

# 27 GEMS – The Book of Hebrews

*Pastor Jason Dennett's Notes*

## **The MESSAGE of Hebrews:**

Hebrews is the 19th shortest book in the New Testament with 4,953 Greek words.

Hebrews is the only New Testament book with an unknown author.

Hebrews contains the second largest number of Old Testament quotations, besides Revelation.

Hebrews lets us know that there are symbolic aspects to the Jewish feasts and offerings.

Hebrews contains 5 warnings against turning away from the Lord.

Hebrews quotes from the Greek Septuagint translation of the OT, instead of the Hebrew.

*"The book of Hebrews was written to the Hebrews, to tell them to stop acting like Hebrews." - Donald Grey Barnhouse*

## **The MEGA-THEME of Hebrews:**

*"JESUS is the Supreme & only Way to GOD!"*

## **The MEGA-STRUCTURE of Hebrews:**

- I. [Doctrinal Instruction](#) to the Hebrews (1-10)
- II. [Practical Application](#) for the Hebrews (11-13)

### **I. Doctrinal Instruction to the Hebrews (1-10)**

**JESUS:** Supreme over **Prophets!** (1:1-3)

**"God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.."**

- [The Lord has spoken to mankind in a variety of ways](#), the Supreme Communication is Jesus Christ - the God-Man. He is the eternal Word made flesh (Jn 1:14), the visible image of the invisible God (Col 1:15), and when we see and hear Christ, we see and hear the Father (Jn 14:9).

- **JESUS:** Supreme over **Angels!** (1:4-2:18)

"..having **become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name** than they. 5 For to which of the angels did He ever say: "**You are My Son**, Today I have begotten You"? And again: "I will be to Him a Father, And He shall be to Me a Son"? 6 But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: "**Let all the angels of God worship Him**." 7 And of the angels He says: "**Who makes His angels spirits And His ministers** a flame of fire." 8 But to the Son [He says]: "**Your throne, O God, [is] forever and ever**; A scepter of righteousness [is] the scepter of Your kingdom. ... 13 But to which of the angels has He ever said: "**Sit at My right hand**, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool"? 14 **Are they not all ministering spirits** sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?"

- **Though special messengers of GOD, angels cannot compare with the majesty of Christ.** They are created, finite, servants, and worshippers of the Lord. Jesus is the Creator, is Infinite, the Master, and is the Lord who is worshipped!

- **JESUS:** Supreme over **Moses!** (3:1-19)

"For this **One has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses**, inasmuch as **He who built the house has more honor** than the house. 4 For every house is built by someone, but **He who built all things [is] God**. 5 And Moses indeed [was] faithful in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which would be spoken [afterward], 6 but **Christ as a Son over His own house**, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end."

- **Jesus is Supreme when compared with Moses**, since the famous lawgiver was simply a faithful servant in God's house. Christ, however, is the exalted Master and magnificent Builder of the house of Israel...and of the entire universe!

- **JESUS:** Supreme over **Joshua!** (4:1-13)

"For **if Joshua had given them rest, then He would not afterward have spoken of another day**. 9 There remains therefore a rest for the people of God. 10 For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God [did] from His."

- **Joshua was a great general and OT hero of the Jewish people.** However, he did ultimately fail to bring Israel into the full "rest" that the Lord had promised them. Jesus, by contrast, is the Great Conqueror (Josh 5:13-15) and leads His people into the true rest that we seek after (Matt 11:28-30; Jn 10:10), in the Spirit.

- **JESUS:** Supreme over **Aaron!** (4:14-6:20)

"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. 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**. 16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."*

- **Aaron was the High Priest to the people of Israel**, but he was vulnerable to sinful weaknesses and temptation. The Supreme High Priest, Jesus Christ, was tempted in all ways as we are, but He never failed in the slightest. This makes him far superior to Aaron as our High Priest. (Matt 4:1-11; Jn 1:29)

*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. 2 He can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness. 3 Because of this he is required as for the people, so also for himself, to offer [sacrifices] for sins. 4 And no man takes this honor to himself, but **he who is called by God, just as Aaron [was]**. 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 As [He] also says in another [place]: "**You [are] a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek**"*

- Another reason that Jesus is superior as our High Priest, is that He was chosen not by men, but rather ordained by the Father. (Psalm 110:4) He also belongs to a superior order of priesthood: **Melchizedek!** (Gen 14:18-20)
- **JESUS:** Supreme over **Levi!** (7:1-8:5)  
*"For this **Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God**, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, 2 **to whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all**, first being translated "king of righteousness," and then also king of Salem, meaning "king of peace," 3 **without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, remains a priest continually**. 4 Now consider **how great this man [was], to whom even the patriarch Abraham gave a tenth** of the spoils...7 Now beyond all contradiction **the lesser is blessed by the better**. 8 Here mortal men receive tithes, but there he [receives them], of whom it is witnessed that he lives. 9 **Even Levi, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, so to speak, 10 for he was still in the loins of his father when Melchizedek met him**. 11 Therefore, if perfection were through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need [was there] that another priest should rise according to the order of Melchizedek, and not be called according to*

the order of Aaron?

- **Christ is supreme over Levi, since Levi "tithed" to Melchizedek** in a figurative sense in Genesis 14. This was only done by the lesser to show submission and honor to the greater. Many Bible teachers and theologians see in the mysterious Melchizedek a powerful foreshadowing, or even OT appearance of Christ.

***"But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood. 25 Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. 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; 27 who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself. 28 For the law appoints as high priests men who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the law, [appoints] the Son who has been perfected forever."***

- **In addition, because Christ is eternal and immortal,** He is supreme to any priest in his ability to always be alive to minister to the people, and to never die. Jesus, unlike the Levites, didn't need to offer up sacrifices for his own sins and transgressions while ministering as priest...He didn't have any! (Jas 1:13; 1Jn 1:5)
- **JESUS: Supreme over Laws!** (8:6-13)

***"But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises. 7 For if that first [covenant] had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a second. 8 Because finding fault with them, He says: "Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah-- 9 "not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they did not continue in My covenant, and I disregarded them, says the LORD. 10 "For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. 11 "None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them. 12 "For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more." 13 In that He says, "A new covenant," He has made the first obsolete. Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old***

is ready to vanish away."

- **Another aspect of Christ's supremacy is the New Covenant** over the OT covenant of Law under Moses. This New Covenant of God's Grace was predicted in the OT (Jer 31; Eze 36), as the Lord knew that human performance isn't sufficient for salvation (Gal 3:24; Romans 3:23; Heb 10:38; Eph 2:8,9), and so provided a New Covenant that is unconditional, unbreakable, unchanging, unilateral, and universal to all who accept it.

- **JESUS: Supreme over Temples!** (9:1-22)

*"Then indeed, even **the first covenant had ordinances of divine service and the earthly sanctuary.** 2 For a tabernacle was prepared: the first part, in which was the lampstand, the table, and the showbread, which is called the sanctuary; 3 and behind the second veil, the part of the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of All, 4 which had the golden censer and the ark of the covenant overlaid on all sides with gold, in which were the golden pot that had the manna, Aaron's rod that budded, and the tablets of the covenant; 5 and above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail... 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.** 12 Not with the blood of goats and calves, but **with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.** ... 16 For where there is a testament, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. ... 21 Then likewise **he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry.** 22 And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and **without shedding of blood there is no remission.**"*

- **Unbeknownst to many Christians,** Jesus our High Priest ministers at the TRUE and GENUINE temple in Heaven, of which the Tabernacle/Temple on earth was only a crude copy for our instruction. Every High Priest must enter the Holy of Holies, and so did Christ for us (v.12) to offer up His blood on our behalf! The OT symbolism and typology in the Tabernacle instruments and sacrifices is breath-taking to a diligent Bible student - Christ is in all of them! (Jn 5:39; Ps.40:7)

- **JESUS: Supreme over Sacrifices!** (9:23-10:39)

*"Therefore [it was] necessary that the copies of the things in the heavens should be purified with these, but **the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.** 24 For **Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, [which are] copies of the true, but into***

**heaven itself**, now to appear in the presence of God for us; 25 not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another-- 26 He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but **now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.** 27 And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, 28 so **Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many.** To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation."

