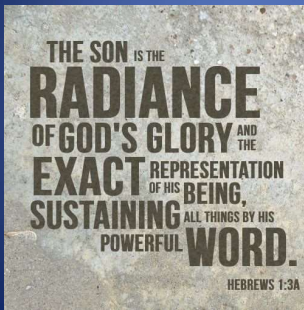


The Epistle to the Hebrews

Jesus the Better Way



Introduction to
the book of
Hebrews.

Men's Bible
Study
Liberty Towers

Where is Hebrews?

Gospel (4)	History (1)	Epistle (21)	Prophecy (1)
Matthew	Acts	General (8)	Revelation
Mark	Epistle (21)	Hebrews	
Luke	Paul (13)	James	
John	Romans	1 Peter	
	1 and 2 Cor.	2 Peter	
	Galatians	1 John	
	Ephesians	2 John	
	Philippians	3 John	
	Colossians	Jude	
	1 and 2 Thess.		
	1 and 2 Tim.		
	Titus		
	Philemon		

1 2

The new testament is easily divided into five categories

1. Gospels – the life and ministry of Jesus
2. History of the church in Acts
3. Letters or epistles written to specific churches and then spread throughout all Christianity written by PAUL
4. General letters or epistles written to spread the apostil's theology
5. One book of Revelation or prophecy of the end of times and the coming of God to judge the world.

Hebrews is part of group four the general letters.

Of the eight we are fairly certain that we know who wrote each

Hebrews has been debated for almost 1,500 years.

So open your bibles and let us find Hebrews!

Who wrote Hebrews?

Author: Unknown

1. Like the genealogy of Melchizedek (7:3), the author of Hebrews is unknown.
2. Different authors have been suggested (Barnabas, Luke, Apollos, Silas, Paul, etc.).



3

It is not the first question I am going to ask when I get to heaven.

Purpose of Hebrews

- Purpose: To give heart to Christians who have endured but are being tempted to waver in their faith.
 - Warnings against “falling away.” Chapter 6
 - Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever 13:8
 - Therefore let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death and faith in God 6: 1



Hebrews exhorts the readers to mature and press forward (6:1,9-12) rather than fall away.

They are exhorted several times to “hold fast” what they have in Christ (3:6,14; 4:14; 10:23).

The author’s appeal to mature is based upon the absolute sufficiency, supremacy and superiority of Jesus Christ. He is the “better” way!

The author’s appeal in the book peaks with the statement: “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever” (13:8).

Theme of Hebrews

- Theme: BETTER
 - The preeminence of Jesus Christ!!!
 - His deity
 - The greatness of his ministry
 - The greatness of his sacrifice
 - The greatness of his covenant
- Better than:
 - Prophets
 - Angels
 - Moses
 - Priesthood
 - High Priesthood
 - Promise
 - Sacrifice
 - Old Covenant



God 2.0

Not that being a Jew with all the ceremonies and sacrifices were bad. They served the promised people a methodology prescribed by God for them

The theme of the book of Hebrews centers on the concept of Jesus Christ being “better” (supreme and superior).

For the use of “better” in the book, see the following references: 1:4; 6:9; 7:7,19,22; 8:6 (twice); 9:23; 10:34; 11:16,35,40; 12:24.

For the use of “more excellent”, see 1:4 and 8:6.

For the use of “greater and more perfect”, see 9:11.

Jesus is better than the angels because they worship him (1:6).

Jesus is better than Moses because he created him (3:3).

Jesus is better than the Aaronic priesthood because his sacrifice was once for all time (7:27).

Jesus is better than the Old Covenant because his covenant provides better promises (8:6).

