

# Books of The Bible

## Introductory Thoughts and Observations On Hebrews

### Introduction

Even a casual reading of Hebrews would quickly reveal the broad sections of the book. They are:

- a) The divine and human qualifications for the Lord to be a High Priest (ch. 1:1-8:2).
- b) The superiority of His priesthood and all that goes along with it. A superior place of functioning, covenant and sacrifice (ch. 8:3-10:30).
- c) The walk of faith and ideal characteristics of those who are brought into the blessings of the New Covenant (ch. 11:1-13:25).

The author also informs the readers that Hebrews was a letter of exhortation, which begs the question, “What is meant by exhortation?”. It all depends on the context for:

- a) At times it is meant to give comfort to those who are feeling the emptiness of bereavement (ch. 13:7), or of the totality of helplessness when goods are taken from them (ch. 10:32-36).
- b) It can be for encouraging those whose faith is under great duress (ch. 10:35-12:3).
- c) It can be for strengthening the weak and wavering (ch. 12:12-13).
- d) It can be for clarification for genuinely unsure individuals, making it clear what they are doing in rejecting God’s salvation (ch. 10:26-31).

In this exhortation, that is Hebrews, the author will constantly use the word “Better” relative to Christ and things (ch. 1:1; 6:9; 7:22; 8:6; 10:34; 11:40; 12:24). Thus it is a series of comparisons between the God given spiritual exercises of the Old Covenant and showing how the New Covenant and all pertaining to it is superior. We, who are by grace brought into the New Covenant, have a superior Priest (ch. 8:1), and with Him a superior place of access (ch. 10:19a) because a superior price was paid for our access (ch. 10:19b-20). We have a glorious privilege (ch. 10:22), a great responsibility (ch. 10:23), and a precious service (ch. 10:24).

### The Manifestation of God in Hebrews:

- 1) God is the communicating God.
  - a) He spoke through the prophets (ch. 1:1); through His Son (ch. 1:2); through angels (ch. 2:2); by the Holy Spirit (ch. 3:7; 10:15); and spoke through those who had heard Him and those who were the second generation of believers (ch. 2:1-2).
- 2) God is the compassionate God warning of judgement if there is no repentance.
  - a) The Lord said, “Vengeance belongeth unto me” (ch. 10:30).
  - b) “It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God” (ch. 10:31).
  - c) “See that ye refuse not Him that speaketh” (ch. 12:25).
- 3) God’s declarations: (some of them)
  - a) Concerning Christ:
    - i) “Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?” (ch. 1:5)
    - ii) “But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom. Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows. And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands: They shall perish; but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment; And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail” (ch. 1:8-12).
    - iii) “So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, to day have I begotten thee. As he saith also in another place, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec” (ch. 5:5, 6).

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- b) Concerning those under the New Covenant:
  - i) His purpose for us is to make us “perfect” (ch. 13:21); to bring “many sons unto glory” (ch. 2:10).
  
- 4) God’s purpose for Christ:
  - a) To be manifested as the appointed heir of all things (ch. 1:2).
  - b) To make purification for sins (ch. 1:3).
  - c) To have a more excellent name than angels (ch. 1:4).
  - d) Put all things under His feet (ch. 2:8).
  - e) To perfect Him to be our High Priest (ch. 2:10).
  - f) To be made like unto His brethren (ch. 2:17).
  - g) To suffer being tempted (ch. 2:18).
  - h) To learn obedience by the things He suffered (ch. 5:8-9).
  - i) To be the Forerunner (ch. 6:20).
  - j) To be a priest after the order of Melchisedec (ch. 7:17).
  - k) To be the Surety of a better covenant (ch. 7:22).
  - l) To save to the uttermost all who are coming to God through Him (ch. 7:25).
  - m) To be seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens (ch. 8:1).
  - n) To have a more excellent ministry than the Aaronic priesthood (ch. 8:6).
  - o) To officiate in a superior place (ch. 9:11).
  - p) To be the mediator of the superior covenant (ch. 9:15).
  - q) To offer a superior offering which resulted in a superior cleansing (ch. 9:14).
  - r) To be a superior offering (ch. 10:12); providing a superior access (ch. 10:19).
  - s) Only in Hebrews is God called The Father of spirits (ch. 12:9).

