just as God rested from his work of creation on the seventh day, so too is there a rest that his people can enter into through faith in Jesus. He encourages his readers to make every effort to enter into this rest, and warns them not to fall into disobedience like the Israelites in the wilderness.

The author then shows how Jesus is the great high priest who is able to sympathize with his people and help them in their weaknesses. He argues that just as the high priest in the Old Testament would enter into the Holy of Holies to make atonement for the sins of the people, so too has Jesus entered into heaven to make atonement for the sins of his people. He encourages his readers to hold fast to their faith in Jesus, knowing that he is able to help them in their time of need.

Finally, the author concludes chapter 4 by showing how the Word of God is living and active, and how it is able to penetrate to the deepest parts of a person's being. He argues that the Word of God is able to judge the thoughts and attitudes of the heart, and encourages his readers to submit to its authority.

Overall, chapter 4 of Hebrews emphasizes the importance of faith in Jesus as the key to entering into God's rest. The author uses the example of the Israelites in the wilderness to warn his readers of the danger of falling into disobedience, and encourages them to hold fast to their faith in Jesus. He also shows how Jesus is the great high priest who is able to sympathize with his people and help them in their weaknesses, and how the Word of God is living and active, able to penetrate to the deepest parts of a person's being.

Here are some important verses from Hebrews chapter 4 of the Christian Bible, along with a brief explanation and reference to their location in the chapter:

Verse 1: "Therefore, since the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it." - This verse speaks of the promise of entering God's rest and encourages the readers to be careful not to fall short of it.

Verse 2: "For we also have had the good news proclaimed to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because they did not share the faith of those who obeyed." - This verse speaks of the good news that has been proclaimed to both the readers and those before them, but emphasizes that the message was of no value to those who did not have faith and obey.

Verse 12: "For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart." - This verse speaks of the power and efficacy of the word of God, which is described as alive and active and capable of penetrating deeply into a person's being.

Verse 13: "Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account." - This verse speaks of the all-knowing nature of God, who sees and knows everything and before whom all will ultimately give account.

Verse 16: "Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." - This verse encourages the readers to approach God's throne of grace with confidence, knowing that they will receive mercy and grace to help in times of need.

These verses can be found in Hebrews chapter 4, verses 1-2, 12-13, and 16.

Hebrews chapter 4 contains several important theological thoughts and has had theological influence in Christian theology. Here are some key theological thoughts and influences from Hebrews chapter 4:

Rest in Christ: Hebrews 4 expands on the concept of rest introduced in the previous chapter. The chapter emphasizes that there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, and this rest is found in Christ. This theological thought underscores the idea that believers can find spiritual rest and fulfillment in Christ, and it has influenced discussions about the sufficiency of Christ for salvation and spiritual rest.

The Word of God: Hebrews 4:12-13 famously describes the Word of God as living and active, sharper than any double-edged sword, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. This passage highlights the power and authority of God's Word, which has been a foundational theological concept in Christianity. It underscores the importance of Scripture in the life of believers and its role in discerning truth and convicting hearts.

Jesus as the High Priest: The chapter continues to emphasize Jesus' role as the High Priest who sympathizes with human weaknesses. This theological thought highlights Jesus' compassion and intercessory work on behalf of believers, which has had a significant influence on discussions about Christ's priestly ministry.

Approaching God with Confidence: Hebrews 4:14-16 encourages believers to approach the throne of grace with confidence, knowing that Jesus, their High Priest, can sympathize with their weaknesses. This teaching has been influential in shaping Christian attitudes toward prayer and the believer's access to God through Christ.

Rest from Works: Hebrews 4 underscores the idea that salvation is not achieved through human works but through faith in Christ. Believers are called to cease from their own works and enter into God's rest. This theological thought has played a pivotal role in discussions about the nature of salvation by grace through faith and the futility of relying on one's own efforts for righteousness.

Theological influences from Hebrews 4 include its teachings on finding rest in Christ, the power of God's Word, the role of Jesus as High Priest, approaching God with confidence, and the importance of faith over works in salvation. These teachings have had a lasting impact on Christian theology, particularly in discussions related to the sufficiency of Christ, the centrality of Scripture, and the nature of the Christian's relationship with God.

Hebrews 5

New International Version

5 Every high priest is selected from among the people and is appointed to represent the people in matters related to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. 2 He is able to deal gently with those who are ignorant and are going astray, since he himself is subject to weakness. 3 This is why he has to offer sacrifices for his own sins, as well as for the sins of the people. 4 And no one takes this honor on himself, but he receives it when called by God, just as Aaron was.

5 In the same way, Christ did not take on himself the glory of becoming a high priest. But God said to him,

“You are my Son;
today I have become your Father.”[a]

6 And he says in another place,

“You are a priest forever,
in the order of Melchizedek.”[b]

7 During the days of Jesus’ life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. 8 Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered 9 and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him 10 and was designated by God to be high priest in the order of Melchizedek.

Warning Against Falling Away

11 We have much to say about this, but it is hard to make it clear to you because you no longer try to understand. 12 In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God’s word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! 13 Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. 14 But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

Footnotes

Hebrews 5:5 Psalm 2:7

Hebrews 5:6 Psalm 110:4

Hebrews chapter 5 introduces several significant theological thoughts and has had theological influence in Christian theology. Here are some key theological thoughts and influences from Hebrews chapter 5:

The High Priestly Ministry of Christ: Hebrews 5 begins by discussing the role of high priests in the Old Testament, emphasizing their need to offer sacrifices for themselves and for the people. The chapter then introduces Jesus as the ultimate high priest

according to the order of Melchizedek. This theological thought highlights Jesus' unique role as the High Priest who offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of humanity. It has had a profound influence on discussions about Christ's atonement and His intercessory work on behalf of believers.

Christ's Sympathy with Human Weakness: Hebrews 5:1-3 emphasizes the need for a high priest to be able to deal gently with the ignorant and wayward because he himself is subject to weakness. This concept highlights the empathy and compassion of Jesus as the High Priest, who can understand and relate to the struggles and weaknesses of humanity. It has influenced discussions about the understanding of Christ's humanity and His ministry as a merciful intercessor.

Spiritual Maturity and Growth: Hebrews 5:11-14 addresses the readers' spiritual immaturity and their need to progress in their understanding of God's Word. This theological thought underscores the importance of spiritual growth and maturity in the Christian life. It has influenced discussions on the need for believers to deepen their knowledge of Scripture and mature in their faith.

Melchizedek as a Type of Christ: Hebrews 5 introduces the mysterious figure of Melchizedek, who becomes a significant theological symbol throughout the book of Hebrews. The author points out that Jesus is a high priest in the order of Melchizedek, which signifies His superiority over the Levitical priesthood. This typological interpretation of Melchizedek has been influential in discussions about Christ's priesthood and His role as a superior mediator.

Theological influences from Hebrews 5 include its teachings on Christ's high priestly ministry, His sympathy with human weakness, the importance of spiritual growth, and the typological significance of Melchizedek. These teachings have had a lasting impact on Christian theology, particularly in discussions related to Christ's role as the perfect High Priest and the need for believers to grow in their understanding and faith.

Chapter 5 of Hebrews begins with the author discussing the role of the high priest in the Old Testament. He argues that the high priest was chosen by God and was able to sympathize with the people because he was also subject to weakness. He then shows how Jesus is the great high priest who was appointed by God and is able to sympathize with his people because he too was subject to weakness.

The author then shows how Jesus did not exalt himself to the position of high priest, but was appointed by God, just as Aaron was appointed by God. He argues that Jesus is a better high priest than Aaron, because he is able to offer a better sacrifice than the animal sacrifices offered by the priests in the Old Testament.

