



What is It?

Hebrews is the first non-Pauline epistle (probably) in the New Testament, and the longest.

Who, What, When, Where and WHY

Who – Experts do not know who wrote the Book of Hebrews though some have suggested Paul, Barnabas, Luke or Apollos. Obviously, it was written to believers who were formerly Jewish.

What – Hebrews was written to strengthen new believers of the Way (the Gospel), especially former Jews who were tempted to revert back to the faith of their ancestors. It acknowledges the hardships we, and the early Church believers, face in our world, and offers encouragement – almost like a half-time pep speech from the coach.

When – The Epistle of Hebrews was probably written between 60 and 70 AD.

Where – We do not know for sure where Hebrews was written, nor to where the Hebrews the author was addressing were located. There is a reference to “those from Italy” (13:24), so some say the book was written in Rome, or to Jewish believers in Rome.

Why – In the latter half of the first century Christians, especially Christians who converted from the Jewish faith, face persecution (though it got worse latter at various times). Many Jewish converts felt it was safer to stay identified with their former Jewish faith – a religion at least tolerated under Roman law. The Epistle to the Hebrews encourages them, and of course us, to trust Jesus and God’s final Word, as we face the pitfalls and temptations of the world. Watch for vivid Old Testament images used by the writer to illustrate what God has done through Jesus Christ.

Reading Advice

To read Hebrews in one week you will need to read about 2 chapters a day (13 chapters/6 days = 2.2 per day). We recommend 10 minutes a day, Monday through Saturday. If you include a Sunday reading, then you can reduce the chapters and/or minutes per day a little.