

An In-depth Look at Hebrews

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Who was the author?		The author did not appear to be an original apostle (2:3). Many have said the writer was the apostle Paul. Some King James bibles state: "The Epistle of Paul to the Hebrews". It is still unclear who wrote the book of Hebrews. The writing style doesn't seem to be consistent with Paul's writings (except for Romans). The endings and salutations of the letter could point to Paul's writings (13:18, 19, 22 , 23-25). If Paul wrote this book, he changed his writing to be more scholarly and dealing in-depth with Judaism.
Hebrews was written to Jewish readers	1:1 3:9	God...spake..unto the fathers When your fathers tempted me...
Why write to the Jewish believers		The Jewish believers were in danger of losing their salvation by going back to the law. They had been converted by salvation in Christ, but the law was still very fresh in their memory. They had experienced Christ and were slipping back to Judaism (6:4-9).
How you should read the book of Hebrews		Read this book from a Jewish perspective. Note that the author is writing to a group of saints who are either Jews or have a very good knowledge of the Jewish writings, customs and traditions. It is very important that you understand that the readers were showing signs of renouncing their Christian faith (2:1-4 / 3:7-4:14 / 5:12-6:20 / 10:19-39 / 12:12-29). The author encouraged and gave warnings to these believers not to return to the Judaism.
The consequences of not pressing on		The consequences of not learning lessons can hinder the development and experience of the believer (5:10-14; 6:3)
Misunderstood sayings in Hebrews		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>"Today, if you will hear his voice, harden not your hearts..."</i> (The author writes this statement to believers who were in danger of turning away from faith in God)• <i>"<u>Now</u> faith is the substance..."</i> (The word "now" in Heb. 11:1 is not used as meaning <u>immediate faith</u> or <u>right now faith</u> as many people suppose. The word "now" in this verse is used when you

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	<p>want to get people's attention or to show that you are going to talk about something new. In others words there should be a pause between the word "now" and "faith". So, it should read: "Now....faith is the substance...." Paul's point in Heb. 11:1 is just a slight change of thought from what he was previously stating in chapter 10. The word "now" in Heb. 11:1 is a continuation from chapter 10:35-39, Paul makes a similar statement in verse 38, using the word "now".</p>
<p>The author's arguments</p> <p>Argument 1: He attempts to persuade jewish believers that Christ has fulfilled the Old Testament requirements of the law and those things used in Old Testament ceremonies are just symbols or shadows which represent Christ and are fulfilled in Him.</p> <p>Argument 2: As God's son, Jesus is superior to any being, and there are some beings who are just types of Him.</p> <p>Argument 3: The writer's quotes from the Old Testament are probably the most strongest arguments. It's important to note that the writer of Hebrews skillfully interjects the Old Testament scriptures with his own writings to persuade Jewish readers that their writings point to Christ (i.e. - Acts 8:26-35)</p>	<p>He argues...God spoke to the Jewish prophets and leaders and is now speaking to the church (made up of jew and gentiles) through His son (1:1)</p> <p>He argues...The son is better than angels. He has inherited his position, partly because He is the son (1:4) and also for His work on earth (1:3, Phil 2:7-11)</p> <p>He argues...God did not give sonship to angels (1:5). The Angels' purpose is to worship the Son and minister to those on earth who also have an inheritance (1:6, 14)</p> <p>He argues...Christ is better than Moses. The jews highly esteemed Moses because he was the giver and interpreter of the Old Testament law. Next to David and Abraham, Moses was their greatest leader. The author makes it clear...one was a servant over the house, the other is the Son over the house (3:1-6)</p> <p>He argues...Old Testament prophesies reveal Jesus as Christ.</p> <p><i>Old Testament quotes found in the book of Hebrews</i></p> <p>1:5 (Ps 2:7) ...Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee</p> <p>1:5 (II Sam. 7:14) ...I will be to him a Father...</p> <p>1:6 (Ps 97:7) ...and let all the angels of God worship him</p> <p>1:7 (Ps 104:4) ...who maketh his angels spirits...</p> <p>1:8 (Ps 45:6-7) ...thy throne, O God, is for ever...</p> <p>NOTE: In Heb. 1:8, the Father is not speaking directly to the Son, calling Him God or Lord -- but the writer of Hebrews has penned this verse (which is a DIRECT QUOTE) from the prophetic writings of one of the sons of Korah (See Psalms 45:6-7). (Remember Heb. 1:1 -- <u>In the past, God spoke</u> to the fathers by or <u>through the prophets</u>.)</p>

