

וַיַּעַל כִּי־זָנַק לְפָנָיו וְכִשְׁרָשׁ מֵאֶרֶץ צִיָּה לֹא־תֵאָדָר  
לוֹ וְלֹא הָדָר וְנִרְאָהוּ וְלֹא־מִרְאָה וְנִחְמָדוּהוּ׃  
נִבְזָה וְחָרַל אִישִׁים אִישׁ מִכְּאֲבוֹת וַיִּדְוַע חֲלִי  
וְכִמְסֹתָר פָּנִים מִמֶּנּוּ נִבְזָה וְלֹא חֲשַׁבְנָהוּ׃

# The Book of Hebrews

אָכֵן חָזַק חֲזַק  
חֲזַק  
וְהוּא כִּי  
שְׁלֹשִׁים וְשָׁנָיִם עָלָה וְיִבְרָכְךָ וְיִבְרָכְךָ בְּיָמֶיךָ׃  
כָּלֵנוּ כִּצְאֵן תְּלֵינוּ אִישׁ לְדַרְכּוֹ פָּנֵינוּ וַיִּהְיֶה  
הַפְּגִיעַ בּוֹ אֶת עֵזֶן כָּלֵנוּ׃

נִגַּשׁ וְהוּא נִעְנָה € וְלֹא יִפְתַּח־פִּיו כִּשְׁהָ לַטִּבַּח יוֹכֵל  
וְכִרְחֵל לְפָנָיו גִּזְזִיהָ נֶאֱלָמָה וְלֹא יִפְתַּח פִּיו׃  
מֵעֶצֶר וּמִמִּשְׁפַּט לֶקַח וְאֶת־דֹּרוֹ מִי יִשׁוּחַת כִּי  
נִגְזַר מֵאֶרֶץ חַיִּים מִפְּשַׁע עַמִּי נִגַּע לָמוֹ׃  
וַיִּתֵּן אֶת־רִשְׁעִים קִבְּרוֹ וְאֶת־עֲשִׂיר בְּמִתָּיו עַל  
לֹא־חַמָּס עָשָׂה וְלֹא מִרְמָה בְּפִיו׃  
וַיִּהְיֶה חָפֶץ בְּכַאוֹ הַחֲלִי אִם־תִּשְׂשִׂים אָשָׁם נִפְשׁוֹ  
יִרְאֶה זֶרַע יִאֲרִיךְ יָמָיו וְחַבְּצֵי וְתוֹהַ בִּידּוֹ יִצְלַח׃  
מֵעַמָּל נִפְשׁוֹ יִרְאֶה יִשְׁבַּע בְּדַעְתּוֹ יִצְדִּיק צְדִיק  
עַבְדֵי לָרַבִּים וְעֹזְנֹתָם הוּא יִסְבֵּל׃

By Dr. Craig P Scott

# Introduction:

## A. Hebrews Links the O.T. with the N.T.

1. Jesus is the Messiah predicted in the Old Testament
2. Jesus is the Son of David – 2 Sam. 7
3. Jesus fulfills O.T. Promises
4. Jesus came not to destroy the Law but to fulfill it – Matt. 5:17
5. Jesus' death served as a ransom – Matt. 20:28 (fulfilling O.T. Typology of the Sacrificial System).
6. Christianity is rooted in O.T. revelation. The early church understood the O.T. aspects.
7. On Pentecost Peter uses the book of Joel to explain what happened – Acts 2:16
8. The influx of Gentiles into the church changed the Jewish make-up of the church
9. Tensions arose between Jew & Gentile
  - a. Acts 11, 15
  - b. Galatians 2

## B. In View of O.T. Teaching

1. How is Christ to be understood?
2. How are we to view O.T. worship?
3. How does the Church fit into the New Covenant prophesied by Jeremiah?
4. What about the O.T. sacrifices?
5. What sacrifices are we to offer?
6. Should we practice the O.T. law?

