

# **Wycliffe Associates**

## **Bible Translation Reviewers' Guide**

### *Hebrews*

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# 1:1-4

**Background:** The identity of the author of Hebrews is unknown. In this Reviewers' Guide, the author will be referred to as "the author."

## Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ In the past, God spoke through his prophets, but in the last days, God has spoken through his Son. [1:1-2]
- ☐ The universe was made through the Son of God. [1:2]
- ☐ The Son of God is the exact representation of God and is superior to angels. [1:3-4]

## Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. Who did God speak through long ago? [1:1]  
The prophets.
2. Who did God speak through in the last days? [1:2]  
God spoke through a Son.
3. What was said about God's Son? [1:2]  
God's Son was the appointed heir of all things and it was through him that God also made the universe.
4. How did the author describe the Son? [1:3]
  - He is the brightness of God's glory.
  - He is the exact representation of his being.
  - He holds everything together by the word of his power.
5. Where did the Son sit? [1:3]  
He sat at the right hand of the Majesty on high.
6. Who is the Son superior to? [1:4]  
The Son is superior to the angels.
7. Who do you think "the Son" is? [1:1-4]  
Jesus Christ is God's Son.
8. In your translation, is the word "Son" translated with the word in your language that means a biological son?  
Answer should be "yes."

**Comment Section:**

## 2:5-9

### Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ God caused the son of man to rule all things, not the angels. [2:5-8]
- ☐ God made Jesus lower than the angels for a little while so that he could die for all people. [2:9]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. To whom did God not subject the world to come? [2:5]  
The world was not subjected to the angels.
2. What two questions were asked about man? [2:6]
  - “What is man, that you are mindful of him?”
  - “What was the son of man, that you care for him?”
3. Who do you think “you” refers to in 2:6?  
It refers to God.
4. What did the author say about how man was made? [2:7]  
Man was made a little lower than the angels.
5. What was man crowned with? [2:7]  
Man was crowned with glory and honor.
6. What was put under his feet? [2:8]  
Everything was put under his feet.
7. Who was made lower than the angels for a little while, then crowned with glory and honor? [2:9]  
It was the son of man, who is Jesus.
8. Why was Jesus crowned with glory and honor? [2:9]  
Jesus was crowned with glory and honor because of his suffering and death.
9. What happened because of God’s grace? [2:9]  
Because of God’s grace, Jesus tasted death for everyone.

**Comment Section:**

# 3:1-6

## Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Believers shared in a heavenly calling. [3:1]
- ☐ Jesus was faithful to God like Moses was, but Jesus is greater than Moses. [3:2-3]
- ☐ Moses was a servant of God's house, but Jesus is in charge of God's house. [3:4-6]
- ☐ Christians were God's house, if they continued to have courage and hope. [3:6]

## Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What did the brothers share? [3:1]  
The brothers shared a heavenly calling.
2. What did the author of the book of Hebrews call Jesus? [3:1]  
The author called Jesus "apostle" and "high priest."
3. Who were faithful to God? [3:2]  
Jesus and Moses were faithful to God.
4. Why was Jesus considered worthy of greater glory than Moses? [3:3]  
Jesus was considered worthy of greater glory because Jesus is the one who built the house.
5. Who built everything? [3:4]  
God built everything.
6. What was Moses' role in God's house? [3:5]  
Moses was a faithful servant in God's house.
7. About what did Moses bear witness? [3:5]  
Moses bore witness about the things that were to be spoken of in the future.
8. What is Jesus' role in God's house? [3:6]  
Jesus is the Son in charge of God's house.
9. What did the author say about Christians and God's house? [3:6]  
Christians were considered to be God's house if they continued to have courage and hope.

