

## The Book of Hebrews

The book of Hebrews is about Two Distinct Covenants (Testaments)

<b>The Old Testament</b>	<b>The New Testament</b>
The Old	The New
Mosaic	Christian
By the Blood of Animals	By the Blood of Christ
Written on Stone	Written on the Heart

### I. Who wrote Hebrews?

We do not know who wrote the epistle of Hebrews.

A. Most likely it was not Paul for several reasons.

1. First Paul always wrote down his name.
2. Paul often quoted the Old Testament from the Hebrew text while the writer to Hebrews did not quote the Old Testament passages from the Hebrew text but quoted from the Greek text: the Septuagint.
3. It should be remembered that Paul was sent to the Gentiles not to the Jews.
4. Paul openly, absolutely tells that he did not receive the gospel second hand. (Galatians 1:11ff). The writer of Hebrews makes it clear that he was the second generation of believers; that is, he heard the Gospel second hand.

## **Hebrews of Christ The Book of Hebrews**

We do not know who wrote Hebrews. What is so important is that it is the message, not the man that is so important. Whoever wrote this great book is deliberately obscured by God the Holy Spirit.

It has been stated that ‘no book contains grander truth, nor attest itself as being more divinely inspired.’

- B. The author of Hebrews was most likely a Jewish Christian writing to other Jewish Christians encouraging them to remain faithful to their new faith and give up their Jewish teachings. The book of Hebrews shows the relationship of Christianity to Judaism. The people to whom this was written were tempted to walk away from their new Christian faith. This book was written to challenge Christians to remain faithful to Jesus Christ. We should not think that this book is no longer pertinent; today so many people claim to be Christians but few, very few live a spiritual life and who faithfully study the Bible.

### II. Date of writing

This was written in 68-70 A.D., before the fall of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. The warning of the fall of Jerusalem came from the Lord Jesus Christ Himself in:

**Luke 21:20: “But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then recognize that her desolation is near.**

**Luke 21:21 Then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains, and those who are inside the city must leave, and those who are in the country must not enter the city;**

Hebrews of Christ  
The Book of Hebrews

**Luke 21:22 because these are days of punishment, so that all things which have been written will be fulfilled.**

**Luke 21:23 Woe to those women who are pregnant, and to those who are nursing babies in those days; for there will be great distress upon the land, and wrath to this people;**

**Luke 21:24 and they will fall by the edge of the sword, and will be led captive into all the nations; and Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.**

What is so important to these Jews and to believers today is in

**Luke 21:17 and you will be hated by all because of My name.**

III. Historical problems at this time

- A. The great problem at this time was the temptation of those 1st century Jewish Christians to go back to Judaism and to abandon their Christian faith. And right up to today there is the encouragement of Jews not to follow Jesus Christ, not learn about Jesus Christ and certainly not worship Jesus Christ.
- B. The pressure to not follow Jesus Christ and the persecution from their families, and other countrymen, will be too great for some of them and they didn't have the faith to persevere under this pressure.

**Hebrews of Christ**  
**The Book of Hebrews**

- C. For others the temptation will be to practice both Judaism and Christianity – basically staying in their Jewish culture while trying to stay loyal to Christ. It seems that Peter and even the other 10 disciples had trouble leaving the solid teaching of the Mosaic law. The fall of Jerusalem caused the cessation of sacrificial offerings.
- D. For others it is the exhortation to put aside the elementary things related to Christ and to press on to maturity.

IV. Why this book was written

- A. To appeal to these Jews, the author is proclaiming to these people through a use of numerous Old Testament passages to prove to them that only Jesus is superior to anyone in the Old Testament.
- B. To continually teach them that Christianity is also superior and actually a fulfillment of Old Testament Judaism.
- C. The author also was teaching these Jewish Christians that to revert back to Judaism was to go back into a religious practice that no longer had any value.
- D. The book of Hebrews is about the superiority of Jesus Christ.

V. Great issues in this book

- A. The glory of Jesus Christ.
- B. The issue of Faith.
- C. The ending of the Mosaic Law.
- D. The change of dispensation from Israel to the Church Age.
- E. The Doctrines in the Church Age.

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**The Book of Hebrews**

VI. Outline

- A. There are many Outlines for the book of Hebrews. Merrill F. Unger has one of the simplest:
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|------------|--|
| 1:1-2:18   | Superiority of the Son to prophets and angels.       |
| 3:1-4:16   | Superiority of the Son to Moses and Joshua.          |
| 5:1-8:5    | Superiority of Christ's priesthood.                  |
| 8:6-10:39  | Superiority of the New Covenant to the Old Covenant. |
| 11:1-13:25 | Superiority of Faith.                                |
- B. He is Better than all others. 1:1-8:6.
1. He is better than the Prophets. 1:1-3.
  2. He is better than the Angels. 1:4-2:18.
  3. He is better than Moses. 3:1-6.
  4. He is better than Joshua. 3:7-4:13.
  5. He is better than Aaron 4:14-8:6.
- C. The New Testament is better than and takes the place of the First Testament. 8:7-10:39.
1. The first Testament was not sufficient, so the New was needed and was prophesied to be better. 8:7-13.
  2. The First Testament was in need of many realities; the Second Testament fulfilled the need of the First. 9:1-15.
  3. The Second Testament was effective with or by better blood. 9:16-10:39.
- D. Faith, not works, the way of salvation, as proved by instance of First Testament saints. 11:1-12:2.

**Hebrews of Christ**  
**The Book of Hebrews**

1. Faith defined 11:1-3
2. Faith Illustrated 11:4-40
3. Faith exhorted 12:1-2
4. Final warnings and Exhortations 12:3-13:25

Warnings from Hebrews these are by Ron Merryman

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|---------------|---|
| Chapter 1     | Do not deny the Deity of Christ                                 |
| Chapter 2     | Do not drift from Salvation in Christ                           |
| Chapter 3-4   | Do not doubt the promises of God                                |
| Chapter 5-6   | Do not Degenerate or retrogress in the Christian Life           |
| Chapter 7-10  | Do not downgrade or undermine Christ's Priesthood and Sacrifice |
| Chapter 11    | Do not despair: take hope through examples of faith             |
| Chapter 12-13 | Do not depart from the way of Christ                            |

The first two verses of Hebrews chapter 1 was to proclaim to all people the Seven Glories of Jesus Christ.

1. That Jesus is heir of all things. Verse 2.
2. That Jesus is the one who made of all the world. Verse 2.
3. That Jesus is the Glory of God and God's express image. Verse 3
4. That Jesus upholds all things by the Word of His Power. Verse 3.
5. That Jesus made Purification of sins. Verse 3.
6. That Jesus is seated at the right hand of God. Verse 3.

**Hebrews of Christ**  
**The Book of Hebrews**

7. That Jesus has inherited a more excellent name than angels – the Son of God. Verse 4.
- E. Outline from Jewish Writers (with original numbering)
  - I. Yeshua Is Superior 1:1—7:28
    - A. God’s Son is superior to the prophets 1:1-3
    - B. Yeshua is superior to angels 1:4-2:18
    - C. The danger of drifting 2:1-4
    - D. Yeshua is superior to Moshe and Y’hosua 3:1-4:16
    - E. The danger of distrust 3:7-4:16
    - F. The great high [priest] is superior to Abraham & the Cohanim 5:1-7:28
    - G. The danger of delayed development 5:11-6:20
  - II. Yeshua’s Work is Superior 8:1-10:39
    - A. He performs a superior service 8:1-13
    - B. He serves in a superior sanctuary 9:1-28
    - C. He offered a superior sacrifice effecting way to God 10:1-39
    - D. The danger of deliberate disobedience 10:25-39
  - III. Our Walk Must be Superior 11:1-13:25
    - A. Following in the footsteps of the faithful 11:1-40
    - B. Faithful following through 12:1-29
    - C. The danger of disregard 12:14-29
    - D. Final ‘foot’ notes 13:1-25

**VII. Jesus and the Book of Hebrews**

I hope that you see that Jesus is superior to any and every thing in Israel. He is spoken of with God, creator of the world, is superior to angels and is the sacrificial lamb of God and who solved the sin problem that separated the human race from God.

**Hebrews of Christ**  
**The Book of Hebrews**

There are 35 quotations (only 5 are repetitions) from the Old Testament. There are 53 allusions to Old Testament passages.

This makes a total of at least 88 Old Testament references.