

Books of The Bible

When Hebrews Was Written and The Covenants

The Date

While the date of any book of the New Testament is open to a certain degree of speculative calculations, there are in Hebrews some pointers which indicate the time before Titus came with the Roman army and destroyed the temple. Up to that time priests were still officiating in the temple. Had it been already destroyed, there would be no sense in the following verses. I therefore place its writing in the middle to late 60's.

- a) There had been two generations and now they were in the third (Heb. 2:3-4).
- b) Elders had either left the work in the hands of others (Heb. 13:17) in accordance with the scriptures (2 Tim. 2:2), or had died (Heb. 13:7).
- c) The following verses are all in the present tense which indicates at the time of writing they were still practising the ritual etc. of the old covenant.
 - i) Heb. 5:1-4; 7:2, 23, 27-28; 8:3-4, 13; 9:6-9, 13, 25; 10:1-4, 8, 11; 13:10-11

The Contrast In The Covenants

Some of following contrasts and similarities are from a book I read years ago. I have no idea who the author was but I do recall it was written in the early 1900's. Others I got from personal study and my father's notes.

Old Testament	Reference	New Testament	Reference
Earthy inheritance	Gen. 12:1; 13:14-15; Num. 34:1-12	Heavenly inheritance	1 Pet. 1:4
Killeth	2 Cor. 3:6	Gives life	2 Cor. 3:6
Law	Ex. 19:1-24:8	Grace	Rom. 6:14
Tables of stone	2 Cor. 3:3	Tables of the heart	2 Cor. 3:3
Typified by Hagar, the bondwoman	Gal. 4:24-26	Typified by Sarah the free woman	Gal. 4:23
Moses the mediator	Gal. 3:19; Deut. 5:2-7	Christ the mediator	Heb. 12:24
One man on one day into the holiest	Heb. 9:7	Every priest enter	Heb. 4:16
Sabbath	Ex. 20:8	First day of the week	Mk. 16:19
Do this . mans responsibility	Deut. 27:26; 29:29	Finished - all dependent on Christ	Jn. 19:30
A two party covenant	Deut. 27:14-29:1	A one party covenant, it is seen as a will	Heb. 9:15-17
Ministration of death	2 Cor. 3:7	Ministration of the spirit	2 Cor. 3:8
A fading glory	2 Cor. 3:7	A permanent glory	2 Cor. 3:11

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Similarities In The Covenants

Both begin with a representative man, Adam and Christ	Gen. 5:1 and Matt. 1:1 Only these two sections begin with the words "This is the book of the generations"
Both begin with a major temptation	Gen. 3:1-7 - Adam and Eve in the garden Matt. 4:2-11 - Christ in the wilderness
Both tell of constant departure from God	Jud. 3:5, 8, 12 Rev. 2:1-3:22
Both end with a prophecy of coming judgment	Mal. 3:2-3 Rev. 19:2, 11-21
Both emphasize that salvation, righteousness is received by faith.	Rom. 4:3-6 Titus 3:5
Both deal with the Person of Christ:	In prophecy and pictures: Ex. 12; Isa. 53 His Person: Matt. 1:1; Jn. 21:20

The Contrast Between Aaron's Priesthood and Christ's

<u>Aaron's Priesthood</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Christ's Priesthood</u>	<u>Reference</u>
Men became priests and then in time died	Heb. 7:23	Christ the Priest will never die	Heb. 7:24
The priesthood passed from one to another	Heb. 7:23	The priesthood of the Lord is permanent	Heb. 7:3, 28
They had to continually offer sacrifices	Heb. 10:11	Christ offered one sacrifice for sins forever	Heb. 10:12
They were made priests without an oath	Heb. 7:21	Christ was made a priest by an oath	Heb. 7:21
Once a year the High priest entered the Holiest	Heb. 9:7	Christ entered the true Holiest once for all	Heb. 9:24
The high priest entered by virtue of the blood of animals	Heb. 9:12	Christ entered by virtue of His own blood	Heb. 9:12

The Superior Sacrifice and Covenant of The Lord

Shown by prophetic picture	Heb. 7:1-10
Shown by the character of the Priesthood, kingship and priesthood united	Heb. 7:11-17
Shown by its effectiveness	Heb. 7:18-19

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Shown by its establishment	Heb. 7:20-21
Shown by its duration	Heb. 7:22-24
Shown by its perfect ability to meet our needs	Heb. 7:25-26
Shown by the excellency of Person who is the Priest.	Heb. 7:27

**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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