**Comment Section:**

# 4:12-16

## Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ The word of God is like a two-edged sword and can discern a person's thoughts and intentions. [4:12]
- ☐ God is able to see all things. [4:13]
- ☐ Jesus is a high priest who can sympathize with humans because he too was tempted, yet he did not sin. [4:14-15]
- ☐ Believers can approach the throne of God with confidence to receive mercy and grace. [4:16]

## Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. To what did the author compare God's Word? [4:12]  
The author compared it to a sword that has two edges.
2. What do you think the author meant by "God's Word"? [4:12]  
"God's Word" is God's message as is written in the Bible.
3. What are some of the qualities shared between God's word and a sword? [4:12]  
Both are sharp. Each can divide, cut, and separate things that are closely connected.
4. In what way is the word of God like a sword? [4:12]  
Just like a sword can pierce something, the word of God can pierce and divide soul from spirit and joints from marrow.
5. What else is the word of God able to do? [4:12]  
It can discern a person's thoughts and intentions.
6. What do you think 4:12 means?  
Perhaps it means that when someone hears the Word of God, it impacts the person greatly, causing them to judge their own thoughts and intentions by what was taught in the Word of God. Or, perhaps it is a way of describing the Spirit of God knowing everything about a person and is able to judge even a person's most hidden thoughts and intentions.
7. What is hidden from God? [4:13]  
Nothing is hidden from God. God is able to see and know everything clearly.
8. In 4:14 how did the author describe Jesus?  
The author described Jesus as a great high priest.
9. Where did the author say Jesus has gone? [4:14]  
Jesus has passed through the heavens.

**Hebrews 4:12-16 continued**

10. Since Jesus is a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, what were believers to do? [4:14]  
Believers were to firmly hold to their confession. This meant that Christians should continue believing the true teachings about Christ.
11. How was Jesus similar to all believers? How was he different? [4:15]  
He was similar to all believers when he lived on earth in a human body because he was tempted in the same way that all believers are tempted. He was different from believers because he never sinned.
12. What were believers told to do? [4:16]  
Believers were to go with confidence to the throne of grace, so they would find mercy and grace in their time of need.
13. What do you think “go to the throne of grace” means? [4:16]  
Here, the word “throne” represents God himself. This phrase means a person can go confidently to God, who is gracious.
14. How do you think a person went before the throne of grace? [4:16]  
Perhaps a person went to the throne of grace by praying to God.
15. What was the purpose of believers going to the throne of grace? [4:16]  
Believers went to the throne to receive mercy and find grace in time of need.
16. With what attitude were believers to go to the throne of grace? [4:16]  
Believers were to go to the throne of grace with confidence.
17. What did verse 16 tell people about God? [4:16]  
He was gracious, merciful, and he helped believers in time of need.

**Comment Section:**

# 5:11-14

## Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Paul described the Christians as being immature in their understanding of God's message. [5:11-13]
- ☐ Only the mature Christians understood the difference between good and evil. [5:14]

## Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. Why was it hard to explain things about Jesus to the people? [5:11]  
It was hard to explain things about Jesus because the people had become dull of hearing.
2. Though at that time they should have been teachers, what did the author say about what the people still needed? [5:12]  
The people still needed to be taught the elementary principles of God's messages.
3. To what did the author compare his readers? [5:12-13]  
The author compared them to little children who only took milk and did not eat solid food.
4. For whom was the solid food? [5:14]  
The solid food was for people who were mature in understanding God's messages.
5. What could mature Christians distinguish? [5:14]  
Mature Christians could distinguish good from evil.
6. Why do you think the author was unhappy with the believers? [5:11-13]  
The author was unhappy because the believers had not advanced in their understanding of God's messages. Perhaps the believers had become lazy or no longer wanted to study God's messages. The author wanted them to teach others God's message, but they still needed instruction themselves.

**Comment Section:**

## 6:13-20

Read chapter 6, then read this passage again and answer the questions below.

### Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ God swore to Abraham to bless him and give him many descendants. [6:13-15]
- ☐ People swore by someone greater than themselves to confirm their oaths. [6:16]
- ☐ God showed his promise was certain by swearing by himself, because there was no one greater to swear by, and God cannot lie. [6:15, 17-18]
- ☐ Christians should be encouraged and continue to have hope because God's promise is secure. [6:18-19]
- ☐ Jesus became a high priest after the order of Melchizedek on our behalf. [6:20]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. When God made a promise, why did God swear by himself? [6:13]  
God swore by himself because there was no one greater by whom he could swear.
2. What did God promise to Abraham? [6:14]  
God promised to bless Abraham and give him many descendants.
3. What did Abraham have to do in order to obtain what God promised him? [6:15]  
Abraham had to wait patiently to obtain what God promised him.
4. When people made an oath, who did they swear by? [6:16]  
People swore by someone greater than themselves.
5. How did God decide to show his unchangeable quality to his heirs? [6:17]  
God guaranteed his unchangeable quality with an oath.
6. What did the author say is impossible for God to do? [6:18]  
It is impossible for God to lie.
7. What was the believer's secure and reliable anchor for the soul? [6:19]  
The believer's anchor was a hope that entered into the inner place, where Jesus went behind the curtain.
8. What do you think it means to call something an "anchor for the soul"? [6:19]  
Perhaps it is a way of talking about something that helps a person feel secure and peaceful when difficult times come. This is just like an anchor that holds a boat in place in the water so that the wind and waves do not cause it to drift away.
9. Where did Jesus enter as the forerunner for the believers? [6:19-20]  
Jesus entered into the inner place behind the curtain as the forerunner for the believers.



**Hebrews 6:13-20 continued**

10. What did Jesus become? [6:20]

He became a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.

11. Why do you think it was important for the Christians to hear the guarantee of God's oath? [6:17-18]

Perhaps because people were used to dealing with other people who might not keep their promises. God cannot lie. His oath is reliable.

**Comment Section:**

# 7:11-17

**Background:** In 7:11-17, the author talks about a person named Melchizedek. This person is mentioned in Genesis 14:17-20 and Psalm 110:4.

The author also talks about the Levitical priesthood. In the Law of Moses, God said the priests who serve him must come from Levi, one of the tribes of Israel.

Read 7:1-17, then read this passage again and answer the questions below.

## Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ No one could be made perfect through the Levitical priesthood nor the law, so a new type of priest was needed. [7:11-12]
- ☐ The Lord became a priest, not because he was a Levite, but because he had the power of everlasting life. [7:13-14, 16]
- ☐ The Lord became a priest according to the order of Melchizedek. [7:15, 17]

## Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. Why was there a need for another priest to arise? [7:11]  
There was a need for another priest to arise because perfection was not possible through the Levitical priesthood.
2. What needed to be changed when the priesthood changed? [7:12]  
The law needed to be changed when the priesthood changed.
3. Which tribe had never served at the altar? [7:13-14]  
No one from Judah had ever served at the altar as a priest.
4. In whose likeness did another priest arise? [7:15]  
Melchizedek was the likeness for another priest.
5. In verse 16 how did the next “one” become a priest? [7:16]  
The next “one” became a priest by the power of an everlasting life.

**Comment Section:**

## 8:3-6

**Background:** In this passage, the author talked about the “tabernacle.” This was a large tent that the Israelites constructed before they had a temple. God’s presence lived in the tabernacle.

### Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ The priests were expected to offer gifts and sacrifices. [8:3-4]
- ☐ Priests served a copy and shadow of things in heaven. [8:5]
- ☐ Moses built the tabernacle according to the pattern God showed him. [8:5]
- ☐ Christ received a better ministry, just as he was the mediator of a better covenant. [8:4, 6]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What were the high priests to offer? [8:3]  
The priests were to offer gifts and sacrifices.
2. Why would Christ not be a priest if he were on earth? [8:4]  
Christ would not be a priest because there were those who already offered gifts according to the law.
3. What did the priests on earth serve? [8:5]  
The priests on earth served a copy and shadow of the heavenly things.
4. What warning did God give Moses about the construction of the tabernacle? [8:5]  
God warned Moses to make everything according to the pattern shown to Moses on the mountain.
5. What did Christ receive? [8:6]  
Christ received a better ministry.
6. Why was the covenant that Christ mediated better? [8:6]  
It was better because it was based on better promises.

