

Hebrews

Introduction:

The author of the book is not mentioned in the text. Whoever wrote the book frequently quotes the OT:

1:5 – Ps. 2:7 & 2 Sam. 7:14.	5:6 – Ps. 110:4.
1:6 – Ps. 89:27.	6:14 – Gen. 22:16-17.
1:7 – Ps. 104:4.	7:17 – Ps. 110:4.
1:8 – Ps. 45:6.	7:21 – Ps. 110:4.
1:9 – Isa. 61:1-3.	8:8-12 – Jer. 31:31-34.
1:10 – Ps. 10:25-27.	10:5-7 – Ps. 40:6-8.
1:11-12 – Isa. 50:9; 51:6.	10:30 – Deut. 32:35-36.
1:13 – Ps. 110:1.	10:37-38 – Hab. 2:3-4.
2:6-8 – Ps. 8:4-6.	11:5 – Gen. 5:21-24.
2:12 – Ps. 22:22.	11:18 – Gen. 21:12.
2:13 – 2 Sam. 22:3; Isa. 8:18.	12:5-6 – Job 5:17; Ps. 94:12.
3:8-11 – Ps. 95:7-11.	12:20 – Ex. 19:12-13.
3:15 – Ps. 95:7-8.	12:21 – Deut. 9:19.
4:3 – Ps. 95:11.	12:26 – Hag. 2:6.
4:7 – Ps. 95:7-8.	13:5 – Deut. 31:6;
5:5 – Ps. 2:7.	13:6 – Ps. 27:1.

Whoever the author was: (1) He frequently quotes the OT. (2) He was a traveling companion of Timothy (Heb. 13:23). (3) The writer was “in chains” (10:34). (4) The author was well educated in the Law of Moses.

Basic Outline:

1. 1:1-2:18 – Christ is superior to the angels of God.
2. 3:1-4:13 – Christ is superior to Moses.
3. 4:14-7:28 – Christ is a superior High Priest.
4. 8:1-9:22 – Christ has a superior Covenant.
5. 9:23-10:18 – Christ is the superior Sacrifice for sins.
6. 10:19-39 – Hold fast the confession.
7. 11:1-40 – Examples of faithfulness.
8. 12:1-13:25 – Run a faithful race.

Hebrews 1

1:1-4 - Christ is Prophet, Priest, and King.

- The Bible was written by a variety of men, in a variety of times, and in a variety of ways, yet it never contradicts itself.

- The “last days” is a reference to the fact that we are living in the period of history just prior to the judgment of the world. In this time God speaks to us through His Son (Matt. 17:1-5).
- “Heir of all things” – Jesus is the Son of God.
- “Made the worlds” – John 1:1-3. All things were created by the word of the Lord.
- “Brightness of His glory” – Christ reflected the characteristics of the Father (Jn. 14:7-9).
- “Express image of His person” – I Timothy 3:16.

Alexander Campbell on Jesus as the “Word.” As a **word** is an **exact image** of an idea, so is “**The Word**” an **exact image of the invisible God**. As a **word** cannot exist without an **idea**, nor an idea without a word, so **God never was without** “The Word,” nor “The Word” without God; or as a word is of **equal age**, or co-etaneous with its idea, so “**The Word**” and **God** are co-eternal. And as an idea does not create its word nor is a word its idea; so **God did not create** “**The Word**,” nor did the “Word” create God.

- “Upholding all things” – Col. 1:17. Christ is the sustainer of all things.
- “Purged our sins” – This is one of the themes found throughout the book (9:14).
- “Sat down...right hand” – Jesus is now King of kings (Dan. 7:13-14).

1:5-14 – Jesus is Superior to the Angels.

- The author now begins quoting OT passages in a rhetorical manner.
- The statements in verses 5-6 were never said to an angel, but they were all said in reference to Christ (Acts 13:32-37; 2 Sam. 7:12-14; 1 Pet. 3:22).
- Verse 7 speaks to the mission of angels (Ps. 104:4). They were never exalted to the throne (v. 8-9).
- Verses 8-9 are a quote of Ps. 45:6-7. This is also a reference to the fact that Christ is a part of the Godhead.
- Verses 10-12 are a quote of Ps. 102:25-27 and are in reference to Christ. He laid the foundations of the earth (Jn. 1:1-3). The earth will come to an end, but He never will.
- Verse 13 – no angel was ever exalted to the right hand of God, but Jesus was (Acts 2:34-36).
- Angels are ministers or servants. There are some who have attempted to change the word “angel” into servant and thus get rid of the idea of angels as spiritual beings. Biblically, this cannot be done. Daniel 9:20-23.

A Study Outline of Hebrews

Hebrews 2

2:1-4 – Pay attention to the Word of God!

- The “things they had heard” was the gospel of Christ and they are warned not to neglect it.
- Based on the fact that Christ is superior to all the angels of God, we must heed His word (Jn. 12:48-50).
- Numbers 15:30-31 should be referenced here to understand the importance of obeying God’s word. Acts 7:53; Galatians 3:19.
- The answer is that we will not escape!
- God bore witness to the spoken word with miracles (Mk. 16:20; Acts 2:22).
- Neglect is the “unintentional” sin.

