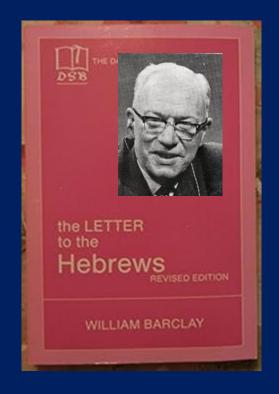


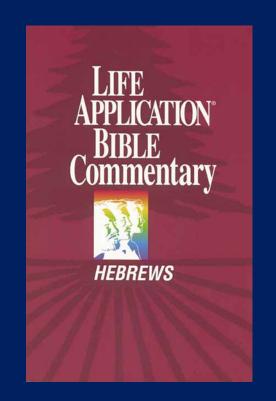


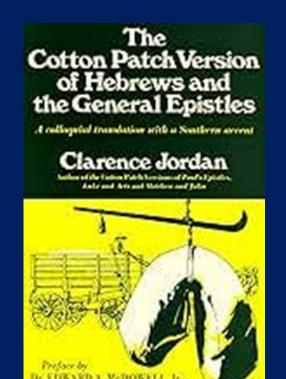
Introduction to the book of Hebrews

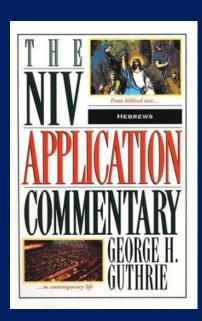


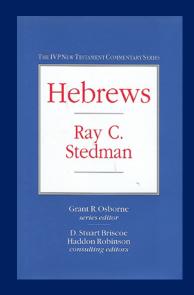
Some of the references used in this study

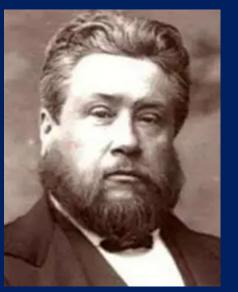


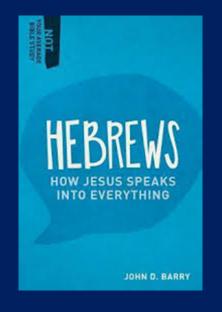


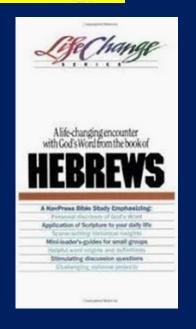




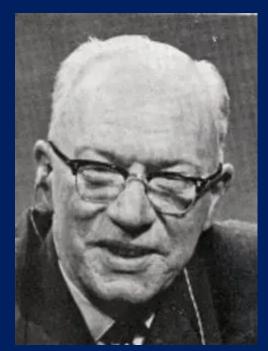








William Barclay (5 December 1907 – 24 January 1978) was a Church of Scotland minister, a Scottish author, radio and television presenter, and Professor of Divinity and Biblical Criticism at the University of Glasgow. He wrote a popular set of Bible commentaries on the New Testament that sold 1.5 million copies



William Barclay



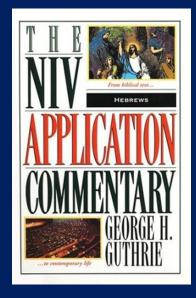
Known as the "Prince of Preachers," this Victorian, Calvinistic, Baptist minister testified as a powerful gospel witness in his time. Charles was called to preach in his first church when he was 17, In 1861 the Metropolitan Tabernacle opened and his ministry exploded resulting in the founding of 66 parachurch ministries. His ministry in London would last 38 years before his death on January 31st, 1892. During his lifetime he preached the gospel to over a million people and personally baptized 15,000 new believers converted under his ministry. His sermons were translated into nearly forty languages.



Charles Spurgeon



The author so filled his discourse with Old Testament thoughts and passages that they permeate every chapter. 35 quotations from a Greek translation of the Old Testament and 34 allusions work to support the development of Hebrews' argument. In addition, the writer offers 19 summaries of Old Testament material, and 13 times he mentions an Old Testament name or topic, often without reference to a specific context.



Allusion

an expression designed to call something to mind without mentioning it explicitly; an indirect or passing reference.





WHO WROTE HEBREWS?

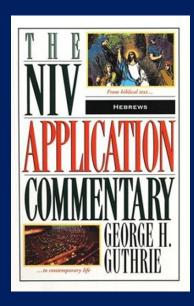


The True Author of the Book (HINT: NOT PAUL!)



