

The Book of Hebrews Outlined & Explained

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Hebrews was most likely written by either Barnabas or Paul in 68 AD along with Galatians and 2 Timothy. Strong evidence exists that points to the author being Paul since he is the only one we know who had such a thorough background in all of the characteristics found in this book. He was a Hebrew. He had a legal background. He had multiple visions of heaven and Jesus and saw and heard things "unlawful" for men to hear or see. The arguments against Paul writing this book are mostly based on the departure from his usual style.

"For Serious Steak Lovers Only":

The Book of Hebrews and the book of Ephesians are the two meatiest books in the New Testament; Hebrews being the meatiest of the meaty. Ephesians tells us WHO WE ARE IN CHRIST. Hebrews tells us WHO CHRIST IS, THIS VERY MOMENT, EVEN AS WE SPEAK, BREATHE, AND BELIEVE. "Jesus Is Extremely Busy At The Right Hand Of The Father." All that Jesus accomplished for us on the cross would be to no avail if it weren't for His present day ministry at God's right hand. THEN He bought certain things for us on the cross. NOW he is administering and managing those things in our lives. THEN Purchased; NOW Enforced!

Master Key Verse:

Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens (Hebrews 8:1, NKJV).

Key Verse:

And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him, called by God as High Priest "according to the order of Melchizedek," of whom we have much to say, and hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. (Hebrews 5:9-14, NKJV).

A Literary Miracle:

The Highest Intelligence in the Universe must have authored this book for it is a literary masterpiece of the highest order. For several reasons:

1. Each chapter is at once two-tracked, unveiling who Jesus is, in amazing detail and, simultaneously unveiling the practical application of that unveiling for the believer's life. The book at once is both deeply spiritual and amazingly practical; and that not in two separate sections of the book as in most of Pauline books. It is almost as if the supernatural verses are conversing with the practical verses, switching back and forth from heaven to earth.

2. The book is the most logical, most methodical, most scientific, most brilliant PROOF of any legal case ever purported. The "BURDEN OF PROOF" is masterfully complete.
3. The book will obviously be used as the final authoritative legal document at the judgment throne against any Jewish person who has rejected the Messiah.
4. The book is the most exhaustive, most masterful, most artistic picture of Jesus in the whole New Testament.
5. The book solves almost every major Old Testament mystery in 13 short chapters.
6. The book finalizes and crystallizes every major Old Testament type and shadow of Christ in 13 short chapters.
7. The book proves that the consummation of every major character or pivotal person in the Old Testament is found in the New Testament person of Jesus Christ.

Jesus Revealed As Our High Priest 11 Times/Term Used 16 Times In Hebrews:

1. Merciful And Faithful High Priest

Heb 2:17* Therefore, in all things He had to be made like [His] brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things [pertaining] to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

2. Apostle And High Priest Of Our Confession

Heb 3:1* Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus,

3. Great High Priest Passed Through The Heavens

Heb 4:14* Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast [our] confession.

4. Sympathizing High Priest

Heb 4:15* For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all [points] tempted as [we are, yet] without sin.

Heb 5:1* For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things [pertaining] to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins.

5. God-Ordained High Priest

Heb 5:5* So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, [but it] was He who said to Him: "You are My Son, Today I have begotten You."

6. High Priest Of The Melchizedek Order

Heb 5:10* called by God as High Priest "according to the order of Melchizedek,"

7. High Priest Forever

Heb 6:20* where the forerunner has entered for us, [even] Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

8. High Priest Who Meets Our Needs

Heb 7:26* For such a High Priest was fitting for us, [who is] holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens;

9. High Priest Seated At The Right Hand Of The Throne

Heb 8:1* Now [this is] the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens,

Heb 8:3* For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices. Therefore [it is] necessary that this One also have something to offer.

Heb 9:7* But into the second part the high priest [went] alone once a year, not without blood, which he offered for himself and [for] the people's sins [committed] in ignorance;

10. High Priest Of Better Things

Heb 9:11* But Christ came [as] High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation.

Heb 9:25* not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another--

11. High Priest Over God's House

Heb 10:21* and [having] a High Priest over the house of God,

Heb 13:11* For the bodies of those animals, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned outside the camp.

Hebrews Outlined

Hebrews is the book of SUPERIORITY!...SUPREMACY!...BETTER!...GREATER! The greek Word "Kreitton" (better, stronger, mightier, greater, more excellent, superior) is translated 13 times as "BETTER." So Hebrews is THE BOOK OF BETTER THINGS! Christ is the BETTER WAY! Christ is the BETTER PERSON!

Heb 1:4 NIV So he became as much **superior** to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

Heb 7:7 NIV And without doubt the lesser person is blessed by the greater.

Heb 8:6 NIV But the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, and it is founded on better promises.

Chapter One & Two: Jesus Is Superior To Angels, Superior to the Prophets & We Have A Great Salvation Not To Be Neglected.

- A. By virtue of His Redemptive Work. He 1:3
- B. By virtue of His Exaltation, Sonship & Name. He 1:4-10
- C. By virtue of His Preexistence. He 1:10-12
- D. By virtue of His and His apostles Miracles. He 2:3-5
- E. By virtue of His going even lower than the angels to save mankind. He 2:5-13
- F. By virtue of His High Priest Office To Men, Not Angels. He 2:14-18

Eleven (11) Times In Hebrews Jesus Is Called Our "High Priest." From this chapter forward we have a progressive revelation of Him being High Priest.

Chapter Three & Four: Jesus Is Superior To Moses And Joshua & We Must Listen And Obey Him To Enjoy Our Promised Rest.