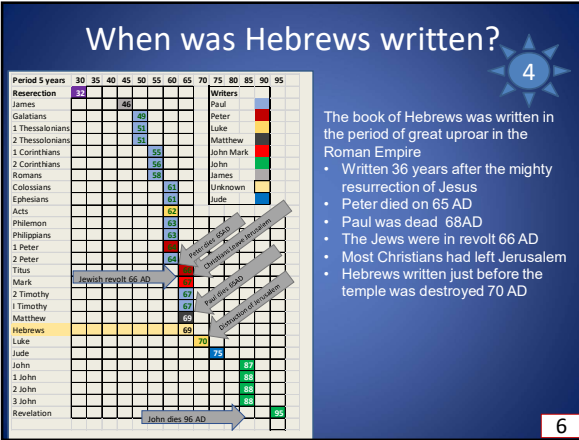
In short, there is more to be gained in Jesus than to be lost in returning to Judaism or worldliness.

Jesus is “better” for these Christians rather than going back to the Old Law or going aside into worldliness.

These Christians who were in danger of falling away needed to understand that they were leaving behind a Savior who is “better” for them than anyone else or anything else.

Hebrews is “the book of better things”.

The original readers were exhorted not to leave the superior (“better”) to go to the inferior.



Next big question is when it was written?

Again a lot of debate

But from my study . On or about 68 or 69 or about 37 years after Jesus

The entire New testament was written during the era between 46 AD (approximately 16 years after the resurrection of Jesus) to 95 AD or about 49 years of accumulation.

Much had happened between the resurrection of Jesus and the writing of Hebrews

James was written to set the basic theology of the church

Paul started his persecution of Christians only to be encountered by Jesus on his way to Damascus

Paul started his writing campaign to the spreading church in the Hellenistic world (GREEK CULTURE)

Luke wrote the of the history of the church

Peter was imprisoned and Crucified upside down

The Jews of Jerusalem revolted against the rule of Rome

Most Christians leave Jerusalem

John Mark set his remembrances of the life of Jesus to pen and ink

Paul the evangelist to the Gentiles after years in Roman prison is executed

In this period of utter turmoil and dispersion of both Jews and Christians the book of Hebrews was written.

36 years after the great times of resurrection and Pentecost.

What is Hebrews all about?

Exhortation

5

- Hebrews is a book of exhortation (13:22).
- Hebrews was written with a very logical style.
 - FACT, TRANSITION, APPLICATION
 - Fact based on current environment or TANAKH reference
 - Transition - **Therefore**. (Thought Stop)
 - Application – what do these fact call the readers to do differently.
- One of the methods the writer uses is repeated words.

7

Exhortation: an address or communication emphatically urging someone to do something.

Urging, encouragement, persuasion, pressure, pushing, insistence, goading, egging on, beseeching, admonishment, warning, lecture,.

begins his book like an essay, proceeds like a sermon, and ends like a letter

These readers who once stepped out of Judaism into Christianity, are now turning back to the Old Law or turning aside to worldliness (2:1,3; 3:12-13; 4:1,11; 5:11; 6:1,4-8; 10:25,26,39; 12:12,15,25; 13:9-10). They may have done this to avoid persecution.

The book as a whole follows this flow

FACT Chapters 1 through 11

Transition Chapter 12:1-11

Application – 12:12 – 13:25

A transition is a literary method of moving from one thing to another (a thought stop)

This method points to the second thing as being more important.

AJ gave me an excellent illustration of a transition that illustrates

I like you BUT You make me crazy

You make me crazy BUT I like you.

Structure and Language

5

- Things about Jesus which make him awesome. (FACT)
 - “better” 13 X *KREITTON*,
 - “perfect” 9 X *TELEIOO*
- Therefore (Transition) Thought Stop
- Acts to be done, inclusion (Application)
 - “Let us” exhortations.
 - Hebrews 4:1 let us be careful
 - Hebrews 4:11 let us, therefore, make every effort
 - Hebrews 4:14 let us hold firmly to the faith we profess
 - Etc. Hebrews 4:16, 6:1, 10:22,23,24,25 12:1,2 12:28,13:13, 15

KREITTON --- Better

Hebrews 1:4: "Being made so much **better** than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent"

Hebrews 6:9: "But, beloved, we are persuaded **better things** of you, and things that accompany"

Hebrews 7:7: "is blessed of the **better**."

Hebrews 7:19: "made nothing perfect, but the bringing in **of a better** hope *did*; by the which"

Hebrews 7:22: "was Jesus made a surety **of a better** testament."

Hebrews 8:6: "also he is the mediator **of a better** covenant, which was established upon"

Hebrews 8:6: "which was established upon **better** promises."

Hebrews 9:23: "the heavenly things themselves **with better** sacrifices than these."

Hebrews 10:34: "in yourselves that ye have in heaven **a better** and an enduring"

Hebrews 11:16: "But now they desire **a better country**, that is, a heavenly: wherefore God"

Hebrews 11:35: "accepting deliverance; that they might obtain **a better** resurrection:"

Hebrews 11:40: "God having provided some **better thing** for us, that they without"

Hebrews 12:24: "to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh **better things** than *that of* Abel."

Perfect TELEIOO to complete, i.e. (literally) accomplish, or (figuratively) consummate (in character):--consecrate, finish, fulfil, make) perfect.

Hebrews 2:10: "sons unto glory, **to make the captain of their salvation perfect**"

Hebrews 5:9: "And **being made perfect**, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey"

Hebrews 7:19: "For the law **made nothing perfect**, but the bringing in of a better"

Hebrews 7:28: "the law, *maketh* the Son, **who is consecrated** forevermore."

Hebrews 9:9: "sacrifices, that could not **make him that did the service perfect**, as pertaining to the conscience;"

Hebrews 10:1: "they offered year by year continually **make the comers thereunto perfect**."

Hebrews 10:14: "For by one offering **he hath perfected** forever them that are sanctified."

Hebrews 11:40: "they without us should not **be made perfect**."

Hebrews 12:23: "and to the spirits of just men **made perfect**,"

Transitions in Hebrews

6

- **DIA** 24X- through, the ground or reason by which something is or is not done
- **OUN** 8X- then, therefore, accordingly, consequently, these things being so
- **HOTHEN** 6X- of the source from which a thing is known, from which, whereby, the cause from which, for which reason, wherefore, on which account

9

DIA:

[Hebrews 1:3](#): "word of his power, **when he had by** himself purged our"

[Hebrews 1:9](#): "and hated iniquity; **therefore** God, *even* thy God,"

[Hebrews 1:14](#): "spirits, sent forth to minister **for** them who shall be heirs of salvation?"

[Hebrews 2:1](#): "**Therefore** we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time"

[Hebrews 2:2](#): "the word spoken **by** angels was steadfast, and"

[Hebrews 2:3](#): "which at the first began to be spoken **by** the Lord, and"

[Hebrews 2:9](#): "who was made a little lower than the angels **for** the suffering"

[Hebrews 2:10](#): "For it became him, **for** whom *are* all things, and by"

[Hebrews 2:10](#): "whom *are* all things, and **by** whom *are* all things, in bringing many"

[Hebrews 2:10](#): "unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect **through**"

[Hebrews 2:11](#): "*are* all of one: **for** which cause he is not ashamed"

[Hebrews 2:14](#): "of the same; that **through** death he might destroy him that had the"

[Hebrews 2:15](#): "of death were all **their** lifetime subject to bondage."

[Hebrews 3:16](#): "that came out of Egypt **by** Moses."

[Hebrews 3:19](#): "they could not enter in **because** of unbelief."

[Hebrews 4:6](#): "therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in **because** of unbelief:"

[Hebrews 4:11](#): "Let us labor **therefore** to enter into that rest, lest any man"

[Hebrews 13:2](#): "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for **thereby** some have entertained"

[Hebrews 13:11](#): "into the sanctuary **by** the high priest for sin,"

[Hebrews 13:12](#): "he might sanctify the people **with** his own blood, suffered without"

[Hebrews 13:15](#): "**By** him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually,"

[Hebrews 13:21](#): "in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, **through** Jesus Christ;"

[Hebrews 13:22](#): "I have written a letter unto you **in** few words."