The author then goes on to warn his readers about the danger of falling away from their faith. He argues that those who are immature in their faith are like babies who need milk, while those who are mature are able to eat solid food. He encourages his readers to strive for maturity in their faith, so that they may be able to discern good from evil.

Finally, the author concludes chapter 5 by showing how Jesus learned obedience through suffering, and how he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him. He argues that just as Jesus was able to overcome his own weaknesses and temptations, so too can his followers overcome their own weaknesses and temptations through faith in him.

Overall, chapter 5 of Hebrews emphasizes the importance of Jesus as the great high priest who was appointed by God and is able to sympathize with his people. The author warns his readers about the danger of falling away from their faith and encourages them to strive for maturity in their faith. He also shows how Jesus learned obedience through suffering and became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

Here are some important verses from Hebrews chapter 5 of the Christian Bible, along with a brief explanation and reference to their location in the chapter:

Verse 4: "And no one takes this honor on himself, but he receives it when called by God, just as Aaron was." - This verse speaks of the priesthood and emphasizes that one cannot simply take on this honor on their own, but must be called by God, as was the case with Aaron in the Old Testament.

Verse 5: "In the same way, Christ did not take on himself the glory of becoming a high priest. But God said to him, 'You are my Son; today I have become your Father.'" - This verse speaks of Jesus as the high priest, emphasizing that he did not take on this role on his own, but was called by God, as evidenced by God's words to him in Psalm 2.

Verse 7: "During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission." - This verse speaks of Jesus' prayers during his time on earth, emphasizing that he was heard by God due to his reverent submission.

Verse 8: "Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered" - This verse speaks of Jesus' obedience and emphasizes that he learned obedience through his suffering.

Verse 9: "and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him" - This verse speaks of Jesus' perfect obedience and how he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

These verses can be found in Hebrews chapter 5, verses 4, 5, 7, 8, and 9.

Hebrews chapter 5 introduces several significant theological thoughts and has had theological influence in Christian theology. Here are some key theological thoughts and influences from Hebrews chapter 5:

The High Priestly Ministry of Christ: Hebrews 5 begins by discussing the role of high priests in the Old Testament, emphasizing their need to offer sacrifices for themselves and for the people. The chapter then introduces Jesus as the ultimate high priest according to the order of Melchizedek. This theological thought highlights Jesus' unique role as the High Priest who offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of humanity. It has had a profound influence on discussions about Christ's atonement and His intercessory work on behalf of believers.

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Theological influences from Hebrews 5 include its teachings on Christ's high priestly ministry, His sympathy with human weakness, the importance of spiritual growth, and the typological significance of Melchizedek. These teachings have had a lasting impact on Christian theology, particularly in discussions related to Christ's role as the perfect High Priest and the need for believers to grow in their understanding and faith.

Hebrews 6

New International Version

6 Therefore let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death,^[a] and of faith in God, 2 instruction about cleansing rites,^[b] the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. 3 And God permitting, we will do so.

4 It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, 5 who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age 6 and who have fallen^[c] away, to be brought back to repentance. To their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace. 7 Land that drinks in the rain often falling on it and that produces a crop useful to those for whom it is farmed receives the blessing of God. 8 But land that produces thorns and thistles is worthless and is in danger of being cursed. In the end it will be burned.

9 Even though we speak like this, dear friends, we are convinced of better things in your case—the things that have to do with salvation. 10 God is not unjust; he will not forget

your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them. 11 We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, so that what you hope for may be fully realized. 12 We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.

The Certainty of God's Promise

13 When God made his promise to Abraham, since there was no one greater for him to swear by, he swore by himself, 14 saying, "I will surely bless you and give you many descendants." [d] 15 And so after waiting patiently, Abraham received what was promised.

16 People swear by someone greater than themselves, and the oath confirms what is said and puts an end to all argument. 17 Because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, he confirmed it with an oath. 18 God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope set before us may be greatly encouraged. 19 We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, 20 where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.

Footnotes

Hebrews 6:1 Or from useless rituals

Hebrews 6:2 Or about baptisms

Hebrews 6:6 Or age, 6 if they fall

Hebrews 6:14 Gen. 22:17

Chapter 6 of Hebrews begins with the author urging his readers to move beyond the elementary teachings of the faith and to press on to maturity. He warns them against falling away from their faith, saying that it is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, and who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age, to be brought back to repentance.

The author then uses an agricultural analogy to illustrate his point. He compares those who fall away from their faith to land that has been fertilized and receives rain, but still produces thorns and thistles. He argues that such land is worthless and is in danger of being burned.

The author then encourages his readers, saying that he is confident that they will not fall away from their faith, but will instead continue to bear fruit. He reminds them of God's faithfulness and urges them to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.

The author then goes on to show how God's promises are unchangeable and how they are guaranteed by an oath. He argues that just as God swore by himself to Abraham, so too has he sworn by himself to guarantee his promises to his people.

Finally, the author concludes chapter 6 by encouraging his readers to hold fast to their faith in Jesus, knowing that he is their hope and anchor in all circumstances. He reminds

them that Jesus has gone before them and has entered into the inner sanctuary on their behalf, making a way for them to come before God with confidence.

Overall, chapter 6 of Hebrews emphasizes the importance of persevering in faith and avoiding the danger of falling away. The author uses an agricultural analogy to illustrate his point and encourages his readers to imitate those who have gone before them in faith. He also shows how God's promises are unchangeable and guaranteed by an oath, and encourages his readers to hold fast to their faith in Jesus as their hope and anchor in all circumstances.

Here are some important verses from Hebrews chapter 6 of the Christian Bible, along with a brief explanation and reference to their location in the chapter:

Verse 1: "Therefore let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God" - This verse encourages believers to move beyond the basics of their faith and to grow in maturity, emphasizing the importance of repentance and faith in God as foundational elements.

Verse 4: "It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit," - This verse speaks of those who have had an experience of the Holy Spirit and tasted the goodness of God, but who then fall away, emphasizing the severity of turning away from God.

Verse 6: "and who have fallen away, to be brought back to repentance. To their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace." - This verse continues the theme of those who have fallen away, emphasizing that it is impossible for them to be brought back to repentance and that they are essentially crucifying Christ again.

Verse 19: "We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain," - This verse speaks of the hope that believers have in Christ, emphasizing that it is like an anchor for the soul, providing stability and security.

Verse 20: "where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek." - This verse speaks of Jesus as the forerunner and high priest, emphasizing that he has entered into the inner sanctuary on our behalf and is now our eternal high priest.

These verses can be found in Hebrews chapter 6, verses 1, 4, 6, 19, and 20.

Hebrews chapter 6 contains several important theological thoughts and has had theological influence in Christian theology. Here are some key theological thoughts and influences from Hebrews chapter 6:

Warning Against Apostasy: Hebrews 6:4-6 is a passage that has generated significant theological discussion. It warns against the possibility of falling away from the faith after experiencing the blessings of God. This has led to theological discussions about the perseverance of the saints, the security of salvation, and the concept of apostasy.

Imitating Faith and Patience: Hebrews 6:12 encourages believers to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises. This emphasizes the importance of faith

and patience in the Christian journey and has influenced discussions about the virtues of endurance and trust in God's promises.

The Certainty of God's Promises: Hebrews 6:13-20 highlights the certainty of God's promises, drawing from the example of Abraham and God's oath to bless him. This theological thought underscores the reliability of God's word and His faithfulness to His promises. It has influenced discussions about the trustworthiness of God and the assurance of salvation.

Christ as the Anchor of the Soul: The chapter portrays Jesus as the anchor of the soul, a hope that is sure and steadfast. This theological concept has been influential in discussions about the role of Christ in providing stability and assurance to believers in their faith journey.

Milk vs. Solid Food: Hebrews 6:1-3 mentions the need for believers to progress from milk to solid food in their spiritual understanding. This teaching has influenced discussions about the importance of spiritual growth, maturity, and a deeper understanding of God's Word.

