

# The Epistle to the HEBREWS

## Introduction

- > **Date Written:** A.D. 64 – 68
- > **Author:** Not mentioned, anonymous. (Personally, I think Paul wrote Hebrews because “Timothy” is mentioned in Hebrews 13:23)
- > **Purpose of the letter:** **C.I. Scofield** writes, “The occasion of the Epistle was the need of special exhortation for Hebrew readers who had professed faith in Jesus as the Messiah, some of whom were wavering in their attitude. Hence, the exhortation is to “hold fast” (3:6) and to “go on to perfection” (6:1). The purpose of the book then was (1) To confirm Jewish Christians by showing that **OT Judaism had come to an end through the fulfillment by Christ** of the whole purpose of the law. (2) To warn some who had identified themselves as Christians against a **falling back into Judaism or pausing short of true faith in Christ.** (3) To bring to the attention of Christians everywhere the **preeminence of Jesus Christ.** The key concept of the book is “SUPERIORITY” (1:4;6:9; 7:7,19,22; 8:6; 9:23; 10:34; 11:16,35,40; 12:24). Hebrews contains a series of contrasts between the good things of Judaism and the better things of Christ. Christ is better than angels, than Moses, than Joshua, than Aaron, and the New Covenant (8:7-13) is better than the Mosaic Covenant.”

**Dr. Bruce Wilkinson & Kenneth Boa** in their *Talk Thru The Bible Commentary* bring us the following insights- “Hebrews makes important doctrinal contributions to the New Testament, especially in its revelation of the present priestly ministry of Christ on behalf of the believer. It develops the doctrine of the atoning work of Christ in relation to the New Covenant. It also explores the typological significance of the offerings and feasts in Leviticus; Hebrews is a divine commentary on the prophetic meaning of the ceremonial law. Hebrews presents Christ as the divine-human Prophet, Priest, and King. Thus it places heavy stress on doctrine, concentration on Christology and soteriology (salvation).

**Dr Stuart Sacks, Pastor/Teacher/Author**, himself a Messianic Jew writes regarding Hebrews- “At the heart of my people’s hope has been the coming of *ha-Mashiakh*, the Messiah. Israel’s national anthem, *Hatikvah (The Hope)*, expresses a longing for a freedom which cannot be separated from the Messiah. The Jewish scholar Maimonides spoke for the nation when he said, ‘All the prophets have established the fact that the Messiah will redeem Israel.’ And he will be, Israel believes, a direct descendant of David *ha-melekh* (the king), who will come to liberate them finally from all oppression and establish his eternal, benevolent reign. It is common to hear one Jewish person challenge another to have *bitakhon* (trust in God). Hebrews leads to the resources that are available when life threatens to overwhelm us. Here we can find the strength to resolve and overcome life’s relentless pressures.”

- > **Key verses:** **Hebrews 4:14-16; 13:20-21**
- > **Key chapter:** **Chapter 11-12:1,2**
- > **Key words:** “Better” found 13 times in Hebrews.  
“Covenant”- *Better Covenant* (8:6)  
- *New Covenant* (9:15; 12:24)  
- *Everlasting Covenant* (13:20)

- > **Book Division:** Chapters 1 – 10 (Doctrine)  
Chapters 10 – 13 (Discipline)
- > **Theme:** “Superiority of Jesus Christ”
- > **Hebrews Chapter by Chapter:**  
Chapter 1- “Jesus, The Son of God” (Prophets/Angels)  
Chapter 2- “Jesus, Our High Priest” (Humanity)  
Chapter 3- “Jesus, Worthy of More Glory” (Moses)  
Chapter 4- “Jesus, Our Rest” (Joshua-Promise Land)

- Chapter 5- “Jesus, The Author of Eternal Salvation” (Melchizedek)
- Chapter 6- “Jesus, Our Hope” (Abraham)
- Chapter 7- “Jesus, King of Righteousness & Peace” (Aaronic Priesthood)
- Chapter 8- “Jesus, Mediator of a Better Covenant” (Covenants)
- Chapter 9- “Jesus, The Perfect Tabernacle” (Most Holy Place)
- Chapter 10- “Jesus, Our Perfect Sacrifice” (Worship)
- Chapter 11-12:1,2- “Jesus, Author & Finisher of Our Faith” (Witness)
- Chapter 12:3-29- “Jesus, Our Endurance” (Saints-Sanctification)
- Chapter 13- “Jesus, The Same Yesterday, Today & Forever” (Praise & Thanksgiving)

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### Chapter 1

#### “These Last Days!”

- > Chapter 1 - “Jesus, *The Son of God*”- Superior to the Prophets & Angels.
- D) GOD HAS SPOKEN! (v1-2a)**
- > God spoke “in time past”- through the fathers and prophets - 2 Peter 1:19-21- “*a light that shines in a dark place.*”
- > God spoke “in these last days”- by His Son - John 5:39-47- “*the Scriptures testify of Jesus*”
- *Jesus has revealed to all His SALVATION*(John 3:16; John 5:24), His **SANCTIFICATION**(John 17:17; Hebrews 2:11; 10:14), and man’s **GLORIFICATION**(Colossians 3:4; Hebrews 12:23; 1 Peter 5:10) or **JUDGMENT** (John 5:22, 24; 2 Thessalonians 2:3-10; Revelation 20:11-15).
- One commentator writes: “*Jesus Christ is God’s full and final Word to man; everything prior is partial and preparatory, and everything subsequent is but the amplification and clarification of this Word.*”

### **II) GOD’S SON IS SUPERIOR! (v2b-4)**

*Jesus Christ is superior in eight ways:*

- #1 - He is “heir of all things” (a lawful owner- Heb. 2:8-15; 1Cor. 15:24,25)
- #2 - He “made the worlds” (creator- Gen. 1:1; John 1:1-3; 1Cor. 8:6; Col. 1:16,17)
- #3 - He is “the brightness of His glory” (Word became flesh- John 1:14)
- #4 - He is the “image of His person” (God declared in Christ- John 1:18; Col. 1:15)
- #5 - He “upholds all things by the word of His power” (Miracles- Mt. 8:3; Nature- Mt. 8:26)
- #6 - He “purged our sins” (Salvation- 2Corinthians 5:17-21; Col. 1:13,14)
- #7 - He “sits at the right hand of the majesty on high” (Stephen declares- Acts 7:56)
- #8 - He is “better than the angels” (Hebrews 1:5-14)

### **III) GOD’S SON IS SUPERIOR TO ANGELS! (v5-14)**

- (v5)- Angels not referred as a **SON**—Jesus is the Son of God (Mt. 3:17; John 3:16)
- (v6)- Angels do not receive **WORSHIP** only God—Jesus received worship (Rev. 5:8-14)
- (v7-9) Angels are not the **KING**—Jesus is the “King of Kings” (1Tim. 1:17; 6:15; Rev. 19:16)
- (v10-12) Angels are created with limited power—Jesus is **GOD MANIFEST**- (Omnipotent, Omniscient, Omnipresent, Immutable)
- (v13,14) Angels do not have **AUTHORITY/RULERSHIP** only God—Jesus has this **AUTHORITY/RULERSHIP** (Mt. 28:18; Ro. 8:34; 1Corin. 15:24-28)