OUN

[Hebrews 4:14](#): "**Seeing then** that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus"

[Hebrews 4:16](#): "**Let us therefore** come boldly unto the throne of grace, that"

[Hebrews 7:11](#): "If **therefore** perfection were by the Levitical"

[Hebrews 9:1](#): "**Then** verily the first *covenant* had also ordinances of divine service,"

[Hebrews 9:23](#): "**It was therefore** necessary that the patterns of things in the"

[Hebrews 10:19](#): "Having **therefore**, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest"

[Hebrews 10:35](#): "Cast not away **therefore** your confidence, which hath great"

[Hebrews 13:15](#): "By him **therefore** let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually,"

HOTHEN

[Hebrews 2:17](#): "**Wherefore** in all things it behooved him to be made like unto *his* brethren, that he might be"

[Hebrews 3:1](#): "**Wherefore**, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the"

[Hebrews 7:25](#): "**Wherefore** he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come"

[Hebrews 8:3](#): "gifts and sacrifices: **wherefore** *it is* of necessity that this man have somewhat"

[Hebrews 9:18](#): "**Whereupon** neither the first *testament* was dedicated without blood."

[Hebrews 11:19](#): "even from the dead; **from whence** also he received him in"

Repeated Words or Ideas

7

Speak or speaking or announcements, testified, saying, declaring, Voice	Angels	Therefore
House	Moses	Hearts
Rest	Priest, priesthood, High Priest	Melchizedek
Teaching, instruction	Promise	Tenth
Oath	Covenant	Tabernacle
Sacrifice	Sanctified	Faith
Discipline	Let Us	

10

Piece of a Piece of a Piece of a Piece

- Christians 2:3-4; 3:1,12,14; 6:9
 - Saved by the grace of God
 - Living by faith
- Hebrew Christians 8:4,13; 9:4,5,9; 10:1,8,11
 - Ethnic Hebrews
 - James vs Peter - “Jew first”
- Hellenized Jewish Christians
- Well grounded - 5:12; 6:1-3; 6:10
- Not in Jerusalem 67 AD
- Most had not seen Jesus
- Persecuted 10:32-34; 12:4; 13:3
 - James the less, Stephen, Peter, Paul all gone.

8

11

Hebrews was written to “brethren” (3:1,12; 10:19; 13:1,22). The traditional view is that the audience was primarily a group of Jewish Christians.

There are several references to Old Testament passages, persons (Moses, Joshua, Melchizedek, Aaron, Abraham, etc.), and institutions (priesthood, tabernacle, sacrifices) which would have been understood by a Jewish audience more so than a Gentile audience.

Christians 2:3-4; 3:1,12,14; 6:9

Saved by the grace of God

Living by faith

Hebrew Christians 8:4,13; 9:4,5,9; 10:1,8,11

Ethnic Hebrews

James vs Peter - “Jew first”

Hellenized Jewish Christians

Well grounded - 5:12; 6:1-3; 6:10

Not in Jerusalem 67 AD

Most had not seen Jesus

Persecuted 10:32-34; 12:4; 13:3

James the less, Stephen, Peter, Paul all gone.

Piece of a Piece of a Piece of a Piece were at a decision point



- Reconsideration of their faith
 - Drifting (2:1)
 - Neglect (2:3)
 - Falling away (3:12; 4:1,11; 12:12-15).
 - Dull of hearing (5:11)
 - Self satisfaction with the status quo (6:1).
 - Developing bad habits(10:25)
 - Willfully revolting against the grace of God (10:26),
 - Shrinking back (10:39).
 - Carried away (13:9-10).

