

# Hebrews

## Chapter One

### **The Author Of Hebrews**

- Hebrews was written around 67-69 A.D.
- The author to the Hebrews is unknown although some believe it to be Paul
- The author Knew Timothy (13:23)
- The author is well educated in both the Greek language and the Old Testament
- The best conclusion according to Origen, an early church theologian, in the third century stated, "only God knows for sure who wrote Hebrews."--(Spirit Filled Life Bible)

### **The Reason For Hebrews**

- The author states the reason in Hebrews 13:22, as an exhortation, which is to encourage one to action
- It is written to Jewish believers and is heavy in Jewish knowledge and Old Testament Insight
- When reading Hebrews we should read it in light of the context and culture to which it is written
- The point of Hebrews is keeping the Jewish believer in Christ from lapsing back into the sacrificial system of Judaism

### **Hold Fast The Confession**

"Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, **by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh**, and having a High Priest over the house of God, **let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith**, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. **Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.**

And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. **For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses.** (Deut. 17:2-6)

Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, **will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?**"-- Hebrews 10:19-29

### Echoing God

- Confession, *Homologeo*: Echoing the same words
- In the context of Scripture it means saying what God says about us or to agree with God
- The written Word becomes the living Word as we declare with our lips the Word of God
- A relationship is forged with the Living Word through the written Word

### Three Parts of Confession

- **Assent**: Agree to the truth of something
- **Consent**: Submit to the truth revealed
- **Express**: Put into action the revealed truth
- Putting these three aspects together is what it means to **"hold fast our confession"** of what God's word says---I believe it is true, it is true for me, and I declare it to be true in my life
- Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for **He** who promised is faithful.

## Key Themes

- **Jesus' superiority and sacrifice:** The word "better" is used thirteen times in the letter to the Hebrews and stresses that Jesus is better than: The angels, the law, the sacrificial system, the old covenant, and the priestly system
- **Jesus is the fulfillment** of all of the old covenants through His sacrifice
- **Jesus is the great High Priest** who can sympathize with man because He was fully human but unlike the priests of old Jesus offered Himself for man, not the blood of goats and bulls

## Outline Of Hebrews

**Hebrews 1-2:** Jesus is better than the angels both in His deity and His humanity.

**Hebrews 3:** Jesus is better than Moses.

**Hebrews 4:** Jesus is better than Joshua.

**Hebrews 5, 6, 7:** Jesus is better than Aaron.

**Hebrews 8:** Jesus offers a better covenant.

**Hebrews 9:** Jesus offers a better Tabernacle.

**Hebrews 10:** Jesus offers a better sacrifice.

**Hebrews 11:** Faith is better and pleases God

**Hebrews 12:** Following Jesus is a better option

**Hebrews 13:** It is better to live a life in Jesus

## The Three Distinct Groups

- The Bible is written to **the Jews, the Gentiles, and the Church of God**
- Keep in mind when reading the New Testament which group of persons the context is addressing
- **The Bible is written to a particular people at a particular time in a particular context, but its application is for all people for all time**

## Hebrews 1:1

God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets

## **God**

- Hebrews begins by simply stating the self-evident fact that there is a God
- The Hebrew author does not offer proofs for God's existence. The author simply knows He is
- God's existence is simply stated through out scripture
- "The fool has said in his heart, There is no God."-- Ps 14:1
- God is there and He is not silent (Schaeffer)

## **God Has Spoken At Various Times**

- At the core of this first verse in Hebrews is the fact that God has spoken.
- If God had not spoken man would be left to a minimum revelation of creation--Romans 1:18-21
- God spoke at creation
- God spoke to Adam
- God spoke to Noah
- God spoke to Abraham
- God spoke through the prophets to the people

## **God Has Spoken In Various Ways**

- God spoke to Moses by a burning bush-Ex. 3:2
- God spoke to Elijah by a still, small voice-1 Kings 19
- God spoke to Isaiah by a heavenly vision-Is. 6
- God spoke to Job through a whirlwind-Job 38:1
- God spoke to Hosea through a Harlot-Hosea 1:2
- God spoke to Amos through a basket of fruit-Amos 8:1