2:5-9 – The World is Subject to Christ, not the Angels.

- Christ has been given a name (rank) that is above everyone (Eph. 1:20-21).
- “The world to come” is probably a reference to the NT age. He had just instructed them to give heed to what they had heard (the gospel) and then says, “the world to come, of which we speak...” Angels do not have as prominent position in the NT age as they did in the OT.
- Verses 6-8 are a quote from Psalm 8:4-6. The psalmist was comparing the greatness of God in comparison with man. Man received honor from God in that he was placed over all creation (Gen. 1:26-28).
- Christ was made lower than the angels when He took on the form of a man. He was made fully human when He came to earth and endured suffering on the cross.

2:10-18 – Christ Became the Captain of Our Salvation.

- That is, He is the origin or author (5:9) of our salvation.
- Chapter 1 stresses the divinity of Christ and chapter 2 stresses the humanity of Christ.
- Verses 11-13 stress the relationship that we can have with Christ. He considers us His “brethren.”
- He partook of flesh and blood and gave aid to humanity (seed of Abraham).
- Notice, in order to be a faithful High Priest, He “had” to be made like His brethren (v. 17). The KJV reads “behooved.” The word literally means, “to be necessary, proper, or advantageous.”
- What Christ did in His sacrifice was to show Himself merciful man and faithful to God.

A Study Outline of Hebrews

Hebrews 3

3:1-6 – Christ and Moses Were Faithful.

- “Holy brethren” is descriptive of our relationship and obligation. Holy meaning, “separate or consecrated.” The heavenly calling is the call that comes from God through the gospel.
- The writer encourages the Christians to “consider” (observe carefully) the one they were in danger of falling away from. An apostle is one who is sent and that is certainly accurate of Jesus. Also, Moses was sent by God and was a mediator between God and Israel, but was never a High Priest. Christ was all that Moses was, and more.
- Moses and Christ were both faithful in their duties (v. 2). This is a reference to Numbers 12:6-8. Moses discharged all of his duties before God loyally, but Christ is “worthy of more glory.”
- The difference in the two was that Moses was a servant in the house (v. 5), whereas Christ was a “Son over His own house” (v. 6). Moses delivered the law, and that was important (Romans 7:12), but the law was only a tutor to bring us to Christ (Galatians 3:23-29).
- Those who make up the house of God today are those who are built on the right foundation (Ephesians 2:19-22). Notice “if.”

3:7-19 – Do Not Depart From God!

- This is a quote of Psalm 95:8-11. The rebellion is probably a reference to Exodus 17:2-7 when the people were travelling to Mt. Sinai. It may also refer to the rebellion recorded in Numbers 13-14 when Israel refused to enter the Promised Land. Throughout their journeys Israel tested the patience of God and were punished for it.
- Israel constantly were witnesses to the power and love of God, yet failed to place their faith in Him. The Christian has started a journey and should not rebel against the will of God (Luke 9:62).
- One great need and blessing is fellowship with Christians. Christianity was not intended to exist in isolation. The author is trying to prevent these brethren from departing from the living God. This might help us to better understand Hebrews 10:24-25. Again notice, we are partners with Christ “IF.”
- Numbers 14:29-35. Israel’s “unbelief” ultimately came down to their disobedience to God’s word. They did not become atheists, they just failed to obey.

A Study Outline of Hebrews

Hebrews 4

4:1-9 – Do Not Miss the Promised Land Like Israel.

- The rest for the Christian today is heaven (Revelation 14:13). It is possible to “come short” (literally, to finish last or behind) of heaven.
- Verse 2 gives a great definition of what it means to live by faith.
- Verses 3, 5, and 7 quote again from Psalm 95:7-11 in reference to what happened to Israel.
- God rested on the seventh day (Genesis 2:1-3). God created the earth for man to inhabit it. He has also created heaven for the same purpose. God had prepared Canaan for Israel, but they refused to go in. The Hebrew Christians were in danger of doing the same with heaven.
- Again, Israel did not go in because of “disobedience” (v. 6).
- Joshua did not lead Israel to the eternal rest and so God spoke of another (heaven). The “rest” of verse 9 is a reference to heaven. Rest is from *sabbatismos* (Sabbath) and this is the only time it is used in the NT.

4:11-16 – Things That Can Help Us Remain Faithful.

- All the toils and troubles of life will one day be over, but until then, let us be diligent (to make every effort).
- The word of God is always relevant in a changing world. It will either bring man to salvation or condemn him. It is a “discerner,” that is, it is able to make judgments. God’s word can lay us bare.
- Nothing is concealed from the eyes of God. The author is trying to guard them against self-deception. The Lord sees what we are, not what we think we are.
- Because our High Priest is in heaven, He has direct access to the Father. The Christian must “hold fast” and we can because our High Priest has walked where we walk. KJV reads that he was “touched.” This is the word from which we get sympathy (2:18).
- We can approach the throne of God knowing that our High Priest loves us and understands our situation.

A Study Outline of Hebrews

Hebrews 5

5:1-4 – The Priesthood of Aaron.