## C. When Was the Book of Hebrews Accepted?

1. Used in 1<sup>st</sup> Epistle of Clement – 1<sup>st</sup> Century
2. Other early writers who use it
  - a. Polycarp
  - b. Justin Martyr

- c. Theophilus
- d. Panaenus
- e. Clement of Alexandria
- f. Origen

## **E. When Was the Book of Hebrews Accepted?**

1. Later writers who used the book of Hebrews in their writings
  - a. Eusebius (AD 260-340)
  - b. Athanasius of Alexandria (AD 298-373)
  - c. Augustine (AD 354-430)
  - d. Jerome (AD 346-420)
2. Confirmed at 3<sup>rd</sup> Council of Carthage AD 397

## **F. Who Wrote Hebrews?**

1. Paul
2. Barnabus
3. Apollos
4. Others

## **G. Arguments for Paul**

1. Because it was accepted quickly in the Eastern Church
2. Clement of Alexandria (AD 150-215) says Paul wrote it (Eusebius 6. 14)
3. Origen of Alexandria (AD 185-253) says Paul wrote it
4. His closing of Hebrews (Hebrews 13:25 compared with 2 Thess. 3:17-18)
5. The use of "Brother Timothy" – Heb. 13:23
6. General pattern of letter (doctrinal followed by exhortation)
7. Reference to Italy – Hebrew 13:24
8. Peter's statements of Diaspora
  - a. 1 Peter 1:1
  - b. 2 Peter 3:1, 15, 16

## 9. Problems with Paul

- a. No name given (Paul gives his name in other letters)
- b. Writer places himself among those to whom the message of

Christ was confirmed by others (Hebrews 2:3) – Whereas Paul insisted he received the gospel from Christ, not from men (Gal. 1:12).

- c. Different writing style. i.e. The use of the Septuagint differs slightly.

## H. Arguments for Barnabas

1. Held by Tertullian of Carthage (ca. 150-22) and is favored today

2. His Reasons

- a. Barnabas was a Levite
- b. Word play on terms
  - 1) Word of encouragement – Hebrews 13:22
  - 2) Son of encouragement – Acts 4:36
- c. Was a Jew from Cyprus (Hellenistic Thought)
- d. Acted as a mediator between Jewish Christians and Paul in Acts 9. Hebrews does the same thing

## I. Arguments for Apollos

1. First held by Martin Luther

2. Reasons:

- a. Apollos was acquainted with Paul
- b. He was from Alexandria (Hellenistic thought)
- c. He was well versed in the Old Testament
- d. He was eloquent

## J. Other Possible Authors

1. Clement of Rome – held by Origen
2. Luke – held by Clement of Alexandria
3. Silas

4. Philip
5. Priscilla or Priscilla and Aquilia
6. John Mark
7. Aristae

**K. To Whom Was Hebrews Written?**

1. Jewish Diaspora
2. Most likely to the Jewish Christians

**L. When Was Hebrews Written?**

1. Around AD 60
2. Timothy was still alive when written – Hebrews 13:23
3. Nero persecuted this group in AD 64 (this not mentioned in book)
4. The Jewish sacrifices were still offered see Hebrews 7:8; 8:4; 10:1,2, 8, 11

# Outline of Book

## I. Christ In Relationship to the O.T.

### A. Superior to the prophets – Heb. 1:1-4

1. The Prophets – Heb. 1:1
2. God's Son – Heb. 1:2-4

### B. Superior to the angels – Heb. 1:5-2:18

1. Supported in the O.T. – Heb. 1:5-14
2. FIRST WARNING: Neglect – Heb. 2:1-4
3. Seen in Christ's Humanity – Heb. 2:5-9
4. Seen in Christ's Suffering – Heb. 2:10-18

### C. Superior to Moses – Heb. 3:1-4:16

1. Christ & Moses were faithful – Heb. 3:1, 2
2. Christ is builder of the house – Heb. 3:3, 4
3. Christ is over the house – Heb. 3:5, 6
4. SECOND WARNING: Unbelief – Heb. 3:7-4:13
5. Exhortation: Make use of Christ our Mediator – Heb. 4:14-16

### D. Superior to Aaron – Heb. 5:1-7:28

1. Aaron's Priesthood – Heb. 5:1-4
2. Christ's Priesthood – Heb. 5:5-10
3. THIRD WARNING: Dull of Hearing – Heb. 5:11-6:20
4. Spiritual Immaturity – Heb. 5:11-14
5. Need of Spiritual Maturity – Heb. 6:1-3
6. Consequences of Apostasy – Heb. 6:4-8
7. Remember God's promises – Heb. 6:9-20
8. Melchizedek's Priesthood – Heb. 7:1-28

