

The Epistle To The Hebrews

A verse by verse study...

Hebrews

Superior to Angels
The best God spoke to our forefathers
through the prophets at many times and
in various ways, but in these last days he
has spoken to us by his Son, whom he ap-
pointed as heir of all things, and through
whom the universe was created. The Son is
the radiance of the glory of God and the
exact imprint of his nature, who has
sustained all things by his word of power.
After he had purged away the sins of
the people, he sat down at the right hand
of the Father, having become much greater
than the angels, as he has inherited a
name that is more excellent than theirs.

6 And again, when God brings his firstborn
into the world, he says,
"Let all God's angels worship him."
7 In speaking of the angels he says,
"He makes his angels worship him,"
his servants flames of fire."
8 "But about the Son he says,
"Your throne, O God, will last
forever and ever.
and righteousness will be
of your kingdom.
You have loved righteous-
ness, and hated wickedness.
Therefore God, your
Father, has anointed you
with the oil of gladness
more than your
peers."

Overview of Hebrews

- Theme:
 - To present Jesus Christ as deity, and as better than all human beings and angels;
 - to prove that Judaism and the law have come to an end;
 - to confirm Jewish Christians in the faith;
 - and to set forth new covenant doctrines for all people.

Overview of Hebrews

- Statistics:
 - 58th book of the Bible;
 - 13 chapters; 303 verses; 6,913 words;
 - 17 questions;
 - 270 verses of history;
 - 9 verses of fulfilled
 - 24 verses of unfulfilled prophecy.

Time of Writing?

- Written from Rome about 68 A.D.
 - along with Galatians and 2nd Timothy

Hebrews

Authorship?

- For a detailed review of the various proposed authors, see commentary by Moses Stuart (1864)

<https://archive.org/details/acommentaryonep06stuagoog/page/n8>

- For a more concise summary see commentary by Albert Barns
- Suggestions for authorship include:
- Luke, Philip, Barnabas, Clement etc.

Authorship?

- Arguments for Paul's authorship are:
- *The thoughts and reasonings are Paul's.*
- *Any difference in style is due to his writing to Jews as a Jew and not to Gentile churches as in other epistles.*
 - *Furthermore, the translation of the book into Greek by Luke may account for some change in style.*
- *Peter confirms the fact that Paul wrote an epistle to Jews (2Pet. 3:15-16).*
- *The book of Hebrews is ascribed to him by over 100 ancient writers in both Greek and Latin, from 70 to 73 A.D.*

Authorship?

- Arguments for Paul's authorship are:
- *It was received as Paul's:*
- *by the council of Laodicea (363 A.D.),*
- *by the council of Carthage (397 A.D.),*
- *by the Syrian churches (370 A.D.),*
- *and generally by the Greeks and Eastern churches from the earliest centuries.*
- *Paul is named as the author in the Alexandrian manuscripts (500 A.D.).*

Authorship?

- Arguments for Paul's authorship are:
- *Some Latin churches questioned it only because Paul's name is not used in the introduction as in all his other epistles, but this was for two reasons:*
- *Eusebius, the father of church history, explains that Paul wrote the epistle in Hebrew, leaving his name off so that it would be read and received more readily by Jews who hated him and would not want to listen to anything he had to say.*
- *Luke translated it into Greek, hence it is similar to Acts in expression.*
 - *See The Ante-Nicene Fathers, Vol. 2, p. 579*

Authorship?

- Arguments for Paul's authorship are:
- *In oldest manuscripts the epistle follows Galatians with the title "To the Hebrews," indicating that it was part of the Galatian letter.*
- *If this is true, the authorship stated in Gal. 1:1 applies to both books.*
- *This would explain why Paul speaks of Galatians as "a large letter" (Heb. 6:11).*
- *"The Israel of God" of Gal. 6:16 would be an appropriate introduction to the book of Hebrews.*

Authorship?

- Arguments for Paul's authorship are:
- *There is nothing in the epistle contrary to Paul's authorship, and there is much internal evidence that Paul was the author:*
- *Both books [Galatians & Hebrews] argue at length on the abolishment of the old covenant.*
- *Both anticipate the visit of the writer (Gal. 4:20; Heb. 13:19).*
- *Paul was the only writer of the New Testament who requested prayer for himself (cp. Heb. 13:18 with note, 2Th. 3:1).*

Authorship?