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	<p>Even much of what the author of Hebrews wrote are Old Testament quotes, as you can see from this table.</p> <p>1:9 (Ps 45:7) ...Thou hast loved righteousness...</p> <p>1:10 (Ps 102:25) ...Thou Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation (See "NOTE" above)</p> <p>1:10 (Ps 102:26) ...They shall perish; but thou remainest...</p> <p>1:13 (Ps 110:1) ...Sit...at my right hand...I make thy enemies thy footstool</p> <p>2:6 (Ps 8:4) ...What is man, that thou art mindful of him</p> <p>2:7 (Ps 8:5) ...thou madest him a little lower than the angels</p> <p>2:12 (Ps 22:22) I will declare thy name unto my brethren...</p> <p>2:13 (???) I will put my trust in him</p> <p>2:13 (???) ...Behold, I and the children which God hath given me</p> <p>3:7 (Ps 95:7-8) To day if ye will hear his voice...</p> <p>4:3 (Ps 95:11) As I have sworn in my wrath...</p> <p>4:4 (Gen 2:2) God did rest the seventh day...</p> <p>4:5 (Ps 95:11) ...enter into my rest</p> <p>4:7 (Ps 95:7-8) ...harden not your hearts</p> <p>5:5 (Ps 2:7) ...today have I begotten thee</p> <p>5:6 (Ps 110:4) ...Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec</p> <p>6:13 (Gen 22:16) God...sware by... himself..surely blessing I will bless thee</p> <p>8:5 (Ex 25:40) See...that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed thee in the mount</p> <p>8:8 (Jer 31:31) ...I will make a new covenant..with...Israel</p> <p>8:10 (Jer 31:33) ...I will put my laws into their mind</p> <p>8:13 (Jer 31:31) ...A new covenant...</p> <p>9:30 (Ex 24:8) ...this is the blood of the testament</p> <p>10:4 (Mi 6:6-7) It is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins</p> <p>10:5 (Ps 40:6-8) Sacrifice and offerings thou wouldest not... lo, I come, in the volume of the book...</p> <p>10:16 (Jer 31:33) I will put my laws in their hearts...</p> <p>10:30 (Dt 32:35) ..vengeance belongeth unto me</p> <p>Hebrews, chapter 11 gives examples of old testament fathers</p>
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	<i>PLEASE STUDY OTHER OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE QUOTES FOUND IN CHAPTERS 12 AND 13</i>	
Better things which have shadows or patterns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The earthly versus the heavenly tabernacle (8:1-5) • The old testament (covenant) versus the New Testament (covenant) (8:7-10) • The law (meaning sacrifices in particular) versus the body of Jesus (10:1-10) (see vs. 1..."shadow" and vs. 9 "take away") 	
Warnings to the Jewish readers	<p>2:1 We ought to give...heed...lest...we should let them slip</p> <p>2:3 How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation</p> <p>3:6 if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.</p> <p>3:7 Today, if you will hear his voice, harden not your hearts...when your fathers tempted me</p> <p>3:12 Take heed, brethren, lest there be an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God</p> <p>3:14 For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end</p> <p>4:1 Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it</p> <p>4:11 Let us labor...to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief</p> <p>4:14 Let us hold fast our profession</p> <p>5:12 For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again....</p> <p>6:1 Leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection</p> <p>6:8-9 That which beareth thorns and briers is rejected, and is nigh unto cursing; whose end is to be burned. But, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation</p> <p>6:11-12 We desire that every one of you do show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end: that you be not slothful...</p> <p>10:23 Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering</p> <p>10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together</p> <p>10:35 Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great</p>	

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		recompence of reward
10:38		Now...the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition...
12:1		Wherefore, seeing we are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us...
12:3		Consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.
12:12		Lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees
12:25		See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven