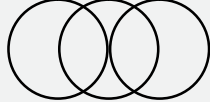
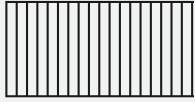
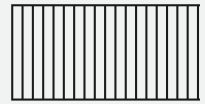
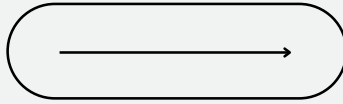


11-WEEK



HEBREWS

STUDY
GUIDE

Theological Focus

Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice and divine royal priest of promise who is fully God and fully man. He is superior over all created things and all Old Testament institutions.

In Jesus and what He has done, the Old Testament hopes and promises were fulfilled, and the new covenant age is established awaiting final consummation in Christ.

Believers in all circumstances, especially those under persecution, are exhorted to persevere in their faith and warned against going back to the old ways of practicing the Jewish religious traditions devoid of a true relationship with Jesus Christ.

Background

The author of Hebrews is unknown, likely a Greek-speaking Jewish Christian.

Paul, Apollos, Barnabas are possible authors. See 'Additional Notes' for more info.

The book of Hebrews was estimated to be written in between A.D. 50 and A.D. 70.

Hebrews is a sermon, addressed to believers under persecution who were living in an urban setting. The book exhorts the early converts from Judaism to persevere and resist the pressure to revert to their Jewish faith.

Major themes: Jesus is greater than (the)



prophets
Chapter 1



angels
Chapter 1-2



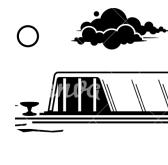
Moses
Chapter 3



Joshua
Chapter 4



high priest
Chapter 5-9



Tabernacle
Chapter 9



**Law and
sacrifices**
Chapter 10

The five warnings in the book of Hebrews:

- 1. Warning one: against neglecting salvation (Hebrews 2:1-4)
- 2. Warning two: the failure of the exodus generation (Hebrews 3:7-19)
- 3. Warning three: against falling away (Hebrews 5:11-6:12)
- 4. Warning four: against shrinking back (Hebrews 10:26-39)
- 5. Warning five: against refusing the speaker (Hebrews 12:25-29)

“Hebrews contains 35 direct quotations from the Old Testament, along with many allusions and references. With the Old Testament background in mind, the author argues that God’s glory and redemptive plan are finally and most clearly revealed in Jesus Christ.”
- Matthew Z. Capps (The Gospel Coalition)

Key Verses

<p>Hebrews 1:3</p> <p>The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.</p>
<p>Hebrews 7:26-28</p> <p>Such a high priest truly meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself. For the law appoints as high priests men in all their weakness; but the oath, which came after the law, appointed the Son, who has been made perfect forever.</p>
<p>Hebrews 9:15</p> <p>For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance—now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.</p>
<p>Hebrews 12:1-3</p> <p>Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.</p>

Additional Notes

Authorship: Who could possibly have written it?

Paul was the first postulated author; and Hebrews used to be included after Romans among other Pauline epistles in the earliest manuscript editions of the New Testament books. While the book contains strong parallels with Paul's writings, the style, vocabularies and structure are quite distinct. The emphasis of the theology expounded in Hebrews regarding Jesus as the Great High Priest and final sacrifice also distinguishes itself from the rest of Pauline letters. Moreover, the author did not introduce himself as Paul typically did.

Apollos was strongly suggested to be the author based on his reputation as a highly educated Alexandrian with Jewish background who might have acquired the literary skills exemplified in Hebrews, and his close connection with Paul; being encouraged by Paul in 1 Cor 16:12 and taught by Paul's companions, Priscilla and Aquila.

Other suggested authors were **Barnabas**, alluding to the closing remark in Hebrews 13:22 as a "word of encouragement" which may indicate his name that means "son of encouragement", or **Silas**, who was with Paul and Timothy for the writing of several of Pauline epistles.

Sources: <https://zondervanacademic.com/blog/who-wrote-the-book-of-hebrews> <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/who-wrote-hebrews>

Authority: Why is this book included in the Bible? How can we find authority in a book whose author is unidentifiable?

The biblical canon is the collection of scriptural books that God has given his corporate people, which are assembled on account of three factors: their divine qualities, reception by the early church, and connection to an apostle. ⁽¹⁾

Although Hebrews was anonymously written, the writings strongly suggest a strong link between the author and the apostles (Hebrews 2:3-4; 13:23), and it was widely received by God's people in the early church. In addition, the book certainly has divine qualities where God's qualities (i.e. beauty and excellency, power and efficacy, unity and harmony) are revealed and God's transformative power is brought forth. ⁽¹⁾

The authority of the Bible lies in its inspiration by the Holy Spirit (2 Timothy 3:16), not in the identity of its human authors. Despite the uncertainty of its authorship, the message and purpose of Hebrews remains clear and unambiguous, and the glory of God in Christ shines through it. ^(2,3)

Sources: (1) <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/essay/the-biblical-canon/> (2) <https://discoveryseries.org/courses/understanding-the-bible-the-letter-to-the-hebrews/lessons/the-author-and-recipients-of-hebrews/> (3) <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/who-wrote-hebrews>