## II. Superior to O.T. Economy – Heb. 8:1-10:18

### A. Introduction – Heb. 8:1-6

### B. Two Covenants – Heb. 8:7-13

1. Operation of 1<sup>st</sup> Covenant – Heb. 9:1-10

2. Description – Heb. 9:1-10
3. Christ's death – Heb. 9:13-22
4. Christ's ministry in heaven – Heb. 9:23-28
5. Christ's once-for-all offering – Heb. 10:1-18

### **III. Practical Applications – Heb. 10:19-13:17**

- A. New Access to God** – Heb. 10:19-31
  1. Draw Near in Faith – Heb. 10:19-22
  2. Hold Fast the Hope – Heb. 10:23
  3. Encourage one another in love – Heb. 10:24, 25
  4. FOURTH WARNING: Rejected Truth – Heb. 10:26-31
- B. Remember** – Heb. 10:32-39
- C. Review achievements of faith** – Heb. 11:1-40
  1. Three Patriarchs – Heb. 11:4-7
  2. Moses – Heb. 11:8-22
  3. Israel – Heb. 11:30-40
- D. Endure suffering & chastening**
  1. Examples of suffering – Heb. 12:1-3
  2. Explanation of suffering – Heb. 12:4-11
  3. Response to suffering – Heb. 12:12-17
  4. FIFTH WARNING: Don't Refuse – Heb. 12:18-29
- E. Exhortation for Faithfulness** – Heb. 13:1-17
  1. Social duties – Heb. 13:1-6
  2. Religious duties – Heb. 13:7-17

### **IV. Personal Instruction**

- A. Pray for us** – Heb. 13:18, 19
- B. Pray for readers** – Heb. 13:20, 21
- C. Heed this letter** – Heb. 13:22
- D. About Timothy** – Heb. 13:23
- E. Greetings and Closing Pray** – Heb. 13:24, 25

# The Book of Hebrews

## The Doctrinal Section

### Jesus, Greater Than The Prophets – Hebrews 1:1-4

v.1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,  
v. 2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by *his* Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;  
v. 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 on the right hand of the Majesty on high;  
v. 4 Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

v. 1 Πολυμερῶς καὶ πολυτρόπως πάλαι ὁ Θεὸς λαλήσας τοῖς πατράσιν ἐν τοῖς προφήταις,  
v. 2 ἐπ' ἐσχάτων τῶν ἡμερῶν τούτων ἐλάλησεν ἡμῖν ἐν υἱῷ, ὃν ἔθηκε κληρονόμον πάντων, δι' οὗ καὶ τοὺς αἰῶνας ἐποίησεν,  
v. 3 ὃς ὢν ἀπαύγασμα τῆς δόξης καὶ χαρακτὴρ τῆς ὑποστάσεως αὐτοῦ, φέρων τε τὰ πάντα τῷ ῥήματι τῆς δυνάμεως αὐτοῦ, δι' ἑαυτοῦ καθαρισμόν ποιησάμενος τῶν ἀμαρτιῶν ἡμῶν, ἐκάθισεν ἐν δεξιᾷ τῆς μεγαλωσύνης ἐν ὑψηλοῖς,  
v. 4 τοσοῦτω κρείττων γενόμενος τῶν ἀγγέλων, ὅσῳ διαφορώτερον παρ' αὐτοὺς κεκληρονόμηκεν ὄνομα.

