

Book of Hebrews

Synopsis



Introduction

Book No	58
Name	Hebrews
Written By	Paul
Testament	New
Category	Epistles
Date Written	Approx. before 70 A.D
Place Written	Rome
Audience	Jewish Christians
Purpose	To present the sufficiency and superiority of Christ
History Covered	NA
Chapters	13
Verses	303
Key Verse	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 on the right hand of the Majesty on high; (1:3)
Key People	NA
Key Places	❖ Rome

Purpose of the Book

Judaism was not second-rate or easy. Divinely designed, it was the best religion, expressing true worship and devotion to God. The commandments, the rituals, and the prophets described God's promises and revealed the way to forgiveness and

salvation. But Christ came, fulfilling the Law and the Prophets, conquering sin, shattering all barriers to God, freely providing eternal life.

This message was difficult for Jews to accept. Although they had sought the Messiah for centuries, they were entrenched in thinking and worshiping in traditional forms. Following Jesus seemed to repudiate their marvelous heritage and Scriptures. With caution and questions they listened to the gospel, but many rejected it and sought to eliminate this “heresy.” Those who did accept Jesus as the Messiah often found themselves slipping back into familiar routines, trying to live a hybrid faith.

Hebrews is a masterful document written to Jews who were evaluating Jesus or struggling with this new faith. The message of Hebrews is that Jesus is better, Christianity is superior, Christ is supreme and completely sufficient for salvation.

Hebrews begins by emphasizing that the old (Judaism) and the new (Christianity) are both religions revealed by God (1:1-3). In the doctrinal section that follows (1:4–10:18), the writer shows how Jesus is superior to angels (1:4–2:18), superior to their leaders (3:1–4:13), and superior to their priests (4:14–7:28). Christianity surpasses Judaism because it has a better covenant (8:1-13), a better sanctuary (9:1-10), and a more sufficient sacrifice for sins (9:11–10:18).

Having established the superiority of Christianity, the writer moves on to the practical implications of following Christ. The readers are exhorted to hold on to their new faith, encourage each other, and look forward to Christ’s return (10:19-25). They are warned about the consequences of rejecting Christ’s sacrifice (10:26-31) and reminded of the rewards for faithfulness (10:32-39).

Then the author explains how to live by faith, giving illustrations of the faithful men and women in Israel’s history (11:1-40) and giving encouragement and exhortation for daily living (12:1-17). This section ends by comparing the old covenant with the new (12:18-29). The writer concludes with moral exhortations (13:1-17), a request for prayer (13:18-19), and a benediction and greetings (13:20-25).

Whatever you are considering as the focus of life, Christ is better. He is the perfect revelation of God, the final and complete sacrifice for sin, the compassionate and understanding mediator, and the only way to eternal life.

Although Hebrews is specifically addressed to Jewish Christians, its teachings and practical admonitions are equally applicable to Gentile believers. In Christ there is no

distinction between Jew and Gentile (Col. 3:11). The church today needs the teaching provided in the Old Testament laws of worship, which this book so beautifully relates to Christ and the gospel of eternal salvation.

Christianity is not something added on to Judaism. It is something new, but a fuller understanding of the Old Covenant gives a richer and more marvelous appreciation of the New Covenant of God's grace through our Lord Jesus Christ.

While the epistle is primarily doctrinal in its content, it is also intensely practical.

After each doctrinal passage the writer inserts a section in which he gives some very pointed and powerful admonitions based on the teachings presented. At least fifteen times he uses the expression "let" or "let us" (4:1, 11, 14, 16; 6:1; 10:22, 23, 24; 12:1, 2, 28; 13:1, 5, 13, 15, 17).

Read Hebrews and begin to see history and life from God's perspective. Then give yourself unreservedly and completely to Christ.

Overview

- ❖ 58th book of the BIBLE, 19th in the New Testament, 14th of the 21 epistles and 14th of the 14 epistles written by Paul
- ❖ Many regard the Book of Hebrews as the 14th epistle of Paul.
- ❖ The 3rd century theologian, Origen wrote: "Who it was that really wrote the epistle (Hebrews), God only knows."
- ❖ The Book of Hebrews shows the superiority of Christianity over the Judaic system under the Law of Moses.
- ❖ A majority view seems to be that the recipients of Hebrews probably lived in Rome. Hebrews 13:24 - "Those from Italy greet you."
- ❖ The recipients of the Book of Hebrews:
 - Had become Christians by hearing the preaching of those who had been eyewitnesses of Christ. 2:3
 - Were not recent converts (novices). 5:12
 - Had become "Dull of hearing" (5:11) and were in danger of drifting away from Christ.
- ❖ There are nearly 100 Old testament references in the Book of Hebrews, all of which are from the Septuagint version.
- ❖ Exodus and Leviticus are especially helpful in understanding Hebrews.

- ❖ Prominent words in the Book of Hebrews include:
 - “Better”
 - “Heavenly”
 - “Perfect”
 - “By faith”
- ❖ The basic theme of Hebrews is found in the word “better,” in describing the superiority of Christ in both His person and His work. Christ provides:
 - Better revelation. 1:1-2
 - Better expectation. 6:9
 - Better priesthood. 7:7-11, 20-28
 - Better hope. 7:19
 - Better testament, covenant. 7:22, 8:6
 - Better promises. 8:6
 - Better sacrifices. 8:6
 - Better possessions. 10:34
 - Better country. 11:16
 - Better resurrection. 11:35
 - Better things. 11:40; 12:24
- ❖ In his Person, Christ is better than:
 - The angels
 - Moses
 - Joshua
- ❖ In His Performance, Christ provides:
 - A better priesthood
 - A better sanctuary
 - A better covenant
 - A better sacrifice
- ❖ Old Covenant Vs New Covenant
 - Shadow - The substance
 - Temporary - Permanent
 - Mediator: Moses - Mediator: Christ
 - High Priest: Aaron - High Priest: Christ
 - Priests: Only Levites - Priests: Every Christian
 - Imperfect - Perfect

- Abolished - Last until end of age
- Entered by natural birth - Entered by spiritual birth
- For Jews only - For all nations

Hebrew Names of GOD used in Hebrews

NA

Revelation of JESUS CHRIST

To speak of Christ in Hebrews is to describe Him as a priest who ministers in God's holy sanctuary, having given Himself as a worthy sacrifice. In striving to keep his readers from apostasy, the writer emphasizes the superiority of Christ to all that has gone before in Old Testament times. Like no other book in the Bible, Hebrews points out the importance and the ministry of the pre-incarnate Christ. See "Background and Purpose" and "Content" above.

Work of THE HOLY SPIRIT

The ministry of the Holy Spirit is seen in a variety of ways, applying to both the Old and New Testament periods: gifts of the Holy Spirit for ministry (2:4); witness to the inspiration of the Old Testament (3:7; 10:15); descriptive of the experience of believers (6:4); interpreting spiritual truth (9:8); assisting in the ministry of Jesus (9:14); insulted by apostasy (10:29).

Mega Themes of Hebrews

CHRIST IS SUPERIOR

Hebrews reveals Jesus' true identity as God. Jesus is the ultimate authority. He is greater than any religion or any angel. He is superior to any Jewish leader (such as Abraham, Moses, or Joshua) and superior to any priest. He is the complete revelation of God.

Jesus alone can forgive our sin. He has secured our forgiveness and salvation by his death on the cross. We can find peace with God and real meaning for life by believing in Christ. We should not accept any alternative to or substitute for him.

HIGH PRIEST

In the Old Testament, the high priest represented the Jews before God. Jesus Christ links us with God. There is no other way to reach God. Because Jesus Christ lived a

sinless life, he is the perfect substitute to die for our sin. He is our perfect representative with God.

Jesus guarantees our access to God the Father. He intercedes for us so we can boldly come to the Father with our needs. When we are weak, we can come confidently to God for forgiveness and ask for his help.

SACRIFICE

Christ's sacrifice was the ultimate fulfillment of all that the Old Testament sacrifices represented—God's forgiveness for sin. Because Christ is the perfect sacrifice for our sin, our sins are completely forgiven—past, present, and future.