- In 4:14-16 Jesus is pictured as the High Priest who is able to sympathize (*sumpatheo*) with us because of His experience in the flesh.
- The High Priest under the OT was taken from the family of Aaron (Exodus 28). Notice, he was taken from among men, *for* men. He could have *compassion* (*metriopatheo*) on those who sinned. This word literally means moderate (*metrios*) passion (*pathos*). Numbers 15:22-29 deals with the sacrifices for “unintentional” sin.
- How could the priest have this type of attitude? “He himself is also subject to weakness.” *Compassed* means, to be surrounded. He was a man and therefore was subject to sin as well. Leviticus 9:7; 16:6. The priesthood of Aaron was called by God, not man.

5:5-10 – The High Priesthood of Jesus.

- The writer quotes Psalm 2:7 and 110:4 and refers them to Christ. The Son-ship of Christ was fully confirmed by the resurrection (Romans 1:4).
- The prophecy of Psalm 110:4 was given during the time of the Levitical priesthood and thus shows that that priesthood was temporary in nature. Jesus is from the tribe of Judah (Hebrews 7:14). Melchizedek is spoken of in Genesis 14:18-20 and will be discussed later in our study.
- Jesus was a man of constant prayer. Verse 7 is a reference to the events in Gethsemane. Luke 22:41-44. His prayer was that, if possible, God find another way to accomplish what was about to happen. It was within God’s power to do this, but it was not according to God’s plan (Matthew 26:53-54).
- Jesus showed His reverence for God by saying, “Not as I will, but as you will” (Matthew 26:39).
- There were some things that changed when Jesus took on flesh (Luke 2:52). The phrase, “He learned obedience” do not imply that He had ever been disobedient. Learned (*manthano*) literally means, “to learn, to understand” (Philippians 4:11). He submitted Himself and His will to the will of God. This passage is describing His experience as a man. His obedience and suffering qualified Him to be a merciful and faithful High Priest (Hebrews 2:17-18).
- Jesus was “made perfect.” Perfect (*teleio*) means, “complete, mature, perfect.” Again, these verses are dealing with His experience in the flesh which qualified Him to be our High Priest (5:2) just like the priests of the OT.

- J.B. Coffman wrote, “Christ’s being made perfect should not be understood in the sense that He was not previously perfect but as an emphasis upon the perfection of His qualifications of sympathy, love, mercy, and understanding, which were so necessary in a High Priest , and which could not be possessed fully by any person except one who had suffered.”
- Jesus is the “author” (cause or source) of eternal salvation to the obedient.
- Just as Aaron had been chosen by God (5:1), so had Jesus. The problem was with the readers of this letter. Seemingly, the author would like to have said more at this point, but because of their condition he could not.

5:11-14 – An Immature Audience.

- It is near impossible to teach someone who is not willing to hear the truth.
- These Christians were deficient in their knowledge. We need to have a firm grasp on the “basics” (milk), but also be growing in the strong meat of God’s word.
- 1 Corinthians 3:2. Because of their failure to grow they were not able to discern. They had failed to exercise their minds in the word of God.
- A shallow knowledge of the Bible results in a failure to see why some things are worldly and do not belong in the life of a Christian.
- “Them that are of full age” is from *teleios* which means mature. Jesus taught that we need to become this type of person (Matthew 5:48). 1 Corinthians 2:6.

A Study Outline of Hebrews

Hebrews 6

6:1-8 – The Hebrew Christians Needed To Develop.

- The writer has just discussed their lack of “exercise” in the word of God (5:12-14). As a result, they were seemingly stuck on the elementary principles of the Christian religion. The fundamentals of the faith are essential and we must have a good knowledge of them. However, there comes a time when we must move beyond these discussions. The word for leaving literally means, “to send forth or away, to let go.” The idea is not ignoring these subjects, but moving beyond them.
- These Christians had not matured (5:13) and it was beyond time that they do so. If the right foundation has been laid, it is time to finish (perfect) the structure. They had failed to do this spiritually.
 - Repentance from dead works – this is an essential step on the way to salvation.
 - Faith toward God – it is impossible to please God without it (11:6).
 - Doctrine of baptisms – Hebrews 9:10 uses this same word and translates it as “washings.” Lexicon says, “This word must not be confused with *baptisma*, baptism, a technical term in the NT referring to water baptism by John the Baptist and as instituted by Christ to be administered by His disciples.” Remember, these were *Hebrew* Christians.
 - Laying on of hands – in the OT this would signify the commissioning of a person to an office. In the NT it is used in the passing on of the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:17) and appointing people to special works (1 Timothy 4:14).
 - Resurrection, eternal judgment – pillars of the Christian faith.
- Verse 3 – What they would be doing, if God permitted, would be moving beyond these fundamental truths (Ephesians 4:14-15).
- Verses 4-6 warn against apostasy. These are people who have been converted to Christ.
 - Enlightened – John 8:12.
 - Tasted the heavenly gift – to partake or experience God’s blessings.
 - Partakers of the Holy Spirit – Ephesians 1:13-14.
 - Tasted good word of God – received the truth (1 Peter 2:2-3).
 - Powers of age to come – from the Jewish perspective, this would be a reference to the Messianic age. They were being tempted to leave the truth and go back under Judaism.
 - The word “if” in verse 6 is not in the Greek. It literally reads, “And having fallen away...” Calvin claims that these people were not really converts in the first place as do many others today.

