

Hebrews 1

HEBREWS

Author: unknown

Date: 64-68 A.D.

Hebrews is a masterful letter (or possibly sermon) written to the Hebrews (Jews) who were evaluating Jesus or struggling with this new faith called Christianity. The writer begins by emphasizing that the old (Judaism) and the new (Christianity) are both religions revealed by God. He describes in detail how Jesus Christ not only fulfills the promises and prophecies of the Old Testament, but how Christ is superior and supreme. He builds this case for the superiority of Christ by arguing how He is “better” in every respect. In the first ten chapters, the writer shows how Jesus Christ is superior to the prophets, angels, leaders and priests. He also speaks of a better hope, better covenant, a better sanctuary, and a better sacrifice. Hebrews could very well be called the book of better things.

After establishing the superiority of Christ, the writer addresses the practical implications of following Christ. This letter exhorts the readers to hold on to their new faith, encourage one another, and look forward to Christ’s return. The writer warns of the consequences of rejecting Christ’s sacrifice and reminds them of the rewards of faithfulness. He explains how to live by faith using examples of the faithful men and women in Israel’s history. He gives encouragement and exhortation for daily living. He compares the old covenant with the new and concludes with a request for prayer and a benediction.

The readers are warned of five things in this book: 1. Danger of neglect (2:1-4); 2. Danger of unbelief (3:7 - 4:13); 3. Danger of not maturing in your faith (5:11 - 6:20); 4. Danger of drawing back (10:26-39); and 5. Danger of refusing God (12:25-29). Chapter 11 gives us the definition of faith and then gives us an Old Testament “Hall of Faith” list. Chapters 12 and 13 encourage us in faithful and practical living.

Theme: The theme of Hebrews is the sufficiency and superiority of Jesus Christ.

Key verse: “The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact expression of his nature, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,” (Hebrews 1:3).

OUTLINE

- I. The Superiority of the Person of Jesus Christ (1:1 - 4:13)
 - A. The Superiority of Christ over the Prophets (1:1-3)
 - B. The Superiority of the Christ over Angels (1:4 - 2:18)
 - C. The Superiority of Christ over Moses (3:1 - 4:13)
- II. The Superiority of the Work of Christ (4:14 - 10:18)
 - A. The Superiority of Christ’s Priesthood (4:14 - 7:28)
 - B. The Superiority of Christ’s Covenant (8:1-13)
 - C. The Superiority of Christ’s Sanctuary and Sacrifice (9:1 - 10:18)
- III. The Superiority of the Believer’s Walk of Faith (10:19 - 13:25)
 - A. Exhortation to Full Assurance of Faith (10:19-39)
 - B. Plea for Persevering Faith (11:1 - 12:29)
 1. Examples of Faith/ The Hall of Faith (11:1-40)
 2. Encouragement and Motivation of Enduring Faith (12:1-29)

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- C. Practical Rules for Christian Living (13:1-17)
- IV. Conclusion (13:18-25)