Theological influences from Hebrews 6 include its warnings about apostasy, the importance of faith and patience, the certainty of God's promises, and the role of Christ as the anchor of the soul. These teachings have had a lasting impact on Christian theology, particularly in discussions related to perseverance, assurance of salvation, and the need for believers to grow in their faith and understanding.

Hebrews 7

New International Version

Melchizedek the Priest

7 This Melchizedek was king of Salem and priest of God Most High. He met Abraham returning from the defeat of the kings and blessed him, 2 and Abraham gave him a tenth of everything. First, the name Melchizedek means “king of righteousness”; then also, “king of Salem” means “king of peace.” 3 Without father or mother, without genealogy, without beginning of days or end of life, resembling the Son of God, he remains a priest forever.

4 Just think how great he was: Even the patriarch Abraham gave him a tenth of the plunder! 5 Now the law requires the descendants of Levi who become priests to collect a tenth from the people—that is, from their fellow Israelites—even though they also are descended from Abraham. 6 This man, however, did not trace his descent from Levi, yet he collected a tenth from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises. 7 And without doubt the lesser is blessed by the greater. 8 In the one case, the tenth is collected by people who die; but in the other case, by him who is declared to be living. 9 One might even say that Levi, who collects the tenth, paid the tenth through Abraham, 10 because when Melchizedek met Abraham, Levi was still in the body of his ancestor.

Jesus Like Melchizedek

11 If perfection could have been attained through the Levitical priesthood—and indeed the law given to the people established that priesthood—why was there still need for another priest to come, one in the order of Melchizedek, not in the order of Aaron? 12 For when the priesthood is changed, the law must be changed also. 13 He of whom these things are said belonged to a different tribe, and no one from that tribe has ever served at the altar. 14 For it is clear that our Lord descended from Judah, and in regard to that tribe Moses said nothing about priests. 15 And what we have said is even more clear if another priest like Melchizedek appears, 16 one who has become a priest not on the basis of a regulation as to his ancestry but on the basis of the power of an indestructible life. 17 For it is declared:

“You are a priest forever,
in the order of Melchizedek.”[a]

18 The former regulation is set aside because it was weak and useless 19 (for the law made nothing perfect), and a better hope is introduced, by which we draw near to God.

20 And it was not without an oath! Others became priests without any oath, 21 but he became a priest with an oath when God said to him:

“The Lord has sworn
and will not change his mind:
‘You are a priest forever.’”[b]

22 Because of this oath, Jesus has become the guarantor of a better covenant.

23 Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office; 24 but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. 25 Therefore he is able to save completely[c] those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

26 Such a high priest truly meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. 27 Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself. 28 For the law appoints as high priests men in all their weakness; but the oath, which came after the law, appointed the Son, who has been made perfect forever.

Footnotes

Hebrews 7:17 Psalm 110:4

Hebrews 7:21 Psalm 110:4

Hebrews 7:25 Or forever

Chapter 7 of Hebrews begins with the author introducing Melchizedek, the king of Salem and priest of God Most High who blessed Abraham. The author argues that Melchizedek

was greater than Abraham, and that he is a type of Christ. He then goes on to explain how Jesus is a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek, and that this order is superior to the order of Aaron.

The author then shows how Melchizedek received a tithe from Abraham, and argues that this indicates his superiority over Abraham and the Levitical priesthood. He then argues that since Jesus is a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek, he too is superior to the Levitical priesthood.

The author then shows how the Levitical priesthood was unable to save people from their sins, and argues that Jesus, as a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek, is able to save completely those who come to God through him.

The author then concludes chapter 7 by showing how Jesus is a perfect high priest who is holy, blameless, pure, and set apart from sinners. He argues that Jesus is able to offer a better sacrifice than the animal sacrifices offered by the priests in the Old Testament, because he offered himself as a sacrifice once for all.

Overall, chapter 7 of Hebrews emphasizes the superiority of Jesus as a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek. The author argues that this order is superior to the Levitical priesthood, and shows how Jesus is a perfect high priest who is able to save completely those who come to God through him. He also emphasizes the importance of Jesus' sacrifice, which is a better sacrifice than the animal sacrifices offered by the priests in the Old Testament.

Here are some important verses from Hebrews chapter 7 of the Christian Bible, along with a brief explanation and reference to their location in the chapter:

Verse 1: "This Melchizedek was king of Salem and priest of God Most High. He met Abraham returning from the defeat of the kings and blessed him" - This verse introduces Melchizedek, a mysterious figure who appears briefly in the Old Testament, and who is seen as a type or foreshadowing of Christ.

Verse 3: "Without father or mother, without genealogy, without beginning of days or end of life, resembling the Son of God, he remains a priest forever." - This verse continues the discussion of Melchizedek and highlights his unique status as a priest without a recorded lineage, making him a fitting symbol for the eternal priesthood of Christ.

Verse 11: "If perfection could have been attained through the Levitical priesthood—and indeed the law given to the people established that priesthood—why was there still need for another priest to come, one in the order of Melchizedek, not in the order of Aaron?" - This verse poses a rhetorical question about the necessity of Christ's priesthood, emphasizing that the old system of the Levitical priesthood was incomplete and required a new order of priesthood in the order of Melchizedek.

Verse 25: "Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them." - This verse speaks of Christ's ability to save completely those who come to him, emphasizing that he is always interceding on their behalf as their high priest.

Verse 28: "For the law appoints as high priests men in all their weakness; but the oath, which came after the law, appointed the Son, who has been made perfect forever." - This verse contrasts the limitations of the Levitical priesthood, which appointed weak and imperfect human priests, with the perfect and eternal priesthood of Christ, who was appointed by God's oath.

These verses can be found in Hebrews chapter 7, verses 1, 3, 11, 25, and 28.

Hebrews chapter 7 introduces significant theological thoughts and has had theological influence in Christian theology. Here are some key theological thoughts and influences from Hebrews chapter 7:

Melchizedek as a Type of Christ: Hebrews 7 focuses extensively on the figure of Melchizedek, presenting him as a type or foreshadowing of Christ. Melchizedek, as a priest-king of Salem, is portrayed as superior to the Levitical priests, and this typology serves to illustrate the superiority of Christ's priesthood over the Aaronic priesthood. This theological thought has had a profound influence on discussions about Christ's unique and eternal priesthood.

Christ's Eternal Priesthood: Hebrews 7 emphasizes the eternal nature of Christ's priesthood. Unlike the Levitical priests who served for a limited time, Jesus' priesthood is described as unchangeable and eternal, making Him the perfect and everlasting High Priest. This concept has greatly influenced Christian discussions about the nature and sufficiency of Christ's priestly ministry.

The Superiority of the New Covenant: The chapter also underscores the superiority of the New Covenant over the Old Covenant. Christ's priesthood, after the order of Melchizedek, is presented as superior to the Levitical priesthood and capable of providing a better covenant. This has influenced discussions about the relationship between the Old and New Testaments and the transformative nature of Christ's work.

The Role of Faith: Hebrews 7:19 mentions that "a better hope is introduced, through which we draw near to God." This verse highlights the role of faith in drawing near to God and has influenced discussions about the centrality of faith in the Christian life.

Theological influences from Hebrews 7 include its teachings on the typology of Melchizedek, the eternal nature of Christ's priesthood, the superiority of the New Covenant, and the importance of faith. These teachings have had a lasting impact on Christian theology, particularly in discussions related to the uniqueness and sufficiency of Christ's priesthood and the significance of the New Covenant in Christ.

Hebrews 8

New International Version

The High Priest of a New Covenant

8 Now the main point of what we are saying is this: We do have such a high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, 2 and who serves in the sanctuary, the true tabernacle set up by the Lord, not by a mere human being.