- It is possible to get to a point where the heart gets so hard against the truth that a person is unwilling to repent (3:12).
- Verses 7-8 are an illustration of what he has been writing about. Those who mature and bring forth fruit (John 15:5-8) are blessed by God.

6:9-12 – An Encouragement For Endurance.

- Notice the confidence that the writer places in the readers. One of the things that accompany salvation is service to the saints (v. 10).
- God does not forget the work of His children. The writer encourages them to “show diligence.” Diligence is from a word that literally means, “hastily, eagerly.” One of those who inherited the promise was Abraham.

6:13-20 – God’s Promises Have Been Confirmed.

- God swore by Himself that He would bless and multiply Abraham. These Jewish Christians would clearly understand that God kept that promise.
- When men take an oath it confirms that what they have spoken is true. God swore by Himself (none greater) that there is something greater waiting for the Christian when this life is over.
- An anchor holds and stabilizes a boat on rough water. The hope of heaven stabilizes the Christian throughout life. Christ is our forerunner in that He has opened the way to heaven.

A Study Outline of Hebrews

Hebrews 7

7:1-10 – The Greatness of Melchizedek.

- His name is mentioned only twice in the OT. He was king of Jerusalem and priest of God (Genesis 14:18). He is also mentioned in Psalm 110:4, but in reference to Christ in prophecy. We are introduced to him after the battle of the kings and the rescue of Lot from Sodom.
- His name means, “king of righteousness.” The name Salem, short for Jerusalem, means, “peace.”
- Jesus also serves as king and priest (Zechariah 6:12-13).
- There is no record of Melchizedek’s lineage or successors (v. 3). His birth and death are not recorded for us. The Jews would carefully trace the genealogy of priests in order to prove descent from Aaron. This could not be done with Melchizedek or Jesus.
- Tithes (tenths) were given to the Lord for the support of the priesthood (v. 5). The Levites were superseded by Melchizedek because he was contemporary with Abraham. The Levitical priesthood had not yet been established (v. 6).
- Verses 7-10 reveal that the less is blessed by the greater. Genesis 14:19-20 record the blessing that was pronounced on Abraham. Because Levi was “in the loins of Abraham” he also paid a tithe to Melchizedek. The Hebrews writer is stating that the Levitical priesthood was not as great as the priesthood of Melchizedek.

7:11-19 – A Change in the Priesthood Had Been Foretold.

- The old system could not complete (perfect) everything God intended to accomplish through His Son (Romans 8:1-3; Hebrews 10:1-4). The law of Moses was holy, just, and good (Romans 7:12), but was not intended to last forever.
- Jesus “fulfilled” the law (Matthew 5:17-18), that is, He brought it to completion (Romans 10:4).
- Verse 14 shows the nature of how God authorizes. Many things in religion are practiced today because the Bible doesn’t say, “Thou shalt not...” God authorizes by what He says, not by what He doesn’t say.
- Jesus was not made priest by a “fleshly commandment.” We have no record of Melchizedek’s lineage or death. In this sense, he did not have beginning of days or end of life (v. 3). Jesus is like Him in this way. He was from Judah, not Levi. He has no beginning or end.
- Verses 18-19 show that the Law of Moses was not a permanent system. Weakness is from a word that means, “without strength.” Paul made the same statement in Roman 8:3. The law made nothing “perfect.” It was unable to complete or reach the final goal of the forgiveness of sins.

- The Christian has a better hope. The sacrifices of the old law were a reminder of sins year after year (10:3). Verse 19 states that we draw near to God through hope (1 John 3:1-3).

7:20-28 – Our High Priest Can Save To The Uttermost.

- Verses 20-22 inform us that God has made a change in the law and He will not change His mind (repent). God made a promise of these events and it is recorded in Psalm 110:4. Jesus is the “surety” (pledge, security) of a better covenant. The writer is attempting to encourage the brethren to stay faithful to Christ and the church because it is so much better than the Old Law.
- The priest could not serve in death. Christ and His priesthood are permanent because He lives forever. “Uttermost” is from a word that means, “completely, wholly, entirely.” There is no need for another sacrifice or a different priest.
- “Intercession” means, “to fall in with.” Moses interceded for Israel (Exodus 32:32). We are to intercede for one another (1 Timothy 2:1).
- Jesus is holy (unpolluted), harmless (void of evil), undefiled (unstained by sin), and separate from sinners. The qualities set Him apart from and above the priests of the Old Law.
- Because of His nature, Jesus did not have to offer sacrifice for Himself as did the priests of the OT (Leviticus 9:7).
- Men have “infirmity” or “weakness.” Matthew 8:17 quotes Isaiah and says that Jesus “took our infirmities.”

A Study Outline of Hebrews

Hebrews 8

8:1-6 – Christ Has A Better Covenant And Better Promises.

- Chapter 7 confirms the fact that Christ is Priest and 8 shows that He is also king.
- Hebrews 1:3, 13; 8:1; 10:12; 12:2 – 5 times the writer states that Christ is seated at God's right hand.
- Those who believe that the kingdom has not yet been established (premillennialism) must deny all these statements. If there is no kingdom, there is no King.
- Zechariah 6:12-13 states that the Messiah would be serving as both priest and king.
- Jesus could not have served as priest on earth seeing that He was from the wrong tribe (7:12-14).

