

Pastor-Teacher | Chris Regas | 2.9.2025

## Stay Fixated on Hebrews!

Lesson One • Introduction to the Book of Hebrews

Reading the Book of Hebrews: "Toto, I have a feeling we're not Kansas anymore!"

### The Challenge of Hebrews

- The **OLD** Testament Background.
- The <u>WARNING</u> Passages.
- The **THEOLOGICAL** Tensions.
- The **CONTEXT** of the Letter.

The many unknowns of this book are a downside but, ultimately, they are an UPSIDE for us!

### Introduction to the Book of Hebrews

### 1. What Kind of Letter Is It?

Begins like a SERMON and ends like a LETTER. (1:1-14; 13:18-25)

"But I urge you, brethren, bear with this word of exhortation, for I have written to you briefly." Hebrews 13:22

"After the reading of the Law and the Prophets the synagogue officials sent to them, saying, "Brethren, if you have any **word of exhortation** for the people, say it.' Paul stood up, and motioning with his hand said, 'Men of Israel, and you who fear God, **listen**:" Acts 13:15-16

### Purpose of a Sermon-Letter

Meant to be heard first as a sermon while being read as a letter!

### Pattern of the Sermon-Letter

Explanation (interpretation) followed by exhortation (application) on repeat!

### 2. Who Wrote This Sermon-Letter?

### We DON'T KNOW!

Many speculations: Paul, Luke, Apollos, Barnabas, Silas, Philip, Stephen, Jude, Timothy, Clement of Rome, Priscilla, even Mary the mother of Jesus.

Some of these are a good guess while others are **WILD** speculations.

> What do we know?

Male, likely Jewish, Greek-cultured, well-educated, synagogue-familiar, eloquent speaker, quotes the Greek Old Testament (LXX), second generation believer, leader with a pastor-teacher's heart!

Plus, not one of their local leaders and yet considered one of them! (13:17-19)

APOLLOS is a great guess (Acts 18:24-28) and was Martin Luther's first choice!

Not knowing keeps the focus on the <u>DIVINE</u> Author which is what this "pastor-teacher" does even when he knows who the human author is! (1:5-7, 13; 2:6, 12-13; 3:7)

SERIES: Hupakouw: Hearing to Obey: Master the spiritual skill of listening to God speak through sermons.

### 3. To Whom Was This Sermon-Letter Delivered?

### We DON'T KNOW!

- What do we know?
  - 1. Largely **JEWISH** Christians who heard the gospel from others who heard it from Jesus. (2:3)
  - 2. Saved LONG enough should be disciplers but had also endured difficult persecution. (5:11-12; 10:32-35)
  - 3. About to face more persecution, perhaps even **DEATH**. (12:3-4)
  - 4. Beginning to FALL AWAY from Christ and forsake worshipping together to avoid suffering. (3:12; 10:23-25)
  - 5. Risked being like the <u>WILDERNESS</u> generation that heard God's voice but refused to enter God's rest. (3:12-15; 4:12-3)
  - 6. But the pastor-teacher believes **BETTER** things and ends with a **BLESSING** regarding God's ability to work in and through them. (6:9; 13:20-21)
- Not knowing reminds us that we are <u>ALL</u> weary pilgrims who must trust and obey the Son through our present wilderness until we enter God's future rest!

### 4. Where Was This Sermon-Letter Delivered?

### We **DON'T KNOW!**

What do we know?

Perhaps to Jewish Christians in <u>ROME</u> (13:24). But this could also mean the writer was in Rome writing to Jewish Christians in Palestine!

Not knowing keeps the Bible in the <u>FOREGROUND</u> and forces us to <u>COMPARE</u> Scripture with Scripture which is done throughout this "sermon-letter"!

### 5. When Was This Sermon-Letter Delivered?

### We **DON'T KNOW!**

What do we know?

Likely *after* AD 62 or 65 since Timothy has been released from prison (13:23), yet this is never mentioned in Acts or Paul's letters. But *before* the destruction of the Temple in AD 70, since sacrifices are apparently still being offered (10:2).

So, between AD 65-70? Or before Nero's persecution AD 60-65?

Not knowing keeps the focus on "TODAY" which is exactly where the pastor-teacher wants us to stay fixated! (1:5; 3:7, 13, 15; 4:7; 5:5; 13:8)!

### 3-FOLD FOCUS in HEBREWS and 3 HELPS for READING HEBREWS...TODAY!

SEE CHART: Book of Hebrews

HEBREWS: Stay Fixated on Christ's Greater Glory to Hold Fast and Move Forward to God's Future Rest

## Book of Hebrews

Begins like a Sermon but Ends Like a Letter!

Background to This "Sermon-Letter" Is Not Revealed!
Like Melchizedek, it is without father, mother, or genealogy. So, the focus is on TODAY God is speaking. Christ is mediating, and the Spirit is convicting.

Be quick to hear, quick to obey from the heart by faith in hope with love!

