

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 07 Sep Hebrews 1:1-14 Who Is Jesus?
- 2) 14 Sep Hebrews 2:1-13 Pay Attention
- 3) 21 Sep Hebrews 2:14-18 Why One of Us?
- 4) 28 Sep Hebrews 3:1-19 Watch Out!
- 5) 05 Oct Hebrews 4-5 Secured with Confidence
- 6) 12 Oct Hebrews 6:1-20 Don't Walk Away
- 7) 19 Oct Hebrews 7:1-28 Only Jesus Saves
- 8) 26 Oct Hebrews 8:1-13 Only Jesus Transforms
- 9) 02 Nov Hebrews 9:1-28 The Perfect Offering
- 10) 09 Nov Hebrews 10-11 Faith Defined
- 11) 16 Nov Hebrews 12:1-7 The Discipline of Suffering
- 12) 23 Nov Hebrews 12:18-29 A New Kind of Community
- 13) 30 Nov Hebrews 13:1-25 Living Out the Faith

INTRODUCTION and BACKGROUND

• **Author: Unknown.** Possibilities include Paul, Barnabas, Luke, Mark, Phillip, Silas, Apollos, and even Priscilla (Aquila's wife). Whoever it was had extensive knowledge of Jewish customs and the scriptures, and was possibly heavily influenced by Paul. Hebrews 2:3-4 states, in essence, the Gospel was confirmed by signs and wonders unto US by THOSE who heard the Lord – which conveys the author of Hebrews was not one of the THOSE who directly heard the Lord or was able to work signs and wonders. That leaves out everyone but Apollos & Priscilla. Origen (2nd century scholar and early Christian theologian) said it best "Only God knows for certain who wrote Hebrews"

- **Date:** Written just a year or 2 prior to the fall of Jerusalem, 70 AD
- **Theme/Purpose:** Judaism in the 1st century was legal and protected by Roman law. Christianity was not. Jewish Christians risked the dangers of loss of homes and jobs, imprisonment, and even death. Many Jewish Christians contemplated forsaking Christ and returning to their Jewish roots. The author of Hebrews tried to prepare Jewish Christians living in or near Jerusalem to remain faithful at all costs and endure persecution.

• **Major Doctrinal Topics:**

- The Deity of Christ Hebrews 1-3
- The all-sufficiency of Scripture Hebrews 4
- Jesus, a Priest after the Order of Melchizedek Hebrews 7
- The security of the believer Hebrews 7
- The New Covenant Hebrews 8-9
- Sin is removed forever Hebrews 10

• **Unique Traits:**

- Hebrews quotes from the OT about 100x
- It does more to explain OT typology than any other book of the Bible
- It contains 5 warnings concerning the danger of abandoning the Gospel (2:1-4; 3:7-4:13; 5:11-6:20; 10:19-39; & 12:14-29)
- It highlights 13 charges for us in the "Let us" phrases:
 1. Let us fear properly4:1
 2. Let us do our best4:11
 3. Let us hold fast to our faith4:14
 4. Let us come boldly to the throne of Grace4:16
 5. Let us move beyond the basics6:1
 6. Let us draw near with a sincere heart10:22
 7. Let us hold tightly to our hope without wavering10:23
 8. Let us consider one another to stir up love and good works ..10:24
 9. Let us remove every weight that slows us down12:1
 10. Let us run with patience12:1
 11. Let us be thankful12:28
 12. Let us bear the disgrace Christ bore for us13:13
 13. Let us continually offer our sacrifice of praise to God13:15

• **A Word on the Doctrine of Eternal Security:**

- The eternal security of a believer is a core component of our faith. Nowhere in this great book does the author allude that a believer can lose their salvation. The ones who fall from grace are the unsaved who look saved, but who return to their prior lifestyle when persecutions come, as a dog returns to its vomit or as a pig returns to its pigsty. (Keep this in mind as we traverse this great book)
- **Unfortunately**, our modern tendency for "easy believe-ism" declares people saved through their walking the aisle, saying the "sinner's prayer", getting baptized, and/or having their name on the membership role – BUT those are no guarantees of salvation. Prior to the modern era of the Altar Call (1800's), Christians only figured someone was saved by their fruit and by their endurance under persecution. - Matthew 24:13 "But the one who endures to the end will be saved"

Passage	Comments
Hebrews 1:1-4	<p>A Paradigm Shift Occurs with Christ → A New Order</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v1. In the OT era, God spoke through designated prophets, With Moses, He spoke directly. With others He used dreams and visions, Urim & Thummim, miracles, etc. God did not reveal everything to everyone, but only bits & pieces as He chose – until such time the Messiah was sent to earth. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ "He spoke long ago..." conveys He stopped such communications generations before Christ (Malachi, the last OT book was written ~430 BC) ♦ For those who claim to have seen God, or had a dream or vision from God, or received a word or prophecy outside of what we already have in Scripture stand on sand • v2. "In these last days has spoken to us in His Son." <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ This conveys that Jesus is the epitome of God's revelation to mankind. What was once "done in part" is now complete (cf 1 Corinthians 13:10) ♦ Also, through Jesus, God made the world. Recall Col 1:16, "For by Him (Jesus) all things were created, both in the Heavens and on earth, visible and invisible...all things have been created through Him and for Him." • v3. Christ is not passively sitting on His throne watching TV. He is actively involved in building His Kingdom as we will see
1:4-14	<p>The Superiority of Jesus over Angels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v4. Next, the author takes us down another road comparing the superiority of Jesus over His created angels. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Even the Jews had misconceptions of what and who angels were. The author tried to fix those misconceptions, including the false worship of angels, strictly by going to the OT (OT is still relevant for doctrine)cf Col 2:18 ♦ Consider this: Most unfulfilled prophecies are from the OT, so the OT is still alive & well & relevant for TODAY • vv5-13. The author takes a walk through 7 OT passages showing that Christ is God's Son, that He is worshipped by angels; and though He is God, He is distinguished from the Father See Psalms 2:7; 97:7; 104:4; 110 • v14. Angels are ALL ministering spirits for the sake of "those who will inherit salvation" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ We may not see, hear, or sense these ministering angels at work around us and for us, but scripture is clear they are there to at least provide protection (recall Lot)

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- When all is said and done, Jesus Christ is supreme over everything. If we do not have Christ at the center of our life, we are toast. We need to place Him there & keep Him there for a fulfilling & rewarding life now & forever

NEXT WEEK: Hebrews 2. We find out supernatural miracles are for a select group for a select time, and we are introduced to the term "propitiation"