Summary of Premillennialism

1. They hold that the OT prophecies of Christ and the Kingdom refer to Jesus establishing a physical Kingdom on earth.
2. They hold that Jesus' primary mission on earth was to establish a Kingdom in the city of Jerusalem and rule on the throne of David for 1,000 years.
3. They hold that because Jesus was rejected by the Jews and, therefore, could not set up the Kingdom, He had to establish the church as an "after-thought."
4. They hold that one day He will return to the earth where He will set up a physical Kingdom and reign for 1,000 years.

Problems of Premillennialism

1. The church and the Kingdom are spoken of as the same institution (Matthew 16:18-19). Some of the people of Jesus' day would see the Kingdom of God come (Mark 9:1).
 2. The Bible nowhere teaches that Christ will set foot on earth again. In fact, it teaches that we will meet Him in the air (1 Thessalonians 4:17).
 3. If Jesus were coming back to earth to set up a Kingdom, the Kingdoms of Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome would all have to be reestablished and destroyed before it could happen (Daniel 2, "in the days of these kings").
 4. When Jesus does return, the earth is going to be destroyed, not renovated (2 Peter 3:10).
 5. There is only one, general resurrection that will take place (John 5:28-29).
 6. Whenever Jesus does return, all men will see Him (Revelation 1:7).
- The tabernacle under the law of Moses had specific instructions for its construction (v. 5). Acts 7:44 states that it was to be made according to the fashion Moses had been shown. This only served as a shadow of the things that were to come (the church).
 - Christ is the Mediator (go between) of the New Covenant (1 Timothy 2:5).

- The better promises:
 - All spiritual blessings – Ephesians 1:3.
 - Forgiveness of sins – Ephesians 1:7.
 - Heaven – 1 Peter 1:3-5.
 - Eternal life – John 3:16.

8:7-13 – The New Covenant Was Prophesied Of In The Old.

- The author quotes Jeremiah 31:31-34.
- The very existence of the New Covenant proves the weakness of the Old (Romans 8:3).
- Notice, God found fault with “them,” referring to Israel (v. 8). The sacrifices were inadequate for forgiving sins (Hebrews 10:4), and the people failed to keep it faithfully (Hebrews 8:9).

Differences In The Old And New Covenants

1. The New would be inward and spiritual. The old law required many outward, physical obligations (John 4:20).
 2. The New would be individual and universal. Under the Old that responsibility was primarily that of the priesthood or prophets. Under the New, all men would have access to the requirements of the covenant.
 3. The New would make the final provision for sin. The sacrifices of the old brought a remembrance year after year of their sins (Hebrews 10:3).
- Verse 13 is strong proof that Hebrews was written before AD 70 when the temple was finally destroyed. The old law was nailed to the cross (Ephesians 2:14-16), but there were many who adhered to the OT system.

A Study Outline of Hebrews

Hebrews 9

9:1-10 – The Sanctuary and Its Service Under the Old Law.

- The details of the “earthly sanctuary” are recorded in Exodus 25-27. God was very specific in detailing the arrangement and function of the tabernacle (25:40).
- According to verse 5, the author’s purpose was not to explain in great detail all the contents, but to draw a parallel for the new and living way through Christ.
- Priests would go into the tabernacle twice daily to offer the morning and evening incense (Exodus 30:7-8) and to sprinkle blood for sin that had been committed (Leviticus 4:6).
- The High Priest would enter once every year into the Most Holy Place and several times on that day.
 - He would enter to burn incense – Leviticus 16:12-13.
 - He would sprinkle blood for himself – Leviticus 16:14.
 - He would sprinkle blood for the people – Leviticus 16:15.
- The author clearly states in verses 8-9 that the OT was never intended to last forever because “the way into the holiest of all” (heaven) was not yet revealed in that time.
- Jesus opened the “new and living way” (Hebrews 10:19-22). The veil in the tabernacle and temple was a barrier between the people and God. What happened to the veil when Jesus died on the cross?
- Those who did these services were not “perfected” in regard to the conscience (v. 9). That is, those things under that old system did not accomplish the desired end (John 4:34; 5:36; 17:4).
- The old system would last “until the time of reformation” (v. 10). This is a direct reference to the fact that at the cross of Christ the old law was taken out of the way (Colossians 2:14).

9:11-17 – Three Effects of the Blood of Christ.

- First, man’s conscience can be cleansed (v. 11-14). On the day of atonement the High Priest would offer the blood of goats and calves for himself and for the people (Leviticus 16:6, 15). Numbers 19 records what the Israelites were to do in order to “purify the flesh.” The Hebrews writer is pointing out that those things could not cleanse the conscience from sin. Jesus accomplished this with His own blood.
- Second, all the faithful, past and present, are redeemed by the blood of Christ (v. 15). Romans 3:25 speaks of “the sins that are past” being remitted through the blood of Christ.
- Third, the New Testament was put into force (v. 16-17). He “fulfilled” (brought to completion) the old law (Matthew 5:17-18).

9:18-28 – The Importance of Sacrifice.

