

Hebrews

Introduction to Hebrews:

At the beginning of the Christianity movement, Christians were being tested, by both the religious leaders of Judaism and by Gentiles who had many gods.

However, the attempted annihilation by Nero had not yet begun. And since Nero started his non-sense around 64 A.D. we can conclude that it was prior to that, that this book was written.

The author has been speculated upon for about 2,000 years with many scholars attributing this book to Paul. (Of course, dictated/inspired by Jesus "The Word" Himself). Chapter 2:3 ^{hurts the assumption}

The author had an uphill battle writing this book because it was written to the relatively new religion of Christianity.

But of course we know that it was not a new religion but just the culmination, and conclusion, of Judaism which had been in existence for 1600+ years.

So, the author had one purpose: To show how Jesus (the Christ) is the zenith of God's redemption plan - prophesied under the Old Testament and fulfilled in the new.

Hebrews is a book that bridges the gap between Judaism (God's forever people the Jews) and Christianity (God's second forever people the Church).

In my studying I found out that in order to understand Hebrews we must know the difference between a prophet and a priest.

A Prophet: Represented God to the people, this person was a spokesman for God (Christian ministers are sometimes called prophets in the New Testament, as they should be since they can and do represent God to the people).

A Priest: Represented the people to God. For example, the people would offer sacrifices for their sins and then at the appointed time the High Priest would go in to the Holy of Holies to offer up the sacrifices of the people, and his own, unto the LORD on behalf of the people.

Hence, Jesus is our High Priest. And since He is our High Priest He has declared us righteous and so we can go directly to God in His Name.

The author, lays out in Hebrews, that there is no going back to the Law and the Old Testament Jewish traditions and sacrifices because Jesus was the final, and one time only, sacrifice. And right in the beginning of Hebrews makes it crystal clear that Jesus is the culmination of all prophets and also the last One!

In Chapters 1-7 we are given absolute clarity that Jesus is greater than anyone that God had ever sent to prophesy, Superior to angels, and even those that the Jewish priests respected second only to God - Abraham and Moses.

In Chapters 8-10 we see that a new and better covenant was now established by Jesus. And since there can be no remission of sins; Jesus' blood sacrifice would become the once and for all sacrifice. A sacrifice that caused God to put His stamp on the bottom of our "debt sheet" that read "Paid-in-full!"

In chapters 11-12 we learn the tough lesson that the believer will have times of suffering but our faith will get us through it AND our faith in tough times will lead many to seek the same God who got us through our tough times. The greatest faith Chapter in all of God's Word is in Hebrews 11. We've seen it in our past Bible Studies, we've heard it preached in sermon and will once again let it edify us when we get to it. And in Hebrews 12 we will see how Mount Zion is not a scary place where God tells Moses to not let the people tread (or even animals) but rather, to us, is a welcoming Mountain which is the "City of God" (12:22), "the company of angels" (12:22), "the church of the first born" (12:23), "in the company of the Creator of all" (12:23), "the community of saints" (12:23), and the place of the Christ of the New Covenant" (12:24).

Chapter 13 wraps it all up with a message of perseverance. Perseverance by letting our lives be the evidence of our faith!

The chief theme of Hebrews is the superiority, and completeness, of Christ in all things. Because of Christ we can say, and live in, "IT IS FINISHED!"

Hebrews 1:1-2

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As we read in Deuteronomy 29:29, a couple of weeks ago, God reveals things to us all on a need to know basis. He also keeps things back that we just don't need to know yet: "The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and our children forever..." In verses 1+2 God reveals that Jesus is God's final Word! "In the past" (Old Testament) God spoke... through the prophets (remember a "prophet" is someone who speaks God's Word; so the whole Old Testament professes God's Word) but in these last days (the time from Jesus' ascension until He comes again is the Last days) He has spoken to us by His Son, whom He appointed Heir of all things (on the day of His resurrection when He took back the Title Deed to the Earth which Satan swindled Adam out of) and through Whom also He made the Universe (the worlds N.K.J.V.).

This is basically exactly what John wrote about Jesus: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God", "All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made."

First, of importance is that God has endorsed Jesus as His final Word to us. The whole New Testament makes it very clear that Jesus' Word is complete and all that we need to ever know. Secondly, on a smaller note: We see that Jesus created not only earth but also the universe and worlds, and as such when He died, He died for anyone who would believe. Anyone points to any person. And since there are no humans on any other planet that means that anything else is a demonic creature. Jesus did not die for E.T. or martians since they are not human and did not stem from Adam and Eve.

Hebrews 1:3 Again, similar to how John represented Him: And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:14).

Here the writer tells us that Jesus radiates the Beauty and Goodness of God Himself, and exact representation ("if you've seen Me, you've seen the Father" (John 14:9) sustaining all things by His powerful word. (God the Son said, "Let there be light, let there be, ..., Genesis chapter 1)