Christ removed sin, which barred us from God's presence and fellowship. But we must accept his sacrifice for us. By believing in him, we are no longer guilty but cleansed and made whole. His sacrifice clears the way for us to have eternal life.

MATURITY

Though we are saved from sin when we believe in Christ, we are given the task of going on and growing in our faith. Through our relationship with Christ, we can live blameless lives, be set aside for his special use, and develop maturity.

The process of maturing in our faith takes time. Daily commitment and service produce maturity. When we are mature in our faith, we are not easily swayed or shaken by temptations or worldly concerns.

FAITH

Faith is confident trust in God's promises. God's greatest promise is that we can be saved through Jesus.

If we trust in Jesus Christ for our complete salvation, he will transform us completely. A life of obedience and complete trust is pleasing to God.

ENDURANCE

Faith enables Christians to face trials. Genuine faith includes the commitment to stay true to God when we are under fire. Endurance builds character and leads to victory.

We can have victory in our trials if we don't give up or turn our back on Christ. Stay true to Christ and pray for endurance.

Life Lessons in Hebrews

Truth	Lesson
<p>Growing in Godliness</p> <p>Godly living, especially in the face of intense persecution requires great endurance. At all times, but especially when suffering, believers are to help encourage and strengthen each other.</p> <p>It is vital that believers grow in maturity through both the knowledge and practice of Scripture. Leaders need prayer and cooperation. We must not fall into legalism to earn God's favour or even relief from suffering. We have favor with God and are able to enter His rest from works only because of the grace found in Jesus. Seek to grow in godliness and maturity with endurance, setting your hope on Jesus Christ, looking forward to His return.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Enter God's promised rest. Rest from trying to earn salvation through works. Receive the rest found in Jesus, who has provided salvation by grace through faith, not works. ❖ Seek to mature in faith. Study the Bible, so that you can both understand and live it in your everyday life. ❖ Endure suffering, and remain faithful to God. ❖ Hold tightly to God's promise of salvation, look hopefully to Jesus' return hope, and continue in godliness. ❖ Strengthen weak or discouraged believers. ❖ Guard against the temptation to turn back from following Jesus because of temporary suffering. ❖ Remain committed to the Lord. ❖ Pray for leaders. Seek to cooperate with them and be a joy to them.
<p>Cultivating Dynamic Devotion</p> <p>Hebrews beautifully reveals more of the wonder and majesty of Jesus. Read this letter seeking revelation from the Holy Spirit. Worship as you read, praising God and thanking Him for all He has done and for the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Worship Jesus, who is superior to everything in every way. He is the perfect reflection of God's glory—the image of His Person. Meditate on these verses. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal Jesus to you. ❖ Focus your adoration on Jesus, whose blood cleanses your conscience so you can devote yourself to serving God.

<p>greatness and superiority of who He is. Let the truths found in these pages cause you to look to Jesus, cause you to enter His presence boldly, without hesitation, and to honor and devote yourself to Him afresh with all of your heart.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Boldly enter the very presence of God. Understand that Jesus, the High Priest, is the living way through whom you can draw near to God without hesitation. You are welcome in His presence. ❖ Gather often with God’s people. ❖ Be confident that God rewards those who diligently seek Him. ❖ Offer the Lord a sacrifice of worship, praise, and thanksgiving.
<p>Pursuing Holiness</p> <p>We are able to pursue holiness in our daily lives because we have been made holy through the perfect sacrifice of Jesus’ body on the cross. He gave Himself, once for all for the forgiveness of sin. His sacrifice was final; nothing else is necessary for the forgiveness of sin. Jesus’ sacrifice opened the way for each of us who have been made holy by Him to enter into the very presence of our Holy God. Being free from the power of sin and death, we are able by grace to live out that holiness in our day-to-day living. We are free to begin to live like Jesus, by the power of His Holy Spirit. Let the sacrifice of Jesus free you from sin so that you may live your life in His glorious presence, bringing Him honor in all that you do, by His immeasurable grace.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Receive Jesus’ sacrifice, which forever secured personal and intimate access to God (10:22). ❖ Wait eagerly for His triumphant second coming. ❖ Be sanctified, set apart, made holy through Jesus, who fulfilled the will of God by offering His body as the final, perfect sacrifice for sin. ❖ Understand that no other sacrifice for sin will ever be necessary. ❖ Understand that we are sanctified completely and being sanctified at the same time. God is working in our lives the holiness He has already accomplished through the finished work of Jesus. ❖ Be careful not to be distracted by Christian “fads” or “new” doctrines that may teach legalism. ❖ We must live holy lives, but from a faith filled heart of grace. Keep Jesus’ death on