**Comment Section:**

## 9:11-15

**Background:** In this passage, the author talks about “the most holy place.” In the tabernacle, there was an inner room called “the most holy place.” This was where God’s presence lived. No one was allowed to enter this room except the high priest. He could enter the room only one day a year after offering the proper sacrifices.

Read chapter 9, then read this passage again and answer the questions below.

### Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Christ came as a high priest and entered the perfect tabernacle. [9:11].
- ☐ Christ entered the most holy place by his own blood, not the blood of animals. [9:12]
- ☐ Christ’s blood is able to cleanse a person so they can serve God. [9:13-14]
- ☐ Christ was the mediator of a new covenant that redeemed people from their sins and gave them the promise of an eternal inheritance. [9:15]

### Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. How did Christ come? [9:11]  
Christ came as a high priest.
2. How was the perfect tabernacle described? [9:11]  
The tabernacle was described as greater and more perfect, not made by human hands, and not belonging to this world.
3. How did Christ enter into the most holy place? [9:12]  
Christ entered in by His own blood, not by the blood of goats and calves.
4. What did the blood of animals do for people who were defiled? [9:13]  
It sanctified them for the cleansing of their flesh.
5. Why do you think the author asked the question at 9:14?  
Perhaps the author wanted the readers to think and understand that if animal blood was effective for purifying people, then the blood of Christ was even more effective.
6. Christ was the mediator of what? [9:15]  
Christ was the mediator of a new covenant.
7. What did the people who were called receive? [9:15]  
The people who were called received the promise of an eternal inheritance.

**Comment Section:**

# 10:19-25

## Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Believers had confidence to enter the most holy place because of Jesus' death. [10:19-20]
- ☐ Believers were able to approach the house of God with pure hearts and complete faith. [10:21-23]
- ☐ Believers were instructed to encourage each other. [10:24-25]

## Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. Into what place were believers able to enter by Jesus' blood? [10:19]  
Believers were able to enter the most holy place by Jesus' blood.
2. By what means were believers able to go through the curtain? [10:20]  
Believers went through the curtain by means of Jesus' flesh.
3. What do you think the author meant by "the blood of Jesus" and "his flesh"? [10:19-20]  
The author used the words "blood" and "flesh" to talk about Jesus' death on the cross.
4. Who was over the house of God? [10:21]  
A great high priest was over the house of God.
5. What was sprinkled and what was washed in the believer? [10:22]  
The believer's heart was sprinkled clean from an evil conscience, and his body was washed with pure water.
6. To what must believers hold firmly? [10:23]  
Believers must hold firmly to the hope that they confessed.
7. About what were the believers to encourage each other? [10:24]  
Believers were to encourage each other to love and to do good deeds.
8. What were the people not to abandon? [10:25]  
Believers were not to abandon meeting together.

**Comment Section:**

# 11:13-19

**Background:** In this passage, the author talked about the time when God told Abraham to sacrifice his only son, Isaac. Abraham obeyed God, but God stopped him just before he killed Isaac. God blessed Abraham because he obeyed him. You can read about this in Genesis 22.

## Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ The believers from the Old Testament died without the fulfillment of the promises, but they acknowledged that earth was not their home. [11:13-16]
- ☐ Abraham offered his son Isaac because Abraham knew God could bring Isaac back to life. [11:17-19]

## Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What did the ancestors of faith see from far off? [11:13]  
The ancestors of faith saw and welcomed God's promises from far off.
2. What did the ancestors of faith consider themselves to be while on the earth? [11:13]  
The ancestors of faith considered themselves to be strangers and exiles on the earth.
3. What were the ancestors seeking? [11:14]  
The ancestors were seeking a homeland.
4. What was possible if the people were thinking of the country from which they left? [11:15]  
It would have been possible for them to return to their former country.
5. What was the desire of the believers? [11:16]  
The believers desired a better country, a heavenly one.
6. What did God prepare for those of faith?? [11:16]  
God prepared a heavenly city for those of faith.
7. What did Abraham do when he was tested? [11:17]  
He offered Isaac.
8. What was the promise that Abraham received? [11:18]  
Abraham was to have many descendants through Isaac."
9. What did Abraham reason that God was able to do for Isaac? [11:19]  
Abraham reasoned that God was able to raise Isaac from the dead.

