



## INTRODUCTION

Hebrews 13:20-25

In the ancient world, endings were a very important part of any speech. In the Jewish context specifically, a benediction was often seen as an aspect of worship. A writer could design a benediction to address specific needs of the audience or to express a summary of his main message. The author of Hebrews ends with a prayer containing the essential elements of his book. At the heart of his message is Christ's work in establishing the new covenant and God's work in us to do his will. The author wants believers to live out God's will in light of the work of Christ. The book of Hebrews is all about the foundational relationship between right thinking and right living.<sup>1</sup>

## Open it

1. What's the most or least satisfying ending you've ever seen in a movie?

## Read it

Hebrews 13:20-25

## Explore it

2. How is God the Father described in verse 20?

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<sup>1</sup>George H. Guthrie, *Hebrews*, The NIV Application Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1998), 443.

3. **What did God the Father do for Jesus Christ?**
  
4. **How is Jesus Christ described in verse 20?**
  
5. **What does the author hope God gives to His people and why?**
  
6. **Rewrite Hebrews 13:20-21 as though it was a personal prayer from you to God.**

## **Apply it**

The author of Hebrews begins this final prayer by designating God as “the God of peace.” He’s telling us that God gives peace to His people. The original readers of Hebrews faced persecution for their faith. The author is reminding them that true peace comes from God, regardless of the circumstances.<sup>2</sup>

7. **How would you describe the differences in how Christians view peace as opposed to how non-Christians view peace?**

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<sup>2</sup> Thomas R. Schreiner, *Commentary on Hebrews*, Biblical Theology for Christian Proclamation (Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing Group, 2015), 428.

**8. Read Philippians 4:4-7. Describe a situation in which God gave you this supernatural peace.**

**9. Read Hebrews 12:14, 13:1, and 13:17. What are some ways we can work for peace in the Christian community?**

Remember that the first people who read Hebrews were a group of Jewish Christians who were thinking about leaving Christianity to go back to Judaism. For this reason, the author used many Old Testament references in order to encourage these believers to stand strong in the faith. The author continues these references here at the end of the book.

Jesus as “the great shepherd of the sheep” is a reference to the way Moses led Israel out of Egypt and across the Red Sea (see Isaiah 63:11). “The blood of the eternal covenant” reminds these Christians of something that had been written earlier in Hebrews about Old Testament sacrifices. The blood of those sacrifices was unable to remove sin, but Jesus’ blood serves as an eternal sacrifice (see Hebrews 9:13-14, 10:4).<sup>3</sup>

**10. Sheep are completely dependent upon their shepherd every day. He feeds them, protects them, and leads them. What are some ways we should be dependent upon Jesus every day?**

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<sup>3</sup> William L Lane, *Hebrews: A Call to Commitment* (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1994), 176.

**11. The Jews in the Old Testament had to perform animal sacrifices over and over again, but Jesus' sacrifice was once-for-all. It's an eternal covenant. Describe why it's sometimes hard for us to believe that we are really forgiven by God forever.**

**12. Moses led Israel out of slavery in Egypt. Jesus leads his people out of slavery to sin. Describe some victories over sin that you've had because of Jesus.**

We are powerless to do God's will without His help. This is why the author of Hebrews asks God to equip his readers with "everything good." He is probably thinking of everything that he has written in the book of Hebrews. If Christians are going to live this way, they need God to step in.<sup>4</sup>

**13. What are some ways you have tried to do God's will without God's help?**

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<sup>4</sup> Schreiner, *Commentary on Hebrews*, 429.

**14. How does the fact that God empowers you to live the Christian life help you persevere in the faith?**

**15. God equips us to live lives that are “pleasing in his sight.” What are some ways you are pleasing God in your life right now?**

This is our final study in the book of Hebrews. Here are just a few ways we've seen Jesus as the Greatest Of All Time.

- as the final Word of God in these last days (1:2),
- as the Creator of the heavens and earth whom angels worship (1:6,10),
- as the Pioneer of our salvation who was made perfect through suffering (2:10),
- as one who became flesh that he might die in our place and free us from the fear of death (2:14f),
- as one superior to Moses as a son is superior to a servant (3:5f),
- as a sympathetic High Priest who opens the way to the throne of grace (4:14-16),
- as one who saves for all time those who draw near to God through him (7:25),
- as the Mediator of a new blood-bought covenant to secure that our sins will be forgiven and the law will be written on our hearts and that God will be our God (8:10-12),
- as the one who by his blood purifies our consciences from dead works to serve the living God (9:14),
- as the one who put an end to all sacrifices by putting away sin once for all through the sacrifice of himself (9:26),
- as the Pioneer and Perfecter of our faith who for the joy set before him endured the cross, despised the shame and sat down at the right hand of God until all his enemies are made a stool for his feet (12:2; 1:13),
- as the one who suffered outside the gate that he might sanctify the people by his own blood (13:12),
- as the one who will never leave us or forsake us but will help us forever by the power of an indestructible life (13:5-6; 7:16).<sup>5</sup>

**16. Which of the above reflections on Jesus from Hebrews is your favorite? Why?**

**17. Describe how your view of Jesus has changed as a result of studying Hebrews.**

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/its-all-the-work-of-god>

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