3 Every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices, and so it was necessary for this one also to have something to offer. 4 If he were on earth, he would not be a

priest, for there are already priests who offer the gifts prescribed by the law. 5 They serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven. This is why Moses was warned when he was about to build the tabernacle: “See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.”[a] 6 But in fact the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, since the new covenant is established on better promises.

7 For if there had been nothing wrong with that first covenant, no place would have been sought for another. 8 But God found fault with the people and said[b]:

“The days are coming, declares the Lord,
when I will make a new covenant
with the people of Israel
and with the people of Judah.

9 It will not be like the covenant
I made with their ancestors
when I took them by the hand
to lead them out of Egypt,
because they did not remain faithful to my covenant,
and I turned away from them,
declares the Lord.

10 This is the covenant I will establish with the people of Israel
after that time, declares the Lord.
I will put my laws in their minds
and write them on their hearts.

I will be their God,
and they will be my people.

11 No longer will they teach their neighbor,
or say to one another, ‘Know the Lord,’
because they will all know me,
from the least of them to the greatest.

12 For I will forgive their wickedness
and will remember their sins no more.”[c]

13 By calling this covenant “new,” he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and outdated will soon disappear.

Footnotes

Hebrews 8:5 Exodus 25:40

Hebrews 8:8 Some manuscripts may be translated fault and said to the people.

Hebrews 8:12 Jer. 31:31-34

Chapter 8 of Hebrews begins with the author pointing out that the main point of what he is saying is that Jesus is our high priest who serves in the sanctuary, the true tabernacle set up by the Lord and not by humans. He explains that the earthly tabernacle and the

priesthood associated with it were merely copies and shadows of the heavenly reality that was to come.

The author then quotes from the prophet Jeremiah to show how God promised to make a new covenant with his people, one that would not be like the old covenant that was broken by the people. He explains that this new covenant is based on better promises, and that it has been established through Jesus' ministry as our high priest.

The author then explains that the old covenant was temporary and flawed, and that it was replaced by the new covenant established through Jesus. He emphasizes that the new covenant is based on better promises and is superior to the old covenant.

The author then quotes from Jeremiah again to show how the new covenant involves God writing his laws on the hearts and minds of his people, and how it involves God forgiving their sins and remembering them no more. He emphasizes that the new covenant is based on God's grace and mercy, and that it is through Jesus' sacrifice that we can enter into this new covenant.

The author then concludes chapter 8 by emphasizing the superiority of Jesus' ministry as our high priest in the heavenly tabernacle. He explains that Jesus offered a better sacrifice than the animal sacrifices offered by the priests in the earthly tabernacle, and that he is able to save completely those who come to God through him.

Overall, chapter 8 of Hebrews emphasizes the superiority of the new covenant established through Jesus' ministry as our high priest. The author shows how the old covenant was flawed and temporary, and how the new covenant is based on better promises and is superior to the old covenant. He emphasizes that the new covenant involves God writing his laws on our hearts and minds, and that it is through Jesus' sacrifice that we can enter into this new covenant.

Here are some important verses from Hebrews chapter 8 of the Christian Bible, along with a brief explanation and reference to their location in the chapter:

Verse 1: "Now the main point of what we are saying is this: We do have such a high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven" - This verse introduces the main point of the chapter, which is that believers have a high priest in Christ who sits at the right hand of God in heaven.

Verse 6: "But in fact the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, since the new covenant is established on better promises." - This verse emphasizes the superiority of Christ's ministry and the new covenant he mediates over the old covenant, highlighting that it is established on better promises.

Verse 10: "This is the covenant I will establish with the people of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people." - This verse quotes from Jeremiah 31:33 and speaks of the new covenant God will establish with his people, emphasizing that it will be internalized in their minds and hearts.

Verse 12: "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more." - This verse continues the quote from Jeremiah and emphasizes the key feature of the new covenant, which is God's forgiveness of sins and forgetting of past wrongs.

Verse 13: "By calling this covenant 'new,' he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and outdated will soon disappear." - This verse emphasizes the finality of the new covenant, which makes the old covenant obsolete and outdated.

These verses can be found in Hebrews chapter 8, verses 1, 6, 10, 12, and 13.

Hebrews chapter 8 introduces important theological thoughts and has had theological influence in Christian theology. Here are some key theological thoughts and influences from Hebrews chapter 8:

The New Covenant: Hebrews 8 focuses primarily on the theme of the New Covenant. It quotes extensively from the Old Testament prophecy in Jeremiah 31:31-34, which foretells a new covenant that God will make with His people. The theological thought here centers on the superiority of the New Covenant over the Old Covenant. The New Covenant is described as better because it is based on better promises and mediated by a better High Priest, Jesus Christ. This emphasis on the New Covenant has had a profound influence on discussions about the relationship between the Old and New Testaments in Christian theology.

Mediator of a Better Covenant: Hebrews 8:6 highlights Jesus as the mediator of a better covenant, one established on better promises. This theological concept underscores the central role of Jesus in mediating the New Covenant and has influenced discussions about the uniqueness of Christ's redemptive work and His role as the mediator between God and humanity.

The Law Written on Hearts: Hebrews 8:10 quotes the prophecy from Jeremiah about God writing His law on the hearts and minds of His people in the New Covenant. This theological thought has influenced discussions about the transformative power of the New Covenant, where believers are enabled by the Holy Spirit to live in obedience to God's commands.

The Obsolescence of the Old Covenant: Hebrews 8:13 declares that the Old Covenant is becoming obsolete and aging, ready to vanish away. This theological idea has been influential in discussions about the role of the Old Testament law in the life of a Christian and the finality of the New Covenant in Christ.

Theological influences from Hebrews 8 include its teachings on the superiority of the New Covenant, Jesus as the mediator of the covenant, the internal transformation brought about by the New Covenant, and the obsolescence of the Old Covenant. These teachings have had a lasting impact on Christian theology, particularly in discussions related to the role of the Old and New Testaments, the centrality of Christ in salvation, and the transformative power of the New Covenant.

Worship in the Earthly Tabernacle

9 Now the first covenant had regulations for worship and also an earthly sanctuary. 2 A tabernacle was set up. In its first room were the lampstand and the table with its consecrated bread; this was called the Holy Place. 3 Behind the second curtain was a room called the Most Holy Place, 4 which had the golden altar of incense and the gold-covered ark of the covenant. This ark contained the gold jar of manna, Aaron's staff that had budded, and the stone tablets of the covenant. 5 Above the ark were the cherubim of the Glory, overshadowing the atonement cover. But we cannot discuss these things in detail now.

6 When everything had been arranged like this, the priests entered regularly into the outer room to carry on their ministry. 7 But only the high priest entered the inner room, and that only once a year, and never without blood, which he offered for himself and for the sins the people had committed in ignorance. 8 The Holy Spirit was showing by this that the way into the Most Holy Place had not yet been disclosed as long as the first tabernacle was still functioning. 9 This is an illustration for the present time, indicating that the gifts and sacrifices being offered were not able to clear the conscience of the worshiper. 10 They are only a matter of food and drink and various ceremonial washings—external regulations applying until the time of the new order.

The Blood of Christ

11 But when Christ came as high priest of the good things that are now already here,[a] he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not made with human hands, that is to say, is not a part of this creation. 12 He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, thus obtaining[b] eternal redemption. 13 The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. 14 How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death,[c] so that we may serve the living God!

15 For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance—now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.