- **Even as the earthly High Priest must appear once a year** on "Yom Kippur" (Day of Atonement) to put away the sin of Israel for the year, Jesus also offered His blood in the TRUE Holy of Holies, on our behalf to put away sin, and satisfy our payment.

10:1 "For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, [and] not the very image of the things, **can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect.** 2 For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins. 3 But in those [sacrifices there is] a reminder of sins every year. 4 For [it is] **not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.** 5 Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: "**Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, But a body You have prepared for Me.** ... 10 By that will **we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once [for all].** ... 12 But **this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever,** sat down at the right hand of God, ... 14 For **by one offering He has perfected forever** those who are being sanctified. ... 17 [then He adds], "**Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.**" 18 Now where there is remission of these, [there is] **no longer an offering for sin.**"

- **Finally, the Supremacy of Jesus is seen over the sacrifices of the OT.** These had to be offered once a year, they were imperfect, limited, and ultimately ineffective. By contrast the Supreme Offering that Jesus made was only one time, perfect, unlimited, and completely/eternally effective. Notice the emphasis on the ONE sacrifice that's been made by Jesus. Since it is the infinite and perfect sacrifice of the body and blood of the God-Man, it need only happen once...and is the ONLY hope of a person attaining TRUE forgiveness and cleansing of sin. (Acts 4:12; Isa 1:18; John 3:16-18)

## II. Practical Application for the Hebrews (11-13)

In chapters 1-10 we saw that Jesus is the **Supreme PERSON**, and now in chapters 11-13 we see that Faith is the **Supreme PRINCIPLE**.

### Chapter 11 - Great Examples of Faith.

**Heb 11:1-3 - "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. 2 For by it the elders obtained a good testimony. 3 By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible."**

- In the first 3 verses, he tells us what FAITH is and what it does for us. Faith is substantial and evidential, as stated in 1 Pet 3:15 and Jn 14:11. By FAITH, we can understand the universe (time, space, matter, energy) was created by God's command...from nothingness!! (Gen 1:1; Jn 1:1-3)

In the remaining verses, he tells us of 17+ specific examples of biblical FAITH:

- **Abel**, by faith, offered a blood sacrifice. (v.4)
- **Enoch**, by faith, was taken away. (v.5)
- **Noah**, by faith, built an ark, though ridiculed. (v.7)
- **Abraham**, by faith, obeyed and left home, though challenging. (v.8-10; 17-19)
- **Sarah**, by faith, received strength and gave birth, though old in years. (v.11)
- **Isaac**, by faith, blessed his sons, though the events were still future. (v.20)
- **Jacob**, by faith, worshipped, though he was physically handicapped. (v.21)
- **Joseph**, by faith, mentioned future prophecy, though doubted by some. (v.22)
- **Moses**, by faith, was hidden and refused to be called the son of Pharaoh, forsook Egypt, kept the Passover, and passed through the Red Sea. (v.24-29)
- **Joshua**, by faith, obeyed the war strategy of the Lord, though strange. (v.30)
- **Rahab**, by faith, received the spies in peace, though it required great risk. (v.31)
- **Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, the prophets**, by faith, performed marvelous exploits of FAITH for the Kingdom of God, suffered, and some even died. (v.32-38)

- **OBSERVATION #1** - The *operative principle* in the lives of these Hebrew "Heroes" was clearly **FAITH**, not Law.
- **OBSERVATION #2** - The individuals mentioned here, were *far from perfect*, but still people of **FAITH**.
- **OBSERVATION #3** - The individuals listed here, are *very similar to us*. We live by **FAITH** today, just as they did.
- **OBSERVATION #4** - The great "Heroes" are inferior to anyone who in FAITH has entered in the New Covenant in Christ!  
**Matt 11:11 NLT** - *"I tell you the truth, of all who have ever lived, none is greater than John the Baptist. Yet **even the least person in the Kingdom of Heaven is greater than he is!**"*

