

What We Do Not Know About The Author

- 1) Who wrote Hebrews? This question has been the subject of much debating. With as many as ten names suggested which in themselves bear evidence that there is insufficient evidence for any one name to be finalized. This is understandable for God has never revealed who the writer is. Therefore, it is an unanswerable question. Whither we want to accept this or not is irrelevant, God has His own secrets and we must never make “uneducated guesses” concerning the things God has kept undisclosed. What foolishness occurs when man tries to know the unknowable, such as his educated assumptions and guesses of how the universe began, the purpose for man’s existence, or the way to get right with God. I suggest another consideration, “Who is driving me to find out that which God has not revealed, and all the time hindering me from seeing the truths God has made known?” Had the knowledge of who wrote Hebrews been of spiritual enrichment the Holy Spirit would have revealed it? Since God has never told us who wrote the book, therefore, all names are conjecture, without biblical foundation and therefore a sandy foundation. The scriptures stand clear: “The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever” (Deut. 29:29).
- 2) To my mind, the questions should not be “Who wrote Hebrews?”, but “What is God seeking to teach us by not telling us?” In this book of at least 70 quotations and allusions to the Old Testament only on one occasion are we told who the original human speaker was (Heb. 4:7). The rest are left to the understanding that it is God who is speaking or there is specific mention to the Holy Spirit. This reveals the unparalleled vitalness of responding to the message spoken for it comes from God, and carries all the authority of God.
- 3) To my knowledge there is no other book in the New Testament which reveals the superior glorification of Christ as do the titles recorded. When one considers His descriptive names, what man would dare to write that he is the author of such high spiritual truths. The Lord is the:
 - a) “Son” (ch. 1:2)
 - b) “Heir” (ch. 1:2)
 - c) “First begotten” (ch. 1:6)
 - d) “God” (ch. 1:8)
 - e) “Lord” (ch. 1:10)
 - f) “Son of man” (ch. 2:6)
 - g) “Jesus” (ch. 2:9)
 - h) “Captain of their salvation” (ch. 2:10)
 - i) “Merciful and Faithful High Priest” (ch. 2:17)
 - j) “Apostle and High Priest” (ch. 3:1) (Note that Paul refers to himself as “an apostle of Jesus Christ” (Eph. 1:1) without the definite article, but Christ is “the Apostle”, thus by the definite article indicating that He is exclusively the Apostle)
 - k) “Christ” (ch. 3:1)
 - l) “Great High priest” (ch. 4:14)
 - m) “Jesus the Son of God” (ch. 4:14)
 - n) “A Priest forever after the order of Melchisedec” (ch. 5:6)
 - o) “Author of eternal salvation” (ch. 5:9)
 - p) “Forerunner” (ch. 6:20)
 - q) “Minister of the Sanctuary” (ch. 8:2)
 - r) “Man” (ch. 8:3)
 - s) “Mediator of a better covenant” (ch. 8:6)
 - t) “Mediator of the new testament/covenant” (ch. 9:15; 12:24)
 - u) “Jesus Christ” (ch. 10:10)
 - v) “Author and Finisher of faith” (ch. 12:2)
 - w) “Great Shepherd of the Sheep” (ch. 13:20)

I ask again, “What penman would dare to add his name to such a list of titles?”

The Bible Who Wrote Hebrews?

Why Does God Not Inform Us Who The Author Is?

There are several reasons why God does not tell us.

- a) The first is God did not and does not have to explain anything He does (Isa. 29:16). In Genesis one He does not tell us how He made gravity or the complexities of DNA. In Revelation He does not let us know who the twenty-four elders are or what happens when the thunders peal (Rev. 4:4; 10:4-5). God asked Job: “Canst thou by searching find out God? Canst thou find out the Almighty unto perfection?” (Job 11:7). The answer comes: “Lo, these are parts of his ways: but how little a portion is heard of him? but the thunder of his power who can understand?” (Job 26:14). Since God decided not to tell us who wrote Hebrews, is it not arrogant for man to seek to determine that which God has not revealed?
- b) Another reason is God has bigger priorities in this book than who the human penman is. In His prioritizing the Apostolic authority of Christ (Ch. 3:1), far exceeds the apostolic authority of any mere man. Because this was spoken to Hebrews, the emphasis is on the fact that the God who spoke in earlier days, has in these last days spoken through the Son (ch. 1:1). Because of the superiority of the Lord, all human names are inferior, all human authorities are inferior, and all human relationships to God are inferior.

What We Do Know About The Author

Although we are not told who the writer was we are told a great deal about him.

- a) He was a very gifted individual with an in-depth knowledge and appreciation of the ancient scriptures for he gives some seventy Old Testament allusions and quotations.
- b) He had a deep appreciation of the multi faceted glories of Christ. This is wonderfully evident when there is a reviewing of:
 - i) The presentations of the superiority and permanency of the Lord. Some of which are as follows:
 1. He is superior to: “Prophets” (ch. 1:1); “Angels” (ch. 1:4-6); “Thy Fellows” (ch. 1:9); “creation” (ch. 1:10-11); “Adam” (ch. 2:6-9, while Adam is not named God placed him in this position while in Eden); “Moses” (ch. 3:2-6); “Joshua” (Jesus) (ch. 4:8); “Aaron” (ch. 5:4-8).
 2. He is a superior priest (ch. 7:11-28); who offered a superior sacrifice (ch. 10:12); officiates in a superior place (ch. 9:24); ratified a superior covenant (ch. 9:18-23).
 3. He will be after creation is gone (ch. 1:12); will never die since He lives in the power of an endless life (ch. 7:16); has a priesthood that is unchanging (ch. 7:24), will last forever (ch. 7:17, 21).
- c) He had a heart for the spiritual development of the saints for he wrote: “Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. (Heb. 13:20-21). Glorious is the truth that these realities were not only for that ancient generation of saints but also for the saints of succeeding generations. What a legacy to leave the unsaved and the people of God!
- d) He was an educated individual for Hebrews contains no less than 135 words never used anywhere else in the New Testament.

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Summary

With God being the “Source”, and the Holy Spirit backing up every truth from that which He inspired in the Old Testament, surely it does not matter who the penman was. Second, the Holy Spirit is fulfilling that which the Lord said He would do: “He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you. All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you.” (Jn. 16:14, 15). This understanding prevents time being spent on the unknowable but also enables one to enter the fulness of glory the book conveys.

**May God grant us good understanding as He, by His Holy Spirit, deigns to guide us into all truth.
John 16:13**

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