

Hebrews Verse By Verse Commentary 2025

Who Wrote Hebrews?

We don't know for sure as it's debated but here are what some of the earliest believers in Yeshua said about it's authorship...

Clement of Alexandria (late 2nd/early 3rd century) says that *“the Epistle to the Hebrews is the work of Paul, and that it was written to the Hebrews in the Hebrew language; but that Luke translated it carefully and published it for the Greeks, and hence the same style of expression is found in this epistle and in the Acts”* – Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 6.14.2–4

Origen of Alexandria (early 3rd century) *“If I gave my opinion, I should say that the thoughts are those of the apostle, but the diction and phraseology are those of some one who remembered the apostolic teachings, and wrote down at his leisure what had been said by his teacher... But who wrote the epistle, in truth, God knows.”* - Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 6.25.11–14

Tertullian of North Africa (3rd Century) *“For there is extant withal an Epistle to the Hebrews under the name of Barnabas — a man sufficiently accredited by God, as being one whom Paul has stationed next to himself”* - De pudicitia (On Modesty),

Peshitta Syriac Canon (4th Century Dialect Of Aramaic) Lists Hebrews under Paul's letters.

Athanasius of Alexandria (4th century) *“there are fourteen Epistles of Paul, written in this order. The first, to the Romans; then two to the Corinthians; after these, to the Galatians; next, to the Ephesians; then to the Philippians; then to the Colossians; after these, two to the Thessalonians, and that to the Hebrews”* – Festal Letter 39

I personally, believe Paul is the author of the content in Hebrews but Luke was his scribe that penned the letter. Some evidence from it's vocabulary that might suggest this is there are at least 9-12 Greek words/phrases in the letter to the Hebrews that appear ONLY in Luke + Acts and are not found in the rest of the entire NT. This doesn't prove Luke wrote Hebrews, but it shows the author had to have been educated like Luke — someone trained in polished Greek, someone who thought in Septuagint Greek, and someone who shared vocabulary choices only found in Luke's writings. In the end if it wasn't Luke or Paul, it was someone very close to Paul as Timothy is even mentioned as a brother in Hebrews 13:23.

When Was Hebrews Written?: It's debated but we can be certain no later than 70AD as the letter to the Hebrews speaks of the temple sacrifices in present tense in Hebrews 8:4 *"Now if he (Yeshua) were on earth, he wouldn't be a cohen at all, since there already are cohanim offering the gifts required by the Torah"*. Some believe Hebrews was written right before the destruction of the temple as an encouragement for Jews not to have their hope in the physical temple about to be destroyed but the true tabernacle in Heaven. I believe (not the majority view but my personal position) this epistle was written around the same time as Paul's other letters in the 50's AD. My argument comes from recognizing a 1st century letter from the Church of Rome to the Messianic Community In Corinth called 1st Clement frequently quoting Hebrews while speaking of the temple sacrifices in present tense *"Not in every place, brethren, are the daily sacrifices offered, or the peace-offerings, or the sin-offerings and the trespass-offerings, but in Jerusalem only"* - Chapter 41.

Historical Background: For the average Jew, the beginning of the Messianic Movement would have raised a lot of questions. Who was Yeshua? Was he the Messiah? Was he just a prophet? Was he an angelic being and not really human? What did he accomplish? Where does the Tanakh support this? Why should we listen to Yeshua when the religious leaders in Jerusalem that spent their entire lives studying the Torah rejected him?

The issue of authority would be a pressing question to the average Jew because the Torah commands In Deuteronomy 17:8-13 *"If a case comes before you at your city gate which is too difficult for you to judge, concerning bloodshed, civil suit, personal injury or any other controversial issue; you are to get up, go to the place which Adonai your God will choose, ⁹and appear before the cohanim, who are L'vi'im, and the judge in office at the time. Seek their opinion, and they will render a verdict for you. ¹⁰You will then act according to what they have told you there in that place which Adonai will choose; you are to take care to act according to all their instructions. ¹¹In accordance with the Torah they teach you, you are to carry out the judgment they render, not turning aside to the right or the left from the verdict they declare to you. ¹²Anyone presumptuous enough not to pay attention to the cohen appointed there to serve Adonai your God or to the judge — that person must die. Thus you will exterminate such wickedness from Isra'el — ¹³all the people will hear about it and be afraid to continue acting presumptuously."*

Even if a Jew were to grant Yeshua higher authority, how do we now interpret the Torah in light of Yeshua? Couldn't one just go back to traditional Judaism and secretly believe in Yeshua? What's so bad about just going back to traditional Judaism?

1 In days gone by, God spoke in many and varied ways to the Fathers through the prophets. **2** But now, in the *acharit-hayamim*, he has spoken to us through his Son, to whom he has given ownership of everything and through whom he created the universe.

(The author mentioning God speaking “through the prophets” is a reference to the Tanakh. This letter opens by immediately stating what was spoken to us through Yeshua the Son of God is not some man-made invention but divinely inspired and authoritative just as the scriptures of old. The Son of God is then described as given complete authority from God and the very Word through whom the universe was made)

3 This Son is the radiance of the *Sh’khinah*, the very expression of God’s essence, upholding all that exists by his powerful word; and after he had, through himself, made purification for sins, he **sat down at the right hand of HaG’dulah BaM’romim**.

(The author of Hebrews is basically saying... if you really want to understand God, Yeshua is the very radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his nature. This is why Yeshua could say of himself John 14:9 “Whoever has seen me has seen the Father”. Yeshua is described as not just the creator of the universe with God but also holding the universe together by his word. After his death, burial, & resurrection to purify us from our sins he ascended into heaven at the right hand of God’s Majesty to fulfill Messianic Psalm 110)

4 So he has become much better than angels, and the name God has given him is superior to theirs. **5** For to which of the angels did God ever say,

**“You are my Son;
today I have become your Father”?**

(Right away the author is making it clear that not only is Yeshua not an angel but he is above angels. He quotes Psalm 2:7, a Messianic Psalm foreshadowed in King David but finds it’s full meaning in Yeshua. We like David are Sons of God through adoption but Yeshua is the unique Son of God from eternity past. We know he wasn’t created because verse 2 opened by saying Yeshua created the universe. “No one has ever seen God; but the only and unique Son, who is identical with God and is at the Father’s side — he has made him known” John 1:18)

Also, God never said of any angel,

**“I will be his Father,
and he will be my Son.”**

(This reference to 2nd Samuel 7:14/1st Chronicles 17:13 applies scripture about King Solomon Son of David becoming a Son to God as a foreshadow of Yeshua’s sonship.

Meaning Yeshua is the one and only divine Son of God from eternity past but like Solomon he is a human Son of David, therefore he cannot be an angel)

⁶And again, when God brings his Firstborn into the world, he says,

“Let all God’s angels worship him.”

(Yeshua is the firstborn from the dead according to Colossians 1:18 & Revelation 1:5. The term firstborn here does not mean first created. The author of Hebrews by quoting Psalm 97:7 from the Greek Septuagint actually goes so far to say all God’s angels actually worship Yeshua as God! In just the very first 6 verses of the letter to the Hebrews, the author has established Yeshua created the universe, Yeshua presently holds the universe together by his word, if you want to understand God - Yeshua is the glory of God and exact imprint of God’s nature, he’s the divine Son of God foreshadowed in David’s adoption yet at the same time a human Son of David in his lineage. So, he cannot be an angel if he’s human and in case you were confused... Psalm 97:7 states angels actually worship Yeshua as God)

⁷Indeed, when speaking of angels, he says,

**“... who makes his angels winds
and his servants fiery flames”;**

(This author really wants to hammer the nail in the coffin the difference between Yeshua and angels by quoting Psalm 104:4 in comparison to Messianic psalms)

⁸but to the Son, he *(God the Father)* says,

**“Your throne, O God, will last forever and ever;
you rule your Kingdom with a scepter of equity;
⁹you have loved righteousness and hated wickedness.
Therefore, O God, your God has anointed you
with the oil of joy in preference to your companions”;**

(Psalm 45 is a Messianic psalm that explicitly calls the Messiah God. The author is trying to educate the reader that the anointed one being both human and God is precisely what the Tanakh/OT teaches. Therefore, to reject Yeshua is to reject God. “So that all may honor the Son as they honor the Father. Whoever fails to honor the Son is not honoring the Father who sent him” John 5:23)

¹⁰and,

**“In the beginning, Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth;
heaven is the work of your hands.**

¹¹**They will vanish, but you will remain;**

like clothing, they will all grow old;
¹²and you will fold them up like a coat.
Yes, they will be changed like clothing,
but you remain the same,
your years will never end.”

(The author is attributing Psalm 102, a Psalm explicitly speaking about the LORD creating the foundations of the earth in the beginning to Yeshua. Making sure all readers are aware Yeshua was not created because he was with the Father as the Word of God through whom all things were made in the beginning as already stated in verse 2)

¹³Moreover, to which of the angels has he ever said,

**“Sit at my right hand
until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet”?**

¹⁴Aren’t they all merely spirits who serve, sent out to help those whom God will deliver?

(Aren’t all angels just servants of God and not meant to physically rule on David’s throne? If the Messiah is to come from David’s throne and lineage like Psalm 110 teaches, then Yeshua must of had real flesh and blood. He couldn’t have been just an angel appearing to look human. And he can’t be just a mere man either because psalm 110 calls the Messiah an eternal priest and Psalm 45 calls the Messiah God. Psalm 110 not only is the most quoted Messianic prophecy in all the New Testament but there is no other possible interpretation other than Yeshua is the Messiah. How can David call the Messiah Lord before the Messiah is born unless he already pre-existed with the Father. Yeshua actually stumps his opponents with this verse in Matthew 22:42-45 “Tell me your view concerning the Messiah: whose son is he?” They said to him, “David’s.” ⁴³“Then how is it,” he asked them, “that David, inspired by the Spirit, calls him ‘Lord,’ when he says,

⁴⁴**‘Adonai said to my Lord,
“Sit here at my right hand
until I put your enemies under your feet”’?**^[a]

⁴⁵*If David thus calls him ‘Lord,’ how is he his son?”* ⁴⁶*No one could think of anything to say in reply; and from that day on, no one dared put to him another sh’eilah)*