- Exodus 24:5-8 records the ratification of the first covenant by blood. Blood was the source of atonement (Leviticus 16) and even the source of physical life (Leviticus 17).
- Christ has entered into heaven itself to appear before God for us (v. 24). Christ was offered once (v. 26) at the end of the age (our current time). When Jesus comes back it is not to offer another sacrifice.
- Death cannot be avoided, unless the Lord returns first. Judgment cannot be avoided at all by any.
- Are we “looking” for Jesus? The word literally means to expect, wait, or look. Mark 13:35-37.

A Study Outline of Hebrews

Hebrews 10

10:1-4 – The Insufficiency of Animal Sacrifices.

- There were daily offerings (Numbers 28:1-8), Sabbath offerings (Numbers 28:9-10), monthly offerings (Numbers 28:11-15), and yearly offerings (Numbers 28:16-29:40).
- Why would a Christian revert to all these sacrifices when Jesus did once and for all for sins? There is no doubt that all the sacrificing would be a constant reminder of sin and this is proof that their consciences were not cleansed from their sin.
- 1 Peter 3:21 states that in baptism there is the answer of a good conscience toward God.
- Example: when we pay our bills we write the check, put it in a stamped envelope, and place it in the mailbox. We then can say, “the bills are paid.” In reality, the bill is not “paid” until it reaches its destination and is deposited by the company. In the OT, the “bill” could be paid in prospect, but it was not until the death on the cross that sins were actually forgiven.

10:5-10 – Sanctification Comes Through the Offering of the Body of Jesus.

- The author quotes Psalm 40:6-8 and applies it to Jesus.
- When reading the prayer in the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus’ primary concern was to do the will of the Father. The only way that could be accomplished was through the sacrifice of his body.
- In doing this, the first covenant was taken out of the way and the second was put into place.
- Ephesians 2:14-16; Colossians 2:14; Deuteronomy 4:13; 5:22.

10:11-18 – Jesus Offered One Sacrifice for Sins.

- 1 Corinthians 15:24-26. Jesus is currently reigning at God’s right hand and the last enemy to be destroyed is death.
- It is because of what Christ has done that God will remember our sins no more.

10:19-31 – Do Not Forsake the Church.

- A “new and living way” is made available to mankind because of what Jesus has done (Matthew 27:51). The way to heaven and direct access to God is now free to all who will come to Jesus.
- “Sprinkle” would refer the Hebrew Christians to the literal sprinkling of blood under the old covenant. This is not an argument for sprinkling as baptism because you cannot sprinkle a person’s heart (mind).
- Having our bodies washed with pure water is clearly a reference to baptism (John 3:3-5; Acts 8:36; Ephesians 5:26).

- We can remain faithful because our God is faithful (v. 23). Hope is the anchor of the soul (Hebrews 6:19) and our hope is based on the promises of God.
- We must always remember that we as individuals are part of a body (v. 24-25). God's design for the church is that it be interconnected and interdependent. Philippians 2:4. We must consider others who are members of the same body when we decide to take action or be inactive.
- In the context of "forsaking the assembly" is mentioned, "For if we sin willfully..." When a Christian willfully forsakes the assembly of the church he is willfully separating himself from the only sacrifice that can save his soul. The punishment for some sins under Moses' law was stoning which was a terrible way to die.
- When one forsakes the church, however, three things are done:
 - Trampled the Son of God under foot.
 - Counted His blood as a common or unholy thing.
 - Insulted the Holy Spirit.
- It truly would be fearful to appear before God in that condition!

10:32-39 – A Need for Endurance.

- He goes from a severe warning to a tender admonition. He does not want his readers to forsake the church and be lost.
- They had been made a "spectacle" shortly after their conversion, but they stayed strong. As time went by that strength began to disappear and they were in great danger.
- They even took it "joyfully" (v. 34). Matthew 5:10-12.
- The Israelites of old managed to escape Egypt, receive the law at Sinai, and make it to the edge of the Promised Land. But, most of them came up short. The Hebrews were in danger of doing the same.
- We must live by faith (faithful obedience to God) and not draw back or abandon our Christian walk.
- Chapter 11 illustrates what it means to "believe to the saving of the soul."

A Study Outline of Hebrews

Hebrews 11

11:1-3 – The Definition of Faith.

- Substance means, “a setting or placing under; substructure, foundation.” From this point we know that faith is not blind or illogical. It is a conviction or trust that is based on sometimes tangible evidence. The “elders” probably refers to the patriarchs the author is getting ready to discuss.
- Our faith causes us to realize that there is a Creator. Psalm 33:6, 9; Romans 1:20.

11:4 – Abel Worshiped By Faith.

- These events are recorded in Genesis 4.
- Faith comes by God’s word (Romans 10:17). Therefore, Cain and Abel must have had word from God on what to offer in worship.
- How is his faith speaking? When God tells you to do something do it and do it how God says.

11:5-6 – Enoch Walked By Faith.

- Recorded in Genesis 5:21-24.
- Pleasing God is not mysterious or too difficult. We too can please God in such a way and be rewarded.

11:7 – Noah Worked By Faith.

- Recorded in Genesis 5-9.
- From Genesis 2:6 and 7:11 we can safely deduce that it had never rained until the flood came.
- We are to, as Noah did, serve God with “godly fear” (12:28).