16 In the case of a will,[d] it is necessary to prove the death of the one who made it, 17 because a will is in force only when somebody has died; it never takes effect while the one who made it is living. 18 This is why even the first covenant was not put into effect without blood. 19 When Moses had proclaimed every command of the law to all the people, he took the blood of calves, together with water, scarlet wool and branches of hyssop, and sprinkled the scroll and all the people. 20 He said, "This is the blood of the covenant, which God has commanded you to keep." [e] 21 In the same way, he sprinkled with the blood both the tabernacle and everything used in its ceremonies. 22 In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

23 It was necessary, then, for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these sacrifices, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. 24 For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made with human hands that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's presence. 25 Nor did he enter heaven to offer himself again and again, the way the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood that is not his own. 26 Otherwise Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But he has appeared once for all at the culmination of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself. 27 Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, 28 so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

Footnotes

Hebrews 9:11 Some early manuscripts are to come

Hebrews 9:12 Or blood, having obtained

Hebrews 9:14 Or from useless rituals

Hebrews 9:16 Same Greek word as covenant; also in verse 17

Hebrews 9:20 Exodus 24:8

Chapter 9 of Hebrews begins with the author describing the earthly tabernacle and the way it was designed to function. He explains how only the high priest was allowed to enter the Most Holy Place, and that he could only do so once a year to offer a sacrifice for the sins of the people.

The author then goes on to explain how the sacrifices offered by the priests in the earthly tabernacle were only temporary and could not fully cleanse the conscience of the worshipper. He emphasizes that these sacrifices were merely a shadow of the good things that were to come, and that they were unable to make the worshipper perfect.

The author then contrasts the sacrifices offered in the earthly tabernacle with the sacrifice offered by Jesus as our high priest in the heavenly tabernacle. He explains how Jesus offered himself as a sacrifice once for all, and that his sacrifice is able to cleanse our conscience and save us completely.

The author then emphasizes the importance of Jesus' blood in the forgiveness of sins, and shows how Jesus' sacrifice is able to purify the heavenly tabernacle itself. He argues that if the blood of animal sacrifices was able to purify earthly things, then how much more is Jesus' sacrifice able to purify the heavenly things.

The author then concludes chapter 9 by showing how Jesus' sacrifice is able to bring us into a new covenant relationship with God. He explains how Jesus' sacrifice is able to forgive our sins and enable us to serve the living God.

Overall, chapter 9 of Hebrews emphasizes the superiority of Jesus' sacrifice as our high priest in the heavenly tabernacle. The author shows how the sacrifices offered in the earthly tabernacle were only temporary and could not fully cleanse the conscience of the worshipper, and how Jesus' sacrifice is able to cleanse our conscience and save us completely. He emphasizes the importance of Jesus' blood in the forgiveness of sins, and shows how Jesus' sacrifice is able to purify the heavenly tabernacle itself. The author also shows how Jesus' sacrifice is able to bring us into a new covenant relationship with God.

Here are some important verses from Hebrews chapter 9 of the Christian Bible, along with a brief explanation and reference to their location in the chapter:

Verse 11: "But when Christ came as high priest of the good things that are now already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not made with human hands, that is to say, is not a part of this creation." - This verse emphasizes that Christ is a high priest of the good things that have come, and that he went through a more perfect tabernacle that is not of this world.

Verse 12: "He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption." - This verse emphasizes that Christ did not enter the Most Holy Place by means of animal sacrifices, but rather by his own blood, which obtained eternal redemption.

Verse 14: "How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!" - This verse emphasizes the power of Christ's blood to cleanse our consciences and enable us to serve the living God.

Verse 22: "In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness." - This verse emphasizes the importance of blood in the Old Testament sacrificial system and highlights the necessity of blood for forgiveness.

Verse 27: "Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment." - This verse emphasizes the inevitability of death and judgment for all people.

These verses can be found in Hebrews chapter 9, verses 11, 12, 14, 22, and 27.

Hebrews chapter 9 introduces important theological thoughts and has had theological influence in Christian theology. Here are some key theological thoughts and influences from Hebrews chapter 9:

The Old and New Covenant Contrast: Hebrews 9 begins by describing the layout of the tabernacle and the role of the high priest in the Old Covenant system. The primary theological thought here is the contrast between the Old Covenant's earthly tabernacle and sacrifices and the heavenly realities of the New Covenant in Christ. This contrast highlights the superiority of Christ's priesthood and His sacrifice over the Levitical priesthood and animal sacrifices, emphasizing that Jesus entered a heavenly tabernacle to offer His own blood for our redemption. This concept has had a profound influence on discussions about the fulfillment and surpassing excellence of the New Covenant in Christ.

The Efficacy of Christ's Sacrifice: Hebrews 9:11-14 emphasizes the efficacy of Christ's sacrifice. His offering of His own blood is portrayed as sufficient to cleanse the conscience of believers from dead works and to provide eternal redemption. This theological thought has greatly influenced discussions about the atoning work of Christ, His role as the ultimate sacrifice, and the forgiveness and cleansing that believers receive through His blood.

The Mediation of Christ: Hebrews 9:15 highlights Christ's role as the mediator of the New Covenant. This emphasizes His central role in reconciling humanity with God and securing eternal inheritance for believers. The concept of Christ as the mediator has influenced discussions about salvation and the intercessory work of Jesus on behalf of believers.

The Necessity of Blood for Atonement: Hebrews 9:22 underscores the biblical principle that without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness of sins. This theological thought has been influential in discussions about the necessity of sacrifice and the idea that the blood of Christ is the means by which sins are forgiven and atonement is made.

Theological influences from Hebrews 9 include its teachings on the contrast between the Old and New Covenants, the efficacy of Christ's sacrifice, His role as mediator, and the necessity of blood for atonement. These teachings have had a lasting impact on Christian theology, particularly in discussions related to the uniqueness of Christ's atoning work, the superiority of the New Covenant, and the centrality of Christ in the Christian faith.

Hebrews 10

New International Version

Christ's Sacrifice Once for All

10 The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming—not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship. 2 Otherwise, would they not have stopped being offered? For the worshipers would have been cleansed once for all, and would no longer have felt guilty for their sins. 3 But those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins. 4 It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

5 Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said:

“Sacrifice and offering you did not desire,
but a body you prepared for me;
6 with burnt offerings and sin offerings
you were not pleased.
7 Then I said, ‘Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll—
I have come to do your will, my God.’”[a]

8 First he said, “Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them”—though they were offered in accordance with the law. 9 Then he said, “Here I am, I have come to do your will.” He sets aside the first to establish the second. 10 And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

11 Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. 12 But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, 13 and

since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool. 14 For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.

15 The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First he says:

16 “This is the covenant I will make with them
after that time, says the Lord.
I will put my laws in their hearts,
and I will write them on their minds.”[b]

17 Then he adds:

“Their sins and lawless acts
I will remember no more.”[c]

18 And where these have been forgiven, sacrifice for sin is no longer necessary.

A Call to Persevere in Faith

19 Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, 25 not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

26 If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, 27 but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God. 28 Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. 29 How much more severely do you think someone deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified them, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace? 30 For we know him who said, “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,”[d] and again, “The Lord will judge his people.”[e] 31 It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

32 Remember those earlier days after you had received the light, when you endured in a great conflict full of suffering. 33 Sometimes you were publicly exposed to insult and persecution; at other times you stood side by side with those who were so treated. 34 You suffered along with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, because you knew that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions. 35 So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded.

36 You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. 37 For,

“In just a little while,
he who is coming will come
and will not delay.”[f]

38 And,

“But my righteous[g] one will live by faith.
And I take no pleasure
in the one who shrinks back.”[h]

39 But we do not belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed, but to those who have faith and are saved.

Footnotes

Hebrews 10:7 Psalm 40:6-8 (see Septuagint)

Hebrews 10:16 Jer. 31:33

Hebrews 10:17 Jer. 31:34

Hebrews 10:30 Deut. 32:35

Hebrews 10:30 Deut. 32:36; Psalm 135:14

Hebrews 10:37 Isaiah 26:20; Hab. 2:3

Hebrews 10:38 Some early manuscripts But the righteous

Hebrews 10:38 Hab. 2:4 (see Septuagint)

Chapter 10 of Hebrews continues the theme of Christ's superiority and the new covenant. The author emphasizes the sufficiency of Christ's sacrifice and encourages the readers to persevere in their faith.