- A. By virtue of being the Being The Builder Of The House, not just an Officer Of The House like Moses. (...He was the One speaking of Moses in Numbers 12:7) He 3:4
- B. By virtue of Moses' prophecy of a greater one to come (Dt 18:15-19) He 3:5
- C. By virtue of successfully bringing his followers into Rest, which Moses & Joshua could not; and David, who was born after Moses or Joshua, still prophesying of a rest to come. (Psalm 95:8-11) He 3:16, 17/4:6, 4:8
- D. By virtue of becoming a High Priest who came down from heaven to fully identify with us and then who passed back through the heavens to the throne (Moe & Josh didn't do That!). He 4:14

Chapter Five, Six & Seven: Jesus Is Superior To Aaron, The Levitical Priesthood, and Abraham, And Even Melchisedek With Whom He Is Similar & We Must Master The Fundamentals And Mature Spiritually.

- A. By virtue of being declared a priest of the order of Melchisedek (without record of birth, genealogy, or death and not from the tribe of Levi) who served before Aaron was ever born (Psalm 110). He 5:4-6
- B. By virtue His endless and unchangeable life (vs. temporal like an earthly priest). He 7:11-16/7:24
- C. By virtue of His single sacrifice, not needing daily sacrifices as an earthly priest does. He 7:27,28
- D. Superior to Abraham by virtue of being the Tithe-Taker, not the Tither. He 7:1-8

E. Superior Even To Melchisedek by virtue of His living Forever. He 7:8

(Also note that the scriptures NEVER say that Jesus IS Melchisedek, but only that Jesus' priesthood is LIKE Melchisedek. Melchisedek CANNOT BE PROVED [perhaps conjectured, but never proved] to be the preincarnate Christ.)

Chapter Eight: Jesus' New Covenant Is Superior To The Old Covenant & We Have Access To His Presence Through That Covenant Blood.

A. By virtue of being the High Priest in heaven (previously proven). He 8:1-7

B. By virtue of New Covenant being the Reality not just the Type & Shadow. He 8:5-6

C. By virtue of the New Covenant being prophesied by Jeremiah while living under the Old Covenant and prophesied after Moses (Je 31:31-34). He 8:7-13

Chapter Nine & Ten: New Covenant Blood Is Superior To Old Covenant Blood & We Can Come Into His Presence Through That Blood And Broken Body.

A. By virtue of earthly tabernacle which is a type & shadow versus the heavenly tabernacle which is the reality. He 9:1-11

B. By virtue Jesus' blood being human and divine versus Animal Blood. He 9:13-10;23

Chapter Eleven & Twelve: Jesus Is Superior To All Old Testament Saints & The Believer Must Live By Believing Like Those Saints (The Superior Lifestyle).

A. By virtue of being the Author & Finisher of their faith and our faith. He 12:2

Chapter Twelve & Thirteen: Life In Christ Is Superior To Life Under The Law & We Must Continue In Obedience In Spite Of Struggles, Discipline, And Temptations To Quit.

A. By virtue of having come to Mount Zion versus Mount Sinai. He 12:18-29

B. By virtue of Our Altar (The Cross) versus Their Altar. He 13:9-13

C. By virtue of Our Permanent City (Heavenly Jerusalem) versus Their Temporary City. He13:14

D. By virtue of the Greater Everlasting Covenant and that Covenant Blood. He 13:20-21 (This is the only mention of Jesus being The Shepherd in the book of Hebrews; the remainder of the book painting the picture of his priesthood. The implication is that our Great Shepherd, after being exalted into heaven, entered into an expanded ministry as High Priest.

Jesus' Office Of High Priest Includes Several Other Offices As Well.

A. Intercessor: Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them. (Hebrews 7:25, NIV).

B. Mediator: But the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, and it is founded on better promises. (Hebrews 8:6, NIV). 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. (Hebrews 9:15, NIV). to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel. (Hebrews 12:24, NIV).

C. Guarantor: Because of this oath, Jesus has become the guarantee of a better covenant. (Hebrews 7:22, NIV).

D. Apostle: Therefore, holy brothers, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, the apostle and high priest whom we confess. (Hebrews 3:1, NIV).

E. Forerunner: Heb 6:20 Whither the forerunner is for us entered, [even] Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

F. Author: Heb 5:9 And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him; Heb 12:2* Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of [our] faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

IT IS ALSO VERY IMPORTANT TO NOTE WHAT GOD DOES NOT COMMAND THE HEBREW (JEWISH) CHRISTIANS. IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE WHAT THE BOOK OF HEBREWS PURPOSELY DOES NOT MENTION.

If certain Jewish customs were to be kept under the New Testament, surely they would be commanded or at least given an honorary mention in this book written to Jewish Christians.

1. The Book of Hebrews does NOT tell Jewish Christians to keep the Passover Feast. (The Passover Feast was REPLACED by Jesus Himself by the Lord's Supper or Communion for both Gentile and Hebrew Christians.)
2. The Book of Hebrews does NOT tell Jewish Christians to observe any feast or holy day.
3. The Book of Hebrews does NOT tell Jewish Christians to be circumcised.
4. The Book of Hebrews does NOT tell Jewish Christians to memorize the Torah.
5. The Book of Hebrews does NOT tell Jewish Christians to dress with certain garbs.
6. The Book of Hebrews does NOT tell Jewish Christians or any Christian that they have to assemble on the Sabbath Day (Saturday).
7. However, the Book of Hebrews DOES teach that Jesus continues to receive earthly tithes from His heavenly position as high priest.