

## VV STUDY NOTES: 22<sup>ND</sup> January 2022

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### ***Jesus, Our Faithful Brother***

**Scriptures:** Lev 25:25-27; Heb 2:14-16; Heb 11:24-26; 1 Cor 15:50; Heb 5; 8,9; Heb 12: 1-4

***My prime goal for this lesson is to facilitate the sharing of our individual responses to what the book of Hebrews is telling us.***

Since it happens to be Burns Weekend, I have included a couple of selections from two of his works. Like many in our modern world he had a hard time relating to the church of his day. He was not anti-god and had a couple of clergymen who were close friends including one who lived just a few miles from our home. I've a funny feeling he is someone Jesus would have related to quite easily. I would encourage you to read them.

#### ***The Setting of the Book:***

We may not know who wrote Hebrews, or even the exact location of the writer. However, the content of the book is undoubtedly in the Pauline era. The reference in Hebrews 13: 23 to Timothy being released from prison would alone fix the book to before the destruction of the temple in AD 70. That would have been a time of tremendous pressure on the Jewish Christian Community with their loyalty to Israel being tested to the limit. The movement that led to the destruction of the City and Temple began years before it happened.

The comparison of the High Priestly ministry of Jesus, to the still existing Temple Ministry could never have been more important. Hebrews 8:13 would suggest that the Temple ministry of the Mosaic Covenant was about to "disappear". Jesus knew this would happen and had repeatedly predicted it.

I would like us to look at Jesus as Brother from various perspectives.

- Why was it necessary to provide Salvation?
- What does it tell us about God?
- What does it mean for our relationship to God?
- What does it mean for our relationship to our fellow Christians?
- What does it mean for our relationship with society in general?

There has been a significant movement within Christendom to reject the idea that salvation had to be paid for by the shedding of blood. That fact has been a significant driving force in much of biblical interpretation in recent centuries. I'm of the mindset to let the bible speak for itself!

#### **Hebrews 2: 5-18**

What does this tell us about the Godheads attitude to SIN?

Is this the action of an ANGRY GOD, or the action of a LOVING GOD?

**How do the themes below, outlined in the Lesson Quarterly relate to the above questions?**

(The brother as a redeemer; Not ashamed to call them brothers; Flesh and blood like us; Perfected through sufferings)

**If God could humble himself in such a great act of MERCY, what does that demand of us?**

Did Jesus show us how to treat others?

How do you think Jesus would relate to the poor, outcast, strangers, and the multiplicity of cultural challenges in our day?

## **Robert Burns: A Man's A Man For A' That**

"Then let us pray that come it may,  
(As come it will for a' that,)   
That Sense and Worth, o'er a' the earth,  
Shall bear the gree, an' a' that.  
For a' that, an' a' that,  
It's coming yet for a' that,  
That Man to Man, the world o'er,  
Shall brothers be for a' that."

## **Robert Burns: A Cotter's Saturday Night**

"The priest-like father reads the sacred page,  
How Abram was the friend of God on high;  
Or Moses bade eternal warfare wage  
With Amalek's ungracious progeny;  
Or how the royal bard did groaning lie  
Beneath the stroke of Heaven's avenging ire;  
Or Job's pathetic plaint, and wailing cry;  
Or rapt Isaiah's wild, seraphic fire;  
Or other holy seers that tune the sacred lyre.

Perhaps the Christian volume is the theme,  
How guiltless blood for guilty man was shed;  
How He, who bore in Heaven the second name,  
Had not on earth whereon to lay His head:  
How His first followers and servants sped;  
The precepts sage they wrote to many a land:  
How he, who lone in Patmos banished,  
Saw in the sun a mighty angel stand,  
And heard great Bab'lon's doom pronounc'd by Heaven's command.

Then, kneeling down to Heaven's Eternal King,  
The saint, the father, and the husband prays:  
Hope " springs exulting on triumphant wing,"  
That thus they all shall meet in future days,  
There, ever bask in uncreated rays,  
No more to sigh, or shed the bitter tear,  
Together hymning their Creator's praise,  
In such society, yet still more dear;  
While circling Time moves round in an eternal sphere

Compar'd with this, how poor Religion's pride,  
In all the pomp of method, and of art;  
When men display to congregations wide  
Devotion's ev'ry grace, except the heart!  
The Power, incens'd, the pageant will desert,  
The pompous strain, the sacerdotal stole;  
But haply, in some cottage far apart,  
May hear, well-pleas'd, the language of the soul;  
And in His Book of Life the inmates poor enroll.