## **God Has Spoken Through The Prophets**

- The prophets are the means by which God speaks His revelation to the people
- "The revelation given through the prophets was brought in **various** ways - sometimes through parables, historical narrative, prophetic confrontation, dramatic presentation, psalms, proverbs, and the like." [Guzik]
- God desires a relationship with man and in times past has spoken to man through the prophets

## The Inspiration of the Prophets

"....we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; 20 knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, 21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit."--- 2 Peter 1:19-21

## The Role Of The Prophets

The prophet's job was to call the people back to God and to the truth of God. It involved warning them of the consequences of their actions and a call to repentance. At times it was a message of God's plan for the future of His Kingdom. They were men through whom God spoke His message of love for sinners, and warned them of the consequences of their sins. The heart of their message was God's promise of eternal redemption through the coming of Jesus Christ the Messiah.

## The Uniqueness of the Prophets

- They were sent from God. These men claimed to be speaking from God and for God. "Thus says the Lord" ( occurs more than 3800 times in the Old Testament) was a clear emphasis of their preaching
- Their message was related to history. It grew out of some historical situation in which they lived. The prophets were messengers of their times.
- The prophet is called by God and God alone and only the false prophet takes the office upon himself, and was punishable by death— Deut. 18:15-22

- Prophecy is not always predictive. There were times when the prophet spoke only to his own generation without any special reference to the future. They warned the nation and its leaders of wrongs that needed to be corrected.
- Prophets did predict the future. These predictions reveal God's purposes of His grace to men and His ultimate fulfillment in Christ and His kingdom reign.
- There were conditional predictions, which directly bear upon men's responsibility to action. A good example is Jonah's prediction that Nineveh would be destroyed in forty days if they didn't repent. Nineveh repented and was spared by God.

### **God Spoke By The Old Covenant**

- The Old covenant was a mere shadow
- "16 So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, 17 which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ."- Col 2:16-17
- "4 For if He were on earth, He would not be a priest, since there are priests who offer the gifts according to the law;

- 5 who serve the copy and shadow of the heavenly things, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle."--Heb 8:4-5
- "For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect."--Heb 10:1

### **Hebrews 1:2**

2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds

### **"...has in these last days ..."**

- This phrase was also used in the Septuagint to translate a reference to the days when a prophecy is fulfilled.
- "Last": "eschatos" "ends of, last, latter end, uttermost, lowest"
- The Hebrew phrase is "*be 'aherith hayyamim*" and means "in the end of the days"
- It is a rabbinic term used to indicate the time of the Messiah.
- Man because Jesus the Messiah has come is living in the last days waiting for the Day of the Lord which will inaugurate the Age to Come.

### **The Hebrew Phrase “be’ aherith hayyamim” Usage**

- Jacob’s prophecy in Gen. 49:1
- Balaam’s prophecy in Num. 24:14
- Deut. 4:30; Deut 31:29
- Isaiah 2:2
- Jer. 23:20; Jer. 30:24; Jer. 48:27;Jer. 49:39
- Ezek. 38:16
- Daniel 10:14
- Hos. 3:5
- Micah 4:1

### **God's Supreme Revelation**

- God knew before creation that He would come in Jesus, i.e. "His son"
- "9 [God] who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began, 10 but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ.."-2 Tim 1:9-10

### **Jesus Is The Revealed Word Of God**

- "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made."--John 1:1-3
- "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."--John 1:14

### **Jesus Is At The Center Of Scripture**

- "39 You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me."--John 5:39
- "Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me."--Luke 24:44

## Jesus Is At The Center Of Prophecy

- Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."--Rev 19:10
- "Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began 26 but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith.."-

## Jesus Is The Appointed Heir

- 7 "I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, 'You are My Son, today I have begotten You. 8 Ask of Me, and I will give You. The nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession."--Ps 2:7-8
- "For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing that is not put under him."--Heb 2:8