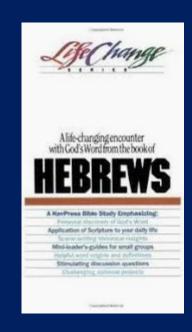
The author of Hebrews was:

- a dynamic preacher
- knowledgeable of the Old Testament and its interpretation
- highly educated
- a committed minister of Jesus Christ and deeply concerned about the spiritual state of the group of believers he addressed





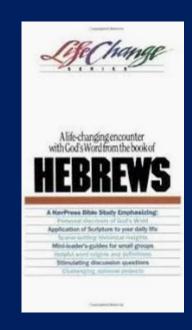
All we know for certain about the author is that he was thoroughly familiar with the Jewish religious system, that he and his readers knew each other, and that Paul's aide Timothy was known to both. Whoever he was, the author was a superb writer as well as an inspired thinker; His Greek is the most elegant in the New Testament.





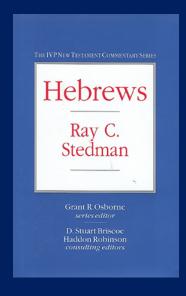
In the final analysis, the precise destination (of whom the book was originally written $_{ds}$) is no more

important than the author's identity regardless of who wrote it, or where it was first sent, the Christian Church has rightfully regarded it down through the ages as a powerfully relevant message from God, who has definitely spoken in his Son.

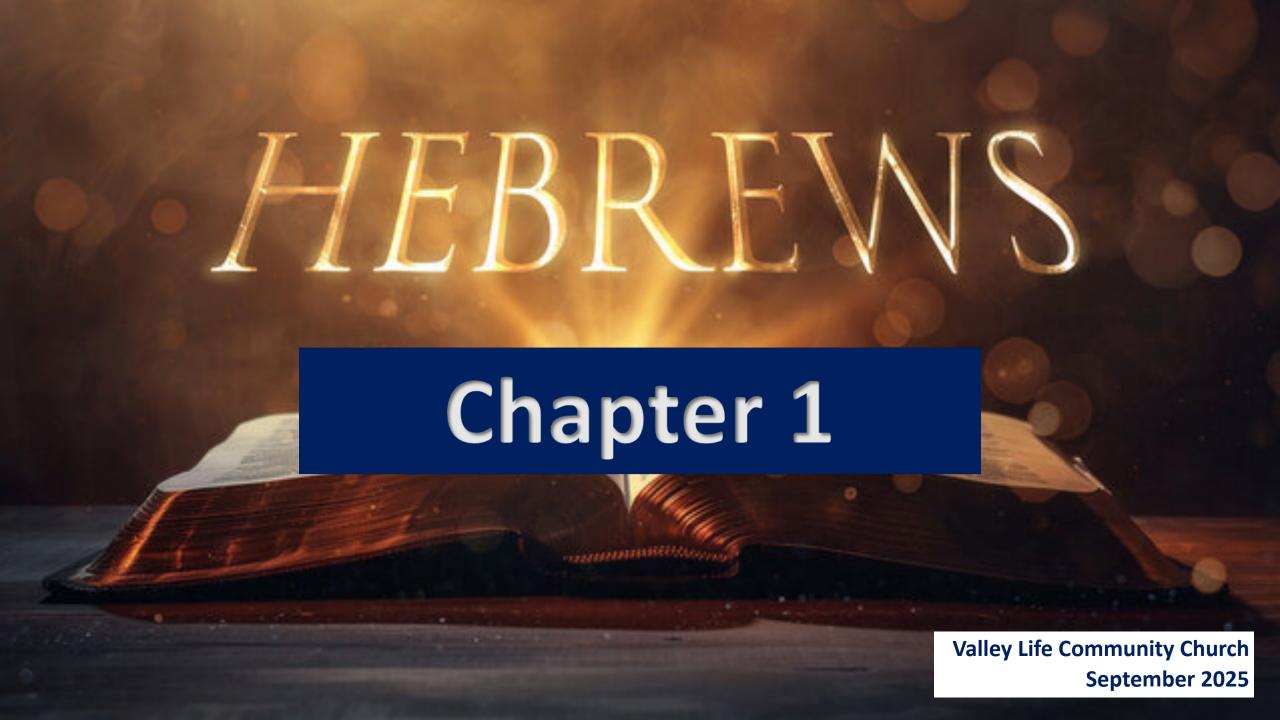




These introductory verses present a sharp departure from the usual 1st century epistolary practice, as seen so regularly in Paul's epistles. There were no opening greetings, no indication of the writer's name and no expression of good wishes. For this reason some have viewed Hebrews as a formal address, perhaps even a sermon.







God's Final Word: His Son

¹In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe.



³The 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. 4So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.



The Son Superior to Angels

⁵For to which of the angels did God ever say,

"You are my Son; today I have become your

Father"?

Or again,

"I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"?



⁶And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says,

"Let all God's angels worship him."

⁷In speaking of the angels he says,

"He makes his angels spirits, and his servants

flames of fire."



⁸But about the Son he says,

"Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever; a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom.

⁹You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy."



¹⁰He also says,

"In the beginning, Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands.

¹¹They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment.

¹²You will roll them up like a robe; like a garment they will be changed. But you remain the same, and your years will never end."



13To which of the angels did God ever say,
"Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet"?
14Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?









In this chapter, 7 verses contain quotes from the Old Testament



Psalm 2:7

"You are my Son; today I have become your Father"?



2 Samuel 7:14

I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will discipline him with a rod of men and blows from mortals.



1 Chron. 17:13

I will be his father, and he will be my son. I will not remove my faithful love from him as I removed it from the one who was before you.



Deuteronomy 32:43

Rejoice, you nations, concerning his people, for he will avenge the blood of his servants.

He will take vengeance on his adversaries; he will purify his land and his people.



Psalm 104:4

and making the winds his messengers, flames of fire his servants.



Psalm 45:6,7

Your throne, God, is forever and ever; the scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of justice.



Psalm 102:25-27

²⁵Long ago you established the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands.

²⁶They will perish, but you will endure; all of them will wear out like clothing. You will change them like a garment, and they will pass away.

²⁷But you are the same,

and your years will never end.

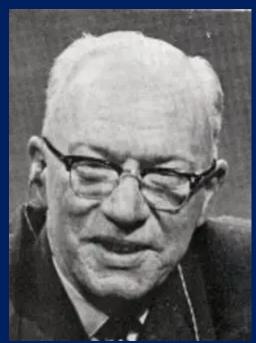


Psalm 110:1

The Lord says to my lord:
"Sit at my right hand
until I make your enemies
a footstool for your feet."



The writer to the Hebrews lays down the great truth that we need no man or supernatural being to bring us into the presence of God. Jesus Christ has broken every barrier down and opened a direct way for us to God.



William Barclay



In this chapter our Saviour's glorious person is very plainly set before us, and it is made the ground of our faith, and a reason why we should give the more earnest heed to his words, lest at any time we should let them slip.



Charles Spurgeon

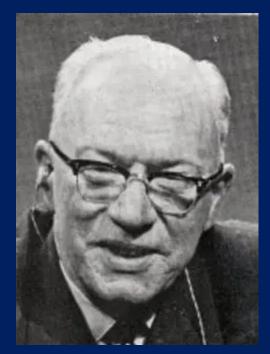


God's Final Word: His Son vs 1-4



Vs 1-3

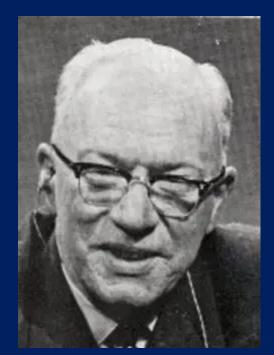
The man who wrote this letter must have been trained in Greek oratory. When he became a Christian he did not throw his training away. He used the talent he had in the service of Jesus Christ. Everyone knows the lovely legend of the acrobatic tumbler who became a monk. He felt that he had so little to offer. One day someone saw him go into the Chapel and stand before the statue of the Virgin Mary.



William Barclay



He hesitated for a moment and then began to go through his acrobatic routine. When he had completed his tumbling, he knelt in adoration; And then, says the legend, the statue of the Virgin Mary came to life, stepped down from her pedestal and gently wiped the sweat from the brow of the Acrobat who had offered all he had to give. When a man becomes a Christian he is not asked to abandon all the talents who once had; He has asked to use them in the service of Jesus Christ and of his church.