	<p>the cross for the forgiveness of your sin as your focus.</p>
<p>The Walk of Faith</p> <p>The walk of faith is a glorious process of becoming increasingly free in Christ. By faith in Jesus' resurrection, we become free from the fear of death.</p> <p>Through faith in Jesus as our High Priest, we know that we have one who understands our temptations and can help us as we become free from sin. By faith in Jesus' holiness in our lives, we can be free to boldly enter God's presence without hesitation. Continue to put your faith in Jesus daily. Know that you can entirely trust Him who is the same yesterday, today, and forever.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Understand that Jesus has destroyed the power of death and released you from the satanic bondage of the fear of death. In faith, take hold of freedom. ❖ Go to Jesus when you are tempted. Be strengthened and comforted, knowing that He understands being tempted and is able to help you. ❖ Welcome the conviction of the Holy Spirit through God's Word. Understand that conviction of sin is an expression of God's mercy. It leads to forgiveness, which leads to freedom. ❖ Come boldly to God's throne of grace. Speak freely with Him. Believe that Jesus understands and is there for you. ❖ Learn about faith from the lives of the stories of the heroes of faith in this chapter. Understand that faith is the confident assurance of what we hope for and the proof of things we cannot see. ❖ Look at nothing but Jesus, the one who began and will complete your faith. Embrace God's training through discipline. Know that it produces peace and righteousness. ❖ Put your faith in Jesus who is "the same yesterday, today, and forever."
<p>How to develop dynamic discipleship</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ recognize that it is only through a sustained daily effort to apply GOD's

<p>The disciple is an apprentice to JESUS learning to live as HE did. GOD disciplines HIS children correcting and training them to live in HIS kingdom. Correction if received with the right attitude of heart produces the fruit of righteousness. The FATHER's objective is to bring HIS children to maturity</p>	<p>Word to your life that you will become mature</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ turn from laziness and patiently endure sustaining diligence in your pursuit of CHRIST likeness ❖ discard any attitude or practice that hinders your walk with CHRIST ❖ model your life after JESUS ❖ give careful thought and study to the life of JESUS for encouragement in your struggle with sin ❖ embrace GOD's discipline. know that it is evidence that HE is training you as HIS child ❖ accept GOD's correction as necessary for spiritual growth ❖ honor consider and imitate those GOD has put over you to lead you
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Praise Points in Hebrews

- ❖ His Word, which has come to us in any ways (1:1-2; 4:12)
- ❖ His constant, unchanging character (1:2-3; 2:10; 13:8)
- ❖ Jesus, who died for all the people of the world (2:9)
- ❖ Jesus, who suffered death so he could break the Devil's power (2:14)
- ❖ Jesus, our merciful and faithful High Priest (2:17)
- ❖ God's promise that believers will enter his place of rest (4:1)
- ❖ His mercy and grace to help us when we need it (4:16)
- ❖ The blood of Jesus, which secured our salvation and allows us to "boldly enter heaven's Most Holy Place" (9:12; 10:19)
- ❖ Believers who have left an example of faith for us to follow (11:1-40).

Worship Insights in Hebrews

Worship is the setting in which the church of Jesus Christ most clearly focuses on God's majesty and power, his sacrifice for sin and his intercession on behalf of his people. All of these are the subject matter of this letter, and because of them, we are not to neglect coming together with other worshipers (10:25) in order to "continually offer our sacrifice of praise to God by proclaiming the glory of his name" (13:15).