**Hebrews 11:13-19 continued**

10. Why do you think the believers were being reminded of stories from the Old Testament?

Perhaps believers were forgetful of their history or perhaps some of the believers had never heard these stories before.

Perhaps the author was writing to Jewish Christians who were considering going back to Judaism. The example of Old Testament people who remained faithful may have been an encouragement to them to remain faithful to Jesus.

**Comment Section:**

# 12:18-24

**Background:** In this passage, the author talked about the time when the Israelites came to Mount Sinai, after God rescued them from Egypt. God was at this mountain, and it was a terrifying experience for the Israelites. You can read about this event in Exodus 19.

Read chapter 12, then read this passage again and answer the questions below.

## Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Believers in Christ had not come to a physical mountain with terrifying events happening as Moses did. [12:18-21]
- ☐ Believers in Christ came to the heavenly Jerusalem, to God, the judge, and to Jesus. [12:22-24]

## Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. How was the mountain described in 12:18?  
It was a mountain of fire, darkness, gloom, and storm.
2. For what did the Israelites beg at the mountain where God spoke? [12:19]  
The Israelites begged that not another word be spoken to them.
3. What happened when an animal touched the mountain? [12:20]  
The animal had to be stoned.
4. How did Moses feel at the sight of the burning mountain? [12:21]  
Moses was terrified and trembled.
5. Where did believers in Christ go? [12:22]  
They went to Mount Zion and to the heavenly Jerusalem.
6. Who was in the heavenly Jerusalem? [12:22]  
Tens of thousands of angels were in the heavenly Jerusalem.
7. To what congregation did believers in Christ go? [12:23]  
Believers in Christ went to the congregation of all the firstborn registered in heaven.
8. To whom did the believers go? [12:23-24]  
Believers went to God, to the spirits of the righteous, and to Jesus, the mediator and the one who sprinkled his blood.



**Hebrews 12:18-24 continued**

9. How did the author describe Jesus?

The author described Jesus as the mediator and the one who sprinkled his blood.

**Comment Section:**

# 13:11-16

## Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ The high priest brought the blood of sacrifices into the holy place, but the body of the animal was burned outside the camp. [13:11]
- ☐ Jesus died outside of the city, so believers were to share his disgrace outside the city with him. [13:12-13]
- ☐ Believers did not have a permanent city there, instead they were looking for the one that was to come. [13:14]
- ☐ Believers were to offer sacrifices of praise, of sharing, and of doing good for God. [13:15-16]

## Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. Where was the blood of the sacrificed animals brought? [13:11]  
The blood was brought into the holy place.
2. Where were the bodies of the animals burned? [13:11]  
The bodies were burned outside the camp.
3. Where did Jesus suffer? [13:12]  
Jesus suffered outside the city gate.
4. Where did the author want the believers to go? [13:13]  
The believers were to go outside the camp, bearing the disgrace He endured.
5. What do you think it meant for believers to go outside the camp with Jesus. [13:13]  
Perhaps the author meant that just as Jesus was rejected, believers were to be willing to endure disgrace because of their faith.
6. What were believers looking for? [13:14]  
The believers were looking for a permanent city that was to come.
7. What did the author want the believers to offer to God? [13:15]  
The author wanted believers to offer sacrifices of praise to God that acknowledged his name.
8. What sacrifices pleased God? [13:16]  
Sacrifices of doing good and of sharing pleased God.

**Comment Section:**