## Jesus Is The Source Of Creation

- "15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist."-- Col 1:15-17
- "These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning (Ruler) of the creation of God"--Rev 3:14

## "....through whom also He made the worlds..."

- **"Worlds":** is the Greek word "aiwnas" from "aion" which means "ages". According to the rabbinical use, the word refers not only to the periods of time, but also to the content of the world.
- **"aiwnas"** refers to the world, or ages in which life and history is accomplished
- "3 By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible."-- Heb 11:3

### **Hebrews 1:3-4**

3 who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, 4 having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

### **Seven Attributes Of Jesus**

- "...appointed heir of all things.."-Vs. 2
- "...through whom also He made the worlds."-Vs. 2
- ".who being the brightness of His glory..."-Vs. 3
- "...the express image of His person..."-Vs. 3
- "...upholding all things by the word of His power..."-Vs. 3
- "...purged our sins..."-Vs. 3
- "...sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high..."-Vs. 3

### **Jesus Is the Brightness Of His Glory**

- The word for "Brightness" literally means "to beam forth" or "the radiance shining forth from the source of light."
- The verb is in the active tense, when it is passive it indicates reflection
- "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."-- John 1:14
- "And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was."-- John 17:5

### **Jesus Is The Express Image Of His Person**

- ... "the exact representation of His nature..."
- The word "image" "charaktar" is only used here in the N.T. and literally means an exact form of something stamped.
- The Father stamped His image into our world in the form of Jesus.
- Roman signet ring is the exact image of the king



- The Son of God bears the exact image of God Himself
- "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the **form** of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the **form** of a bondservant, and coming in the **likeness** of men. 8 And being found in **appearance** as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross."-- Phil 2:5-9

### **"Who being in the form of God..."**

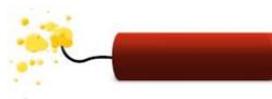
- "Form" literally is ***morphe*** which means "the essence of a thing."
- Jesus is the essence of God, but took "... the form [the essence] of a bondservant..."
- "Likeness" literally is ***homoioma*** which means the outside body that we see
- "Appearance" literally is ***schema*** which means the inward diagram of what something is made from

- Jesus not only looked like men on the outside but also endured the human experience, its pressures, its cravings, its circumstances, and its pull towards good or evil
- "Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."--Heb. 4:14-16

### **Jesus Upholds All Things by The Word Of His Power**

- "Uphold" literally means "to continually carry something in movement towards something"
- "Word" is "rhema" which is the uttered or spoken word of God
- "Power" is "dunamis" and speaks of the explosive power of something
- This not only speaks of the creation event but also the movement of God in the world. Jesus in His earthly ministry constantly demonstrated the power of His explosive word. Healing the sick, forgiving even calming natures storms.

- **Dynamite:** a dynamic working of the power of the resurrection upon the life of an individual for moment by moment living
- No resurrection, No power 1 Cor. 15:12-19
- "For though He was crucified in weakness, yet He lives by the power of God. For we also are weak in Him, but we shall live with Him by the power of God toward you."-- 2 Cor 13:4



### **Romans 1:1-4**

"Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God 2 which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures, 3 concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, 4 and declared to be the Son of God with **power** according to the Spirit of holiness, **by the resurrection from the dead.**"

- The power that brought Jesus up from the grave is the power that now operates within the believer's life:
- Romans 1:16--There is power in the gospel
- I Cor. 1:18-- There is power in the cross
- Eph. 1:19,20-- There power to live the Christian life
- 2 Peter 1:3--His power has given us all things that pertain to life and godliness
- I Peter 1:5-- The believer is kept saved by the power

### **Jesus Has Purged Our Sins**

- The word for "purge" is "Katherismos" which means a "cleansing" or "a washing"
- The relationship between God and man was broken the moment of the Fall.
- Jesus provided our cleansing
- Jesus was our cleansing
- Jesus continues to be our cleansing
- **8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."-Rom 5:8**