11:8-12, 17-19 – Abraham Went Out By Faith.

- The call of Abram is recorded in Genesis 12.
- He probably had no personal desire to get up and leave everything he had ever known. But when God called him he did not hesitate to obey.
- God promised Abraham a land possession which served as a shadow of heaven (Hebrews 4).
- Sarah gave birth to Isaac when she was “past age.” Genesis 18:9-14.
- It seemed improbable, if not impossible to have a child at the age of 90, but God is faithful who promised.
- Abraham was “tested” by God (Genesis 22). They had waited 25 years for the son of promise (Genesis 12:3; 21:5).
- At that point in history, to believe that one could be raised from the dead was to believe in something that had never been done before.

11:13-16 – These Faithful Ones Were Looking Ahead.

- “These all” is a reference to Abraham and his family.
- They never doubted that God would fulfill His promise to give them an inheritance.
- The Christian is also a “stranger and pilgrim” (1 Peter 1:1; 2:11).
- If they had chosen to give up and not leave their homeland and family, God could not have forced otherwise. We too must make a decision about following God’s word.
- Would God be ashamed of me?

11:20-22 – Isaac, Jacob, Esau, and Joseph.

- The account of Joseph’s life takes up the most space in Genesis.
- Genesis 27:26-40 records Isaac blessing Jacob and Esau. Genesis 48 records Jacob blessing Manasseh and Ephraim.
- Joseph predicted the exodus from Egypt and wanted his bones carried out with the people (Genesis 50:22-26).

11:23-29 – Moses’ Life Began And Ended In Faith.

- His parents had enough faith to defy a king’s command (Exodus 2:1-3; 6:20).
- Acts 7:21-24 mentions the upbringing of Moses in Egypt. The decision to leave was made by an educated, full-grown man.
- We must decide to turn away from the “passing pleasures” of this world in order to be dedicated to following God.
- He kept the Passover (Exodus 11-12). Israel was delivered from the death of the firstborn because they did what God said, not because they “earned it.”
- The Red Sea crossing is recorded in Exodus 14.

11:30-31 – Canaan Was Taken By Faith.

- The destruction of Jericho is recorded in Joshua 6. Why did the walls of Jericho fall?
- The account of Rahab is recorded in Joshua 2. She based her actions on what she had heard about God’s activity. James 2:25-26 shows that faith and works go hand-in-hand.

11:32-40 – The Judges And Kings Acted By Faith.

- Gideon – Judges 6-8. Defeated the Midianites with 300 men; Barak – Judges 4-5; Defeated the Canaanites; Jephthah – Judges 11-12. Defeated the Ammonites; David – 1 Samuel 16-31; 2 Samuel; 1 Kings 1-2; Samuel – 1 Samuel 1-16 – the last of the judges and first of the prophets.
- Verse 35 is probably a reference to Elijah raising the widow of Zarephath’s son (1 Kings 17) and Elisha raising the Shunammite woman’s son (2 Kings 4).
- OT characters endured great tribulations in service to God. The strength of their character was tested to a point where most people would break, but they remained faithful. We share in the same promise that the faithful of old were looking for. The common thread is faithfulness to God.

A Study Outline of Hebrews

Hebrews 12

12:1-4 – Run With Endurance.

- Christianity is compared with running and boxing (1 Cor. 9:24-26), wrestling (Eph. 6:12), and warfare (2 Cor. 10:3-5).
- The “witnesses” are those OT characters who had endured “by faith.” Their examples bear witness to the fact that the race can be run victoriously.
- The sin that was besetting the Hebrews was unbelief (3:12-14; 4:1; 10:26-31).
- Jesus was also identified as the Captain of our salvation (2:10). He is the source or provider of our salvation.
- We need to keep our eyes on the goal, finish line in order to complete the race. Jesus is the ultimate example of this. “Joy” is a reference to what the cross would accomplish. “Shame” is a reference to the implications of death by crucifixion.
- “When progress is slow and the initial excitement wears off, remember what Jesus did.”

12:5-11 – The Chastening of the Lord.

- The author quotes Proverbs 3:11-12. Wendell Winkler made several points on this passage:
 - Do not arbitrarily equate chastisement with suffering.
 - God does not arbitrarily and capriciously (suddenly, impulsively) send suffering on His children. Paul’s thorn in the flesh was from Satan (2 Cor. 12:7).
 - God’s children do suffer, but it is not indicative of God’s wrath. Rather, let us consider God using the reverses of life- God working through human suffering- to discipline, train, and develop His children, not to punish them.
 - Notice the positive results in the context: (1) evidence of son-ship (5-9); (2) for our good (10); (3) produces holiness (10); (4) develops righteousness (11); evidence of God’s love (6).
- Chastisement (discipline, training) comes from those who know best. No parent has ever been perfect in their bringing up of children, but they act in the best interest of the child.

12:12-17 – Encouragement and Instruction.

- We must encourage ourselves through a study of God’s word and prayer (1 Sam. 30:6).
- But we must also encourage one another, and this has been one of the themes of Hebrews. We must be concerned with our fellow Christians who are falling behind in the race.
- Peace must be pursued or sought out. It does not come naturally. When Christians are living in harmony with God’s word peace will follow.
- It is possible to “fall short” of God’s grace (15).