The chapter begins with the author emphasizing that the sacrifices under the old covenant were insufficient and that they were only a shadow of the reality that is found in Christ. The author points out that Christ's sacrifice was offered once for all, and there is no longer any need for repeated sacrifices.

The author then encourages the readers to hold fast to their confession of faith and to consider how they might encourage one another in love and good deeds. The author warns that if anyone rejects the sacrifice of Christ, there is no other sacrifice that can take its place.

The author then contrasts the old covenant sacrifices with the sacrifice of Christ. The sacrifices under the old covenant could not take away sins, but Christ's sacrifice has made us holy once for all. The author emphasizes that Christ's sacrifice was so complete that there is no longer any need for offerings for sin.

The author then encourages the readers to approach God with confidence because of the sacrifice of Christ. He explains that Christ's sacrifice has opened up a new and living way for us to approach God, and that we can enter the sanctuary with confidence through the veil of his flesh.

Finally, the author encourages the readers to persevere in their faith, even in the face of persecution and suffering. The author reminds the readers of their former days when they endured suffering, and encourages them to continue to persevere. He emphasizes that those who persevere will receive the reward of eternal life.

Overall, chapter 10 of Hebrews emphasizes the sufficiency of Christ's sacrifice and encourages the readers to persevere in their faith. The author contrasts the old covenant sacrifices with the sacrifice of Christ, emphasizing that Christ's sacrifice was so complete that there is no longer any need for offerings for sin. The chapter also encourages the readers to approach God with confidence and to persevere in their faith, even in the face of persecution and suffering.

Here are some important verses from Hebrews chapter 10 of the Christian Bible, along with a brief explanation and reference to their location in the chapter:

Verse 1: "The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming—not the realities themselves. For this reason, it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship." - This verse emphasizes that the Old Testament law and its sacrificial system were temporary and incomplete, and that they could never make people perfect.

Verse 10: "And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." - This verse emphasizes that through the sacrifice of Christ's body, believers have been made holy once and for all.

Verse 14: "For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy." - This verse emphasizes that through Christ's sacrifice, believers have been made perfect forever, even as they are still in the process of being made holy.

Verse 19: "Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus." - This verse emphasizes that believers have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place through the blood of Jesus.

Verse 22: "Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water." - This verse encourages believers to approach God with sincerity, assurance, and a clean conscience.

These verses can be found in Hebrews chapter 10, verses 1, 10, 14, 19, and 22.

Hebrews chapter 10 contains important theological thoughts and has had theological influence in Christian theology. Here are some key theological thoughts and influences from Hebrews chapter 10:

The Superiority of Christ's Sacrifice: Hebrews 10 continues to emphasize the superiority of Christ's sacrifice over the Old Testament sacrifices. It explains that the sacrifices offered under the Old Covenant could never take away sins permanently, but Christ's sacrifice, offered once for all, provides complete and lasting forgiveness. This theological thought has had a profound influence on discussions about the sufficiency and effectiveness of Christ's atonement.

The Willing Obedience of Christ: Hebrews 10:5-10 highlights the willing obedience of Christ to God's will in offering His body as a sacrifice. This concept underscores Christ's perfect obedience and His role as the obedient Son of God. It has influenced discussions about Christ's role in fulfilling God's redemptive plan.

Access to God through Christ: Hebrews 10:19-22 teaches that through the blood of Jesus, believers have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place and have direct access to God. This theological thought has influenced discussions about the believer's access to God's presence and the role of Jesus as the mediator who enables this access.

Perseverance and Endurance: Throughout Hebrews 10, there is an emphasis on the importance of perseverance and endurance in the Christian faith. Believers are encouraged not to shrink back but to hold fast to their confession of faith. This theological idea has been influential in discussions about the perseverance of the saints and the call for Christians to remain faithful in the face of trials and challenges.

The Finality of Christ's Sacrifice: Hebrews 10:12 declares that Christ, after offering one sacrifice for sins, sat down at the right hand of God. This emphasizes the finality and completeness of Christ's work of redemption. It has influenced discussions about the once-for-all nature of Christ's sacrifice and the finished work of Christ on the cross.

Theological influences from Hebrews 10 include its teachings on the superiority of Christ's sacrifice, the willing obedience of Christ, access to God through Christ, perseverance, and the finality of Christ's sacrifice. These teachings have had a lasting impact on Christian theology, particularly in discussions related to the nature of salvation, the role of Christ as the mediator, and the call for believers to persevere in their faith.

Hebrews 11

New International Version

Faith in Action

11 Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

2 This is what the ancients were commended for.

3 By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

4 By faith Abel brought God a better offering than Cain did. By faith he was commended as righteous, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith Abel still speaks, even though he is dead.

5 By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death: "He could not be found, because God had taken him away." [a] For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God. 6 And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

7 By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that is in keeping with faith.

8 By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. 9 By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. 10 For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. 11 And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she[b] considered him faithful who had made the promise. 12 And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.

13 All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth. 14 People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. 15 If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

17 By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had embraced the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, 18 even though God had said to him, “It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.”[c] 19 Abraham reasoned that God could even raise the dead, and so in a manner of speaking he did receive Isaac back from death.

20 By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau in regard to their future.

21 By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of Joseph’s sons, and worshiped as he leaned on the top of his staff.

22 By faith Joseph, when his end was near, spoke about the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt and gave instructions concerning the burial of his bones.

23 By faith Moses’ parents hid him for three months after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child, and they were not afraid of the king’s edict.

24 By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh’s daughter. 25 He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. 26 He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. 27 By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king’s anger; he persevered because he saw him who is

invisible. 28 By faith he kept the Passover and the application of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel.

29 By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land; but when the Egyptians tried to do so, they were drowned.

30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the army had marched around them for seven days.

31 By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient.[d]

32 And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah, about David and Samuel and the prophets, 33 who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, 34 quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. 35 Women received back their dead, raised to life again. There were others who were tortured, refusing to be released so that they might gain an even better resurrection. 36 Some faced jeers and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. 37 They were put to death by stoning;^[e] they were sawed in two; they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated— 38 the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, living in caves and in holes in the ground.

39 These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, 40 since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.

Footnotes

Hebrews 11:5 Gen. 5:24

Hebrews 11:11 Or By faith Abraham, even though he was too old to have children—and Sarah herself was not able to conceive—was enabled to become a father because he

Hebrews 11:18 Gen. 21:12

Hebrews 11:31 Or unbelieving

Hebrews 11:37 Some early manuscripts stoning; they were put to the test;

Chapter 11 of Hebrews is often called the "Hall of Faith" because it gives examples of men and women who demonstrated great faith in God throughout history. The chapter begins by defining faith as "the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1).

The author then gives examples of faith from the Old Testament, starting with Abel, who offered a better sacrifice than his brother Cain, and continuing through Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, and many others. Each of these individuals demonstrated great faith in God and were rewarded for it.

The author then notes that these examples of faith are meant to encourage the readers to also have faith and persevere in their own lives. He encourages them to run with endurance the race set before them, looking to Jesus as the ultimate example of faith. The chapter ends by noting that many of the people mentioned earlier did not see the fulfillment of God's promises in their lifetimes, but they still had faith that God would keep His promises. The author encourages the readers to do the same, looking forward to the ultimate fulfillment of God's promises in the future.

Overall, chapter 11 of Hebrews is a powerful reminder of the importance of faith in God. The author gives many examples of men and women who demonstrated great faith throughout history, and encourages the readers to have faith and persevere in their own lives, even when they don't see the fulfillment of God's promises in the present. The chapter is a great encouragement to all believers to trust in God and look forward to the ultimate fulfillment of His promises in the future.

