

Highlights in Hebrews

The Best (and Only) Way

Audience – Believing Jews

Those to whose forefathers were addressed by the prophets. (1:1)
Believers (3:1)

Jewish feel and flavor to the entire letter.

- History
- Law

Author – Apostle Paul

Arguments against Paul:

- Name not given as in his other letters.
- Does not fit Paul's "standard" format.
- Paul was "Apostle to the Gentiles." (Acts 9:15; 13:46-47; 18:6; Rom. 1:5; 13; 11:13; 15:15-16; Gal. 1:16; 2:7-9; Eph. 3:8; 1 Tim. 2:7)
- Paul nowhere mentions a letter to Jews.

Arguments for Paul:

- Paul exhibits the fullness of NT doctrine shown in Hebrews.
- Paul DID preach to Jews, normally before Gentiles. (Acts 13:46; 18:5-6; 26:19-20; Rom. 1:16)
- Peter references a letter to the Hebrews from Paul. (2 Pet. 3:15-16)
- The author is closely associated with Timothy, Paul's assistant. (13:23)
- Written from Rome, where Paul spent much time. (13:24)

Date – Prior to 70 AD

Temple apparently in tact.

Priestly activities discussed in the present tense. (5:1-3; 7:23, 27)

Theme – Superiority of Christ

The believing Jews in the church before the demise of the Temple and the OT system were tempted to forsake Christianity and return to Judaism. Hebrews makes the case that there is not other choice for spiritual life than Jesus Christ.

Superiority of Jesus over:

- Angels (Ch. 1-2)
- Prophets (3:1-4:13)
- Priests (4:14-7:28)
- The Old Covenant (Ch. 8-10)

"Betters" of Jesus and the New Covenant:

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- Hope (7:19)
- Covenant (7:22)
- Promises (8:6)
- Sacrifices (9:23)
- Possessions (10:34)

Application for Us

- We are not believing Jews tempted to return to Judaism from Christ.
- By nature we want to depend on religion or traditions for salvation or sanctification.
- Jesus is wonderfully unique and sufficient for our spiritual needs.

Outline

- I. Superiority of Jesus (Ch. 1-10)
 - A. Angels (Ch. 1-2)
 - B. Prophets (3:1-4:13)
 - C. Priests (4:14-7:28)
 - D. The Old Covenant (Ch. 8-10)
- II. Submitting to Jesus (Ch. 11-13)
 - A. Faith (and Works) (Ch. 11)
 - B. Discipline (and Obedience) (Ch. 12)
 - C. Identification with Jesus (Ch. 13)

Lessons

| Lesson | Text | Theme |
|--------|----------|-----------------------------|
| 1 | 1:1-3 | Introduction |
| 2 | 2:10-18 | Jesus is Superior to Angels |
| 3 | 4:1-16 | The Believer's Rest |
| 4 | 7:11-28 | The New World Order |
| 5 | Ch. 8-10 | The Real and the Copy |
| 6 | Ch. 11 | Faith (and Works) |
| 7 | Ch. 12 | Discipline (and Obedience) |
| 8 | 13:7-16 | Identify with Jesus |