The author of Hebrews develops a picture of Christ and his work that is taken from the imagery and structure of Israelite worship. Jesus is the Son of God through whom he has spoken to create and sustain all things (1:1-3). As such, he is also the superior and enduring High Priest, who offers himself as the final and complete sacrifice to restore sinful humanity to fellowship with God the Father. Through Jesus, the heavenly sanctuary has been opened up to us, and we may enter the presence of the holy God (10:1-22). Worship is the celebration and extension of God's covenant with his people.

Through his obedience, Jesus has brought us into a new and better covenant (8:6, 13), "a kingdom that cannot be destroyed" (12:28). God's servants of old trusted him to bring this hope to reality, and the witness of this communion of saints encourages us to pursue the same hope.

The living God, the author of Hebrews reminds us, is awesome in his righteous judgment. But through Christ we may enter the joyful assembly that worships in his presence.

It is sometimes said that corporate worship is practicing for heaven, where our one occupation will be to join in the praise surrounding God's throne. The writer of Hebrews viewed worship differently: What we do when we gather now with God's people in worship is nothing short of entering the heavenly presence of God! "You have come," he declared, "to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem" (12:22). Already, we are celebrating with the angelic host, with "God's firstborn children," with "the spirits of the redeemed in heaven." In fact, we worship in the presence of God himself, the Judge of all, and of Jesus, who has mediated our renewed covenant with God (12:23-24).

We dare not be casual about our worship life as the people of God, for it is no mere preparation for something yet to come. It is the real thing! The worship of heaven does

not have to await our passage from this mortal existence. It is ours to experience today, to the greater glory of God.

- ❖ In worship we need a heart that is soft and pure (3:8-11; 9:14).
- ❖ We enter God's throne room to worship without restriction (10:19-22).
- ❖ Faith is the foundation for true worship (11:1-2).
- ❖ Holiness and obedience are important expressions of worship (12:14, 25).
- ❖ God deserves our worship in holy fear and awe (12:28).

An Outline of Hebrews

I. Christ, the Son-Messiah: [Heb_1:1-14](#)

Hold Fast Your Confession! [Heb_2:1-4](#)

II. The Qualifications of the High Priest: Heb. 2:5-7:28

A. He Must Be One with the People: [Heb_2:5-18](#)

B. He Must Be Faithful: [Heb_3:1-6](#)

Trust and Obey! Heb. 3:7-4:16

C. He Must Be Appointed by God: [Heb_5:1-10](#); [Heb_7:1-25](#)

D. He Must Be Pure: [Heb_7:26-28](#)

Go On to Maturity! Heb. 5:11-6:20

III. The Ministry of the High Priest: Heb. 8:1-10:18

A. The Superiority of Christ's Ministry: [Heb_8:1-13](#)

B. The Superiority of the New Covenant: [Heb_9:1-28](#)

C. Christ's Perfect Sacrifice: [Heb_10:1-18](#)

Approach with Holy Boldness! [Heb_10:19-39](#)

The Character of Faith: [Heb_11:1-40](#)

Run with Perseverance! [Heb_12:1-29](#)

Community Exhortations: [Heb_13:1-19](#)

IV. Benediction and Postscript: [Heb_13:20-25](#)

PART ONE: CHRIST, THE SON-MESSIAH: Heb. 1:1-2:4

I. God Has Spoken to Us by a Son: [Heb_1:1-2](#)

II. The Nature of Christ, the Son-Messiah: [Heb_1:2-14](#)

- A. Son of God: [Heb_1:2](#), [Heb_1:5](#)
- B. Heir of All Things: [Heb_1:2](#)
- C. Creator of the World: [Heb_1:2](#), [Heb_1:10](#)
- D. Radiant Light: [Heb_1:3](#)
- E. The Image of God: [Heb_1:3](#)
- F. Sustainer of the Universe: [Heb_1:3](#)
- G. High Priest of Perfection: [Heb_1:3](#)
- H. Superior to the Angels: [Heb_1:4-7](#), [Heb_1:13-14](#)
- I. Exalted King: [Heb_1:3-4](#), [Heb_1:8](#)
- J. Lord of Righteousness: [Heb_1:8-9](#)
- K. The Eternal: [Heb_1:11-12](#)
- L. Ultimate Conqueror: [Heb_1:13](#)

