

**The Book of Hebrews
Session One
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When you read or study the Word of God, pray for understanding. Psalm 119:18.
God promises to instruct, teach and guide us. Psalm 32:8.
The result will be “the eyes of your understanding being enlightened, that ye may know ...” Ephesians 1:18.

Introduction and Background Hebrews:

Who is the Writer of Hebrews? There is no identification of the writer. Its anonymity could point to the Apostle Paul as he was under a great cloud of suspicion by the Jews, with many furiously hating him. The closest mention to Paul comes at the end (not the beginning) of the Epistle – mentioning Paul’s closest associate Timothy and the writer being in Italy. Hebrews 13:23, 24. [Note: Hebrews 10:34 should read, according to the Greek texts, “ye had compassion on them who were in bonds” i.e. not referring to Paul in prison.]

To Whom is It Addressed? the Hebrews – the nation under its earliest name. Genesis 14:13 – “Abraham, the Hebrew.” The word means “one from afar, from the other side” i.e. from beyond the Euphrates (from whence Abraham came) or, if the name was given in Canaan, from beyond the Jordan.

“Hebrews” refers to the descendants of Abraham who came into the Promised Land, speak the Hebrew language, and inherited the promises given to him. Synonymous with “Jews” (Judean) and “Israel.”

Hebrews is Addressed to Saints, Born-Again Ones:

3:1 – “holy brethren”	3:12 – “brethren”	5:12-14 – ones who ought to have matured out the baby stages of Christianity.	6:4 – “tasted of the heavenly gift ... partakers of holy spirit”
6:10 – “have ministered unto the saints”	6:20 – Jesus Christ a “forerunner” into heaven for us	10:10 – sanctified by Jesus Christ	10:19 – “brethren”
10:23-25: exhort, provoke one another (in the Church) unto good works, anticipating Christ’s return.	11:40 – a better thing for us than Old Testament believers	12:5-9 – “children ... sons of God”	13:17 – obey leaders in the Church
13:24 – “you and all the saints”			

Acts 21:20: “...How many thousands of Jews there are which believe; and they are all zealous for the law.”

In the first decade or so of the Early Church, all those who got born again were of a Hebrew background. Acts 10 was the first time Gentiles were born from above. Later, the revelation of the Mystery given to Paul declared the end of the Law, that there is no longer Jew nor Gentile, that a new Administration of Grace had replaced the old. This was a huge change for those of a Hebrew background.

The Book of Hebrews Assumes a Knowledge of the Old Testament

The Old Testament is the New Testament Concealed. The New Testament is the Old Testament Revealed.

The Great Subject of the Scriptures is Jesus Christ

John 5:39 – Old Testament Scriptures testify of Christ

John 5:46 – Moses wrote of Christ

John 8:56 – Abraham rejoiced to see Christ

II Corinthians 3:13-16 – reading the Old Testament without understanding Christ is having a veil on their heart - their minds blinded. Seeing Christ removes the veil

Matthew 5:17 – Jesus Christ came to fulfill the law.

Romans 10:4 – he ended the law

Galatians 3:24,25 – the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ.

A schoolmaster: 1) teaches and, 2) disciplines. Dt. 6:24 – to preserve Israel.

Approximately 75% of the law concerns the sacrifices, priesthood and tabernacle, which when rightly understood, teach about the coming Messiah.

Hebrews 10:7:

“Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me) to do thy will, O God.”

Hebrews Chapter One

Verse 1 – “sundry” and “diverse” – many, varied

“time past” – old, worn, ready to be replaced “spake” the old revelation

Verse 2 – “spoken” – the new, current revelation

John 1 – the Word in the flesh “by” – for “worlds” – ages, i.e. different periods of time in human history, so His plan of redemption could be fulfilled.

Verse 3 – An encapsulation of his 1st Coming.

“express image”- an exact reproduction, as when a seal is laid into wax.

John 10:30, 14:9; Philippians 2:6 – “being in the form of God”

Verse 4 – “Better” – superior. One of the great themes of Hebrews: 13 uses:

1:4, 6:9, 7:7, 7:19, 7:22, 8:6 (twice), 9:23, 10:34, 11:16, 11:35, 11:40, 12:24.

Verse 5 – Figure of Speech *gnome* – Old Testament citation.

First – Psalm 2:7 – begotten in resurrection. Acts 13:33.

Second – II Samuel 7:14.

Verse 6 – Deuteronomy 32:43 - the Septuagint reads “Rejoice, ye heavens, together with him, and let all the angels of God worship him.”

Verse 7 – Psalm 104:4

Verse 8 – Psalm 45:6 – used of a man in an exalted position, namely the king.

Similar verses: Ex. 7:1, 22:28; Psalm 82:6.

Verse 9 – Isaiah 61:1

Verses 10-12 – Psalm 102: 25-27

Verse 13 – Psalm 110:1 – “sit on my right hand” starting with the Ascension

“until” - referring to now, the Administration of Grace

“I make thine enemies thy footstool” – the next administration, the Revelation period.

Jesus Christ is Superior to the Old Testament Prophets and the Angels.