

## Thursday

- Read Hebrews 2:10-18

### QUESTIONS

1. What was the basic task given to the Son by the Father?
2. How did the Son have to be equipped for this task?
3. Read verses 14-18 again carefully. How did the Son destroy the devil and his power?
4. What two tasks did Jesus' humanity allow him to achieve?

### POINTER

#### v10 'made perfect' or 'complete':

This sounds strange to us, because we think of Jesus as being already perfect in every way.

In order to be completely or perfectly qualified for the task God had for him, he had to take upon himself flesh and blood; he had to suffer.

He could not do this from heaven; he had to become man, and suffer and die. This was the sense in which he was made 'complete' for the task.

### PONDER

Are you ever tempted to think that God is remote, and doesn't understand your suffering?

How does this passage dispel that thought? Something else to ponder: this passage speaks of us being in bondage through our fear of death.

How do you see this in those around you? In yourself?

## PRAYER IDEAS

Give thanks for the wonder of God's Son becoming man to suffer, be tempted and die for us. Pour out your own struggles and temptations before him, and beg his help.

## Friday

- Read Hebrews 4:12-16

### QUESTIONS

1. Read verses 12-13. What can we hide from God? How does that make you feel?
2. Now read verses 14-16. What comfort and encouragement do these verses offer? What do they urge us to do?
3. To what does 'gone through the heavens' refer? How is Jesus' resurrection and ascension connected to the forgiveness of our sins?

### PONDER

How does this passage challenge your view of God's word, and your use of it?

## PRAYER IDEAS

Do what this passage encourages us to do: draw near to God in prayer, begging for his mercy and help in your need. Pray for yourself and others.



# 15 Steps through the Bible

## Jesus Resurrection

God raised Jesus from death, showing that the penalty for disobedience had

been paid and that the world could now be reconciled to God.

After appearing to his followers, Jesus ascended to the right hand of God the Father, where he began his reign as the saving ruler of God's kingdom.

His resurrection began the age of resurrection, in which God's people will inherit eternal life with Christ.

Adam and Eve rebelled. Israel rebelled. But the righteous one, Jesus Christ, became the saving ruler of God's kingdom.

### 1 Corinthians 15:3-8

*For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. 6 After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, 8 and last of all he appeared to me [Paul] also, as to one abnormally born.*

## More detail

The resurrection of Jesus shows us that he was appointed by God to a special position of honour and authority.

## Jesus the Judge

Jesus has been appointed as the world's judge.

### Acts 17:31

*He [God] has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.*

## Jesus the Lord

Jesus is given Lordship (that is, kingship or rulership) over all creation.

### Romans 1:1-4

*Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, 2 which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, 3 concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh 4 and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord,*

## Jesus is glorified

Jesus was faithful to God's promises: he fulfilled the plan of salvation. God gives Jesus glory for his obedience.

### Philippians 2:5-11

*Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.*

9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

### 1 PETER 1:20-21

He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you 21 who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

The resurrection of Jesus also marks 'the beginning of the end'. The time of salvation is at hand; the Kingdom of God is near. It is only a matter of time until the whole plan is fulfilled.

### QUESTIONS

1. What things did Paul consider to be 'of first importance' (1 Cor 15)?
2. What do verses 5-8 tell you about Jesus' resurrection?
3. Read through the 'More detail' section. What does Jesus' resurrection declare?

### PONDER

Who first shared these things 'of first importance' with you? When did you understand them for the first time?

### PRAYER IDEAS

Thank Jesus for the depths he descended to for your sake, and the glory he has now received. Ask God to conform you to the likeness of Jesus more and more.

## Daily Readings: from Hebrews

Hebrews argues that Jesus has risen from the dead and has now ascended to rule in heavenly power at God's right hand. He is now the mediator of a new covenant that is vastly superior to everything that has gone before.

You might like to use this prayer (or your own variation on it) before each of this week's readings:

*Father in heaven, true and living God, Your word is active and sharper than any two-edged sword; it pierces my soul, and discerns the thoughts of my heart; it exposes my sin and challenges my laziness. Lord, forgive my sin through the perfect sacrifice of your Son, who tasted death for me, and now lives to intercede for me. Be merciful to me, and help me in my weakness, that I might listen closely to your word, trust in your promise, and hold fast to the hope that is set before me, in the name of Christ, our great high priest. Amen.*

## Monday

- Read Hebrews 1:1-4

### QUESTIONS

1. In two columns, note everything this passage says about what has happened 'in the past' and what is true 'now'. Note especially what the passage says about 'the Son', what he has done in the past and what he does now that he has been resurrected.
2. What is the difference between Jesus' resurrection and his ascension?

### POINTER

v. 2: the "last days" refers to the final period of time in the history of the world, the time bounded by the first and second comings of the Son.

### PONDER

From the ideas in this passage how would you answer a friend who said, "Well I might believe in God if only he would show himself to me"?

How does this passage's view of Jesus differ from the way our society normally thinks about him?

Is your own view of the Son big enough?

### PRAYER IDEAS

Pray that you (and others) would have this vision of God's Son constantly in your mind, that you would treat the Son as he deserves to be treated—as the Saving Lord of all.

## Tuesday

- Read Hebrews 1:5-14

### QUESTIONS

1. Read the whole passage through. Now go back and look at verses 5-6, 7-12 and 13-14 as three blocks. In each of these sections, how is the Son superior to the angels?  
*vv. 5-6, vv. 7-12, vv. 13-14*
2. What does this passage tell us about God, and the relationship between the Son and the Father?

### PONDER

Christian apologist and evangelist Francis Schaeffer used to challenge university students by asking them whether they believed in angels.

Why is the existence of angels a challenge to our modern way of thinking? How do you think about angels? Why do you think this passage compares Jesus to angels?

### PRAYER IDEAS

Even the angels worship the Son as someone far superior. Pray that your own life would be one of continual worship.

## Wednesday

- Read Hebrews 2:5-9

### QUESTIONS

1. Do we currently see all things in the world subject to human rule?
2. When *will* we see all things under man's dominion?
3. Read verses 8-9 again. Where does Jesus fit into this?
4. What was Jesus' path to this glorious position?

### PONDER

If mankind being in the image of God involves him having dominion over the world, how does this relate to Jesus being the 'image of God' (cf. Heb 1:3)? Who will rule the world to come?

### PRAYER IDEAS

Pray for the coming of that day when the groaning creation will finally be set free, and the rule of Christ and his people will be complete over all the world.