Here are some important verses from Hebrews chapter 11 of the Christian Bible, along with a brief explanation and reference to their location in the chapter:

Verse 1: "Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see." - This verse defines faith as confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we cannot see.

Verse 6: "And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him." - This verse emphasizes the importance of faith in pleasing God and highlights the need to believe in God's existence and his rewards for those who seek him.

Verse 7: "By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that is in keeping with faith." - This verse gives an example of faith in action, as Noah trusted God's warning and built an ark to save his family.

Verse 11: "And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she considered him faithful who had made the promise." - This verse highlights Sarah's faith in God's promise, which enabled her to have a child despite being past childbearing age.

Verse 39: "These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised." - This verse emphasizes that although the people mentioned in this chapter were commended for their faith, they did not receive everything they had been promised in their lifetime.

These verses can be found in Hebrews chapter 11, verses 1, 6, 7, 11, and 39.

Hebrews chapter 11, often referred to as the "Hall of Faith," is a well-known chapter in the Bible that contains important theological thoughts and has had significant theological influence in Christian theology. Here are some key theological thoughts and influences from Hebrews chapter 11:

The Nature of Faith: Hebrews 11:1 provides a famous definition of faith: "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." This verse has had a profound influence on Christian theology, shaping discussions about the nature and

importance of faith in the Christian life. It highlights that faith involves trust and conviction in God's promises even when they are not immediately visible.

Examples of Faith: The entire chapter of Hebrews 11 provides a list of Old Testament figures who demonstrated great faith in God. It includes individuals like Abraham, Moses, Noah, and many others. The theological thought here is that faith is not merely an abstract concept but is lived out in the lives of believers. These examples have inspired countless Christians throughout history to emulate the faith of these biblical heroes.

Pleasing God through Faith: Hebrews 11:6 emphasizes that without faith, it is impossible to please God. This concept underscores the importance of faith as a foundational element of the Christian life. It has influenced discussions about the significance of faith in the believer's relationship with God and the role of faith in receiving God's approval.

The Pilgrimage of Faith: Hebrews 11 describes the lives of these faithful individuals as a journey or pilgrimage. They lived as strangers and foreigners on earth, seeking a better country, a heavenly one. This theological thought has influenced discussions about the Christian's identity as a pilgrim in this world and the longing for a heavenly home.

Faith's Triumph over Adversity: Throughout Hebrews 11, the examples of faith include stories of triumph over adversity and obstacles. This theological idea has been influential in discussions about perseverance, endurance, and the idea that faith can overcome even the most challenging circumstances.

Theological influences from Hebrews 11 include its teachings on the nature of faith, the examples of faith-filled individuals, the pleasing nature of faith to God, the pilgrimage of faith, and faith's ability to triumph over adversity. These teachings have had a lasting impact on Christian theology, particularly in discussions related to faith's role in salvation, the Christian walk, and the call to trust in God's promises.

Hebrews 12

New International Version

12 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

God Disciplines His Children

4 In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. 5 And have you completely forgotten this word of encouragement that addresses you as a father addresses his son? It says,

“My son, do not make light of the Lord’s discipline,
and do not lose heart when he rebukes you,

6 because the Lord disciplines the one he loves,
and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son.”[a]

7 Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father? 8 If you are not disciplined—and everyone undergoes discipline—then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all. 9 Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of spirits and live! 10 They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness. 11 No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

12 Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees. 13 “Make level paths for your feet,”[b] so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed.

Warning and Encouragement

14 Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. 15 See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many. 16 See that no one is sexually immoral, or is godless like Esau, who for a single meal sold his inheritance rights as the oldest son. 17 Afterward, as you know, when he wanted to inherit this blessing, he was rejected. Even though he sought the blessing with tears, he could not change what he had done.

The Mountain of Fear and the Mountain of Joy

18 You have not come to a mountain that can be touched and that is burning with fire; to darkness, gloom and storm; 19 to a trumpet blast or to such a voice speaking words that those who heard it begged that no further word be spoken to them, 20 because they could not bear what was commanded: “If even an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned to death.”[c] 21 The sight was so terrifying that Moses said, “I am trembling with fear.”[d]

22 But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, 23 to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, 24 to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

25 See to it that you do not refuse him who speaks. If they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, how much less will we, if we turn away from him who warns us from heaven? 26 At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, “Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.”[e] 27 The words “once more” indicate the removing of what can be shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain.

28 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, 29 for our “God is a consuming fire.”[f]

Footnotes

Hebrews 12:6 Prov. 3:11,12 (see Septuagint)

Hebrews 12:13 Prov. 4:26

Hebrews 12:20 Exodus 19:12,13

Hebrews 12:21 See Deut. 9:19.

Hebrews 12:26 Haggai 2:6

Hebrews 12:29 Deut. 4:24

Chapter 12 of Hebrews continues the theme of endurance and perseverance in the Christian faith that is emphasized in the previous chapters. The author encourages the readers to run the race of faith with endurance, keeping their eyes fixed on Jesus, who is the perfect example of faithfulness.

The chapter begins by encouraging the readers to throw off any hindrances or sins that may be weighing them down and to run the race with perseverance. The author then reminds the readers that God disciplines those whom He loves, just as a father disciplines his children. This discipline may be painful in the moment, but it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace in those who have been trained by it.

The author then goes on to describe the importance of holiness in the Christian life. He warns the readers not to be like Esau, who traded his birthright for a single meal. Instead, the readers are encouraged to pursue peace and holiness, and to see to it that no one falls short of God's grace.

The author then contrasts the experience of the Israelites at Mount Sinai with the experience of Christians who have come to Mount Zion. The Israelites experienced a terrifying encounter with God at Mount Sinai, but Christians have come to a joyful assembly in the heavenly Jerusalem, where they are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, including the heroes of faith mentioned in the previous chapter.

The chapter ends with an exhortation to persevere in the faith, no matter what trials and difficulties may come. The readers are encouraged to keep their eyes fixed on Jesus, who is the author and perfecter of their faith, and to consider Him who endured the cross and the shame in order to bring about their salvation.

Overall, chapter 12 of Hebrews is a powerful call to endurance and perseverance in the Christian life. The readers are encouraged to throw off hindrances and sins, to pursue holiness, and to endure through discipline and trials. The chapter reminds the readers that they are not alone in their journey of faith, but are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, and that their ultimate goal is the heavenly Jerusalem, where they will be with God forever.

Here are some important verses from Hebrews chapter 12 of the Christian Bible, along with a brief explanation and reference to their location in the chapter:

Verse 1: "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us." - This verse encourages believers to persevere in their faith and to let go of anything that may be hindering them.

Verse 2: "Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." - This verse emphasizes the importance of keeping our focus on Jesus and the example he set by enduring the cross for the joy set before him.

Verse 5: "And have you completely forgotten this word of encouragement that addresses you as a father addresses his son? It says, 'My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you.'" - This verse reminds believers not to make light of God's discipline and to persevere even when facing rebuke.

Verse 11: "No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it." - This verse emphasizes that although discipline may be painful in the moment, it can produce a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who learn from it.

Verse 14: "Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord." - This verse emphasizes the importance of pursuing holiness and living in peace with others, as both are necessary for seeing the Lord.

These verses can be found in Hebrews chapter 12, verses 1, 2, 5, 11, and 14.

Hebrews chapter 12 introduces important theological thoughts and has had theological influence in Christian theology. Here are some key theological thoughts and influences from Hebrews chapter 12:

The Discipline of God: Hebrews 12:5-11 emphasizes the concept of God's discipline and chastening of His children. The theological thought here is that God disciplines those whom He loves, and this discipline is meant for the purpose of correction and growth. It has influenced discussions about the believer's relationship with God as a loving Father who guides and corrects them.

