



Hebrews

Theme: Superiority of Christ

Outline: I. Superiority of Christ's Person & Work
II. Superiority of the Christian's Walk

1-10:18

10:19-13

N.T. Survey

Content Summary: Written to people in different spiritual states and with serious practical applications, Hebrews explains that true believers in Jesus Christ—God's perfect sacrifice for sin—have the perfect High-Priest through whose ministry everything is new and better than under the covenant of law. In a sermon of sermons to those mostly of a Jewish background, the superior position and priesthood of Christ is exalted and elevated above all else. In Christ, those with genuine, enduring faith in Him enjoy direct access to God and will walk in faithfulness like the faithful men of old.

Key Chapters:

- 1 Christ the Son is God's full revelation
- 2 Christ is the Great High Priest
- 3 Christ is greater than Moses
- 5 Christ—sympathetic High Priest in order of Melchizedek
- 6 Warning of apostasy
- 7 Christ's eternal priesthood
- 10 Warning to persevere
- 11 Hall of faith
- 12 The fatherly discipline of God
- 13 Christian living: love, hospitality, marriage, doctrine, obey leaders, benediction

- 4:15 Christ was tempted as we are
- 6:1-8 Press on toward maturity vs. falling away
- 9:11-15 Superiority of Christ's sacrifice
- 10:26-29 Rejecting Christ is manifest in willful sin
- 12:4-11 God disciplines His children
- 13:7, 17 Imitate the faith of godly leaders and obey them

Key Passages:

3:7-19 Do not harden your hearts

Structure of the Book

Hebrews, though a written letter to a specific group of recipients, is best thought of as a homily or a sermon. One of the best structure outlines is from John MacArthur, the basis for the outline below.

- I. The Superiority of Jesus Christ's Position (1:1–4:13)**
 - A. A Better Name (1:1-3)
 - B. Better than the Angels (1:4-2:18)
 - C. Better than Moses (3:1-19)
 - D. A Better Rest (4:1-13)
- II. The Superiority of Jesus Christ's Priesthood (4:14-10:18)**
 - A. Exhortation to Commitment to Christ as High Priest (4:14-6:20)
 - B. Christ's Priesthood is Like Melchizedek's (7:1-28)
 - C. Christ's Priestly Ministry Superior Through a Better Covenant (8:1-13)
 - D. Christ's Priestly Ministry Superior In a Better Sanctuary (9:1-12)
 - E. Christ's Priestly Ministry Superior By a Better Sacrifice (9:13-10:18)
- III. The Superiority of the Believer's Privileges (10:19-12:29)**
 - A. Genuine Saving Faith Versus False Faith (10:19-11:3)
 - B. Heroes of the Faith (11:4-40)
 - C. Faith that Perseveres (12:1-29)
- IV. The Superiority of Christian Behavior (13:1-21)**
 - A. In Relation to Others (13:1-3)
 - B. In Relation to Ourselves (13:4-9)
 - C. In Relation to God (13:10-21)
- V. Epilogue (13:22-25)**

Other Notes:

Introduction to Hebrews:

Title: "To the Hebrews" (added post 100 AD)
Author: Unknown (a member of Paul's team though, possibly Paul)
Recipients: Hebrew believers and unbelievers
Date: Approximately 67-68 AD

Additional Notes on the author and recipients of Hebrews:

Major Themes in Hebrews

1. The Old Testament

Hebrews references and essentially exposit (Ps. 8:4-6 in 2:6-8; Ps. 95:7-11 in 3:7b-11; Ps. 110:4 in 5:6; 7:17, 21; Jer. 31:31-34 in 8:8b-12; 10:16-17; Ps. 40:6-8 in 10: 5b-7; Hab. 2:3-4 in 10:37-38; Prov. 3:11-12 in 12:5b-6)

2. The Great God [68x] - critical to a Jewish audience

- A. The Living God (3:12; 9:14; 10:31; 12:22)
- B. The Creator (2:10; 3:4; 4:4)
- C. The Consuming Fire (12:22-29)

3. The Incomparable Son—Jesus Christ [son 12x; Christ 12x; Jesus 13x]

- A. The Son of God (1:1-4, 10-12; 2:9; 3:6; 4:14; 5:7-10; 7:28)
- B. The High Priest (2:17; 3:1; 4:14-5:10; 7:11-28; 8:1-2; 9:11-14)

4. The Better/Superior (1:4; 6:9; 7:19, 22; 8:6; 9:23; 10:34; 11:16, 35, 40; 12:24)

5. Faith (4:2, 3; 6:12; 10:22, 38, 39; 11:1-40; 12:2; 13:7)

6. Encouragement and Warning

- A. Encouragement (2:17-18; 3:13; 4:14-16; 6:9-10; 8:1-2; 10:19-25; 12:1-2, 22-24)
- B. Warning (2:1-4; 3:7-4:13; 5:11-6:20; 10:19-39; 12:18-29)

Seven Warnings of Danger: (best to see these as directed to the apostasy of "professing" Christians)

The recipients are warned against:

1. Ignoring what God has done in Christ
2. Not believing God
3. Ceasing to grow
4. Not persevering in holiness
5. Losing Faith – if you have faith, it's done and you endure, not the other way around.
6. Rejecting discipline.
7. Refusing these warnings.

Purpose of Hebrews

Jewish Christians, who were considering safety in Judaism, were instructed and exhorted to progression, steadfastness, endurance and maturity by looking to Jesus, the Son of God and great High Priest, the better way.

Other Notes: