

# **Hebrews**

## **Introduction**

- I. Why Study Hebrews?
  - A. Somewhat Neglected
  - B. Helps Us Understand the Relationship Between the OT and NT
    1. Continuity between OT & NT
    2. How Jesus fulfills the OT. He is “Better”
    3. The Bible is the story of God’s redemption
- II. Authorship - Date - Audience
  - A. No Author Named
    1. The writer identifies himself as a disciple of the Apostles (2:3)
    2. Possible Authors include: Paul, Barnabas, Apollos, Luke, etc.
  - B. Date
    1. ~ Early 60’s
    2. Indications that the Temple was still standing
  - C. Audience
    1. Jewish Christians (Primarily)
    2. Those considering returning to Judaism
- III. The Main Message
  - A. The Supremacy of Jesus Christ Over All Things (He is Better)
  - B. Hebrews Tells Us “How” and Explains “Why” Jesus is “Better”
- IV. Outline
  - A. Christ is Superior (Better) to the Prophets (1:1-3)
  - B. Christ is Superior (Better) to the Angels (1:4-2:8)
  - C. Warning: “Pay Attention” (2:1-4)
  - D. Christ is Superior (Better) to Moses and Joshua (3:1-4:13)
  - E. Warning: Learn from Israel in the Wilderness (3:7-19)
  - F. Christ is Superior (Better) to Aaron (4:14-7:28)
  - G. Warning: “Do Not Fall Away” (5:11-6:12)
  - H. Christ is Superior (Better) to the Old Covenant (8:1-10:18)

- I. Faith = Better Way of the New Covenant (10:19-13:19)
- J. Warning: Do Not Go On Sinning (10:19-39)
- K. Warning: Do Not Miss the Grace of God (12:14-24)
- L. Warning: Do Not Refuse to Listen to God (12:25-29)
- M. Exhortations / Conclusion (13:1-25)

## **Hebrews**

### **God's Final Word**

#### **Hebrews 1:1-3**

#### **Introduction:**

- Jesus is the fullest and final revelation of who God is. . .
- The heart of this section is the fact that God has spoken

#### **I. Two Extreme Views**

##### **A. The Skeptical View**

1. God has not spoken
2. He has not made Himself known

##### **B. God Speaks Through All Things**

1. Every religion / spiritual movement
2. In Nature (i.e. Nature is god)
3. In Yourself (little god)

#### **II. How God Speaks to Us (v. 1-2)**

##### **A. In the Past**

1. When - "Long ago"
2. To Whom - "Our fathers"
3. How - "at many times and in many ways. . . by the prophets"

##### **B. God's Final Way of Speaking**

1. When - "last days"
2. To Whom - "to us"
3. How - "through His Son"

#### **III. The Identity of the Son (v. 2-3)**

##### **A. King (Ultimate Ruler)**

1. "Heir of all things"
2. "Creator of all things"
3. "Upholds all things"

B. Prophet (Ultimate Revealer of God)

1. "Radiance of His glory"
2. "Exact imprint of His nature"

C. Priest (Ultimate Savior from Sins)

1. "Made purification for sins"
2. "Sat down at the right hand of God"

\*Seven attributes of Christ are listed; symbolic of perfection and fullness

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### **Better Than the Angels**

#### **Hebrews 1:1-14**

#### I. Looking To the Angels

##### A. Angels are Very Impressive

1. Messengers, Servants unto God . . . Powerful - Faithful
2. Encounters with Angels
  - a) Luke 1:11-13
  - b) Luke 2:9-10
  - c) Matthew 28:2-6

##### B. The people addressed in this letter seemed to be tempted to elevate angels over Christ

##### C. The writer sets out to correct this. (4 ways)

#### II. Why Jesus is Better than the Angels:

##### A. He Has a Better Name than the Angels (v. 4-5)

1. Son of God
2. Psalm 2:7; 2 Samuel 7:14; (cf. Psalm 110)

##### B. Jesus is Worshipped by the Angels (v. 6)

1. Not to Worship Angels
  - a) Revelation 22:8-9
  - b) Colossians 2:18
  - c) Cf. Matthew 4:9-10
2. Angels pay homage / Worship Him
  - a) Luke 2:13-14
  - b) John 12:37-41 w/Isaiah 6:1-3

##### C. Jesus is the King and so, ruler of the Angels (v. 7-9; 13-14)

1. Psalm 45:6-7
2. Psalm 110
3. (v. 7) - Angels are His Servants

D. Jesus is Creator of all things, including the Angels (v. 10-12)

1. Citing Psalm 102:25-27 - Jesus is there in the beginning as Creator
2. Contrast between Creator / Creature

Conclusion - Implications

1. Turn to Jesus, not Angels
2. The Angels Worship and serve Christ

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### **Pay Attention!**

#### **Hebrews 2:1-4**

- We must pay attention because . . .

#### I. We Have a Tendency to Drift (v. 1)

##### A. Our sinful hearts naturally drift away from God

1. The word for "drift" means to "let slip" or "flow by" (i.e. a rudderless ship)
2. What causes people to drift?
3. It's very subtle at first

##### B. Does it mean that a person can lose their salvation?

1. A person who is truly converted cannot lose their salvation
2. Warning given because many people seem to be "saved", but are not truly converted. (i.e. Judas)

- We must pay attention because. . .

#### II. God is Holy and Just. He Will Hold People Accountable (v. 2-3a)

##### A. God held people accountable for the message of salvation delivered in the Old Testament

1. The Old Testament message was true as it pointed to Christ (i.e. Abraham believed by faith)
2. Those who rejected the message received just retribution

##### B. God will certainly hold people accountable for the saving message of Jesus (v.3a)

1. Even more clear
2. Parable of Vineyard Tenants (Matthew 20:1ff)

- We must pay attention because. . .

### III. The Message of Jesus is Clear and True (v. 3b-4)

- A. Jesus himself came to earth and proclaimed the message
- B. The Apostles proclaimed the message
- C. The message was confirmed by the Spirit

#### Conclusion - Things to Consider

- Your tendency to "drift"
- What can you do to keep from drifting?

## **Hebrews**

### **The Humanity of Christ**

#### **Hebrews 2:5-13**

- I. Man's Dignity (v. 5-8a)
  - A. Image Bearers (v. 6-7)
    - 1. Glory - Honor - Dignity
    - 2. Greater than the Angels
    - 3. "God said" vs. "Let us" (Genesis 1)
  - B. Man is made for a special purpose (v. 7)
    - 1. Reflect His glory
    - 2. Dominion over the Earth
- II. Man's Depravity (What Went Wrong) (v. 8b)
  - A. We do not reflect His glory as we should and we do not rule as we ought
    - 1. The Fall (Irony)
    - 2. Marred Image
    - 3. "Broken" World - (Romans 8:22-24)
  - B. The "World's" perspective on the problem with humanity
    - 1. Lack of \_\_\_\_\_
    - 2. Lack of \_\_\_\_\_
    - 3. Lack of \_\_\_\_\_
- III. Man's Deliverer (v. 7-13)
  - A. The distinctiveness of who Christ is
  - B. "Tasted death for everyone"
    - 1. There is salvation in no one else
    - 2. Doesn't mean that every single person will be saved
    - 3. He brings "many" to glory
  - C. "Founder" (Pioneer)
    - 1. He suffered for our sin. . .
    - 2. He was raised. . .
    - 3. He was glorified. . .