# to Hold Fast & Move Forward Until We Enter God's Rest! Stay Fixated on Christ's Greater Glory

"fixing our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." (12:2) "Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of our confession;" (3:1) "Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession." (4:14) "Therefore let us be diligent to enter that rest, so that no one will fall, through following the same example of disobedience." (4:11)

In adversity if, in adversity if, in adversity if, in adversity if, or only in adversity if, a spiritual hand of a right hand of a spiritual hand of the conviction! Gat to put all His. In a spiritual hand of the conviction! Gat the conviction of the convic	HEBREW MEBREW MChrist lory! Son and v ated at 60 heading on with is comin is comin is cometim sometim	"And since we have a great priest over the house of God 10:21  3-FOLD FOCUS in HEBREWS 1. STAY FIXATED on Christ's Majesty! You are less likely to turn from Christ in adversity if you are fixated on Him in adoration. He is the Heir who shares, so we share in His calling to greater glory! 2. HOLD FAST to Christ's Ministry! Your confession of Christ's person and work is your confident hope because it's grounded in His exaltation as the Son who became Son, the King-Priest seated at 6od's right hand, having secured our salvation! 3. MOVE FORWARD in Christlike Maturity! Don't become dull of hearing, a spiritual sluggard who falls away and fails to enter 6od's future rest. Put your calling and confession into action with conviction! Gather together to identify with Christ and worship in community at any cost! The unshakable kingdom is coming to put all His enemies under His feet!  3 HELPS for READING HEBREWS 1. LOOK UP the context of the OT quotes. Read the entire chapter, sometimes the one before it and the one after it as well. 2. LISTEN TO the warnings to either repent with an obedient faith if lost or recommit with an obedient faith if saved. 3. LEAN IN to the better things that accompany salvation in Christ. The Son became Son for us as exalted Prophet, Priest, King	"And since we have a great priest over the house of God 10:21  3-FOLD FOCUS in HEBREWS  1. STAY FIXATED on Christ's Majesty! You are less likely to turn from Christ in adversity if you are fixated on Him in adoration. He is the Heir who shares, so we share in His calling to greater glory!  2. HOLD FAST to Christ's Ministry! Your confession of Christ's person and work is your confident hope because it's grounded in His exaltation as the Son who became Son, the King-Priest seated at God's right hand, having secured our salvation!  3. MOVE FORWARD in Christlike Maturity. Don't become dull of hearing, a spiritual sluggard who falls away and fails to enter God's future rest. Put your calling and confession into action with conviction! Gather together to identify with Christ and worship in community at any cost! The unshakable kingdom is coming to put all His enemies under His feet!  3. HELPS for READING HEBREWS  1. LOOK UP the context of the OT quotes. Read the entire chapter, sometimes the one before it and the one after it as well.  2. LISTEN TO the warnings to either repent with an obedient faith if lost or recommit with an obedient faith if saved.  3. LEAN IN to the better things that accompany salvation in Christ. The Son became Son for us as exalted Prophet, Priest, King.	T KNOW! 2 or 65 Pleased all and it's in Acts or Acts or In Acts or	WHERE: WE DON'T KNOW!  Perhaps to Jewish Christians in Rome (13:24). But this could mean the writer was in Rome writing to Jewish Christians in Palestine!  We do know: There was an expulsion of Jews, including Jewish Christians, from Rome by Claudius (AD 49). And later a more deadly persecution under Nero (AD 64).  Not knowing keeps the Bible in the foreground and forces us to compare Scripture with Scripture with is done throughout this "sermon-letter"!	#Since we have a great high priest"  170 WHOM? WE DON'T KNOW!  180 Begins like a sermon, ends like a letter! So, no greeting from author to recipients with their location.  18 Begins like a sermon, ends like a letter! So, no greeting from author to recipients with their location.  18 Begins like a sermon, ends like a letter! So, no greeting from author to recipients with their location.  18 Begins like a sermon, ends like a letter! So, no greeting from author to recipients with their location.  18 Begins like a sermon, ends like a letter! So, no greeting from author to resipients with their location.  18 Begins like a sermon, ends like a letter! So, no greeting from author to resipients with more according to their location.  18 Begins like a sermon, ends like a letter! So, no greeting from author to resipients with their location.  18 Begins like a sermon, ends like a letter! So, no greeting from author to resipients with their location.  