12

To the well-grounded, persecuted Hellenized Hebrew Christians dispersed throughout the empire

They had second thoughts about their commitment to Jesus.

May be it would be better to give it all up and become devout Jews with all the others spread out in the world.

It was a time of reconsideration..

2:1 Drifting - little by little, almost unnoticed. Small deviation easily distracted..... Have to pay attention to the small things.

2:3 neglect – Just not caring enough to pay attention

Falling away (3:12; 4:1,11; 12:12-15). Simply giving up and letting gravity take you where it would

Dull of hearing (5:11) You ears have become so filled with everything else you just can't hear the truth

Needed to press on to maturity (6:1). You had become satisfied with your progress and simply gave up trying to learn more

Developing bad habits. Some were forsaking the assemblies (10:25)

Some were sinning willfully (10:26),

Shrinking back to perdition (10:39).

Carried away. You have let all the Strange teachings pull you in directions you should not go. (13:9-10).

Contrast of the Old and the New

- Not an argument of ethnicity
- Not an argument of history
- Not an argument of style of worship
- Not an argument of culture
- Not an argument of Good and Bad
- **It is an argument of what is better**

13

The Jewish Christians had it all. They had it all. Their cake and eat it too.
As long as they were a sect of Judaism they had Roman acceptance
They had bought their choir robes and had invested in the temple

Not an argument of ethnicity

They were ethnic Jews. They were circumcised.
They were born a Jew and they would always be a Jew

Not an argument of history

All the stories through the generations
All the prophets
All the laws of Moses
Visitations of angels
Of the death angel passing over as the last plague

The miracles of splitting the red sea, overcoming the promised land

Not an argument of a style of worship

Temple worship
all the priestly pomp and circumstance trumpets and noisy gongs
The great symbolic robes
Sacrifices and the great altar
Standing in line to determine if your sacrifice was accepted
The joy of Yom Kippur. All my sins are gone for another year.

Not an argument of culture

it was what distinguishes them
The tradition
It was a culture stamped upon each generation for thousands of years
All their friends were Jewish
All their family were Jewish
Life was woven around the celebrations, feasts, , each one the family would gather together

and enjoy their culture
Style of life

It was very special to be a special person

Very exclusive
The outsiders, the gentiles were just not welcomed.

Their faith, their religion defined them
No choice once a Jew they were always a Jew

Not an argument of Good and Bad

But here the writer is telling them there is something BETTER
Not that their culture and custom was bad
Not that their life as they had known it was frivolous
Not that Moses was a poor leader and example
Not that his laws were not good
Not that the sacrifices were invalid
Not that the well fed and well clothed priests were worthless.

The argument was not good and bad

Not even an argument of good or evil

Not an argument of holy or sinful

IT WAS AN ARGUMENT OF "WAIT THERE IS MORE"

IT WAS AN ARGUMENT OF WHAT IS BETTER.

There was something better....

BETTER

- The old was good
- The NEW is better
- A new revision God 2.0

You can not be wrong about Jesus, because if you get Jesus wrong, not much else is right.

GERACI

14

The old was good

It pleased God when it was pure

It pleased God when the people listened

It pleased God when the people understood the meaning of it all

It pleased God when it was a tool of focus upon God

It pleased God when it proclaimed the plan of God

It was good.....

The NEW is better

A new revision God 2.0

A major revision

It is superior

If you think all your history, culture, lifestyle, worship services, sacrifices , prophecies, priests, the temple, are grand,

If you have found a loving caring God in these things.

How much more

TO SEE, HEAR, FEEL, UNDERSTAND, NOW GOD THROUGH JESUS

Decision Point



- 35 years or more since the death and resurrection of Jesus
 - James wanted to exclude Gentiles from Christianity
 - A sect of Judaism Acts 15:1
 - Keep all the Acts of Judaism and accept Jesus for faith
 - Judaism – hostile to Christians
 - SHALL I JUST FALL BACK AND BE WHAT I USED TO BE?