## **Chapter 12 - Great *Endurance* of Faith.**

- Faith ENDURES ***the Track*** of life. (v.1-2)  
***"Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares [us], and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 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 has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."***
- Paul here summons the cloud of witnesses he mentioned in chapter 11, as if they are in the bleachers of a great stadium, cheering on the saints of today. He says we are to take encouragement from their example, strip our lives of anything that would hinder or hamper our lives, look to the Finisher (not the Finish Line) of our Faith, and run our race 110% as the saints of old did...just like Jesus Christ Himself!  
**1 Cor 10:23** - *"All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful; all things are lawful for me, but not all things edify."*
- Faith ENDURES ***the Tribulation*** in life.(v.3-4)  
***"For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. 4 You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin."***
- True Faith as described here, can enable us to endure trials and tribulations, knowing that they are a part of the Christian life. It's not just that "Bad Things Happen to Good People" but rather that "Bad Things Happen to God's People"....because "bad things" also happened to GOD, when He came in the flesh!  
**2Tim 3:12** - *"Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus*



*will suffer persecution."*

**John 15:18-20** - *"If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. 19 "If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. 20 "Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also."*

- Faith ENDURES **the Training** for life. (v.5-28)

**"And have you forgotten the encouraging words God spoke to you as his children? He said, "My child, don't make light of the LORD's discipline, and don't give up when he corrects you. ... 7 As you endure this divine discipline, remember that God is treating you as his own children. Who ever heard of a child who is never disciplined by its father? 8 If God doesn't discipline you as he does all of his children, it means that you are illegitimate and are not really his children at all. 9 Since we respected our earthly fathers who disciplined us, shouldn't we submit even more to the discipline of the Father of our spirits, and live forever? 10 For our earthly fathers disciplined us for a few years, doing the best they knew how. But God's discipline is always good for us, so that we might share in his holiness. 11 No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening--it's painful! But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way."**

- This is essentially "God's Training Program" - trials, testings, and tribulations. The author makes the point that God's Training, which utilizes correction and trials, proves you are His child; is similar to how you were trained and disciplined by your earthly father; is very good and beneficial for us, transforming us to be like Him; and after the uncomfortable training is completed, it will result in a HARVEST of benefits for your living.

*The Human Family...*

*The US Military...*

*The Spy Movie...*

## **Chapter 13 - Great *Exhortations* of Faith.**

In this closing chapter, Paul gives more than a dozen closing exhortations that will display the FAITH of the Hebrew Christians:

"Let **brotherly love** continue. 2 Do not forget to **entertain strangers**, for by so [doing] some have unwittingly entertained angels. 3 **Remember the prisoners** as if chained with them--those who are mistreated--since you yourselves are in the body also. 4 Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but **fornicators and adulterers** God will judge. 5 Let your conduct be without covetousness; **be content** with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." ... 7 **Remember those who rule over you**, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct. 8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. 9 **Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines**. For it is good that the heart be established by grace, not with foods which have not profited those who have been occupied with them. ... 13 Therefore let us go forth to Him, outside the camp, **bearing His reproach**. ... 15 Therefore by Him let us **continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God**, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. 16 But do not forget to **do good and to share**, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. 17 **Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive**, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you. 18 **Pray for us**; for we are confident that we have a good conscience, in all things desiring to live honorably. ... 22 And I appeal to you, brethren, **bear with the word of exhortation**, for I have written to you in few words."

- Each of these exhortations, should be the practiced and intentional outflow of the FAITH of the Hebrew Christians, and ourselves as well. Essentially, they all deal with showing biblical Agape Love to each person or situation, that is in front of you. This cannot be accomplished through simple feelings or emotions....but rather with the decision and action of biblical FAITH! This is why without FAITH, it is IMPOSSIBLE to please God (Heb 11:6). It is truly the "Currency of Christianity" (Heb 10:38).