William Barclay



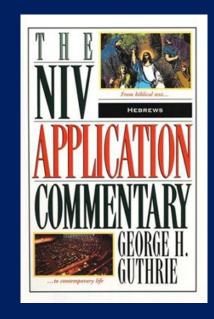
Ours is the clearest of all revelations. In Jesus we see far more of God than in all the teachings of the prophets. *vs* 1-2



Charles Spurgeon

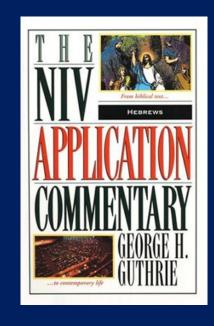


Hebrews 1:1-4 in Greek forms a single, multiclass sentence, built around the main clause "God... has spoken". Thus God and his communication to humanity through the Son engage the author's attention from the first. These beautifully crafted verses fall into two main subdivisions, the first addressing divine revelation and the second the person, work, and status of God's Son. v 45





When members of our churches or students in our schools are intimidated by massive systematic theologies or are bored to tears over dry doctrinal lectures, we tend to write them off as "intellectually deficient" or "lacking theological depth". Yet, some of the responsibility falls to those of us behind the pulpit in front of the classroom. We must ask whether we are helping matters by our manner of presentation. Perhaps we erect banners to the content through poor patterns of communication

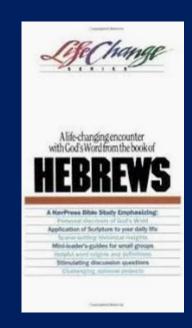




Question 1

What do you see in verses 1 and 2 that indicates a basic unity between the old and new testaments?

pg 22

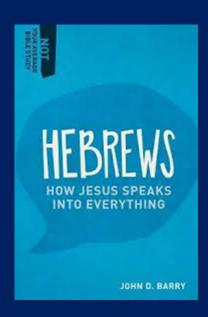




Question 2

Are we still living in "these last days"? What (if anything) has changed since the author wrote this book around AD 68. Why are these last days lasting so long?

pg 9



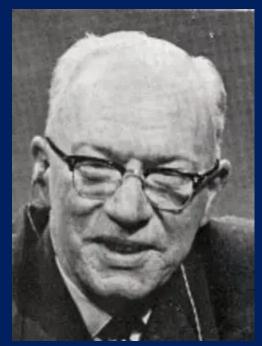


The Son Superior to Angels

vs 5-14



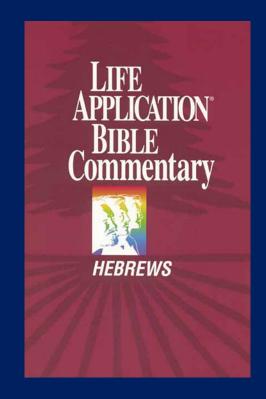
(Belief in Angels by the Jews) At this time it was on the increase. The reason was that men were more and more impressed with what is called the transcendence of God. They felt more and more the distance and the difference between God and man. The reason was they came to think of the angels as intermediaries between God and man. They came to believe that the angels bridged the gulf between God and man; That God spoke to man through the angels and the angels carried the prayers of man into the presence of God.



William Barclay



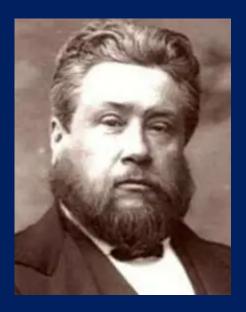
The name Jesus inherited that is superior is "son of God". This name, given to him by his father, is greater than the names and titles of the angels. Many of the early churches false teachers taught that God could be approached only through angels. Instead of worshipping God directly, followers of these heretics revered angels. Hebrews clearly denounces such teaching as false.





So you perceive that Christ is no created angel. He is sometimes compared to an angel. He is sometimes called the angel of the covenant, but he is not a created angel. He is higher in nature, higher in rank, higher in intellect, and higher in power than they. He is nothing less than very God of very God. The very man who suffered on Calvary.

vs 6-8



Charles Spurgeon

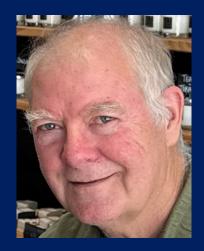


Question 3

What is the hierarchical line between God, Jesus, the angels, and man?



Question 4



Are the angels important to us?



"That's all Folks!"