III. The First Exhortation: Hold Fast Your Confession! [Heb_2:1-4](#)

PART TWO: THE QUALIFICATIONS OF A HIGH PRIEST: Heb. 2:5-7:28

IV. A Priest Must Be One with the People: [Heb_2:5-18](#)

V. A Priest Must Be Faithful: [Heb_3:1-6](#)

VI. A Second Exhortation: Trust and Obey! Heb. 3:7-4:16

A. The Need for Steadfast Belief: [Heb_3:7-19](#)

B. The Rest of God: [Heb_4:1-16](#)

VII. A Priest Must Be Appointed by God: [Heb_5:1-10](#); [Heb_7:1-25](#)

A. The Appointment: [Heb_5:1-10](#)

B. After the Order of Melchizedek [Heb_7:1-10](#)

C. The Need for a New Priesthood: [Heb_7:11-19](#)

D. The Greatness Of the New Priest: [Heb_7:20-25](#)

VIII. A Priest Must Be Pure: [Heb_7:26-28](#)

IX. A Third Exhortation: Go On to Maturity! Heb. 5:11-6:20

A. Spiritual Immaturity: [Heb_5:11-14](#)

B. A Passionate Exhortation: [Heb_6:1-3](#)

C. A Warning Concerning Apostasy: [Heb_6:4-6](#)

D. Dramatic Reasoning: [Heb_6:6-8](#)

E. Unexpected Encouragement: [Heb_6:9-12](#)

F. The Immutable Promise of God: [Heb_6:13-20](#)

PART THREE: THE MINISTRY OF THE HIGH PRIEST: Heb. 8:1-10:18**X. The Superiority of Christ's Ministry: Heb_8:1-13**

- A. The Ritual Elements: Heb_8:1-5
- B. The Covenant Basis: Heb_8:6-13

XI. The Superiority of the New Covenant: Heb_9:1-28

- A. The Earthly Sanctuary: Heb_9:1-5
- B. The Earthly Ministry: Heb_9:6-10
- C. The Heavenly Ministry: Heb_9:11-15
- D. Ratification by Blood: Heb_9:16-22
- E. The Greatness of Christ's Sacrifice: Heb_9:23-28

XII. Christ's Perfect Sacrifice: Heb_10:1-18

- A. A Single Sacrifice: Heb_10:1-10
- B. A Complete, Sufficient Sacrifice: Heb_10:11-18

PART FOUR: FINAL EXHORTATIONS AND TEACHING: Heb. 10:19-13:25**XIII. An Exhortation to Holy Boldness: Heb_10:19-39**

- A. A Tripartite Invitation: Heb_10:19-25
- B. A Fearful Warning: Heb_10:26-31
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XIV. The Character of Faith—Basic Teaching for Perseverance: Heb_11:1-40

- A. The Substance of Faith: Heb_11:1-2
- B. Faith and Epistemology: Heb_11:3
- C. Examples in Faith—Abel and Enoch: Heb_11:4-6
- D. Faith and Obedience: Heb_11:7-12
- E. Faith and Future: Heb_11:13-40

XV. An Exhortation to Perseverance: Heb_12:1-29

- A. Let Us Run with Endurance: Heb_12:1
- B. Jesus, Our Example: Heb_12:2-3
- C. Persecution Ahead; Discipline Needed: Heb_12:4-11
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- E. The Dynamics of Peaceful Relations: Heb_12:14-17

F. The Dread and the Joy: [Heb_12:18-29](#)

XVI. A Flurry of Community Exhortations: [Heb_13:1-25](#)

A. An Exhortation to Personal Morality: [Heb_13:1-6](#)

B. The Dynamics of Christian Community: [Heb_13:7-17](#)

C. A Request for Prayer: [Heb_13:18-19](#)

D. A Benediction: [Heb_13:20-21](#)

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F. Postscript: [Heb_13:23-25](#)