- Apostasy can spread through the church like the roots of a weed in the grass. Sin can be a spreading influence.
- Esau sold out very cheaply (Gen. 27). He gave away a blessing for a bowl of soup. People in the church can sell out in the same way. He wanted to be blessed, but it was too late.
- We can be tempted to trade what is greatest (soul) for things that are eventually worthless.

12:18-24 – They Were Members of the Church of Christ.

- The entire purpose of the book is to show that Jesus and His way is better than Moses and his way, and it is illustrated here.
- When Israel came to Sinai to receive the law it is described with the following words: thunders, lightnings, smoke of a furnace, voice as a trumpet (Ex. 19:16-19). The text there also states that all Israel trembled before the mountain of God.
- But now, these Christians had come to the spiritual Zion. “General assembly” is one word in the Greek and literally means, “a solemn assembly convened for purposes of festal rejoicing.”
- Firstborn is plural and is a reference to the Christians who are co-heirs with Christ.
- When Abel offered his sacrifice, it spoke well of him, but the blood of Christ is much better.

12:25-29 – Don’t Refuse Jesus Christ.

- If the inferior law of Moses punished every sin, how much more will the law of Christ?
- The author quotes Haggai 2:6-7 which was written after the construction of the second temple. The only thing that will never be shaken is the kingdom of God.
- The church was prophesied to “stand forever” (Daniel 2:44-45).
- Reverence is from *aidos* meaning, “modesty, reverence for the good.”
- Godly fear is from *eulabeia* meaning, “the internal attitude of reverence toward a person, thing, or event. An attitude of the inner being.”
- Verse 29 could be a reference to Exodus 24:17. If we refuse to hear God, He will be to us a consuming fire.

A Study Outline of Hebrews

Hebrews 13

13:1-6 – Various Moral Instructions.

- When brothers or sisters are in danger of falling away, brotherly love is a necessity! Galatians 6:2.
- Entertain is from a word that means “hospitality.” Christians are to do good to all men (Gal. 6:10).
- Reference is made to Genesis 18 when Abraham entertained the three men who came and told him about Sarah having a son. Christian hospitality may influence a person to obey the gospel.
- Paul himself had been “in chains” on several occasions. Romans 12:15.
- Honorable – marriage is to be valued, esteemed, or precious. This verse plainly tells us that pre-marital sex is a sin. That relationship is to be preserved for marriage only.
- Fornication (pornos) is a more generic term than adultery (moichos). Colossians 3:5-7 state that fornication is a condition in which one can live and walk.
- To covet something is to be moved with desire or envy. In our society, contentment is a challenge. Credit cards and easy loans make it possible for anyone to get anything.
- God spoke these comforting words to Israel (Deut. 31:6) and Joshua (Jos. 1:6-8) as they were entering the Promised Land. Our God is totally dependable.

13:7-17 – Obey Your Rulers And Stay Faithful To Christ.

- “Rule” is from a word that means, “to lead or command.” Elders have authority, not to change the practice of the church or the word of God, but to “enforce” the rule of God’s word. Acts 20:28.
- Verse 8 speaks to the eternal nature of Christ (John 8:58). He, nor His teaching change with time or culture. Hebrews 1:11-12.
- If there is no possibility of being lost, why worry about “various and strange doctrines”? We are all to walk by the same rule (Philippians 3:15-16). There were apparently some teaching that forbade the eating of certain types of food. The Christian is not to worry over such things (Romans 14:17-18).
- The “altar” the Christians serves at is a spiritual one, not a physical one. Serving the old altar and tabernacle would be to forsake the sacrifice of Christ.
- The OT sacrifices mentioned here would be the ones offered on the day of Atonement, which were not eaten (Leviticus 4:12). There are many similarities between the OT sacrifices and the sacrifice of Christ.
- John 19:17 reveals that Christ was sacrificed outside the walls of the city (v. 13).
- Every time we go to a funeral we should be reminded that here we do not have a continuing city (11:10).

- The physical sacrifices ceased at the cross (Eph. 2; Col. 2). Our service to God is spiritual (1 Pet. 2:4-5).
- Communicate (v. 16) is from *koinoneo* meaning, “to share or partake.” This verse goes along with Galatians 6:6. It has reference to financial support.
- Every member of the local body is to obey and submit (to rank or line up under) the elders. By doing this we actually help the elders accomplish their work. God will judge them on how they lead, so we must follow.

13:18-25 – Prayer And Encouragement.

- Just having a clean conscience does not mean that one is right with God. Our conscience must be trained in harmony with God’s word (Acts 23:1).
- Shepherding is a major theme throughout both testaments. Psalm 23:1; Ezekiel 34:2; John 10:11, 14; Acts 20:28.
- The new covenant of Christ is here referred to as everlasting. There is no “latter day revelation” from God. Jude 3.
- God expects His people to be complete (perfect) in every good work. This word is used of James and John “mending” their nets (Matt. 4:21). It is also translated “restore” in Galatians 6:1.
- The word of exhortation (v. 22) is a reference to the whole letter. Every faithful gospel preacher wants members of the church to do the same today.