15

Judaism in a predominant Greek Culture

Great strides into seeking all the tradition were pointed toward the spiritual
The spiritual was taking the place of the material.

They already were in transition from Sacrifice to a more faith-based religion.

James wanted to exclude Gentiles from Christianity –

A sect of Judaism Acts 15:1

Acts 10 decision add Gentiles into the church

Judaism was becoming hostile to Christians

It was easier to just give up and return to mother faith.

Go back to the way it was before all this Jesus stuff.

Go back to a yearly thing and live like I want the rest of the time

So why should we study this book?

- As written, it was to a very small piece of the action.
- Is it just a intellectual exercise?
- Do we just use the individual sections
 - Ignore the reason for the writing
 - Ignore all the OT references
 - Ignore the overall theme
- Could it well be for us?



16

SO HOW DOES THIS NARRATIVE HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH TODAY IN THIS ROOM WITH YOU AS WE TRY TO UNDERSTAND THIS PIECE OF SCRIPTURE

The only conclusion is that there must be a plausible connection between the very small group that was written to and today's Christians.

Otherwise we might not need it in the bible unless we are preaching or teaching to saved persecuted ethnic Jewish Christians which are wanting to go back to their Jewish roots.

In today's world it may well be an even smaller piece than it was in 69 AD.

Could it well be for any saved, having a hard time, gentiles, who are just wanting to go back to there old ways?

To chuck it all and live a life that world would have them live?

We all have had problems in our lives, addictions, pain, temptations, setbacks, rejections, criticisms, accusations,

Everyone of us have questioned "Is it all worth it"

Was my worldly life good enough

Was my lifestyle really hurting anyone

How is my life any better for following this Jesus

Outline of Hebrews

1. 1:1-3 Jesus is greater than the prophets
2. 1:4-2:18 Jesus is greater than the angels: **Therefore** let us pay attention.
3. 3:1-4:13 Jesus is greater than Moses: **Therefore** let us persevere.
4. 4:14-6:12 The priesthood of Jesus is greater than the priesthood of Aaron: **Therefore** let us move on to maturity.
5. 6:13-7:28 Jesus is the Great High Priest "in the order of Melchizedek."
6. 8:1-10:39 Jesus is the author of a better covenant than that of Moses: **Therefore** let us persevere to the end.
7. 11:1-12:29 A practical example of endurance: The faithful cloud of witnesses: **Therefore** accept God's discipline in your life.
8. 13:1-25 Summary and final advice.

Who is Jesus?

THE BIBLE SAYS...

But who do you say Jesus is?

- Jesus asked that question of John
- In the Old Testament Prophecy
- But who do you say Jesus is?

19

As a man

As a God

As the only God

As a powerful Angel – like Michael, and Gabriel,

As a prophet ,- one of many. ISLAM

As a teacher,- Jewish

An angelic messiah. A powerful angel who had great thoughts, could do miracles,

A Messiah one of many

The one and only Messiah, - Jewish false messiah W/O the start of the Messianic age (rebuild of the Temple, Return of all Jews to the Holy Land, Reign as king, usher in a age of peace.

The belief that [Jesus](#) is [God](#), the [Son of God](#), or a [person](#) of the [Trinity](#), is incompatible with [Jewish theology](#). J

Jews believe [Jesus of Nazareth](#) did not fulfill [messianic prophecies](#) that establish the criteria for the coming of the messiah.^[6]

[Judaism](#) rejects Jesus as God, Divine Being, intermediary between humans and God, messiah or holy.

Is He a son of God?

Is He God?

Is He a theomorphic of God

Is he a separate God, Poly theism

Is he part of God?

Belief in the [Trinity](#) is also held to be incompatible with Judaism, as are a number of other [tenets of Christianity](#). A messiah but not THE Messiah

The end of the beginning

- Homework
- Prayer Requests
- Prayer

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