## **1 JOHN 2:1-2**

“MY LITTLE CHILDREN, THESE THINGS I WRITE TO YOU, SO THAT YOU MAY NOT SIN. AND **IF ANYONE SINS**, WE HAVE AN ADVOCATE WITH THE FATHER, JESUS CHRIST THE RIGHTEOUS. AND **HE HIMSELF IS THE PROPITIATION FOR OUR SINS, AND NOT FOR OURS ONLY BUT ALSO FOR THE WHOLE WORLD.**”

“...AND IF ANYONE SINS....”

## **WHAT THEN?**

- We are **not condemned**
- We are **not reminded** of what we have done and that we should turn our thoughts inward
- We are **not reminded** of our humiliation
- We are **reminded** of what Jesus has done; therefore we turn our thoughts upon Him in repentance
- **We are reminded of His propitiation**

## **Jesus Sat Down At The Right Hand Of His Father In Heaven**

- This a proclamation of Psalm 110
- "The LORD said to my Lord, "sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool." Psalm 110:1
- The concept of "the right hand" is not so much a physical location but conveys authority and supremacy
- "Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name..."-Phil 2:9

## A Main Point In The Book Of Hebrews



- "The main thing is that the main thing remains the main thing." Lee Iacocca
- "Now **this is the main point** of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens..."- Heb 8:1-2

## Some Key Reasons It is Important To Remember This Main Point

- It resulted in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit
- "This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear."-- Acts 2:32-33
- Jesus is now interceding on behalf of the believer

- "Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us."-Rom 8:33-34
- Intercession is **the act of pleading** on the behalf of someone as a friend-Webster
- It is the place our minds should focus

- "If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth."-Col. 1:1-2
- In the book of Hebrews it separates the sacrificial system from the real sacrifice for our sins
- "And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. 12 But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God"-Heb. 10:11-12

- Jesus' position at the right hand of God sets Him alone above all angels
- "who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him."- 1 Peter 3:22
- Jesus is the author of our faith and the finisher of our faith
- "looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."- Heb 12:2

### **Hebrews 1:4**

"having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they."

### **Jesus Is Better Than The Angels**

- Angel literally means a messenger
- The angels worship God and serve him with total allegiance.
- Angels are created by God as angels-Psalm 148:2,5
- Angels were present at creation-Job 38:4-7
- The angels were created for Jesus to bring praise and honor to Him-Col. 1:16;Rev. 5:6-11
- The angels sent forth to minister to those who are heirs of salvation-Hebrews 1:14

### **Jesus Has Obtained a More Excellent Name**

- A "name" in the Bible is more than a way to identify someone it focused attention upon the character and nature of the person.
- "A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, loving favor rather than silver and gold."- Prov 22:1
- "By inheritance" as the Son Jesus has a "more excellent name."

### **Proverbs 30:4**

"Who has ascended into heaven, or descended? Who has gathered the wind in His fists? Who has bound the waters in a garment? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is His name ,and what is His Son's name, If you know?"

### **Philippians 2:9-11**

- "Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

### **Jesus Obtained His Name By Inheritance**

- As the "Son" Jesus Inherits every thing from His Father because He is the closest relationship to Him
- "No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him." - John 1:18
- "Son" literally is "theos" or "God" in the original language text

- "For to which of the angels did He ever say: "You are My Son, today I have begotten You"? - Heb 1:5; Psalm 2:7
- "I will be to Him a Father, and He shall be to Me a Son"? - Heb 1:5; 2 Samuel 7:14
- "But to which of the angels has He ever said: "Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool"? - Heb 1:13; Psalm 110

"But to the Son He says: 'Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness more than Your companions.' And: 'You, LORD, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. They will perish, but You remain; and they will all grow old like a garment; like a cloak You will fold them up, and they will be changed. But You are the same, and Your years will not fail.'-Heb 1:8-12; Psalm 45:6-7;Psalm 102:25-27