18 Begins like a sermon, ends like a letter! So, no greeting from author to resipients with their location.  18 Begins like a sermon, ends like a letter! So, no greeting from author to resipients.  18 Begins like a sermon, ends like a letter! So, no greeting from author to resipients.  18 Begins like a sermon, ends like a letter! 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We do know: Male, Jewish, Greek-culture (LXX), synagogue-familiar, well-educated, eloquent speaker, not well-educated, eloquent speaker, not well-educated, eloquent speaker, not well-educated, eloquent speaker, not mell-educated, eloquent speaker, not well-educated, eloquent speaker, not mell-educated in perhaps (Saved Ior Mort Knowing keeps the focus on the Divine Auttor which this "pastor-teacher" does even when he knows the hout know pilgrims the human author (e.g., 2:6)!	God's Son  By WHOM?  By WHOM?  peculations: admabas, Sila arnabas, Sila arnabas, Sila riscilla, etc. So We do know: ulture (LXX), s ulture (LX
e God S REFUSING Danger of Defying 12:14-24 / 25-29 Ition of potential apostates!	3 o d	Triune of all exhortation	Faith in the  TORSAKING Danger of Departing 10:26-39 Sinstructive for pastora	He is FOR Us! (2:17b)  Danger of Denying For STAGNATING Banger of Delaying 5:11-6:20  shment intensifies, but the pattern's in	G: The Danger of Do 3 STAGNATING Danger of Delaying 5:11-6:20 ** as the punishment intensifies, but	He is LIKE Us! (2:16-17a)  A P O S T A T I Z I N G: The Danger of Denying Faith in the Triune God  ING 2 HARDENING 8 STAGNATING Ponger of Delaying Ponger of Departing Danger of Departing 2:7-4:13  3:7-4:13 5:11-6:20  Progression increases with a "slow fade" as the punishment intensifies, but the pattern's instructive for pastoral exhortation of potential apostates!	He is LIKE  NEGLECTING Danger of Drifting 2:1-4 Progressic	WOEFUL WARNINGS
(1-2) striving to JESUS (1-2) eation LE-N ses of Just (1-2) ses of Just (1-2) to Finish Well (1-2) to Finish Well (1-2) to Finish Well (1-2) ses to Finish Well (1-2) ses Strengthening One Another (12-13) One Another (12-13) WARNING! (14-29)	(1-2) (1-2) d (3-38) eation eation ses ses solus & ahab to to dure any Men	LIVE by FAITH  Defined (1-2)  Demonstrated (3-38)  Prepared Creation Pre-Flood: A-E-N Pattiarchs: A-S-I-J-J Prophet: Moses Powerful Exodus & Conquest: Rahab Persevering to Escape or Endure Suffering: Many Men & Women  Delayed (39-40)	LET US DRAW NEAR Confidently (19-22) HOLD FAST Continually (23) ASSEMBLE Consistently (24-25) Even More as the Day Draws Near! WARNING! (26-39)	GREATER than AARON  WARNING! (5:11–6:20)  WARNING! (5:11–6:20)  WARNING! (5:11–6:20)  EATER than LEVITICAL PRIESTHOOD  ster Priestly Order Like Melchizedek (7:1-28)  Portrait of Melchizedek (1-3)  Preeminence of Melchizedek Abe & Levi (4-10)  Perfection Greater than Melchizedek (11-28)  eater Priestly Ministry by Christ (8:1-10:18)  Better Covenant: New! (8:1-13)  Better Sanctuary: Heavenly! (9:1-10)  Better Sanctuary: Hanself! (9:1-28)  Better Sanctuary: Transformation! (10:1-18)	GREATER than AARON Greater Priestly Qualifications (4:14–5:10) WARNING! (5:11–6:20) GREATER than LEVITICAL PRIESTHOOD Greater Priestly Order Like Melchizedek (7:1-28) Portrait of Melchizedek (1-3) Preeminence of Melchizedek Abe & Levi (4-10) Perfection Greater than Melchizedek (11-28) Greater Priestly Ministry by Christ (8:1-10:18) Better Covenant: New! (8:1-13) Better Sanctuary: Heavenly! (9:1-10) Better Sanctuary: Himself! (9:1-28) Better Outcome: Transformation! (10:1-18)	GREATER than MOSES Look! (3:1-6) Consider Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of Our Confession. Hold Fast to the End! GREATER than JOSHUA Listen: WARNING! (3:7-4:13) Today Don't Harden Your Heart and Not Enter His Rest. Fear Someone Won't Enter!	Full Divine Nature (1:1-14) God's Final Revelation Flawless Radiance Firstborn Ruler WARNING! (2:1-4) SON of MAN Full Human Nature (2:5-18) Our Family Representative: The Better Last Adam Firstborn Representative: The Better Big Brother Faithful Representative: The Better High Priest	GOSPEL LOGIC: SUPERIORITY of the FIRSTBORN SON!
12:1-29 IITH	<b>ॐ</b> ₹ ₹	11:1-40 By FAITH that WORKS	10:19-39 LET US DRAW NEAR	10:18 R than Levi's Priesthood the Law	4:14 – 10:18  GREATER than  Aaron, Abraham & Levi's Priesthood  Ministry of the Law	3:1 – 4:13  GREATER than  Moses & Joshua  Mediators of the Law	1:1 – 2:18  GREATER than  Prophets & Angels  Messengers of the Law	GREATER THAN
MOVE FORWARD with Conviction in Community! Jesus is the same, yesterday, today, and forever!" (13:8)	E FOR	MOVI nith Convi	10:19	HOLD FAST Our Confession with Confidence! "You are a priest forever like Melchizedek!" (5:6) 10:18	HOLD FAST to Our Confession with Confide 4:14 "You are a priest forever like Melchizedek!" [5:6]	STAY FIXATED on Our Calling in Christ! "You are My Son!" (1:5) 4:13	STAY F on Our Calli "You are M	NO GREETING