#### A. God Spoke – Hebrews 1:1

1. By Divine Communication
  - a. Unique in Judeo/Christian faith
  - b. Compared with Paganism
    - 1) Matter eternally exists
    - 2) Spiritual entities are part of the makeup of nature, i.e. gods, forces, spirits, etc.
    - 3) They are bound by natural laws
2. By Prophets
  - a. 2 Peter 1:21
  - b. Hebrews 1:1 *“Sundry times and in divers manners”* Various times and in many ways



- c. How this was done
  - 1) In dreams
  - 2) In visions
  - 3) Through direct revelation
  - 4) Through divine messengers
- d. Prophetic regulations
  - 1) Deut. 18:9-12
  - 2) Deut. 18:20-22

1. By *His* Son

a. "Hath in these last days" — Hebrews 1:2a

- 1) "Last days" is used several ways
  - a) The period from Christ until He comes again.
  - b) The period in which the great apostasy unfolds, and Jacob's trouble occurs.
- 2) "Last days" is also a reference to Jesus being the final revelation. There will be no other revelation

b. "Spoken to us by *His* Son" – Hebrews 1:2b

**ἐλάλησεν ἡμῖν ἐν υἱῷ**  
*Spoke to us in Son*

**c. Points to:**

- 1) The important type of revelation – God's Son
- 2) Not simply by words did God speak to us but by an entire life – portrayed through the absence of the article "*The*" in Hebrews 1:2b. Jesus in every way is a revelation to us.

**B. The Character of God's Son - Hebrews 1:2-4**

1. **He is Heir** – v. 2a

- a) Jesus is appointed heir of all things, angels are not
- b) Psalm 2:2-8 (5)
- c) Other passages that indicate this fact Daniel 7:13, 14; Matthew 11:27; 28:18

2. **He is the Creator** – v. 2b

- a) Through Jesus, God the Father made the ages (world) not through angels.
- b) “World” (ages or eons) not only speaks of Jesus as the author of creation, but his active authorship and control of every age.

3. **He is the Living Revelation:**

- a) Jesus is the brightness (not a reflection but the source) – v. 3a
  - 1) The term ἀπαύγασμα (*apaugasma*) brightness literally means to “shine forth” or “effulgence.”
  - 2) As the rays of light are related to the sun, and neither exists without the other, so Christ is the effulgence of the divine glory. They are essentially one; that is, both are God.
- b) Jesus is the visible image of the invisible God – v. 3b
  - 1) The term (χαρακτήρ) “image” appears only here in the New Testament. Other roots of the word appear eight times in the NT.
  - 2) As the imprint of the die perfectly represents the original design, so in Christ there is the display for those who have eyes to see of God’s very essence.
  - 3) Also see Colossians 1:15 and John 14:9

4. **He is the Sustainer** – v. 3c

- a) Jesus is (φέρων) **upholding** all things by the word of His power
  - 1) The term *pherōn* translated “upholding” is in the durative form of the participle meaning “bring” or “carrying” suggesting that Jesus is not only sustaining and maintaining the universe, but He is bringing it to some goal.
  - 2) It is one of Christ’s functions to sustain this universe in its existence and operation, and to carry it forward to reach the consummation which God has planned.
  - 3) “By the (ρήματι) **word** of His power”
    - aa. The term “word” *rhēmati* emphasizes utterance, in contrast to the Greek term *logos* (not used in this passage) which stresses words as concepts.

- bb. It is by the very utterance of Christ's words that the universe is brought into being (also see Hebrews 11:3; John 1:3; Colossians 1:16)
- cc. This power is seen in action when the Lord stilled the storm, healed the sick and raised the dead.

**5. He is Our Redeemer – v. 3d**

- a) “By Himself purged our sins” (*Having made by Himself the cleansing of sins*)
- b) “purged” — purification from sin

**6. He is Our Ruler – v. 3e**

- a) “Sat down”

The sitting indicates that the atoning work was finished. No OT priest ever sat while performing his duties because the task was never finally accomplished. There were no chairs in the tabernacle. Christ, however, wrought full satisfaction for sin, and is now described as seated. (Kent)

- b) “Right hand of the Majesty on High”
  - 1) The right hand indicates a place of honor and authority
  - 2) The Majesty on High is another way of saying God.

**C. Transitional Remarks:**

1. Hebrews 1:1-4a proves that Jesus is greater than the prophets, so the author moves on to his next point . . . Jesus is made better than the angels.
  - a) **The logic:** Since Jesus is called the Creator (Hebrews 1:2) and Sustainer (Hebrews 1:3) then Jesus is not only greater than the prophets, but He also must be greater than the angels
  - b) The term “**made better**” is a reference to His incarnation, since Jesus is stated to be the Creator
  - c) By inheritance He obtained a better name. The inheritance is that which mankind lost.