



## An Introduction to Hebrews

### The Superiority of Jesus

#### Metanarrative of Scripture:

Creation | The Fall | Redemption | Glorification

The book of Hebrews was written around A.D. 68. While the author is unknown, suggested authors are Paul, Barnabas, Silas, Luke or Apollos. The title itself, the extensive use of the Old Testament with an emphasis on the Leviticus priesthood, and the absence of reference to the Gentiles, supports that the letter was written to the Jewish community. This community would have been made up of both believers and unbelievers. These Jews were under persecution that would tempt them to draw back from their identification with Christ and fall back into Jewish rituals. The theme of Hebrews is the superiority of Jesus, and this message of Jesus' superiority is repeated throughout the opening chapters of the letter.

#### God's Word...

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|--------------------|---|
| 1. Read it.        | <b>Matt 4:4, 2Tim 3:16-17, Ps 119:50</b>          |
| 2. Study it.       | <b>2Tim 2:15, Rom 10:17, Ps 119:38, 71</b>        |
| 3. Meditate on it. | <b>Ps 1:1-3, Ps 119:18, 48, 97</b>                |
| 4. Memorize it.    | <b>Ps 119:11, 62, 92, 103</b>                     |
| 5. Apply it.       | <b>Ps 119:4, 9, 24, 33-34, 59-60, 105</b>         |
| 6. Share it.       | <b>Ps 119:13, 27, 46, 164, 171, 172</b>           |
| 7. Delight in it.  | <b>Ps 119:16, 48, 72, 127, 131, 140, 143, 162</b> |

"If the congregation truly *meditated upon God's Word throughout the week in sincerity* to find God then on Sunday a word would be a sermon, a sermon would be a library. One hint of God would send our minds to heavenly imaginations. **Nothing makes the pulpit effective like prepared pews!**" Joseph Parker 1830-1902

"Study Scripture; read it daily. Memorize key passages. Whenever I dedicate myself to that exercise, I am amazed by how my discernment is sharpened – how much better I handle life's routine trials." Chuck Swindoll

**2 Peter 3:18** *but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.*

**Psalm 119:18** *Open my eyes, that I may see Wondrous things from Your law.*

#### As we delight ourselves in the Word of God many marvelous benefits occur...

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|---------------------------------|--|
| 1. God's truths are revealed.   | <b>Psalm 119:18, John 16:13, 17:17, 18:37</b>                  |
| 2. Satan's lies are exposed.    | <b>2 Corinthians 2:11, 4:4, 11:14, John 8:43-44, Eph. 6:11</b> |
| 3. Our hearts are searched.     | <b>Hebrews 4:12, Psalm 139:23-24, 1 Thessalonians 2:13</b>     |
| 4. Christ's grace is increased. | <b>1 Corinthians 1:4-5, 2 Corinthians 9:8, 2 Peter 3:18</b>    |

There is no greater insight into problem solving than by having one's motives and desires of the heart revealed. Re: **Hebrews 4:12**

### **What do we learn about Jesus in Hebrews chapter 1?**

1. Regarding communication? **Hebrews 1:2**
2. Regarding creation? **Hebrews 1:2**
3. Regarding salvation? **Hebrews 1:3**
4. Why is Jesus considered greater than the angels? **Hebrews 1:5-6**
  - Note: "Firstborn" often refers to preeminence, rank, or honor. re: **Colossians 1:15**
5. How does God address Jesus in **Hebrews 1:8**?
6. Who is credited for creation? **Hebrews 1:10** (re: **John 1:1-3, Colossians 1:15-18**)
7. What role is given to the angels? **Hebrews 1:14**
8. "Therefore" in **Hebrews 2:1** relates to chapter 1. What warning is given to us? **Hebrews 2:1-3**

*This outline is adapted from Warren Wiersbe.*

#### **I. A SUPERIOR PERSON | CHRIST** (chapters 1–6)

- A. Better than the prophets - 1:1–3
- B. Better than the angels - 1:4–2:18
- C. Better than Moses - 3:1–4:13
- D. Better than Aaron - 4:14–6:20

#### **II. A SUPERIOR PRIESTHOOD | Order of MELCHIZEDEK** (chapters 7–10)

- A. A superior order - 7
- B. A superior covenant - 8
- C. A superior sanctuary - 9
- D. A superior sacrifice - 10

#### **III. A SUPERIOR PRINCIPLE | FAITH** (chapters 11–13)

- A. The great examples of faith - 11
- B. The endurance of faith—chastening - 12
- C. Closing practical exhortations - 13