

Epistle to the Hebrews

Overview

I. Purpose

“To present the sufficiency and superiority of Christ in and over all things.”

II. Author

The name of the Book’s author is not provided in the Biblical text itself. Paul, Luke, Barnabas, Apollos, Silas, Philip Priscilla, and others have all been suggested as possible authors. However, whoever the author speaks of Timothy as “brother” in **Hebrews 13:23**.

III. Original audience

Hebrew Christians---or perhaps early second-generation Christians---who may have been considering a return back to Judaism. This most likely would have been occurring due to the increase of persecution of Christians. However, it could also have been occurring due to simple immaturity stemming from a lack of a solid understanding of Biblical truths.

IV. Date Written

Probably before the destruction of Solomon’s Temple by the Roman Empire, which occurred in **A.D. 70**. This is intimated by the fact that religious sacrifices and ceremonies are repeatedly referred to, but no mention is made of the Temple’s destruction.

V. Setting

These Jewish Christians were more than likely experiencing fierce persecution—both socially and physically. This persecution was coming from both Jews as well as from Romans. Christ had not returned to establish His Kingdom, and the people needed to be reassured that the Good News of the Gospel was indeed true and that Jesus---as proven from their own Old Testament Scriptures---was indeed the Messiah.

VI. Key Verse

“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 cleansed us from our sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.” **Hebrews 1:3**

Hebrews---Chapter 1 Notes

I. Key Thought:

This entire chapter is devoted to building the case for the pre-eminence and superiority of Christ over all things.

II. Chapter Schematic

1. Both the Old and New Testaments are _____ and are both equal in their _____.

"In times past 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..." Hebrews 1:1-2a

2. Christ is sovereign over all _____ which He facilitated.

"Jesus--whom the Father appointed heir of all things, and through whom He made the universe." Hebrews 1:2b

3. Christ is greater than the _____ in all respects.

*"This shows that the Son is **far greater than the angels**, just as the name God gave him is greater than their names. For God never said to any angel what He said to Jesus: "You are my Son. Today I have become your Father." God also said, "I will be His Father, and He will be My Son." And when He brought His firstborn Son into the world, **God said, "Let all of God's angels worship Him."***

Hebrews 1:4-6

4. Christ was _____ with the Father and _____.
He is _____ in all respects.

*"Regarding the angels, He says, "He sends His angels like the winds and His servants like flames of fire." **But to the Son He says, "Your throne, O God, endures forever and ever. You rule with a scepter of justice. You love justice and hate evil. Therefore, O God, your God has anointed You, pouring out the oil of joy on You more than on anyone else."** He also says to the Son, "In the beginning, **Lord, you laid the foundation of the earth** and made the heavens with Your hands. They will perish, but You remain forever. They will wear out like old clothing. You will fold them up like a cloak and discard them like old clothing. But You are always the same; You will live forever." And God never said to any of the angels, "Sit in the place of honor at My right hand until I humble your enemies, making them a footstool under your feet." Therefore, angels are only servants—ministering spirits sent to care for those who will inherit salvation." Hebrews 1:7-14*

Christ and the Angels

<u>Hebrews Reference</u>	<u>O.T. Reference</u>	<u>How Christ is Superior to angels</u>
1:5-6	Psalm 2:7	Christ is called the Son of God, a title never given to an angel.
1:7; 14	Psalm 104:4	Angels are important but are still only servants of God
1:8-9	Psalm 45:6	Christ's Kingdom is forever
1:10	Psalm 102:25	Christ is the creator of the world (see John 1:1-3)
1:13	Psalm 110:1	Christ is given unique honor by God the Father

Hebrews---Chapter 2 Notes

I. Key Thought:

This entire chapter emphasizes the importance of the dangers of drifting away, and of the unique and desirable place that believers hold in God's heart and plan in Christ.

II. Chapter Schematic

1. As was then, there always remains a grave danger of _____ from God's truth.

*"We must **pay more careful attention**, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away. For if **the message spoken by angels** was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment, how shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him. God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will." Hebrews 2:1-4 (SEE Galatians 3:19; Deut.33:2; Acts 7:53; Psalm 68:17)*

2. God's plan for mankind is one of ultimate _____, _____ and _____. This is truly why Satan hates all humanity. (Jude 6)

"It is not to angels that he has subjected the world to come, about which we are speaking. But there is a place where someone has testified: "What is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? You made him a little lower than the angels; you crowned him with glory and honor and put everything under his feet." In putting everything under him, God left nothing that is not subject to him. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to him." Hebrews 2:5-8

3. Jesus is the _____ that we should model our lives after.

*"But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone. For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make **the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings**. For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, saying: "I will declare Your name to My brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You." (Psalm 22:22) And again: "I will put My trust in Him." And again: "Here am I and the children whom God has given Me (Isaiah. 8:17-18)." Hebrews 2:9-13 (NKJV)*

4. Jesus had to _____ to break _____ over mankind.

*“Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death--that is, the devil---and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. For surely it is not angels He helps, but Abraham's descendants. For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a **merciful and faithful high priest** in service to God, and that He might make atonement for the sins of the people. Because He himself suffered when He was tempted, He is able to help those who are being tempted.” Hebrews 2:14-18 (SEE Romans 6:5-11)*

Answer Key:

Chapter 1

1. connected-----Divine inspiration
2. creation
3. angels
4. pre-existent-----not created---Divine

Chapter 2

1. drifting away
2. blessing, value, rulership
3. perfect leader
4. become a man---Satan's grip

