

The Bible Project: Hebrews Overview in Video

<https://thebibleproject.com/explore/hebrews/>

Watch an overview video on the book of Hebrews, which breaks down the literary design of the book and its flow of thought. In Hebrews, the author shows how Jesus is the ultimate revelation of God's love and mercy and is worthy of our devotion.

A very Jewish letter Throughout the book of Hebrews, we are also challenged to remain faithful to Jesus and follow great models of faith from the Old Testament despite hardships and persecution. These challenges will make us uncomfortable but instead of fearing them, remember that rejecting Jesus is foolish. Jesus is the ultimate revelation of God's love and mercy and is worthy of all our trust and devotion.



what for



HEBREWS



Main point

Jesus is greater, so hold fast to Him.

Theme verses

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds. (10:23-24)

who



A letter written to Christians



Who wrote it?

That's the question. Even today, scholars are divided on who wrote Hebrews.



Who read it?

This letter is for Christians who heard about Jesus via other witnesses (2:3).

what



Did you know?



Hebrews may have been a sermon that was later written down and sent as a letter.



Hebrews is the second-most doctrine-heavy New Testament book (Romans is first)¹.



The author says Hebrews is a brief letter (13:22), but it's the longest general epistle (unless you include Revelation).

when



Date

Genesis (c. 1400 B.C.)

Revelation (c. 90 A.D.)



Hebrews was probably written around 60 A.D.¹, before Herod's Temple had been destroyed.

why



Why Hebrews was written

The Christians were coming under persecution, and some may have been tempted to give up on the Faith. The author writes them a list of reasons to cling to the Lord.

Major themes



The supremacy of Jesus Christ



Warnings against giving up



God's covenants with His people

how



The structure of Hebrews



1 Christ's status
(1:1-5:10)

2 Warning!
(5:11-6:20)

3 Christ's service
(7:1-10:18)

4 Warning!
(10:19-31)

5 Our response
(10:32-13:29)

Sources

¹Demarest, Bruce A., Walter A. Elwell, and Barry J. Beitzel. Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible, Volumes 1 and 2. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1988.

Interesting Facts About Hebrews

AUTHOR: Not absolutely certain. Many attribute it to Paul.

TIME WRITTEN: Somewhere between A.D. 64 and 68

POSITION IN THE BIBLE:

- 58th Book in the Bible
- 19th Book in the New Testament
- 14th of 21 Epistle Books (Romans - Jude)
- 8 Books to follow it.



CHAPTERS: 13

VERSES: 303

WORDS: 6,913

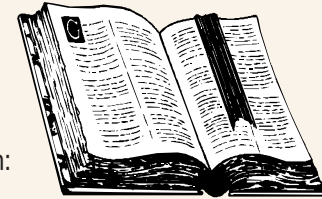
HEBREWS

OBSERVATIONS ABOUT HEBREWS:

- Many regard the Book of Hebrews as the 14th epistle of Paul.
- The 3rd century theologian, Origen wrote: "Who it was that really wrote the epistle (Hebrews), God only knows."
- The Book of Hebrews shows the superiority of Christianity over the Judaic system under the Law of Moses.
- A majority view seems to be that the recipients of Hebrews probably lived in Rome. Hebrews 13:24 - "Those from Italy greet you."
- The recipients of the Book of Hebrews:
 - had become Christians by hearing the preaching of those who had been eyewitnesses of Christ. 2:3
 - Were not recent converts (novices). 5:12
 - Had become "Dull of hearing" (5:11) and were in danger of drifting away from Christ.
- There are nearly 100 Old testament references in the Book of Hebrews, all of which are from the Septuagint version.
- Exodus and Leviticus are especially helpful in understanding Hebrews.
- Prominent words in the Book of Hebrews include:
 - "Better" • "Heavenly"
 - "Perfect" • "By faith"

■ The basic theme of Hebrews is found in the word "better," in describing the superiority of Christ in both His person and His work. Christ provides:

- Better revelation. 1:1-2
- Better expectation. 6:9
- Better priesthood. 7:7-11, 20-28
- Better hope. 7:19
- Better testament, covenant. 7:22, 8:6
- Better promises. 8:6
- Better sacrifices. 8:6
- Better possessions. 10:34
- Better country. 11:16
- Better resurrection. 11:35
- Better things. 11:40; 12:24



■ In his Person, Christ is better than:

- The angels
- Moses
- Joshua

■ In His Performance, Christ provides:

- A better priesthood
- A better covenant
- A better sanctuary
- A better sacrifice

OLD COVENANT

- Shadow
- Temporary
- Mediator: Moses
- High Priest: Aaron
- Priests: Only Levites
- Imperfect
- Abolished
- Entered by natural birth
- For Jews only

NEW COVENANT

- The substance
- Permanent
- Mediator: Christ
- High Priest: Christ
- Priests: Every Christian
- Perfect
- Last until end of age
- Entered by spiritual birth
- For all nations