### The Glories of Christ in Hebrews

#### The titles of Christ:

|   |   |   |                         |
|---|---|---|-------------------------|
| “Son” (ch. 1:2)                               | “Heir” (ch. 1:2)                        | “God” (ch. 1:8)                           | “Jesus” (ch. 2:9)       |
| Apostle and High Priest (ch. 3:1)             | “Author of eternal salvation” (ch. 5:9) | “Son of God” (ch. 6:6)                    | “Forerunner” (ch. 6:20) |
| “Surety” (ch. 7:22)                           | “Minister of the sanctuary” (ch. 8:2)   | “Mediator of the New Covenant” (ch. 9:15) | “Testator” (ch. 9:16)   |
| “Author and finisher of our faith” (ch. 12:2) | “Lord Jesus” (ch. 13:20)                | “Great Shepherd of the Sheep” (ch. 13:20) |                         |

It is an automatically accepted fact that any endeavour to convey, much less grasp, the glories of our wonderful Lord, fall far short of the ideal. He is the incomparable Christ who’s glories can never be fully appreciated except by God the Father.

- 1) Christ has a greater glory than:
  - a) The prophets:
    - i) They were sinful, He was holy (Rom. 3:23; Mk. 1:24)
    - ii) They were multiple, He was One (ch. 1:1)
    - iii) They were men, He was God (ch. 1:8)

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- iv) They were the created, He was the Creator (ch. 1:2)
- v) They were never the effulgence of God, He was (ch. 1:3)
- vi) They were never able to uphold all things, He did (ch. 1:3)
- vii) They were never able to purge sin, He did (ch. 1:3)

b) His peers:

- i) God has anointed Him with the oil of gladness above thy fellows (ch. 1:9)

c) The angels:

- i) He was the Son, they the servants (ch. 1:2, 4-7)
- ii) He was to be worshipped, they the worshippers (ch. 1:6)
- iii) He the Author of eternal salvation (ch. 5:9), they the ministers of the heirs of salvation (ch. 1:14)
- iv) He the Ruler, they the subjects (ch. 2:5, 8)

d) Than creation:

- i) He the Creator (ch. 1:2, 10)
- ii) Creation is temporary, He is eternal (ch. 1:11)
- iii) Creation changes, His years shall not fail (ch. 1:12)
- iv) Creation will not destroy itself, He will fold it up (ch. 1:12)

2) Christ has a greater glory than:

- a) Adam, for Adam sinned and forfeited creation to Satan and sin, the Lord never will (ch. 2:6-9)
- b) Other victors for He defeated death and Satan (ch. 2:14-15)
- c) The Prophets (ch. 1:1)
- d) Moses (ch. 3:3-6)
- e) Aaron:
  - i) Aaron's call honoured Him, Christ's glorified Him (ch. 5:4-5)
  - ii) Aaron was called from the living, Christ from the dead (ch. 5:1-5; 13:20)
  - iii) Aaron was inaugurated without an oath, Christ with an oath (ch. 7:20-21)
  - iv) Aaron and the other priests all died, Christ lives in perpetuity (ch. 7:23; 7:17)
  - v) Aaron needed a sacrifice for himself, Christ was sinless (ch. 9:25)
  - vi) Aaron entered a holy place on earth, Christ entered Heaven (ch. 9:24)

f) All other forerunners:

- i) Christ mediates a superior covenant (ch. 8:6-13)
- ii) Christ's sacrificial work provides a greater effectiveness (ch. 9:9-15)
- iii) Christ's sacrifice has a greater efficacy than the animal sacrifices (ch. 10:1-10)
- iv) Christ offers a superior leader of faith (ch. 12:2)
- v) Christ the Superior Shepherd (ch. 13:20)

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**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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