Endurance and Perseverance: Hebrews 12:1 encourages believers to lay aside every weight and sin that hinders them and to run with endurance the race set before them. This theme of endurance and perseverance has been influential in discussions about the Christian's need to remain steadfast in faith despite challenges and obstacles.

The Example of Jesus: Hebrews 12:2 directs believers to look to Jesus as the author and perfecter of their faith, who endured the cross for the joy set before Him. This concept underscores the importance of imitating Christ in the Christian journey. It has influenced discussions about Christ's role as the ultimate example of faith and endurance.

Reverence and Awe: Hebrews 12:28-29 speaks of serving God with reverence and godly fear, recognizing that God is a consuming fire. This theological thought highlights the importance of a reverent and awe-filled worship of God. It has influenced discussions about the attitude and posture of worship in the Christian life.

The Kingdom That Cannot Be Shaken: Hebrews 12:28 mentions that believers have received a kingdom that cannot be shaken. This thought underscores the permanence and security of the believer's inheritance in Christ. It has influenced discussions about the unshakable nature of God's kingdom and the believer's hope in eternity.

Theological influences from Hebrews 12 include its teachings on God's discipline, endurance, the example of Jesus, reverence and awe in worship, and the unshakable nature of God's kingdom. These teachings have had a lasting impact on Christian theology, particularly in discussions related to the believer's spiritual growth, the role of suffering and discipline in the Christian life, and the need for endurance in faith.

Hebrews 13

New International Version

Concluding Exhortations

13 Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. 2 Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. 3 Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.

4 Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral. 5 Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said,

“Never will I leave you;
never will I forsake you.”[a]

6 So we say with confidence,

“The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.
What can mere mortals do to me?”[b]

7 Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. 8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

9 Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings. It is good for our hearts to be strengthened by grace, not by eating ceremonial foods, which is of no benefit to those who do so. 10 We have an altar from which those who minister at the tabernacle have no right to eat.

11 The high priest carries the blood of animals into the Most Holy Place as a sin offering, but the bodies are burned outside the camp. 12 And so Jesus also suffered outside the city gate to make the people holy through his own blood. 13 Let us, then, go to him outside the camp, bearing the disgrace he bore. 14 For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come.

15 Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name. 16 And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

17 Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.

18 Pray for us. We are sure that we have a clear conscience and desire to live honorably in every way. 19 I particularly urge you to pray so that I may be restored to you soon.

Benediction and Final Greetings

20 Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, 21 equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

22 Brothers and sisters, I urge you to bear with my word of exhortation, for in fact I have written to you quite briefly.

23 I want you to know that our brother Timothy has been released. If he arrives soon, I will come with him to see you.

24 Greet all your leaders and all the Lord's people. Those from Italy send you their greetings.

25 Grace be with you all.

Footnotes

Hebrews 13:5 Deut. 31:6

Hebrews 13:6 Psalm 118:6,7

Chapter 13 of Hebrews contains a series of exhortations and instructions for the Christian community. The chapter begins with a call to show hospitality to strangers, reminding the readers that by doing so, they may be entertaining angels without knowing it.

The author then encourages the readers to remember those who are in prison and to treat them as if they themselves were in prison. The readers are also encouraged to honor marriage and to keep the marriage bed pure, for God will judge those who commit adultery.

The author then goes on to remind the readers to be content with what they have, for God has promised to never leave or forsake them. They are also encouraged to remember their leaders and to imitate their faith, and to not be swayed by strange teachings.

The chapter ends with a call to go outside the camp and bear the reproach of Christ, for here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come. The author also offers a

benediction, asking God to equip the readers with everything good for doing His will and to work in them what is pleasing to Him, through Jesus Christ.

Overall, chapter 13 of Hebrews provides a series of practical exhortations and instructions for the Christian community. The readers are encouraged to show hospitality, remember those in prison, honor marriage, be content, imitate their leaders, and bear the reproach of Christ. The chapter ends with a benediction, reminding the readers that it is only through Jesus Christ that they can do God's will and please Him.

Here are some important verses from Hebrews chapter 13 of the Christian Bible, along with a brief explanation and reference to their location in the chapter:

Verse 1: "Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters." - This verse emphasizes the importance of showing love and care to other believers in the Christian community.

Verse 2: "Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it." - This verse encourages believers to show kindness and hospitality to strangers, as it can lead to unexpected blessings.

Verse 5: "Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, 'Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.'" - This verse emphasizes the importance of being content and trusting in God's provision, rather than pursuing material wealth.

Verse 8: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." - This verse emphasizes the unchanging nature of Jesus Christ, who remains the same throughout all of time.

Verse 15: "Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name." - This verse encourages believers to continually offer praise and worship to God through Jesus Christ.

These verses can be found in Hebrews chapter 13, verses 1, 2, 5, 8, and 15.

Hebrews chapter 13 concludes the book of Hebrews with important theological thoughts and has had theological influence in Christian theology. Here are some key theological thoughts and influences from Hebrews chapter 13:

The Unchanging Nature of Jesus Christ: Hebrews 13:8 famously states, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." This theological thought emphasizes the unchanging and eternal nature of Jesus Christ, which has had a profound influence on discussions about Christology (the study of Christ's nature) and the reliability of Christ as the foundation of the Christian faith.

The Importance of Brotherly Love: Hebrews 13:1-3 emphasizes the importance of brotherly love and hospitality among believers. This concept underscores the significance of Christian community and the need for love and kindness toward one another. It has influenced discussions about Christian ethics and the practice of love within the church.

Contentment and Trust in God: Hebrews 13:5-6 encourages believers to be content with what they have and to trust in God's provision. This theological thought has influenced

discussions about Christian stewardship, the pursuit of material wealth, and the believer's reliance on God for their needs.

Following the Example of Spiritual Leaders: Hebrews 13:7 encourages believers to remember and imitate their spiritual leaders who taught them the Word of God. This thought emphasizes the importance of honoring and learning from those who have gone before, which has influenced discussions about discipleship and spiritual leadership.

The Superiority of the Heavenly City: Hebrews 13:14 mentions that believers do not have a lasting city on earth but are seeking the city that is to come. This concept underscores the believer's heavenly citizenship and the eternal hope they have in Christ. It has influenced discussions about eschatology (the study of end times) and the Christian's ultimate destination.

Theological influences from Hebrews 13 include its teachings on the unchanging nature of Christ, brotherly love, contentment, following spiritual leaders, and the believer's heavenly citizenship. These teachings have had a lasting impact on Christian theology, particularly in discussions related to Christ's eternal nature, Christian ethics, community life, and the believer's hope in the kingdom of God.

Notes:

There are several difficult questions raised in the book of Hebrews that do not have clear answers, even among biblical scholars and theologians. Some of these questions include:

1. Who wrote the book of Hebrews? Unlike most other New Testament books, the author of Hebrews is not explicitly named, leading to much speculation and debate over the centuries.
2. To whom was the book of Hebrews written? The original audience of the book is not explicitly stated, although it is likely that the intended readers were Jewish Christians who were facing persecution and considering a return to Judaism.
3. What is the meaning of the phrase "once saved, always saved" in Hebrews 6:4-6? This passage suggests that it is possible for someone to fall away from faith after experiencing the benefits of salvation, but it is unclear whether this means a loss of salvation or simply a loss of rewards.
4. What is the nature of the priesthood of Melchizedek, and how does it relate to the priesthood of Jesus? Hebrews 5-7 compares and contrasts the priesthood of Jesus with that of Melchizedek, but the meaning of this comparison is not fully understood.
5. What is the "rest" that is promised to believers in Hebrews 4:1-13? This passage draws on the imagery of the Sabbath to suggest that believers can experience a spiritual rest even in the midst of trials, but the exact nature of this rest is difficult to define.