- Arguments for Paul's authorship are:
- *Many exhortations in Hebrews are similar to those of other epistles of Paul: Compare:*
 - *Heb. 12:3 with Gal. 6:9;*
 - *Heb. 12:14 with Rom. 12:18;*
 - *Heb. 13:1-3 with Eph. 5:2-4*
 - *Heb. 13:16 with Php. 4:18;*
 - *Heb. 5:12 with 1Cor. 3:2;*
 - *Heb. 8:1 with Eph. 1:20;*
 - *Heb. 8:6; 9:15; 12:24; Gal. 3:19-20 1Tim. 2:5; Heb. 10:1 with Col. 2:17;*
 - *Heb. 10:33 with 1Cor. 4:9;*
 - *Heb. 13:9 with Eph. 4:14;*
 - *Heb. 13:10 with 1Cor. 9:13; 10:18;*
 - *Heb. 13:20-21 with Rom. 15:33; 16:20; 2Cor. 13:11; Php. 4:9; 1Th. 5:23;*
 - *Heb. 13:22 with Acts 24:16;*

Authorship?

- Arguments for Paul's authorship are:
- *The author of both books wrote from Italy (Heb. 13:24).*
- *Paul was the only New Testament writer who wrote from prison and expected release (Heb. 13:19,23 with Php. 1:7-8,13,26; 2:23-24 etc.).*
- *No other writer of epistles mentions Timothy.*
 - *Paul refers to him 20 times in his recognized epistles (cp. Heb. 13:23).*
- *When Paul mentions Timothy to others he always call him brother (2Cor. 1:1; Col. 1:1; 1Th. 3:2)*
- *The conclusion of the epistle is like others of Paul*
 - *(cp. Heb. 13:18-25 with the end of his other epistles).*

Background to Hebrews

- The Church in Jerusalem:
 - Had already lost Stephen Acts 7:59,60
 - James the Apostle Acts 12:2
 - Others Acts 8:1-3,26:10
- The Church in Galatia was also now facing persecution: Gal 1:22
 - Principally from the legalistic Jews who saw Christianity as a rejection of the Law
- The temptation was to revert to Judaism to avoid persecution

Author's Objectives?

- Combat possible apostasy 2:1-4, 10:19-25
- Encourage them to press on to Spiritual maturity 5:11-14, 10:32-39
- Comfort them in their persecutions 11:1-12:3

The Epistle to the Hebrews

- **Jesus: The New and Better Deliverer** **1-7**
 - The God-man: better than the Angels - 1, 2
 - **Warning #1** (of 5) - **2:1-4**
 - An Apostle better than Moses - 3
 - **Warning #2** (of 5) - **3:17-4:13**
 - A Leader better than Joshua - 4:1-13
 - A Priest better than Aaron - 4:14 – 5:10
 - **Warning #3** (of 5) - **5:11-6:20**
 - A Priest after the order of Melchizedek - 7
- **Calvary: A New and Better Covenant** **8 – 10:17**
 - A Better Sanctuary - 9
 - A Better Sacrifice - 10:17
- **Practical Applications** **10:18 -13**
 - **Warning #4** (of 5) - **10:18-31**
 - Hall of Faith - 11
 - Exhortation to Endurance - 12 - 13
 - **Warning #5** (of 5) - **12:25-29**

5 Major Warnings



WARNING

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------|
| 1. Drifting | 2:1-4 |
| 2. Disobedience | 3:7-4:13 |
| 3. Failing to Mature | 5:11-6:20 |
| 4. Willful Sin | 10:26-39 |
| 5. Indifference | 12:25-29 |

*Great loss awaits those who fail to persevere:
loss of reward and honor in Christ's coming
Millennial Kingdom*

What is at stake?

- What are these believers going to lose, forfeit, or suffer?
 - Not “salvation” John 10:28,29; et al
 - Rewards at the Judgment Seat of Christ
- We cannot escape this by applying it to others
- The burden of ‘Hebrews’ is *not* the rescuing sinners from hell:
It is the bringing of sons to glory

Bringing Sons Unto Glory

8 Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him.

9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

Hebrews 2:8-11

Bringing Sons Unto Glory

10 For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

11 For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren,

Hebrews 2:8-11

Bringing Sons Unto Glory

- *Thank God He does give us difficult things to do! His salvation is a glad thing, but it is also a heroic, holy thing. It tests us for all we are worth. Jesus is bringing many “sons unto glory,” and God will not shield us from the requirements of a son. God’s grace turns out men and women with a strong family likeness to Jesus Christ*
 - Chambers, Oswald, *My Utmost for His Highest*,

Why are we here?

- We have not been left here to just...
 - “Get on with it”
- We are undergoing an intensive training programme; God is:
 - “Bringing many sons unto glory”
- What does that mean?
- ‘Sanctification’
 - *What does it mean practically?*
- ‘Worthwhile’

Why are we here?

