

General Epistles & Revelation (NT6)

**Book of Hebrews
April 10, 2014**

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General Epistles & Revelation (NT6)

Apr 3 – Intro to NT General Epistles

Apr 10 – Book of Hebrews

Apr 17 – **No Class** (Holy Week)

Apr 24 – Book of James

May 1 – Books of 1 & 2 Peter

May 8 – **No Class**

May 15 – Books of 1,2,3 John; Jude

May 22 – Book of Revelation

May 29 – Conclusion; Final Exam

The Book of Hebrews

Author: Unknown; the book does not name its author. At one time thought to be Paul (*KJV*), but Pauline authorship is now almost universally rejected. Possible authors include Luke, Philip, Silas, Barnabas, Apollo, Clement of Rome or Priscilla.

*Origen of Alexandria: *“Who wrote the epistle, only God knows.”*

Date: c. 65. Given the emphasis in Hebrews of the inadequacy of the Temple sacrificial system, it is almost certain the author would have mentioned the destruction of the Temple in AD 70 if this had already occurred at the time of writing.

Affirmed as canon by Synod of Hyppo (393) and both Synods of Carthage (399, 419).

Recipients: “To the Hebrews” in the Greek Manuscripts. Most likely written to Jewish Christians in Jerusalem who, under persecution, were considering reverting to Judaism.

The Book of Hebrews

Theme: The Supremacy of Christ (as Messiah and High Priest) over all – including Christ being greater than:

- ▶ The Prophets of the Old Testament
- ▶ Angels
- ▶ Moses and Joshua
- ▶ Aaron, the first High Priest (Melchizedek)
- ▶ the tabernacle and the Law

Of Note: *The Book of Hebrews has the most polished and eloquent Greek of any NT book; a “masterpiece.”

*The book’s anonymity created problems with Hebrews’ acceptance as canon.

The Book of Hebrews

I. Prologue: Superiority of God's new revelation. (1:1-4)

II. Superiority of Christ to OT figures (1:5-7:28)

A. Christ superior to the angels (1:5-2:18)

1. Scriptural proof of superiority
2. Exhortation not to ignore God's revelation thru his Son
3. Jesus made a little lower than the angels for a while
4. Having been made like us, Jesus was able to save us

B. Christ superior to Moses (3:1-4:13)

1. Demonstration of Christ's superiority
2. Exhortation to enter sabbath rest

C. Christ is superior to the Aaronic priests (4:14-7:28)

1. Jesus is the great High Priest
2. Qualifications of a priest
3. Exhortation to press on to maturity
4. The certainty of God's promise
5. Christ's superior priestly order.

The Book of Hebrews

- III. The superior sacrificial work of our high priest (8:1-10:18)
 - A. A new sanctuary and a new covenant (ch.8)
 - B. The old sanctuary (9:1-10)
 - C. The better sacrifice (9:11-10:18)
- IV. Call to follow Jesus faithfully (10:19-12:29)
 - A. Having confidence to enter the sanctuary (10:19-25)
 - B. A warning against persistence in sin (10:26-31)
 - C. Persevering in faith under pressure (10:32-12:3)
 - 1. As in the past, so in the future
 - 2. Faith and its many outstanding examples (ch.11)
 - 3. Jesus the supreme example
 - D. Encouragement to persevere in hardship (12:4-13)
 - E. Exhortation to holy living (12:14-17)
 - F. Crowning motivation and warning (12:18-29)

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V. Conclusion (ch.18)

- A. Rules for Christian living (13:1-17)
- B. Request for prayer (13:18-19)
- C. Benediction (13:20-21)
- D. Personal remarks (13:22-23)
- E. Greetings and final benediction (13:24-25)

The Book of Hebrews – Key Verses

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. ³ The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. ⁴ So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs. Hebrews 1:1-4

We must pay the most careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away. ² For since the message spoken through angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment, ³ how shall we escape if we ignore so great a salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him. ⁴ God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

Hebrews 2:1-4

The Book of Hebrews – Key Verses

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are-yet was without sin. ¹⁶ Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Hebrews 4:14-16

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. ² Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:1-2