- What you are going through right now
 - **Worthwhile!**
- What the LORD is doing in your midst
 - **Worthwhile!**
- Your 'day job'
 - **Worthwhile!**
- Your labour in the LORD
 - **Worthwhile!**

Worthwhile Work

58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

1 Corinthians 15:58

Bringing Sons Unto Glory

8 Thou hast put **all things** in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. **But now we see not yet all things put under him.**

Hebrews 2:8

- **God has put all things in subjection under Jesus' feet**
= the world's economics, politics, theories, materialism, aspirations, society, etc.

His Glorious Reign!

24 Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.

25 For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.

1 Corinthians 15:24-25

His Glorious Reign!

- 8 Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession.
- 9 Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.

Psalm 2:8-9

His Glorious Reign!

¹³ I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him.

¹⁴ And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.

Daniel 7:13-14

Bringing Sons Unto Glory

8 Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him.

9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

Hebrews 2:8-9

Bringing Sons Unto Glory

- *The only "Life" of the Lord Jesus is the New Testament. There are phases of the Life of Our Lord presented in the New Testament that no other Life, so-called, deals with. If you start with the theory that Jesus Christ was a man who became God, you have to leave out any number of New Testament facts; if you say that Jesus Christ was God and His manhood a seeming phase, you have to miss out other facts. The Person of Jesus Christ revealed in the New Testament is unique—God-Man. In Him we deal with God as Man, the God-Man, the Representative of the whole human race in one Person. Jesus Christ is not a Being with two personalities; He is Son of God—the exact expression of Almighty God, and Son of Man—the presentation of God's normal Man.*
 - Oswald Chambers, *Bringing Sons Unto Glory*

Bringing Sons Unto Glory

¹⁰ For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

Hebrews 2:10

“It was fitting and necessary for God...

In order to bring many sons unto glory...

*To allow Jesus to be our **complete** Saviour”*

*So WE can be made **complete** in HIM*

Bringing Sons Unto Glory

¹¹ For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren,

Hebrews 2:11

- Jesus suffered to become ‘complete’
 - *“To carry out the goal”*
- We likewise are to become complete
 - There is a goal for us as Christians
 - All we ‘endure’ now is worthwhile because it leads to that goal

Bringing Sons Unto Glory

² My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials,

³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.

⁴ But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

James 1:2-5

- Jesus suffered in order to be that which His Father wanted Him to be, viz. Our Saviour

Bringing Sons Unto Glory

34 Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.

John 4:34

Bringing Sons Unto Glory

¹¹ For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren,

Hebrews 2:11

- Jesus suffered to become 'complete'
 - To carry out the goal
- We likewise are to become complete
 - There is a goal for us as Christians
 - All we 'endure' now is worthwhile because it leads to that goal

Bringing Sons Unto Glory

29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

Romans 8:29-30

- He did not take us out this far to lead us back again!

¹ Now after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD it came to pass, that the LORD spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying,

² Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land **which I do give to them,** even to the children of Israel..

Joshua 1:1-2

- His goal: not just deliverance from Egypt, but to the Promised Land (Gen 14:13-17; Ex 3:7,8).

“In other words, the deliverance from Egypt was only in preparation for the enjoyment of Canaan. The Passover, the shedding of blood, the crossing of the Red Sea, the destruction of Pharaoh's hosts, all would have been useless unless they led to the place of rest in Canaan. Furthermore, it was only by possession of the land of Canaan that the promise of God to Abraham could be fulfilled.”

– Alan Redpath, Victorious Christian Living

Entering Into Our Rest

¹ Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.

Hebrews 4:1

¹¹ Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest,

Hebrews 4:11

“If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet, ye also ought to wash one another’s feet.” It requires the inspiration of God to go through drudgery with the light of God upon it. Some people do a certain thing, and the way in which they do it hallows that thing for ever afterwards. It may be the most commonplace thing, but after we have seen them do it, it becomes different”

– Oswald Chambers, My Utmost for His Highest

“The things that Jesus did were of the most menial and commonplace order, and this is an indication that it takes all God’s power in me to do the most commonplace things in His way. Can I use a towel as He did? Towels and dishes and sandals, all the ordinary sordid things of our lives, reveal more quickly than anything what we are made of. It takes God Almighty Incarnate in us to do the meanest duty as it ought to be done”

– Oswald Chambers, My Utmost for His Highest

“It is impossible to be well physically and to be dejected. Dejection is a sign of sickness, and the same thing is true spiritually.

Dejection spiritually is wrong, and we are always to blame for it.

We look for visions from heaven, for earthquakes and thunders of God’s power (the fact that we are dejected proves that we do), and we never dream that all the time God is in the commonplace things and people around us.

“If we will do the duty that lies nearest, we shall see Him. One of the most amazing revelations of God comes when we learn that it is in the commonplace things that the Deity of Jesus Christ is realised.

– Oswald Chambers, My Utmost for His Highest

1 Kings 6:1-7



¹ And it came to pass in the four hundred and eightieth year after the children of Israel were come out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month Zif, which is the second month, that he began to build the house of the LORD.

² And the house which king Solomon built for the LORD, the length thereof was threescore cubits, and the breadth thereof twenty cubits, and the height thereof thirty cubits.

1 Kings 6:1-7

³ And the porch before the temple of the house, twenty cubits was the length thereof, according to the breadth of the house; and ten cubits was the breadth thereof before the house.

⁴ And for the house he made windows of narrow lights.

⁵ And against the wall of the house he built chambers round about, against the walls of the house round about, both of the temple and of the oracle: and he made chambers round about:

1 Kings 6:1-7

⁶ The nethermost chamber was five cubits broad, and the middle was six cubits broad, and the third was seven cubits broad: for without in the wall of the house he made narrowed rests round about, that the beams should not be fastened in the walls of the house.

⁷ And the house, when it was in building, was built of stone made ready before it was brought thither: so that there was neither hammer nor axe nor any tool of iron heard in the house, while it was in building.

1 Kings 6:1-7

He shall build the temple of the Lord; and He shall bear the glory.'-Zechariah 6:13

“Christ Himself is the builder of His spiritual temple, and He has built it on the mountains of His unchangeable affection, His omnipotent grace, and His infallible truthfulness. But as it was in Solomon's temple, so in this; the materials need making ready”.

He shall build the temple of the Lord; and He shall bear the glory.'-Zechariah 6:13

“There are the 'Cedars of Lebanon,' but they are not framed for the building; they are not cut down, and shaped, and made into those planks of cedar, whose odoriferous beauty shall make glad the courts of the Lord's house in Paradise. There are also the rough stones still in the quarry, they must be hewn thence, and squared. All this is Christ's own work”

He shall build the temple of the Lord; and He shall bear the glory.'-Zechariah 6:13

“Each individual believer is being prepared, and polished, and made ready for his place in the temple; but Christ's own hand performs the preparation-work. Afflictions cannot sanctify, excepting as they are used by Him to this end. Our prayers and efforts cannot make us ready for heaven, apart from the hand of Jesus, who fashioneth our hearts aright”

He shall build the temple of the Lord; and He shall bear the glory.'-Zechariah 6:13

“As in the building of Solomon's temple, 'there was neither hammer, nor axe, nor any tool of iron, heard in the house,' because all was brought perfectly ready for the exact spot it was to occupy-so is it with the temple which Jesus builds; the making ready is all done on earth”

– Charles H Spurgeon

Living Stones

- 1 Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings,
- 2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:
- 3 If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious.
- 4 To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious,

1 Peter 2:1-5

Living Stones

5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 2:1-5

- *We are in the quarry now and God is hewing us out. God's Spirit gathers and marks the stones, then they have to be blasted out of their holdings by the dynamite of the Holy Ghost, to be chiselled and shaped, and then lifted into the heavenly places. God grant that many may go through the quarrying and the chiselling and the placing. Think of the scrutiny of Jesus Christ that each one of us has to face! Think of His eyes fastening on us and pointing us out before God as He says—"Father, that is My work; that is the meaning of Gethsemane, that is the meaning of Calvary. I did all that man's work in him, all that woman's work in her; now You can use them."*

– *Oswald Chambers, My Utmost for His Highest*

18 And the cedar of the house within was carved with knops and open flowers: all was cedar; there was no stone seen.

19 And the oracle he prepared in the house within, to set there the ark of the covenant of the LORD.

20 And the oracle in the forepart was twenty cubits in length, and twenty cubits in breadth, and twenty cubits in the height thereof: and he overlaid it with pure gold; and so covered the altar which was of cedar.

21 So Solomon overlaid the house within with pure gold: and he made a partition by the chains of gold before the oracle; and he overlaid it with gold.

Sons of God

¹ Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the **sons of God**: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

² Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

1 John 3:1-2

He'll Finish What He Has Started

6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

Philippians 1:6

The Epistle To The Hebrews

A verse by verse study...

Next Week

Hebrews

Chapter 1



calvary
chapel
portsmouth

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